



Rugby

2003/4

1st XV Team	page	2
Colts A / Colts B	page	3-4
2nd XV Team	page	5
3rd XII Team	page	6
U10 A / U10 B Teams	page	7
U9 A / U9 B Teams	page	8





Rugby

2003/4



1st XV

This was a team full of explosive talent. We won over half our matches with Robert Perry and Stuart Flint delivering high quality play in midfield. A fitting end to Mr Chris Perry's distinguished coaching career at Vinehall.





Rugby

2003/4



Colts Rugby



The first half of this season was frustrating. On the practice field we had a group of extremely talented boys, each of whom would walk into any colts team on our circuit. In the earlier fixtures, however, the parts were significantly better than the sum: individualism and disparity ruled as a few of the boys attempted to impress what they perceived to be their superior skills upon their team-mates resulting in broken moves and halted play. Once we had focused on a few team-dependent drills and had a chance to reshuffle the positions and roles (clearly explained!) of each player, the team began to perform very impressively. The forwards and backs became progressively influential and successful as match experience set in and, more significantly, as the boys became used to playing together. The latter comment is worth mentioning as the squad, at the start of the season, included five players who were new to Vinehall.

By the main part of the Lent term the boys were a much more confident, co-ordinated and controlled team. Hard-hitting, aggressive and disciplined forwards absorbed opposition pressure; distribution and defence were well maintained by backs with superb handling, vision and tackling skills. The results started to reflect the dominance enjoyed by a team who were now more buoyed by the success of their set pieces and less by personal skills. Indeed, the final game of the year, against Ashdown House, was an exceptional spectacle of Under 11 rugby. Great handling, tackling, positional awareness and manipulation of set pieces meant that the boys ended their season on a great high and as a superb rugby team, the sum far exceeding the parts!

There were many boys who grew up a lot this season and who, in the next few seasons, should see the blossoming of exciting rugby careers. Tom Harvey's calmness and excellent eye, awareness of positional play and ability to contribute in all facets of the game was vital to the team's development. Jake Willis Fleming, our number one (and highly successful!) kicker and one of the top tacklers in the group, demonstrated exceptional handling abilities and remarkable speed off the mark. Edward Bridge, a seemingly 'possessed' tackler and tireless sprinter, demoralised many defenders with his weaving, darting runs at the try line (coupled, later on, with a few passes!). A highly talented footballer with very safe hands, Will Howard-Smith's determination was remarkable and few players could match his commitment and passion on and off the ball he tackled and ran with great ferocity and focus. Without ever grumbling or seeking limelight, Carwyn Jones made the greatest strides as a player this year: his very surprising physical strength, combined with an amazing level of co-ordination (in the hands and off the boot) meant that he made the full back position his own. James Mursell is a real talent: his positional awareness and



Rugby

2003/4



excellent rugby brain were well employed when the team started to gel. James threw himself, physically and emotionally, into every fixture in which he expertly demonstrated his quick hands, communication skills and his value as a top class defender. Another highly dedicated and determined player was the ever-reliable Charlie Newman. Charlie's development over the season was marked by sheer graft in games and training, much greater confidence with the ball in hand and his importance as a valued back. In a very positive sense, the most ferocious player was undoubtedly James Burke, a boy whose strength and presence was feared by season's end as he tore many a ball from an opponent's hand. With greater awareness of the boys around him when taking the ball into contact, James should emerge as a very useful forward. James Floyd was another forward who successfully brought his size and strength to bear on play; straight running, superb awareness of team-mates around him and an ability to keep up with play were characteristics of his game. Warat Thavisin was another forward who grew much over the season, too. Warat's value lay in his ability to release the ball successfully on contact and to support his backs in attack and defence. Surprisingly quiet for such an active forward, Dan Cope was ever-present in his support of the ball carrier. Dan's solid tackling and his scrummaging were always wholehearted! As Calum Marris learned the value of quick passing he became a cracking back who, with his pace and keen eye, will offer valuable service as a wing or centre.

These were talented individuals and, when they melded as a team and focused on pooling their individual abilities, they were a fantastic group of boys to coach, manage and to cajole. I expect very great things of them next year!

Kevin Doble

Colts B XI Rugby



Homewood House	Lost	5 - 50
Yardley Court	Lost	0 - 40
DPSC	Lost	0 - 35
St Andrews	Lost	19 - 26
Ashdown House	Lost	19 - 26

As the results suggest, this was very much a learning season and the side that narrowly lost to Ashdown House at the end of the season, was unrecognisable from the side that lost heavily at the beginning of the season. In the early games, the team lacked shape and poor tackling meant that the opposition was able to run through relatively easily. The St. Andrews and Ashdown House games were different, however. A new found determination and more ferocious tackling meant that the team was much more competitive. Good tries were scored by Alasdair Bremner, Calum Marris (on loan from the A team!) and Scott Collier kicked some good conversions. Joshua Powell also played well throughout the season, always in the thick of things and competing aggressively for the ball. Well tried everyone!

