

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007

## OA's U8's Weekly News

### The Match played away to Luton RFC on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2007

This week the Blues took part in a showcase "curtain raiser" challenge at Luton RFC prior to Luton's (adult) 1<sup>st</sup> team match against Leicester South in the Midlands 1 league. Unfortunately, the planned fixture with Dunstablians (Greens at home) and the festival at Slough (Yellows and Blues) for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March were rained off, so there are no match reports this week for these squads.

#### The Blues

The Blues were honoured to turn out 8 players (first come, first to play!) in this unusual invitation match on a Saturday afternoon. To make the most of the occasion, Luton had marked out a small tag pitch with cones in front of the club house and the game was played over a half hour, in 4 quick-turn-around quarters of 7 minutes per quarter, immediately prior to the adults taking to the pitch. As a crowd was assembling to watch the adult game, the bar was open and OAs led for the entire match, the atmosphere was excellent – highly charged and partisan in favour of Luton, although friendly at all times.

The Blues opened to gain control the game from the outset, rushing to a several try advantage in the first quarter that set them up with a buffer to the end. However, they found themselves to be a little rusty in defence and there were noticeable tired legs in the squad (many of whom had hardly stopped running since their morning endeavours with the round ball in "association" football). As the quarters of the game advanced they found it increasingly difficult to break through a well organised Luton defence stationed across the small pitch and the tired Blues themselves lapsed in holding their own defensive line.

Luton was cheered on by the vocal crowd and the referee found it difficult to remain impartial in the atmosphere and touch line calls were tricky due to the cones instead of lines. Nevertheless, the Blues held on to secure a nail biting **win, 9 tries to 8.**

**All** the team played well and it is difficult to single out anyone for special praise, although the numbers speak for themselves in attack, with the try scorers as follows: **William Stewart 3, Jonathan Olive 3, Jonathan Powdrell 1, Luke Simpson 1 and Daniel Hanlon 1.** With 5 out of 8 players named on the score sheet, it is clear this was another team effort. The defence was held together mostly by Cameron Clark and William Stewart covering the open play to the best of their legs' ability. This week **William Stewart is man-of-the-match this week for his combination of attacking and defensive efforts.**

Luton's attack was direct at all times and they made the best of their "weight advantage" in a game that veered towards a mix of tag and contact at times. Missed tags on the part of the

Blues, breaking our defensive line, led to almost all of Luton's tries. All around, however, the Blues had the best of the attacking possession and were the more athletic of the two teams. They were highly complimented by the Luton officials, crowd and referee at the end of the game.

After the the game both teams formed a Guard of Honour for the adult teams as they took to the pitch. Well done boys for playing so well and representing your club so effectively. Thanks also to Luton RFC for organising such an enjoyable Saturday afternoon.

*Team line-up: William Stewart, Charlie Moffatt, Daniel Hanlon, Archie Radovanovic, Cameron Clark, Jonathan Powdrell, Luke Simpson and Jonathan Olive.*

*Report by Brian Clark*