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NOTTINGHAM RUGBY

	НОМЕ	STARTING XV	AWAY
Sam Aspland-Robinson		15	Jack Stapley
	Rob Stevenson	14	David Williams
I•P	Rob Knox	13	Elliott Creed
APP TREE SERVICES	Will Owen	12	Dan Lancaster
M COVENTRY METALCRAFT	Louis James	11	Joe Browning
Jacky & Peter Redhead	Evan Mitchell	10	Sam Hollingsworth
Parris Tractors TRACTORS AND MACHINERY JOE Snow		09	Michael Stronge
-	Dan Richardson	01 HOTOR	Toby Williams
	Joe Richardson	02	Jake Farnworth (CC)
	Phil Boulton (C)	03	Josh McNulty
Deeley	Nile Dacres	04 pp. 14	Jack Ramshaw
₩ MPL	Jonathan Kpoku	05	Callum Allen
111111	Adam Peters	06	Scott Hall
	Aaron Hinkley	07	Carl Kirwan
	Fred Betteridge	08	Josh Poulett (CC)
		REPLACEMENTS	
Fi	inn Theobold-Thomas	16	Archie Vanes
	Toby Trinder	17	Aniseko Sio
	Will Hurd	18	Ben Betts
	Oli Curry	19	George Cox
	Tom Ball	20	Storm Hanekom
	Josh Barton	21	Sam Edwards
	Tony Fenner	22	Elliot Bale
PremierWhole	sale James Martin	22 23	Morgan Bunting

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THE CHAIRMAN JON SHARP





What a difference a few weeks make - second in the league to second bottom. Even allowing for the fact that it is still early season, there is no excuse for that and we must improve.

We have planned to play an exciting game this season as we develop a largely young new squad, and we are successfully working ourselves into attacking positions but then we are too frequently coughing up possession to the opposition who is able to run it back against a misaligned defence and go three-quarters the length of the pitch, usually for a seven-pointer: this happened three times last week and five times the week before. This has produced final scorelines that do not truly reflect the run of play although those tries alone would not have changed the final results. Improvement of handling and ball retention is now an urgent focus.

Off the pitch, last week we took a significant step towards our future aspirations. We signed the 'umbrella' contract for the re-development of Butts Park Arena with an experienced development team who are carrying out other major projects in the City, and in support of this, project managers, architects, engineers and facility operators have also been designated to the project.

There is still much work to be done in terms of detailed design and planning before we can put a spade in the ground, which we hope to do at the end of this season. The end goal is much improved spectator facilities combined with non-rugby facilities designed to provide much needed income to the club, all well in time for our 150th anniversary year.

This is a very significant step for the club and for the regeneration of Spon End and therefore our city. A more detailed press release will be issued in the coming weeks.

But, back to the here and now, we need a morale boosting win to set our season back on track. Your vociferous support is never more needed.

Coventreeee!

Jon SharpExecutive Chairman



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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ROWLAND WINTER

Welcome back to the butts Park Arena!

The squad are well aware that the last few weeks of results have not been what we are looking for and we all feel disappointed that the scoreboard has not reflected the effort from the team or the potential of the squad overall. Today will be a tough challenge against Nottingham, who have developed significantly since our pre-season game in the Summer.

Last week against Pirates, we were always in the battle, and we created a lot of scoring opportunities but didn't look after the ball and too often chose the wrong option when close to their line. This has been the same theme for a few weeks, and whilst I don't intend to take anything away from our opposition, our sloppy play has contributed to the scoreboard without the opposition needing to work particularly hard. The positive is that we are creating a lot of opportunities and we continue to work hard each week to fine tune our play to make sure we begin to take them. We have a lot of young players who are working incredibly hard to improve, but this will take time and they are learning a lot from the opportunities we are giving them.

On the injury front, we have struggled a little over the last month and will definitely miss the likes of Jordan Poole, Josh Bainbridge and Ryan Burrows who picked up knocks at Pirates last

week. They join Luc Jeannot, Suva Ma'asi, Jake Bridges, Rhys Thomas, Tiki Nayalo, Tom Emery, Andy Forsyth and Louis Brown on the sidelines. However, I do expect 3 or 4 of those to be back available for our next league game v London Scottish.



In the meantime, whilst we have suffered with injuries, the positive news is the opportunities it has created for our Academy players to step up and get exposed to Championship rugby. I have been really impressed with how Fred Betteridge, Louis James, Evan Mitchell and Tom Ball have adapted so well to being regularly involved and they have now been joined by Ben Meakin this week. When you add in the likes of Joe Snow, Jon Kpoku, Suva Ma'asi, James Martin, Toby Trinder, Rhys Thomas, Louis Brown etc etc we do have a really talented young core to the squad.

