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Saturday, April 21st, 2018 | Old Learningtonians Vs Old Coventrians 3.00pm KO







www.olrfc.co.uk







### WELCOME

Welcome to Old Leamingtonians, and a special welcome to the players, management and coaches of Old Coventrians, our old rivals, friends and opponents today.

I am delighted to report that at the closing stages of the season, we see OL's teams at all levels succeeding with their brand of running rugby, and doing so at the highest level.

Firstly the Colts, their Warwickshire Colts Cup final game against

Stratford on the 14thof April, at the Butts, will go down in the history of the club as one of our finest moments winning 33-0, and making everyone present feel extremely proud. A tremendous achievement and I know we will see many of these fine young players in the senior sides in the very near future. Well done.

Our first team's splendid performance away at Manor Park last week saw them record a notable victory 15-47 taking them to second in the League. Unfortunately the final league positions wont be confirmed today as we have to wait for postponed matches to be played over the next couple of weeks for the league to be concluded.

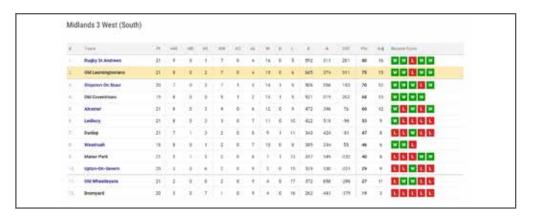
I would also like to mention a doughty 2nd team win over a very physical Bedworth side last weekend. The Second team, under Olly Scott's leadership, has had a mixed season because of the varied availability of players and in making way for the third team to meet some of their fixtures. but have been a credit to the club, as always.

Looking ahead, hopefully we will have much to celebrate at our Annual Club Dinner on April 27t, starting at 7:00pm. Please see Craig Ellis to book your place, cost £25.

So, onto the game. I know the support will be vocal, in the true OL tradition, and that the lads will be giving everything. All that remains to be said is please join me in the bar afterwards where we can await the other results before celebrations truly begin.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has made this season another success and enjoyed by all, from all players and coaches, section and team administrators, Committee members to many others that kindly give their own precious time. This is what makes us all feel very proud when we say WE are Old Leamingtonians.

Have a fabulous summer.













### MATCH REPORTS

Warwickshire Under 18 - Bob Coward Colts Cup

Fixture: Old Leamingtonians Colts XV v Stratford-on-Avon Colts XV

**Venue: The Butts, Coventry** 

Result: Old Leamingtonians Colts XV 33 - 0 Stratford-upon-Avon Colts XV

Whilst Stratford returned to the scene of last year's narrow defeat OLs had never reached a final before and brought with them a travelling band of club officials. parents, friends and current and ex-players – they were not to be disappointed.

Conditions were not favourable for both teams with the April drizzle a constant companion. OLs were awarded two early penalties and the trusty boot of Will Davies ensured OLs were off to a good start with 6 points. SOA looked up for the game and the early exchanges were tight with some big hits from both teams. However it was OLs who took charge half way into the second half as the OLs pack started to dominate the set piece and provide the backs with plenty of ball and territory. A late tackle from the SOA No8 saw him yellow carded or 7 mins – OLs pounced and scored a super try through a neat training ground move - finished off by Callum Semple out wide, 11-0 to OLs.

The Old Leams forwards remained on top and several "pick and goes" deep into the first half allowed the lively Brenan Lumby to dot down – the resulting conversion missed but OLs were now 16-0 to the good. SOA struggled for answers to the OLs clever chip and chase game and another try was scored via this method by Alex Witchell without even breaking stride from a Will Davies chip. A well-deserved lead at half time 21-0.

