

Monday 5th November 2007

OA's U9's Weekly News

U9's Reds and Blues put on a show against Chinnor RFC and Aylesbury RFC on Sunday 4th November 2007

This week we put out the Reds and Blues in a triangular fixture at Chinnor RFC against the hosts Aylesbury RFC. Chinnor RFC did an excellent job in making the day run so well - thanks to Coach Peter and his team.

Well done and thanks to all coaches, referee (Matthew Moffatt), players and parents who turned out to represent the club and our age group. In keeping with the fireworks weekend of the year, our squads provided a fine display of rugby and some bright and breathtaking sparkles! The Blues won the event by going unbeaten over 5 games. The Reds were worthy runners up, winning 3 of their 5 games. This was a great day for our age group, as we can be proud to have taken 1st and 2nd spots out of 6 teams.

The rest of the age group had a training session to continue their development in the contact game.

The Blues

A well organised and thoroughly enjoyable mini festival, involving six good teams, was a great first exposure to really competitive rugby for the Blues.

A nearly full strength Blues Squad took to the pitch when the sun burned away the fog on another beautiful Sunday. The day ended in success with the Blues remaining unbeaten to take the spoils.

With such a high quality team it is easy to focus on the things they could do better - however Sunday was a day to step back and applaud the entire squad for all the things they do so well.

Game 1 - Blues 30 v Chinnor B 0

We started with a good warm up game against a keen Chinnor B squad. Early nerves were settled by **Cameron Clark** who cut through the opposition to score within seconds of the start. The game had a pattern of strong running by the Blues and weak tackling by Chinnor. This meant that confidence was quickly high, but the downside was that re-cycling the ball and passing took a back seat. This was to cause us issues as the opposition got harder throughout the day. **Archie Radovanovic** added two scores in addition to some strong running and tackling. The Blues forwards were giving their try scoring scrum half **Ruairi McGowan** a lot of time to launch attacks. The front three got better as the game went on and the very mobile **James Lear** was everywhere on the pitch to ensure the victory. Strength in depth was shown with all the squad joining the party to run out easy winners.

Try Scorers: Cameron Clark, Archie Radovanovic (2), Ruairi McGowan, Jonny Olive, William Parkinson

Blues 10 V Chinnor A 0

After the romp against the B team, Chinnor A were a much harder task - they were very big boys and much harder to tackle and stop at the breakdown. A lot of the game was spent trying to secure our ball as we went into mauls with no clear plan on how to get the ball back out! Some very good defence from the Blues kept Chinnor at bay. **William Parkinson** and **William Stewart** were both showing good technique to help the Blues get on top. As the game wore on the boys realised that running into a brick wall has limited appeal and started to pass more, **Jonny Olive** was having a great day on the wing as he used some breathing space for an excellent long range score. **Ruairi McGowan** created several breaks from the scrums and, if a pass had been chosen, we would have moved further ahead on the scoreboard. As it was, we had to be happy with one more score when a **Ruairi McGowan** break on the blind side got him across the line. As good as Chinnor were, they did not find any real momentum going forward as **Daniel Hanlon** was flexing his tackling muscles along with the rest of the team. On the final whistle the Blues were looking the stronger team, a lot of this was due to some more excellent scrum half work from **Charlie Moffatt** who directed the traffic well and kept us on the Chinnor line.

Try Scorers: Jonny Olive, Ruari McGowan

Blues 10 v Aylesbury A 5

A much closer game against a weaker side followed - Aylesbury were good but the Blues played into their hands by committing the deadly sins of the day at regular intervals. The Blues were suckered into running straight into contact, being too slow to move the ball from the back of the rucks, ignoring overlaps and running back into tackles when the wide open spaces beckoned. This meant it was a much closer game than it needed to be. Aylesbury had one very large player who "cheated" by falling over when our boys went high on him every time - this meant we saw a bit of hesitancy in the ranks when he was running at full speed. At one point **Archie Radovanovic** nicely slipped out of his way and let him run into the waiting arms of **Simon Jones** who went low and showed what good technique can do. By this time **Cameron Clark** was back on the pitch and showing the way with strong leadership runs and tackles. We went into the final minutes tied at one try a piece and like the champions they are, the Blues pushed Aylesbury back towards their line and forced a knock on. From the scrum the ball was passed to William Parkinson who crashed over for the score on the last play of the game.

Try scorers: Cameron Clark, William Parkinson

Blues 70 v Aylesbury B 0

This game showed the strength of the Blues squad and our age group as a whole. We started with the 'senior' players on the side line and the other team members showed them how to do it with running and passing of the highest quality. **Kane White** and **Robbie Pope** enjoyed their best day as forwards with strong driving and rucking and very good handling skills. **Kane White** also gets a special mention for generously passing twice with the try line at his mercy. The game was a one way affair but was notable for the penny dropping on the benefits of passing - **Ethan Arpino** had played most of the day as a forward and had a great day was rewarded with the chance to run in a score from that rarest of species - a pass from Archie. **Archie Radovanovic** got the passing bug and helped set up more scores as the game wore on. **Dan Hanlon** switched from wing to centre and showed his versatility by playing some of the best rugby of the day. Matching this was **Charlie Moffatt** who also ran riot in the centre. The main revelation was **Simon 'Sniffer' Jones** who ran in four scores by holding his line and reading the game. Well done Simon!

