

Monday 29th January 2007

OA U8's Weekly News

The Matches played away at Aylesbury and at home to Fullerians on Sunday 28th January 2007

The **BLUES** and **REDS** were away at Aylesbury and the **YELLOWs**, **GREENs** and **WHITEs** entertained our local rivals Fullerians from Watford at home.

The Blues

The Blues were almost at full strength with the return of Jonathan Olive and Luke Simpson, although missing a poorly Charlie Moffatt.

They played 3 games against Aylesbury and a bounce game against the Reds in what was a hospitable, well organised and well marshalled morning. As we might expect, the Blues went unbeaten and topped the table at the end of the morning. Thanks to our new friends at Aylesbury for organising this and to Steve Pope for getting this fixture for us.

The first game was played against the Aylesbury As. The Blues won a slightly scrappy game by **8 tries to 2**. We have no records of the try scorers or other statistics from any of these games as our normal touchline record keepers were asleep or too busy chatting!

We won the second game easily against the Aylesbury Cs - **7 tries to 2**.

By the third competitive game we were cruising – winning against the Aylesbury Bs by **7 tries to 1**.

For the record, our bounce game against the Reds was won 9-1 (application of that same law required again!).

There were a lot of positives from the day. *Try scoring* was never a problem and support play was there when needed. There was more direct straight running from our players again, although *some* players still tend to run *across* the pitch ignoring their team mates in open space. Remember boys – when you run across the pitch, the defenders follow you, but when you pass the ball it goes across the pitch faster and the defenders can't catch up. *Our defence was rarely challenged* – a good sign in many respects. However, the problem with that is that the players loose their concentration in defence, start to hang off tackles and forget to keep their defensive line intact. We need to regain and keep our strong defensive style as we will be moving to play

stronger teams in festivals and they will get through to score if we are not at our best. (Also, when we start playing contact rugby games, defending is *even more* important.)

I thought that all players did well this week, with nobody standing out (especially in the absence of any stats). There are, therefore, no the top attacker or top tagger of the day awards this week. You can *all* say that you have won both! Special mention and best wishes go to Jonathan Powdrell and Archie Radovanovic, who both picked up minor injuries prior to the forth game that reduced their involvement.

Report by Brian Clark

The Reds

This week saw the return of regular coach Rick Powdrell. However, the generally improving picture of the Reds seemed to desert the boys this week. They had a torrid time and probably played their worst of the season. To avoid rubbing salt in the wound, there is no long report this week. Boys - you seem to have copied the adult OAs 1st team on Saturday. In recent weeks they had improved a lot, been winning games and were climbing up the league. However, on Saturday they lost to Richmond 60 – 0! Everyone can have an off day.

For the record, the scores

Reds 1 Aylesbury A 10

Reds 3 Aylesbury B 6

Reds 3 Aylesbury C 2

Reds 1 Blues 9

Report by Brian Clark (in lieu of Rick Powdrell, who is with Jade Goodey in therapy!!)

The Yellows

A loss followed by two wins was good evidence of the continued good Yellow's form.

Starting off playing the Fullerians A team, our Yellows took their customary time to get into the game. We were several tries down in the first half and could never catch up. Again our weak point was tagging and two exceptionally large opposing U8's took full advantage.

Final score 5-9.

When we saw we were playing the same team in the second game the boys were visibly daunted. However a serious squad chat raised the necessary confidence and from the start we

played with determination and no lack of skill. Advice from Rory Superfine's father, to pass more at the re-start, worked well and in the end we won the game **7-6**.

In the final game we played Fullarians B team and despite some over confidence and tired legs won **8-6**.

Again I would like to mention how hard it is for all concerned to play a game designed for 7 with such a large squad and I would like to thank everyone for their patience and willingness to be substituted.

The team spirit is first class and I was pleased with each and every player. Team awards this week - Top defender Jasper Williamson, top attacker(s) John and Paul Greener and a special overall top player award to Caswell Sparks.

Well done boys!

Report by Simon Mitchell

The Greens / Whites

Any more of this and we will be able to start charging for admission! The legendary Greens - becoming famous for their high risk, Welsh style of rugby - scored 16 tries in three games against Fullarians As and Bs.

There were nine different try scorers, which says something about the squad's strength in depth, but also testifies to the fact that we are starting to pass the ball and support the runner. When the Greens aren't being silly - and they are certainly capable of an amazing level of silliness - they are starting to produce some great running rugby.

We managed to give some match time to all 15 players in the Green and White squads, which meant debut appearances by Ashling Larmer (who is bound to act as a civilising influence on the 59 boys in the under 8 squads), Luke Barbour, Connor Gillen and Oscar Finnie... all of whom played fantastically well. Welcome to OAs.

For the record, the try scorers were Luke Barbour, Thomas Dee (x2), Harry Deeks (x2), Matthew Ellis (x3), Joseph Hensman (x3), Thomas Murphy (x2), Rhys Williams, Louis Thomas and Oscar Finnie.

The scores were:

Greens 5 - Fullarians 6,

Greens 7: Fullarians 5

Greens 5: Fullarians 6

... so we narrowly lost two of the matches, but quite frankly, when the games are this much fun, who cares.

Report by Martin Thomas