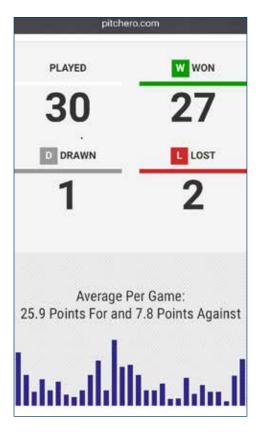
An early try in the second half saw OLs off to a flyer -Kai Bailey, alert at the ruck base, going over under the post, 28-0, SOA, to their credit, did not fall off many tackles but the waves of attack were proving just too much on the day. SOA rang the changes, as did OLs, the game then became a little disjointed with handing errors from both sides.

In testing conditions sapping energy from both teams. The game was then wrapped up with yet another kick and chase from Will Davies – this time a lengthy grubber was expertly gathered by Ben Hawkes who used his express pace to go over in the corner, 33-0 to Old Leams and game over.

This was a testament to the effort put in by a dedicated coaching team - bring on the last game to secure the cup and league double.

Match Report Rich Pettifer

### **CHAMPIONS OLRFC COLTS**

























### MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 7th April 2018
Fixture: Old Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV v Ledbury RFC 1st XV

**Venue: The Crofts Bericote Road** 

Result: Result: Old Learningtonians 1st XV 74 - 14 Ledbury RFC 1st XV



OLs had to settle for a losing bonus point despite scoring three tries to Dunlop's two from a game that should have been won. From the kick off it was apparent that Dunlop's game plan was to play a forward based game and the that worked well for the first fifteen minutes with OLs committed to defending valiantly. Despite all of Dunlop's efforts the OLs defence was strong and held out but suffered from a number of penalty decisions when in good attacking positions that allowed Dunlop to gain good territorial advantages. It was from one such penalty that saw the home side move deep into the OLs 22 metre area and from a won lineout a number of forward drives saw Dunlop score a converted try.

OLs strategy was to use the three-quarters whenever opportunities arose. This tactic was proving difficult for the home side to handle and it was only a number of slack passing moves that prevented an OLs try, but perseverance paid off when from a move that started well inside the OLs half their faster three-quarters



moved quickly into the Dunlop half of the field and full back Ciaran O'Connor came into line wide out to cross for a well-constructed try. The conversion was missed.

With half time approaching and OLs being penalised too often for infringements in the rucks, Dunlop converted a penalty from in front of the posts to go into half time with a 10 points to 5 lead.

The second half saw a number of OLs substitutions and the advantage of the slope and it was back row substitute Felix Heath who levelled the score for OLs when he broke away from a good period of forward play to touch down near the posts. The conversion was successfully kicked by Ciaran O'Connor to move OLs into a two point lead at 10 - 12.

The next score belonged to Dunlop with another converted penalty making the score 13 -12. The game was played out pretty evenly for the next quarter with Dunlop still using the forwards and OLs defending well and using good kicks to gain ground well into the Dunlop half of the field but too often the follow up play was disrupted by conceding more penalties allowing the home side to recover ground. That said it was OLs that scored next when full back Ciaran O'Connor fielded a clearance from Dunlop and set off a run that took him through the first line of the Dunlop defence and a kick over the head of the retreating home side saw him out pace the defenders and dribble the ball over the goal line to touch down for a well taken try. The conversion was missed but OLs had regained the lead at 10 -17 with four minutes of play left.

From the re-start the ball was kicked deep into the OLs half of the field and the collection was fumbled. From the resulting scrum Dunlop gained control and began rolling mauls towards the OLs line. The OLs defended well but in defending gave away no less than four penalties and suffered a yellow card reducing the forward numbers. Dunlop elected to kick for touch and from the fourth line out and follow up mauls scored wide out in the corner to regain the lead. A conversion followed to give a final result of 20 points to 17 in favour of the home side.

Match report from Denis Fisher Photos by Tim Nunan

### MATCH REPORTS

League: Midlands 3 West (South) Saturday 14th April 2018 Fixture: Manor Park RFC 1st XV v Old Leamingtonian RFC 1st XV

Venue:Griff and Coton, Nuneaton

Result: Result: Manor Park RFC 1st XV 15 - 47 10ld Leamingtonians RFC 1st XV

A blistering display of 15 man open play rugby, coupled to a strong defence, gave OLs a decisive seven try victory.

