

# Rugby

2007/8



## 1st XV Rugby



**Played 9 Won 8 Lost 1  
For 305 Against 35**

St Andrews	Won	50-0
St.Ronans	Won	29-7
Bethany	Won	57-0
H.House	Abandoned	
Yardley Court	Won	12-7
Marlborough House	Won	42-0
DPS	Lost	0-7
St. Andrews	Won	31-0
Ashdown House	Won	22-14
Great Walstead	Won	62-7

This has been a terrific season for the 1st XV with 8 victories being recorded in our 9 games. The pack paved the way for most of our success with consistently solid performances in the scrum and line out. Edward Rogers was an outstanding prop forward and he consistently managed to get the team going forward by his power when driving into the opposition. He scored tries in almost every game which was a terrific boost. The team was captained by James Wardle and his speed to the breakdown was another important factor in the team's success. He was given assistance by Robert Flett and Harry Coombes who both contributed strongly when the ball needed to be won quickly for the backs. William Barrington was a highly reliable hooker and his unselfish work around the pitch often created opening for others.

The backs were fortunate to have the excellent pairing of Archie Todd and William Furlong in midfield. This pairing seldom let their team down in defence and they showed intelligence in varying the point of attack when possession was won. Alex Pugh was a wonderfully confident tackler and his reassuring presence in the centre often enabled his team to snuff out opposition attacks at an early stage. The back three (Oliver Giles, Sam Piper and William Orr) showed consistency in their defensive skills throughout the season. They often turned defensive situations into try scoring opportunities with their powerful counter attacking.

There were many highlights during the season, but the win against Yardley Court was possibly the most satisfying victory. The team were shorn of 5 regulars but all the new comers played their part in holding our spirited opponents at bay in a nail-biting finish. The 31-0 win at home to St.Andrews was also a very good performance as our Eastbourne rivals had improved enormously since our easy win in November. Obviously the 0-7 defeat to DPS was a huge disappointment. We had at least 9 boys absent from Game 1 on the day and in the end we had to concede defeat to an equally strong side. No one needed to be reminded that this was the first defeat for this particular age group of Year 8 boys.





## 2nd XV Rugby



The 2nd XV have completed an unbeaten season. It was disappointing that 3 matches had to be cancelled due to the bad weather but the boys trained hard regardless of the pitch conditions. The most emphatic victories were against St.Andrews and Ashdown House. In both games the team scored over 50 points without reply and played some sublime rugby. There was an exciting 10-7 win against DPS which showed that the team also knew how to defend. This was an especially good performance as several important players were missing due to illness.

The team was captained in fine style by Joshua Jones. The pack was always on the front foot in the scrums thanks to the efforts of Charlie Williamson, Curtis Suggitt and Tobias Maltman. Rory Cramp and Michael Green also contributed well when carrying the ball forward.

The backs were fortunate to have Peter Dunn as a steady scrum half and Max Desoutter as the playmaker at fly half. Jules Bretillot impressed everybody at full back and the centre pairing of Luke Keeling and William Flett showed promise for the future.

The team's player of the season was our flying Frenchman, Jules Bretillot.

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## 3rd XII Rugby



It was a season of firsts of the 3rd XII. It was the first time that some of the boys had ever played rugby, it was the first time that Mr Reid had coached a team, it was the first time that anyone laughed at one of Fred Gregory's jokes and it was the first time for some that they had had an unbeaten season while at the school.

It was a tough start to the season battling against the prodigious girth of St Andrews with some boys who towered over our own. Yet through sheer perseverance, good kicking and mild persuasion from the sideline we came out on top. From this epic battle we were able to see what we needed to work on through the season, rucking and moving the ball forward became our main focuses, so that we had something to compliment our stoic defence, demonstrated primarily by Captain Dom York and Greg Morley in midfield and solid kicking game from Ed Mannion and Julian Serra.

