



1st Rugby XV Report



Vinehall School

2002-2003

This was my first season coaching of the 1st XV an honour to be in charge of such a wonderful group of sportsmen. The season started with a match against Holmewood House who seemed to be at an advantage having played three matches prior to our meeting. The first game, for me, was one of the most exhilarating matches of the season and the score of 0-0 at half time indicated the closeness and this continued until near the end when two individual runaway tries rather upset the score. As the boys came off the field you sensed a feeling of pride and knowledge that they had played their hearts out and despite losing, it didn't matter. In this instance the game was more important than the result and I use a sentence I do not use lightly, I hate losing! I am convinced that this contest, the obvious respect from the Holmewood boys and coaches, and the self belief the boys gained, went a long way to setting the scene for what was to be an outstanding season.

The training sessions after the Holmewood House match were a delight - the boys seem to up their intensity, the forwards, led by Magnus James, laid into green and increasingly muddy tackle bags, the backs under George Berthon's inspiration, started to use steeper lines and really moved the ball.

Sutton Valence were the recipients of a very controlled and lethal combination of ferocious forward dominance and quick handling. Our scrum was starting to look rather nasty and more importantly playing to an eight, Joshua Roche the locks, Harry Todd and Adam Boothroyd combining to cause mayhem in the loose. Fergus Ridley Anderson and Stuart Flint were working each other out and William Wheeler at full back looked very comfortable. The score of 45-0 was pleasing especially the nil! I personally hate letting any team score anything so I was particularly pleased with the tackling and also the way the team gelled and insured no played got through them.

The Marlborough House game was cancelled which I suspect brought an audible sigh of relief from the Hawkhurst area; Newlands took the brunt of the boys frustration in what amounted to a session of unopposed play. I was pleased with the way the boys developed their set piece moves and the end score 90-0 speaks for itself.

At this stage the team was well established Max Beattie had bludgeoned his way through me and a tackle bag, Magnus James and George Berthon, so he became a permanent fixture and greatly added to the team bulk. Robin Bridge was proving a wonderful supplier of loose ball along with the quick back row of Christian West, Max Cherril and the worthy captain Magnus James. Joshua Roche, Harry Todd and Adam Boothroyd were all beginning to understand land and adapting their play accordingly. The half backs Fergus Ridley Anderson and Stuart Flint were producing quick balls for George Berthon and Max Weston and both centers were instrumental in distributing attacking passes to the wings, Adam Parry and James Gibbs. Lurking at the back was our most dangerous weapon William Wheeler his insertions at real pace caused havoc with defenders - so really we had a perfect team!

The games now were of a more serious nature; against Yardley Court our team put into practice what we had talked and tried out in the practice sessions after a clinical warm up and ferocious first five minutes Max Beattie and Adam Boothroyd just ran straight through the Yardley pack and that rather set the scene. The final score 71-0 was obviously pleasing but I was happier with the boys' attitude throughout the game.

Results

Played 8 Won 7 Lost 1
Points for 304 Against 19

Holmewood House	lost	0-12
Sutton Valence	won	45-0
Newlands	won	90-0
St Bedes	won	31-0
DPVC	won	42-0
Yardley Court	won	71-0
St.Andrew's	won	10-7
Ashdown House	won	15-0

Squad: M.James, G.Berthon, R.Bridge, J.Roche, M.Beattie, H.Todd, A.Boothroyd, C.West, M.Cherrill, F.Ridley Anderson, S.Flint, M.Weston, A.Perry, J.Gibbs, W.Wheeler



Rugby



Vinehall School
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The visit to DPVC was one of the coldest afternoons of the season and the size of the opposition rather daunting and I had thought our side was large! This was a real test of our resilience; the forwards had to work harder than ever before just to gain their own ball. The result of 42-0 in our favour does not view a true reflection of the game.

St.Bedes are always very strong and this was a hard game. To be fair the visitors had quite a few boys from the year group below and they were always going to struggle. The defensive number eight pick-up moves began to work and we gained a victory - 31-0.

St.Andrew's as everyone thinks is a difficult school to beat. Unfortunately we conceded an early try and conversion very early in the game. Interestingly the boys did not panic. After some sterling tackles by Fergus Ridley Anderson and James Gibbs, we scored just before half time and then spent the next half attacking their line and continually giving away silly penalties. We eventually won 10-7 but it was very tough.

Finally the visit from Ashdown House. - all season we had heard heated about how quick and strong they were whispers. It turned out to be a marvellous game; Ashdown never gave up but our team put in fifty minutes of total effort and deserved their 15-0 victory. This marked the end of a wonderful season but hopefully the start of lots of enjoyable rugby years as these boys move on to their next schools.

I certainly feel I was privileged to have worked with this group of boys and I thank them for their honesty, gamesmanship and their whole-hearted efforts which contributed to one of the most successful rugby sides at Vinehall.
Chris Perry

EASTBOURNE COLLEGE RUGBY TOURNAMENT

The boys in the First XV squad surprised themselves, their coaches and six other schools to win a superb rugby tournament at Eastbourne College.

Vinehall won their first game against St. Andrews thus ensuring a happy Mr. Butler. The boys were then subjected to a completely unguided and very repetitive tour of most of Eastbourne's side streets before eventually consuming a marvellous lunch. This added weight undoubtedly helped us to victories against Great Walstead and the favourites, St. Christophers and a place in the final against Cumnor house.

A terrific team effort ensured a victory and at the presentation our Captain, Magnus James managed to lift the splendid shield without a hint of a knock on!

The feedback I received from everyone was that Vinehall played as a real team and this probably went a long way to securing our first rugby trophy. Well done boys and everyone at Vinehall is very proud of you.

Vinehall v StAndrews	WON	7 - 0
Vinehall v Great Walstead	WON	37 - 0
Vinehall v St Christophers	WON	17 - 12

FINAL Vinehall v CumnorHouse WON 12 - 0

The squad was made up as follows:-

Magnus James (Capt): George Berthon: Josh Roche: Robin Bridge
Christian West: Fergus Ridley Anderson: James Gibbs: Adam Perry:
Max Weston: William Wheeler: Oliver Sandeman-Allen: Ewen Cameron
Robert Perry: Stuart Flint

Rest of 1st XV

Max Cherrill: Harry Todd: Ben Wright