The first 15 minutes of the game saw OLs dominating the territory and keeping Manor Park firmly rooted in their own half of the field. On the guarter hour mark strong forward pressure by OLs resulted in Hooker and Captain, Reece Jones forcing his way over for the opening score. The try was converted by Fly Half, Henry Reynolds. Manor Park came back strongly with a game plan of forward dominating rugby. OLs were put under strong pressure and on the 22 minute mark the home side drove the visitors back over the goal line to touch down and reduce the deficit. The try went unconverted but from the kick off the ball was sent straight into touch to give the home side the advantage of a scrum on the half way line. The Manor Park forwards again took the game to OLs and it was only strong defensive play that prevented further tries. However from a penalty conceded in front of the posts Manor Park took the lead.

OLs came back into the game and their faster threequarters began to make ground well into the home side half of the field. Manor Park's defence was penalised and from a kick into touch and a won line out ball OLs forwards moved the game in field where Flanker, Felix Heath, broke from the pack to force his way over for try number two. This was also converted by Henry Reynolds. The remainder of the first half was all OLs with the backs dominant and it was only handling errors that prevented more tries until just on half time a sweeping move from left field to right ended with Winger, Liam Wellings forcing his way over for try number three. This was also converted to give OLs a half time lead of 21 points to 8.

After the break OLs were playing up the slope and the half was only a few minutes old when another sweeping move saw Full Back, Ciaran O'Connor, come into line and cut through the Manor Park defence for try number four. The conversion followed. Manor Park came back into game using the heavier forwards to try

to dominate the game but the lighter OLs pack held firm. With Manor Park slowly gaining ground into the OLs half a loose pass was intercepted by OL Centre, Simon Hemming who ran the length of the pitch to touch down under the posts. The conversion followed.

From the kick off Manor Park established good territorial advantage and from a series of rucks and mauls gained penalty decisions well inside the OLs 22 metre area and despite a spirited defence the home side managed to force the ball over for a second try that was converted making the score 15-35.

With the game going into the last ten minutes OLs forwards began to take control over the home pack in both set and open play and from quick ball won the OLs backs were running Manor Park ragged. It was only desperate defence that prevented further tries.

That said a sweeping cross field move by OLs ended with scrum half Toby Lord supporting the three-quarters to take the final pass from winger Liam Wellings and cross for try number 6. The conversion attempt was missed. OLs continued to dominate and the final OLs try went to left Wing, Ryan Dee, who completed another sweeping three-quarters move by overlapping on the right wing to score try number 7. The conversion followed, (6 out of 7 for Henry Reynolds) and OLs finished the game with a 47 points to 15 win to keep them in second place in the league.

#### Match report from Denis Fisher













### TODAY'S souads

Today's referee is: Mr Kindy Devgun

#### **OLD LEAMINGTONIANS 1ST XV**

- 1. Kai Cott
- 2. Reece Jones (c)
- 3. Andy Hemming
- 4. Ollie Sarginson
- 5. Hugh Melhuish
- 6. Pete Nancarrow
- 7. Tom Smith
- 8. Felix Heath
- 9. Toby Lord (vc)
- 10. Henry Reynolds
- 11. Ryan Dee
- 12. Simon Hemming (vc)
- 13. Dave Canning
- 14. Liam Wellings
- 15. Ciaran O'Connor

### **REPLACEMENTS**

- 16. Harris Priest
- 17. Rhys Corey
- 18. Tom Eales

First Team Manager: Currently vacant

Coaches: Scott Conduit, Adam Canning and Craig Ellis

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**Club colours: Gold and Royal hoops** 