We were able to dominate most of our opponents with our exceptional set piece play with excellent line out throwing from Antonio Tena-Lopez while our scrum held firm with Fred Gregory, Dong Kang and our late acquisition Simon Ruddle bruising the opposition up front. With this battalion of great warriors and our speedsters, Alvaro Gomez, Tena and Aaron Lam out on the wings we became a force to be reckoned with, showing we could record a colossal wins like our victory over St Ronans or muscle for every inch like in our close win over DPS.

Finally, we rounded off the season in a similar vein as to which we started it, a game against St. Andrews. Our opponents were fielding a much modified team, but we had also come along way since we last saw them. However our fairytale season looked as though it was coming to an end, as we were down 17-0 at half time. But we re-emerged after half time and began a comeback, again Dom York lead the team with great maturity while Asis De La Maza showed how much he had improved in both attack and defence, shutting St Andrews' best player out the game, then creating great chances with ball in hand. .With barely minutes to spare Julian Serra kicked the final conversion to seal victory 19-17 to cap off a wonderful season.

My thanks to all the players who made it such a great season all round, in practice and in matches, though we had our dark times we came out victorious. I wish you all luck in the future and that you enjoy your future seasons of rugby as much as I have enjoyed this one.

# Rugby



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## Colts A Rugby

**Played 7 Won 3 Lost 4**

The team's goal was to win 3 matches and this was achieved with the last match of the term with an emphatic win against Great Walstead.

Not once being able to field our strongest side shows how hard the squad have tried and it is too their credit that they have maintained their spirit and determination.

More importantly they have learnt how vital it is to play as a team. All I ask is that they all grow before next season!

Well done everyone.

*C Sloan*

## U10 A and B Rugby

**Played 8 Won 5 Lost 3 Cancelled 2**

There was much to praise in the Under 10 squad this season. The skills of dominant individuals blended well to form an effective "team" with positional responsibilities very much at the core of the training and matches. There were some memorable moments during the season and I am sure that all members of the squad have learned a lot about the game and, in some cases, a lot about themselves!

We started with a home match v St Andrews. Although they were much stronger than us we gave a good account of ourselves and the first try of the season was a breakaway sprint from James Moug.

With a match under our belts we took on Claremont and ran out close winners in a keenly fought encounter. This was the first time the team looked as if they understood the role of positions in a match and I feel we were the better organised of the two teams and deserved our win.

With tails up we went to St Ronan's and in a one sided match we ran in a hatful of tries.

Having reached a really good level of fitness and skill it was disappointing to lose then next two fixtures to the weather and the momentum of the season was lost.

The home visit of St Ronan's was a much closer affair as we fielded a team mostly comprising "B" team players there was no point in another one sided massacre.

We did well but narrowly lost out to some big opposition drafted in I guess.

The away games v St Andrews were very enjoyable the "B" team winning convincingly and the "A" team closing the gap from the previous match narrowly losing by one try. A sign of the improvement made over the season in all aspects of the game.

A final home game win v Great Walstead ended the season on a positive note and the video capture on the front hall screen gave some idea of the commitment that the boys have shown in their rugby this year.

A different captain was appointed for each game but the players voted **Matthew Thomas** as their **Player of the Season**.

*N Butcher*



? don't know who this is

# Rugby

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## Under 9 Rugby



**Played 7 Won 4 Lost 3**

**Players Player of the season: W.McNeilly**

The Under 9 rugby team has been a pleasure to work with this year. No less than thirteen out of a group of seventeen boys have played at least one game for the A team. Although we knew at the start of the season we had a small core of good players, it was encouraging to see others making their mark as the season progressed. With the introduction of tackling you never really know how the boys will react. All I can say is at times they were fantastic. The highlights of a very good term must be winning both games against St Andrews alongside victories against Claremont and St Ronans. I would like to say a big thank you to all the boys who played plus our loyal band of parents who supported the team whatever the weather.

**A Team Squad** R.Willis Fleming/ W.McNeilly/ S.Lloyd/ B.Meehan/  
G.Mannion/ G.Embley/ D.Porter/ X.Yeats-Brown/ F.Marshall/  
D.Kowitz/ M.Bevaqua/ E.Carter/ J.Fosbery.

*J Newman*