Try scorers: Robbie Pope, Jonny Olive (2), Simon Jones (4), William Stewart, Ruairi McGowan, Dan Hanlon, Ethan Arpino, Charlie Moffatt (2), Archie Radovanovic

Blues 30 v Reds 5

This game showed the strength of our age group as a whole - our best opponents at the moment are certainly our very own Reds. This game was very competitive and rounded off an excellent day. Special mention goes to **William Stewart** who held us together in the centre and whose excellent technique at tackling, rucking and mauling was a big reason for the win. Again **Cameron Clark** and **Archie Radovanovic** were very powerful in all aspects of the game and I was really pleased to see **James Lear**, **Robbie Pope** and **Kane White** making an impression as forwards.

Try scorers: Daniel Hanlon, Ethan Arpino, William Parkinson (2), Archie Radovanovic, Charlie Moffatt

Player of the Week - Archie Radovanovic who was very strong in the tackle and with the ball in hand. He gets the award in particular for his "Saul like" conversion to a passing game half way through the day. However, all players did themselves proud and represented themselves, the squad, the age group and the club admirably.

Report by Andrew Radovanovic

Coaches - Andrew Radovanovic and Steve Pope

Players - Ethan Arpino, Cameron Clark, Daniel Hanlon, Simon Jones, James Lear, Ruairi McGowan, Charlie Moffatt, Jonathan Olive, William Parkinson, Robbie Pope, Archie Radovanovic, William Stewart, Kane White.

The Reds

Congratulations to all involved at Chinnor. This was the first time I have seen the new Reds in action and thought they were very impressive. The morning proved to be successful with the team winning 3 games, including beating Chinnor A, and they even managed to break through the Blues defence for a well deserved try.

Game 1 - Reds 25 - Aylesbury B 0

Before the first game I was a little apprehensive but took the decision not to go on the pitch with the boys, as the other clubs' coaches did, and let them fend for themselves. Their organisation was good and a powerful performance was highlighted by a hat trick of tries for a hard hitting **Ed Birchinall**. One of these tries was made by a superb tackle in the middle of the pitch by **Jack Tahesh** and it is more of these I would like to see in future matches from the other boys.

Try scorers - Ed Birchinall 3 , Zach West , Jack Tahesh

Game 2 - Reds 15 - Chinnor B 0

The second game was equally as convincing, again with some strong forward play and good tackling from **Matthew Ellis, James Clark , Rory Superfine** and **Toby Palmer**.

Try scorers - Rory Superfine , Ed Birchinall , Toby Palmer

Game 3 - Reds 30 - Chinnor A 25

Having beaten the B sides, the third match saw us pitched against a stronger Chinnor A team. This was the match of the day in which though we were always ahead Chinnor refused to be beaten, helped by a referee who played 12 minutes each way instead of 6! After the referee had signalled the last play and with the Reds 1 try ahead Chinnor, were camped on our try line for a further two minutes but the Reds defence refused to yield. This was an all round strong and gutsy performance with all players outstanding.

Try scorers - Rory Superfine 2, Harry Newman-Booth, Zach West, Findlay Cripps and Oliver Palmer

Game 4 - Reds 0 - Aylesbury A 10

This extended game was extremely draining and although we fought well against Aylesbury A, with particularly strong performances from the two **James's - Clark** and **Yurkwich**, we suffered our first defeat of the morning.

Game 5 - Reds 5 - Blues 30

Try scorers - Jack Tahesh

We rounded of the day with a game against the Blues who again proved to be too strong in the rucks and mauls though it was pleasing to see a more competitive second half and a try from **Jack Tahesh** to round off what was a very good mornings rugby.

Player of the Week - Several players stood out though for his strong running and aggressive tackling the player of the week award went to **Jack Tahesh**

There is still much to be worked on in training though I am now more confident that we will achieve our aims for the season.

Well done all !

Report by Rick Powdrell

Coaches - Rick Powdrell, Guy Palmer and Tim Birchinall

Players - 14 players and parents - thanks for the support! Ed Birchinall, James Clark, Finlay Cripps, Matthew Ellis, Adam Ford, Harry Newman-Booth, Oliver Palmer, Toby Palmer, Jonathan Powdrell, Caswell Sparks, Rory Superfine, Jack Tahesh, Zach West, James Yurkwich

Weather - initially misty clearing to bright sunny morning

Food - burgers