#### **OLD COVENTRIANS 1ST XV**

- 1. Jim Ryan
- 2. Elliot Sheepy
- 3. Paul Wilkes
- 4. Aaron Tolley
- 5. Sam Farrington
- 6. Josh Kent
- 7. George Roberts
- 8. Mike Ryan
- 9. Mohamad Farhan Mohamad Tahir
- 10. Steve Abbey
- 11. Josh James
- 12. Mark Hyslop
- 13. Ryan Doherty
- 14. Declan Miskimmon
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- 16. Scott Parry
- 17. Josh Soesan
- 18. Jordan Kelly



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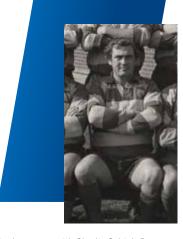
### A very warm welcome to The Crofts today, whether you are here as a player or as a supporter.

Today we particularly welcome old adversaries Old Coventrians to The Crofts for what is our final 1st XV league game of the season. They still have a game in hand, to play next weekend.

It is hard to believe that it was right back at the beginning that we played OC's twice. The first game was in the Warwickshire Shield Competition at home, which we lost narrowly but we met again the weekend after when we triumphed in our league encounter, albeit narrowly again, by 40pts - 34pts to open our account. Since then both teams have kept themselves in the hunt for promotion but with the seasons fixtures still not complete after this final scheduled weekend it is still anyone's guess who will go up to Midlands 2 West. From our point of view it could be that even if we were to beat OCs toda, by securing a bonus point win Shipston on Stour could still have the last say. with a previously drawn game counting in their favour. Whatever the outcome may be. I would like to thank all the players who have committed themselves to the club this year. Despite one or two difficult results, the quality of rugby on offer has often been very good to watch.

This space gives me the first opportunity to say a belated but thoroughly hearty well done to our Colts XV for lifting the Warwickshire Colts Cup after their fine win over Stratford upon Avon Colts in last week's final. My congratulations go to all their players who have played throughout the season, the coaching and support staff and not least the large band of OLs supporters who made the trip to Butts Park Aren, a very rewarding experience. The Colts could also secure league success and take the title with a win or a draw from their last game against Kenilworth next week. However it would appear that Old Coventrians Colts could still pip them to top spot if our lads should fall at the last hurdle.

As many of you will know we are fast moving towards the 10th running of the Rugby4Heroes tournament and close to breaking the £100,000 target set for charitable donations to the Armed Services Charities. This all takes place over the weekend of 11 -13 May and once again promises to provide a wonderful weekend both on and off the field. Get involved if you can over the



weekend and in the run up with Charlie Sabin's Bacon Buttie fuelled working parties. .

I would also like to thank all those who have been engaged with the newly formatted programmes for our home games this season. The content and quality is much improved from previous editions and a credit to all those involved. I do hope that this is something which will be carried on for next season's home games.

Enjoy your afternoon at The Crofts and to the OL's players have a great end of season dinner next weekend.

### Mike Hemming Old Leamingtonians President



### MATCH REPORTS

League: Championship Midlands 2

Fixture: Birmingham Moseley 1st XV - Old Leamingtonians 1st XV

**Venue: Billesley Common, Birmingham** 

Result: Birmingham Moseley 1st XV 39 - 15 Old Leamingtonians 1st XV

Old Leamingtonian Ladies lose out in last league game of the season

In their final league match of the season Old Leamingtonian ladies travelled away to Birmingham Moseley. A much hoped for win would have moved OLs up the league table to secure 5th in the league, however Birmingham Moseley weren't playing ball and beat OLs 39 – 15 on their home ground leaving Old Leams standing at 6th in the Women's Championship Midlands 2 league.

Moseley kicked off the match putting Old Leams in attack; an interesting first few phases with both teams assessing each other tactics of play. After a slow first few minutes, both OLs and Moseley stepped it up a notch with the two teams clashing in a flurry of determination. Yet it was Moseley who brought in the first points of the match with a sneaky break through OLs defence.

