

Monday 12th February 2007

OA U8's Weekly News

The Matches played away to Verulamium Chariots and Harpenden and the training at home on Sunday 11th February 2007

This week the Blues, Reds and Yellows were training at home whilst the Greens took the chance for a triangular fixture with Harpenden and Verulamium Chariots away.

The Greens

This week only 10 of the usual players were available for these away fixtures. Presumably this was related to half-term holidays. The coaches on hand on this occasion were Matthew Moffatt and Gianni Vuolo, with a cameo appearance from Martin Thomas.

Unfortunately, the Greens were somewhat overwhelmed by both sets of opposition. The results were:

Game 1: **Harpenden 3 - OAs 1**

Game 2: **Harpenden 11 - OAs 4**

Game 3: **OVs 7 - OAs 5**

Try scorers: Rory Jeram, Conor Gillen, Matthew Ellis, Ryan Golds, Louis Thomas, Oscar Finnie and Luke Barbour.

What do the players need to focus on – defence and tagging? In all the games, this is where the Greens fell down.

Report by Gianni Vuolo and Matthew Moffatt

The Blues, Reds & Yellows

These squads enjoyed the rare opportunity for some joint training together, which included a long period introducing the players to the concept of (legal) contact with each other and, perhaps less welcoming, with the cold wet turf! All the players embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm, even if some found the experience of getting wet and cold somewhat harrowing. Well boys, welcome to rugby!

After this, the under strength Reds went off to be sparing partners for a very good top U7 team, with some loans from the Yellows and the Blues – thanks Reds, we know that this is dangerous ground to play against smaller boys who are difficult to tag but still almost as fast as you are!

The Yellows and Blues enjoyed a quiet game together, which finished 1 – 6 to the Blues.

The try scorers were:

Blues - William Parkinson 2. Cameron Clark 1, Daniel Hanlon 1, William Stewart 1, Archie Radovanovic 1.

Yellows: Caswell Sparks 1

The top taggers were: Blues – Cameron Clark; Yellows – Jasper Williamson

It was very encouraging to see that the Yellows were well organised in defence and started and ended the game threatening the Blues' try line. However the old chest-nuts of running sideways and into touch seemed to take over the Yellows for the bulk of the game. All in all, the Yellows displayed very good effort and faired much better against the Blues than some visiting first teams from other clubs have done so far this season – well done Yellows. The way the game was played was especially good considering the fact that the shock of getting wet and cold gripped all the boys - Ruairi McGowan doubled his body weight by lying in a puddle. The Blues had a few players suffering from pneumonia as well, but managed a good showing despite Archie Radovanovic "taking out" his team mate (Daniel Hanlon) as he was about to score a try – at lest he was trying to get up in support.

Report by Andy Radovanovic and Brian Clark