The pathway really is working well, and the U19s had their fourth BUCS game of the season against Oxford Brookes Uni on Wednesday, winning 40-0. They are yet to concede a point this season, but have the tougher challenge of Loughborough Uni away next Wednesday.

I hope you enjoy the game today,

Rowland Director of Rugby

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8th December: Breakdown 4.30pm till 6pm

1st December: Kicking 4.30pm till 6pm

15th December: Passing 4.30pm till 6pm Only £15 per session



To enquire, please email: community@coventryrugby.co.uk



Coventry Rugby's Community and Foundation have been continuing their great work among local schools, clubs and communities.

This past half-term, the Coventry Rugby Foundation welcomed a large group of children from disadvantaged backgrounds from the local area to attend a 3-day Project 500 camp at Butts Park Arena.



These camps welcome the children in the morning - providing childcare throughout the day during half-term. The children are given breakfast and a hot lunch and are sent home with a week's worth of food supplied by Morrisons. The camp allows children to engage with a range of sports during the day, helping to keep active and learn



new skills.

The Community have also initiated three new projects; Masterclasses, Walking Rugby and Matchday Takeovers.

If you are a member of a junior rugby and would like to take part in our TakeOver days then please email **community@coventryrugby.co.uk** for more information. All children that participate in this programme get a FREE season ticket!!

We are also about to launch some new projects in the coming weeks, Masterclasses working on key skills alongside our professional players and Walking Rugby for the less able player. All this will take place on the Butts Arena under the floodlights in the evening. If anybody would like some more information on these new projects then please email community@coventryrugby.co.uk.



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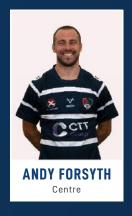
Dual Registered Sale Sharks





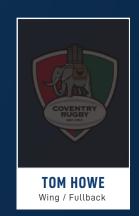
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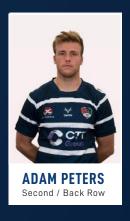
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Dual Registerd Leicester Tigers



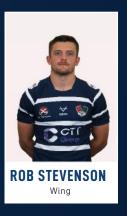
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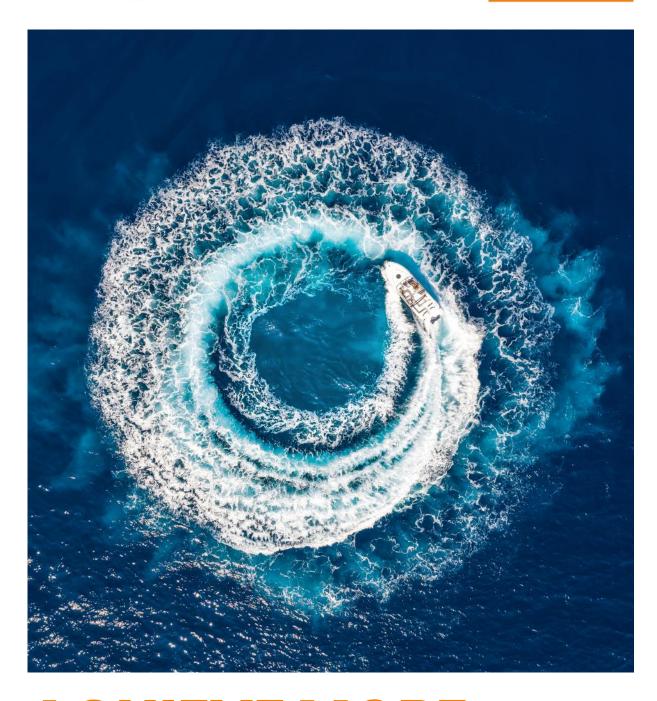
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Find more about our players at www.coventryrugby.co.uk





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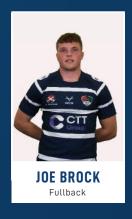






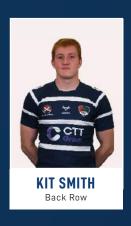
















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TODAY'S OPPONENTS

Fixtures between Coventry & Nottingham go back a very long way, 130 years to be precise, when in the old Midland Counties Cup, Cov won 25 pts -nil at the old Butts.

A sequence, which save for the two world war years & a 9 year period immediately afterwards, has largely continued unbroken.

League Rugby of course goes back to the start of the 1987/88 season & for the 23rd meeting since then in the league format, we extend a very warm welcome to the Nottingham squad, coaches, management & supporters.