EYB/GH



Rugby

2003/4



2nd XV Rugby

Played 7 Won 2 Lost 5. Points for 44. Points against 180.



A disappointing set of results on paper but they belie the efforts and commitment shown by the 2nd XV squad this season. A close 5-12 defeat v Holmewood House started the season well with much to praise and feel encouraged about.

A mis-match v Sevenoaks 1st XV saw the team go down 0-45 with some astute refereeing to keep the score to a sensible margin of defeat. We followed this confidence rocker with a confidence boosting win v Yardley Court by 22- 7.

The team failed to score in the next two matches losing 0-45 to DPS and a much closer 0-21 v St Andrews. The team's second win was against St Bedes who we beat 17- 0. The season ended with a thorough thrashing at the hands of Ashdown House who won 50-0.

The team was ably captained by Nick Weston Smith and the Player of the Season was awarded by the players to Edward Neill.



Rugby

2003/4



3rd XII

Results: Played 7 Won 1 Lost 6.



Although being more accustomed to the round ball I was only too pleased to take on the role of the thirds rugby coach this season. With a full programme of fixtures ahead of us, our season could not have started with a tougher game than with an away match at Holmewood House. The match certainly lived up to its billing and only for some sympathetic refereeing Holmewood ran out deserved winners 22-0.

There was lots to work to do in training before our next match versus Sutton Valence. One of the hardest parts of coaching this level is you are always reliant on boys in the upper two teams being available for selection; illness or injury has a domino effect and more often than not any work done in training can be affected on match day by the loss of one or more of your team (It's always your best player!). Having made great strides in training and a few changes, we arrived at Sutton Valence with a certain degree of optimism, and after an excellent match Vinehall won the game 17-7.

Our next opponents were Bethany 2nds. Having lost six players due to illness from the previous week and on arrival at Bethany to be faced with at least five giants, the team put up such a spirited performance to only lose 17-7 with N. Lawson scoring an excellent individual try.

Our next match was away at D.P.S and as so often can happen at this level a big boy dominated their play and by half time the score was 21-0. The second half was a much more enjoyable affair with Vinehall winning a lot of scrummage and ruck ball. S.Slade scored a try in the second half. D.P.S.came out as worthy winners 26-5.

Our last three matches were all away fixtures against St Andrew's, St Bedes and Ashdown House and although the boys tried their best, the games were lost 37-0, 39-5 and 22-0 respectively. I would like to thank all the boys for their efforts in matches and on the training ground, with nine of the team in year seven the experience they have gained this year will hold them in good stead for next year. Last but not least a big thank-you to all the parents for their support, in particular Mrs Keeling, our lone supporter, at our only victory at Sutton Valence.

Results: Played 7 Won 1 Lost 6

Highlights of season,

Winning at Sutton Valence

Fantastic effort at Bethany with weakened side.

Players' *player of the season* - Fred Keeling

Players who played more than three matches:

A Sua, C. Y.Choo, P Overall, N Thavisin, P Lee,

M Marzaganov, W Dunn, N Lawson, A Todd,

S Slade, T Barton, F Keeling, R Davies, G Harriman,

J Newman



Rugby

2003/4



U10s

U10A Played 7: Won 3, Lost 2, Drew 2.

U10B Played 4: Won 1, Lost 3.



U.10A

Holmewood House	Lost	5-60
Sevenoaks Prep	Won	15-5
Yardley Court	Lost	10-25
St. Andrews	Drew	5-5
St. Ronans	Won	40-0
St. Bedes	Drew	15-15
Ashdown House	Won	25-10

U.10B

Holmewood House	Lost	5-35
Yardley Court	Lost	0-60
St. Andrews	Lost	0-30
St. Bedes	Won	25-10

The U10 A's improved enormously during the season and were unrecognisable from the side that surrendered so meekly to Holmewood House in the first match. A lot of work on tackling helped us to become much more competitive in the games. The boys also learned the value of rucking as a means of creating space for our fast runners to exploit. We were certainly fortunate in having the pace of Bobby Maclean and Perry Andrews to scorch down the wings when given the opportunity. Alexander also did a fine job as scrum half and his incisive running from the scrums helped us to cross the gain line regularly.

In the scrum, George Wardle was always in the thick of things and he soon began to link thoughtfully with our very mobile props, James Stork and James Mannion. Chris Boshier was a very solid presence in midfield and he formed a profitable partnership with our athletic wingers, William Colderick and Patrick Dunn.

The U10B's finished the season well with an emphatic victory against St. Bedes. For most of the season the boys struggled to keep their team shape and were let down by poor tackling. However, there is certainly some potential here with the elusive running of Freddie Buchanan at scrum half and the dynamic tackling of George Orsler at fly half. In the forwards, the driving play of James Harmer and Harry Buxton should certainly be an asset in years to come.

NWB



Rugby

2003/4



U9A

The U9A team was unbeaten this season.



U9B