Moseley carried on the try scoring momentum scoring another 2 tries in the first half. After a disallowed try from number 8 Charlie Stephens OLs put in a big attack, pushing their way back into Moseley's 22. Strong runs from players broke the line, with the ball getting out to winger Sarah Ovenden who stormed past the reeling defence and scored OLs first try of the match.

The first half continued with a bit of back and fourth rugby, eventually with the half time whistle being blown and the score standing at 17-5 to Birmingham Moseley.

Old Leams kicked off the second half, a strong defence put enough pressure on Moseley to knock the ball on and winning OLs the ball after a solid scrum. Taking advantage of a quick penalty, Captain Jen Vermeulen, powers through to score in the corner.

Although OLs spent a lot of time in Moseley's 22, the home team manage to use their faster players on the wings to score two more tries. Returning the favour using their faster player, outside centre Tash Barnes, used her speed to evade many Moseley players and



score in the corner, bringing in some valuable points for OLs.

Sustaining a few injuries with 5 minutes to go Old Leams a re-shuffle in positions had to occur before the game continued. Moseley were quick to take advantage of the re-organisation and were able to score 2 more tries before the final whistle was blown, leaving the full time score standing at 39 – 15 to Birmingham Moseley.

Report provided by Mikala Raines













### SECTION NEWS

#### News from the M&J Section:

A warm welcome to the crofts from everyone in the M&J section, a huge good luck to our first XV today as they push for league promotion, the M&J section is right behind you!

We are now in the final run in of this season with only 2 weekends of rugby remaining, I cannot believe how guickly this season as has gone, many teams are going off on tour to celebrate a fantastic season, we've got our end of season fun training and awards day on 29th April, would be great to see lots of people at the club for this to see off the season in style, please join me on the patio for a drink or two.

The main event out of season is the fantastic Rugby4Heroes festival which will see the team celebrate the 10th year of this fantastic event. The mini rugby festival takes place on Sunday 13th May, it's always a great day, please come along and show your support.

Our girls team has kicked off really well. Naomi Draper & Tim Perkins hosted a very successful RFU #innerwarrior session recently well done to them. It's great to see this team forming, I'm sure they will go from strength to strength under Naomi and Tim's leadership, they meet at 1030 on Sunday mornings, girls aged between 11 & 18.

I was delighted to see that the Colts Won the Warwickshire



Cup, Massive congratulations to all players and coaches for this fantastic victory.

Congratulations to Ben Edwards, Ollie Carrington, Freddie Hart, Mackenzie Spilman-Penn, Fraser Carr, Loic Dehaut and Dan McCarthy from our under 15s team for representing Warwickshire recently in an exciting 27-27 result against Staffordshire.



**Lucas Wager** Mini and Junior Chairman

### **Dates for your diary**

Fixtures for the next two weeks as follows

Friday 18th May - Summer Black Tie Ball Sunday 13th May, Rugby4Heroes Mini Festival

Wasps 3 day Summer Rugby Camp, 29th August 2018 - Old

www.wasps.co.uk/coachclass-programme/wasps-coachclass

Leicester Tigers 5 day Summer Rugby Camp 20th August - Leamington RFC

www.leicestertigers.com/community/rugby-camps/rugby-camp-



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### SECTION NEWS

#### News from the M&J Section:

Colts - Another fine performance from the whole squad.

OLs entertained Broadstreet at home in their penultimate match of the season with two wins required to secure the league title. OLs were a little slow out of the blocks this week but were first on the board with an early Alex Witchell penalty, 3-0. Shortly afterwards the best move of the game came with a looped move in the centres allowing wing Sam Maunder to race down the flank to score out wide, 8-0. OLs were in full flow now and scored another try courtesy of quick tap and several pick and goes before Thomas Wigham went over, 15-0. Ed Gray was then carded for persistent offside. Broadstreet replied with a well taken try of their own after more infringements from OLs, 15-7. OLs then succumbed to another yellow - this time Callum Semple for tackling the player without the ball. However, despite being down to 13 men, OLs scored a further try before half time through the ever present Alex Witchell, 20-7. Half time.