One feels there is little relevance this afternoon in the little fact that, preseason, we defeated the Green & Whites 60 pts -10 here. Being preseason, it is a result which does not count in our overall record or player statistics. In any case, much has happened since that day in early September. Of those 23 league encounters to date, Nottingham lead 12-10 in victories, with one match at Lady Bay two seasons ago ending as a draw.

Nottingham won the first league game between us back all those 34 years ago, Cov having to wait a further 9 years before recording our first, a game which still features in the memory of those who witnessed it. 102-22, with 13 tries, still stands as our biggest league win overall.

Last season, with just the one game, Cov Rugby won at Lady Bay, before the season was cut short.

Nottingham, having had a blank week last weekend, currently lie in 9th place, one above us, but now having played four games to Cov's five. Two wins at home, coupled with two defeats on their travels at Richmond & Cornish Pirates, where the margin was 8pts -32. Any interesting parallel or comparison there? Draw your own conclusions on that one!



Craig Hammond, a former popular Club Captain, returned to Nottingham for the start of this season, replacing another club stalwart in Neil Fowkes as Head Coach.

There are in the current Green & Whites squad, two players with either a direct link to Cov Rugby or the city itself.

Fly Half Sam Holdsworth played his early rugby at the Broadstreet

Club, before moving on to Birmingham Moseley & Rotherham Titans, before leaving for Nottingham.

The second of the two is hooker Jake Farnworth, who made 13 appearances in our Blue & Shirt jersey between 2014-2016, whilst dual registered from Leicester Tigers.

We fully expect this afternoon's encounter to be another close, hard fought one. Nottingham seeking their first away win of the season. Whilst for Cov Rugby, after three consecutive defeats, an opportunity for the squad, which has been hard hit by injuries, to hit back on home soil. All that before we have a three week league break.

Next Saturday, in the first of those three weeks, Rams from Reading, & pushing hard for promotion from National League One, are the visitors here for a club friendly, kick off 3.00pm. For those not too familiar with their name, Rams, a proud community club, were originally Old Redingensians, before the RFU gave permission for a name change three years ago.

John Butler



TWO TO WATCH



PLAYERS TO WATCH

Josh has been with the club since 2012 and has, so far, made 107 appearances, scoring 30 points. The former Nottingham Trent University captain came through the club's youth ranks and NTU programme, which has proved fruitful over a recent number of years. Operating at flanker or #8, Poullet will always guarantee hard work and 110% commitment to the cause, which has been reflected in Head Coach

Birmingham-born Joe Browning played his early rugby with Stoke RFC and Newcastle Under Lyme School before joining the Leicester Tigers academy. He scored two tries in the Under-18 Academies League Final win over Gloucester in 2018/19 when he also made his debut at England Under-18 level before moving up to the Tigers Development Squad for 2019/20. Joe is currently enjoying his second spell with Nottingham, after donning the Green and White shirt a number of times during the shortened season last campaign.himself with an excellent end to end one-two break with winger Charlie Walker.

JOSH POULLET



JOE BROWNING



WE'VE MET

BEFORE









W 60 - 10 | 2020/21 PRESEASON FRIENDLY

The last time we met our friends from Nottingham was during preseason a preseason fixture at Butts Park.

Although it was a friendly, what a game it was! Coventry won 60 points to 10, what will the scoreline be today?

COVENTRY RUGBY

T Toby Trinder, Max Norey (2), James Martin, Tom Emery (2), Louis Brown, Joe Jones, Ollie Betteridge, Louis James

C Evan Mitchell, Tony Fenner (4)

NOTTINGHAM RUGBY

T Jack Stapley, Luke Hibberd **C** Jack Makepeace

Ref Jack Makepeace













NAME

Jonathan Kpoku

AGE

22

POSITION

Second row

PREVIOUS CLUBS

Saracens

WORST SPORTING INJURY

Broken wrist

FAVOURITE PRE-MATCH MEAL

Spaghetti Bolognese

DREAM DINNER GUESTS (DEAD OR ALIVE)

David Attenborough, Robert Downey

Jr, Michael Jordan & Jesus

DREAM HOLIDAY DESINATION

Bora Bora

MOST EMBARASSING SONG ON YOUR PLAYLIST

Justin Bieber - Baby

FUNNIEST MEMBER OF THE SOUAD

Rob Knox

WORST DRESSED OF THE SQUAD

Rhys Thomas

WHO WOULD YOU LEST LIKE TO ROOM WITH ON THE TEAM

Fred Betteridge because he definitely would forget to lock the door.



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2021/22 **FIXTURES** IN



Championship Rugby

Doncaster Knights H CHAMP W 39 - 22

18th September 2021

Ampthill Rugby CHAMP L 19 - 21 25th September 2021

Richmond Rugby H CHAMP W 10 - 05 2nd October 2021

Hartpury University A CHAMP L 18 - 07 18th October 2021

Ealing Trailfinders H CHAMP L 73-24 23rd October 2021 KO 3.00pm

Cornish Pirates A CHAMP L 40-05 30th October 2021 KO 2.30 pm

Nottingham Rugby H CHAMP 6th November 2021 JO 3.00 pm

London Scottish A CHAMP 27th November 2021 KO 3.00 pm

Bedford Blues H CHAMP

4th December 2021 KO 3.00 pm

Jersev Reds A CHAMP 11th December 2021 KO 3.00 pm Doncaster Knights A CHAMP 18th December 2021 KO 2.30 pm

Ampthill Rugby H CHAMP 26th December 2021 KO 1.30 pm

Richmond Rugby A CHAMP 2nd January 2022 KO 3.00 pm

Hartpury University H CHAMP 15th January 2022 KO 3.00 pm

Ealing Trailfinders A CHAMP 22nd January 2022 KO 3.00 pm

Cornish Pirates H CHAMP 29th January 2022 KO 3.00 pm

Nottingham Rugby A CHAMP 11th February 2022 KO 7.45 pm

London Scottish H CHAMP 26th February 2022 KO 3.00 pm

Bedford Blues A CHAMP 12th March 2022 KO 2.00 pm

Jersey Reds H CHAMP 19th March 2022 KO 3.00 pm

League Table (Last update 5 Nov 2021)

2021/22 Championship

1	Ealing Trailfinders	5	4	0	1	318	85	233	4	1	21
2	Cornish Pirates	5	4	0	1	138	80	58	3	0	19
3	Jersey Reds	5	3	1	1	154	99	55	3	1	18
4	Bedford Blues	5	3	0	2	186	153	33	4	1	17
5	Richmond	6	3	0	3	150	146	4	3	2	17
6	Hartpury University	6	3	0	3	176	162	14	2	1	15
7	Doncaster Knights	5	3	0	2	128	119	9	1	0	13
8	Ampthill	6	2	1	3	138	158	-20	2	1	13
9	Nottingham	5	2	0	3	109	183	-74	1	1	10
10	Coventry	6	2	0	4	104	179	-75	1	1	10
11	London Scottish	6	0	0	6	74	311	-237	0	0	0

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PLAYER	STARTS	AS SUB	TL APPS	TRIES	CONS	PENS	D GOALS	POINTS
Ewan Ashman		1	1	1				5
Josh Bainbridge	6		6	1				5
Tom Ball		1	1					_
Josh Barton	5	1	6	1				5
Fred Betteridge	1	3	4					
Phil Boulton Ryan Bower	4	2 1	6 1					
Ryan Burrows	6		6	3	5	1		15
Tom Curtis	· ·	2	2	1		-		18
Nile Dacres	6	_	6	1				5
Connor Doherty		1	1					
Tom Emery	1		1					
Tony Fenner	5	1	6		4	3		17
Cal Ford		1	1					
Andy Forsyth	1		1					
Tom Griffiths	3	3	6					_
Aaron Hinkley	_	2	2	1				5
Tom Howe	5		5					
Will Hurd		1	1					
Louis James Joe Jones	2	1 2	1 4	1				5
Rob Knox	6	2	6	•				3
Jonathan Kpoku	3	2	5					
Suva Ma'asi	4	1	5					
James Martin	-	1	1					
Evan Mitchell	2	2	4		2			4
Senitiki Nayalo	2		2					
Will Owen	3	2	5					
Jordon Poole	2		2					
Adam Peters	6		6	1				5
Dan Richardson	1	4	5					
Joe Richardson		4	4	2				10
Sam Aspland-Rob-	2		2	2				10
inson Joe Snow	1	5	6					
Tom Stanton	1	3	1					
Rob Stevenson	5		5	1				5
Rhys Thomas	3	4	4	•				
Toby Trinder	3	1	6					
•								
TOTAL				14	11	4		104
HOME				23	17	10		179
AWAY				•				

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SAT 6 NOV 3 PM



BEDFORD BLUES

SAT 4 DEC 3 PM



AMPTHILL RUGBY

SAT 26 DEC 1.30 PM



HARTPURY

HARTPURY RUGBY

SAT 15 JAN 3 PM



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