OLs started the second half with passion and scored very early on through Kai Bailey after throwing a neat dummy close to the line, 25-7. The OLs pack maintained their dominance and scored again via Ollie Craig, 32-7. Broadstreet continued to play some good rugby themselves and came up with a score from an OLs offside, 32-12. Back came OLs with a score that settled the game through a fine run from Oscar Nagle, 37-12. A super backs move saw Will Davies on the scrore, sheet and two more individual tries. from Alex Witchell took OLs to full time with a final score of 58-12. One more win required, away at Kenilworth on Thursday 26th April, to make it a cup and league double.

#### Here are March's match reports for the allconquering Colts. Apologies for the omission from the last programme.

March saw two well-deserved wins over Coventry rivals Barkers Butts and Old Coventrians.

Always a tough trip, OLs travelled to Barkers and came away with a hard fought 13 - 0 win in difficult conditions. Leading by an Alex Witchell penalty at half-time. OLs earned victory through tries from Max McCrickard and Witchell.

St Patrick's Day saw a table-topping clash with another trip to Coventry this time to in-form Old Coventrians. Although tryless, OLs took advantage of OCs indiscipline, notching five penalties, all struck by Will Davies. OCs managed to cross the whitewash but an uncompromising defence, saw OLs edge to a 15 - 8 win and remain at the summit.

The team reached the final of the Bob Coward Colts Cup for, we think, the first time in its 95 year history! The season's best performance was saved for the semi-final at OCs, and a thoroughly deserved 23 - 5 win resulted. A forward drive ended by Ollie Craig's try was improved by Davies, who added a penalty to see OLs to a 10 - 0 lead at the oranges. Further scores from Callum Semple and Witchell sandwiched a single OCs effort.

To top off an excellent March, the side earned a 5 - 0 home win over Leicestershire powerhouses Lutterworth the only score courtesy of the pacey Ben Hawkes.

Match Report Rich Pettifer

### SPONSORSHIP NEWS

#### **Senior Section - Player Sponsors Update:**

OLRFC 1st XV Player sponsorship is gathering pace with support from many of clubs supporters. Individual Player Sponsors are as follows:

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If you are interested in sponsoring a player please see Reece Jones 1st XV Captain.

We are always looking for new support particularly for the U6s, U7s, U9s, U11s, and U15s, Please contact Jonny Shipton on 07476 405215 or Mike Vallance 07545 602029 if you are interested in supporting.















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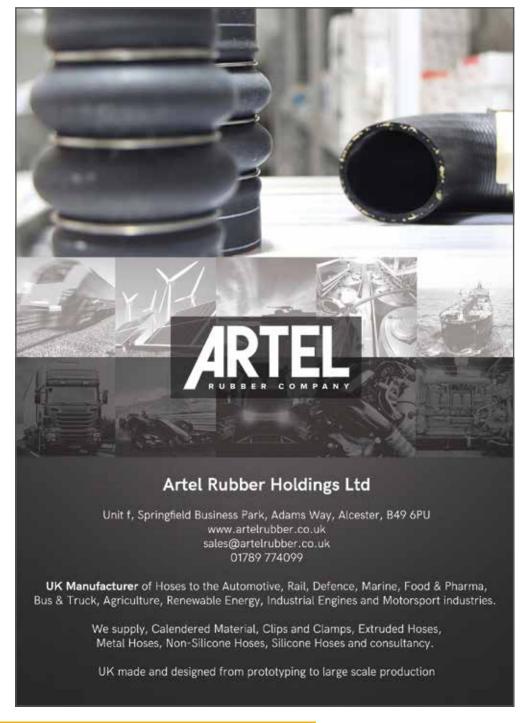


























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