Saturday, 23rd October 2021 | Butts Park Arena | KO 3.00 pm





MATCH SPONSOR







2021/22 Championship Round 5 Matchday Programme Issue 3







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Another couple of weeks of highs and lows.

Following our unerring ability to tread on a banana skin in the woodlands of deepest Bedfordshire, we ground out a dour victory here in atrocious conditions against Richmond. Not a great day for spectators, but we saw final confirmation that our fabulous playing surface can withstand the worst that the British weather can deliver.

Interesting that recently there have been some high-profile voices railing against artificial pitches; come and try ours is the response, state of the art and not to be confused with inferior models. The other week, a visiting player from another club was telling me why he didn't like them and so I walked him out on to ours and he was amazed how different it was from the one his club has.

The following week, another visit into the countryside, this time to the rolling hills of deepest Gloucestershire where another banana skin lay in wait in the shape of Hartpury College. We did not play particularly intelligently and some of our guys will know they underperformed but we should not overlook the fact that Hartpury have recruited very heavily in some quality players and have, as their boss told me, decided to try to hit the top three of the league this season.

Much room for improvement, however.

So we finish our first block of four games with won two, lost two, not the start we were looking for, particularly now that we face some stiff challenges, starting with today's game against Ealing Trailfinders who despite their loss to Cornish Pirates, now lead the league table and have the declared ambition to be playing in the Premiership next season. After today we play away against Pirates, so a tough couple of weeks.



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DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

ROWLAND WINTER

We welcome Ealing to the Butts Park Arena today, on the back of a rest weekend for all teams after the opening round of four games.

A quick glance at the league table will show that the majority of the teams are separated by only a couple of league points, which reflects how competitive the league is but also the inconsistency teams have had in the opening month - including us!

In Ealing today, we have one of the toughest tests that we'll face, they are a team that have been building depth and experience for a number of years and have consistently finished in the top two. They'll be hoping to go one better this season, so we'll have to be at our best today to rise to the challenge.

We've had a few changes to the squad over the last fortnight. Joe Jones has an opportunity at Sale Sharks for initially the next few months, which means that Cal Ford will come the other way and get an opportunity with us in return. We have also managed to secure Jordan Poole's return from Exeter and this time he brings a young combative back row Aaron Hinkley with him. All three are welcome additions and again cover the gaps we have with injuries.

On the injury front, we expect Tiki Nayalo, Andy Forsyth, Louis Brown and Luc Jeannot back in training towards the middle of November. This will give a great lift to the team and should help us reduce our reliance on dual registrations & loans to cover our gaps.

I hope you enjoy today's game, the team will welcome your loud support!

Rowland Director of Rugby







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RUGBY CAMP

P Earlsdon RFC

YOUTH AGES 6-14

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Good afternoon from the Community Department. Well it is fair to say that we have had a very busy few months since the Summer holidays and since everybody has returned to school. Delivering rugby in schools (alongside our reading project, working with the fantastic Sherbourne School and all its pupils and staff), weekend meet ups at local rugby clubs as well as general meetings and greeting of people who would like to be involved with the club.



This morning saw over 100 aspiring rugby players from Earlsden Rugby Club attending our fantastic Takeover Days. The days includes some coaching on the pitch with the community team alongside some of the professional players, a tour around the ground, a Q&A session all prior to the main game.



Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see a load of you at the rugby camp we are holding at the club on Friday 29th October 2021.

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.

Thank you and enjoy the game





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



Ealing Trailfinders are the visitors today to the Butts Park Arena & to their playing squad, coaches, board & supporters we extend a very warm welcome.

Put very succinctly, the Trailfinders are many people favourites to seal the Greene

King Championship title this season. With so many uncertainties surrounding elevation to the Premiership, nothing these days is certain & far from being cast in stone.

The club seeking promotion does

of course have to meet all the criteria laid down by the Premiership. Ealing meanwhile are pushing hard, looking to put themselves in the position whereby a promotion place could be achieved, given that there has been much discussion over the Premiership increasing to 14 clubs next season from the current 13.

The Ealing playing squad overall numbering some 49 players is immensely strong in both depth & quality. The captain again this season is South African back row forward Rayn Smid, who has been back at Vallis Way for the past 4 years, having previously been there briefly.



Director of Rugby Ben Ward also has a long association with the Trailfinders. Originally fly half & head coach, Ward became Director of Rugby in season 2013/14, which now sees him 8 years in the role, with a very strong coaching team behind him.

There are two players in the current squad with direct links

to Coventry Rugby.

Prop forward James Gibbons, who was named in the starting line up in his clubs last match, spent two seasons from 2018/19 making 41 appearances in the blue & white, before returning to Ealing from whence he had come. Mean-

while, although not featuring in every match, back row forward Max Northcote-Green, when a member of the Bath Academy, played 5 times in Coventry colours whilst on loan back in season 2013/14.

Ealing Trailfinders have played three matches to date in this season's Championship, winning

two convincingly, whilst losing 12pts -15 away to Cornish Pirates at very few clubs favourite ground, the Mennaye Field.

The two wins have seen Hartpury RFC dispatched 54pts -20 & Nottingham 78 pts -19, both at Vallis Way. The last of those saw the Green & Whites run in a total of 12 tries two weeks ago.



Fixtures between Cov & the Trailfinders go back just 10 seasons to 2011/12.

Each league match has either been in National League One or since 2018/19, the Championship. Few Cov Rugby supporters will require much reminding that our record in the games is nothing to write home about. Today's meeting is the 12TH, with Ealing currently leading 8 -2 in victories, the 2019/20 match at Vallis Way ending up 28 pts all as Cov fought their way to any exciting last minute draw. The two Coventry wins have both come here at the BPA, 29pts -26 back in the first meeting of 2011/12, the second in 2014/15 by 32pts -26. The Championship cup matches in season 2019/20 also saw Ealing win both.

Last season, with the Pandemic meaning there was just the one game, Ealing ran home winners here by 55pts – 19.
Every Coventry fan will surely be thinking, is it not time, indeed well past it, for their favourites to pull one back in a fixture dominated so heavily by Ealing previously?

This latest meeting will again be a major challenge. The opening home game with Doncaster Knights saw Cov produce for 40 minutes their best form of the season, followed by the hard & rather laboured win over Richmond. Away from the BPA, form in both games has been disappointing.

Everything then to play for!
Team selection for Rowland
Winter& his colleagues thus
far has not been easy, given the
list of injuries they have been
faced with.

It would really however set our season alight this weekend if Cov Rugby could pull off a win not many people will have been predicting. "Cmon Cov", backed by a home crowd urging them on, it would be good to see a real dose of the "Cov Dog" the Butts Park Arena is renowned for.

By John Butler

WORN BOTH SHIRTS

JAMES GIBBONS #1



Prop forward James Gibbons, who was named in the starting line up in his clubs last match, spent two seasons from 2018/19 making 41 appearances in the blue & white, before returning to Ealing from whence he had

MAX NORTHCOATE-GREEN



Although not featuring in today's match, back row forward Max Northcote-Green, when a member of the Bath Academy, played 5 times in Coventry colours whilst on loan back in season 2013/14



RECENT FORM

Ealing Trailfinders currently sit top the league heading into Round 5 of the Championship season, but it hasn't all been plain sailing for the West London club.

Ealing Trailfinders played Gloucester twice in two pre-season friendlies giving them a great platform to build from for the season ahead, with games against premiership opposition under their belt. In the opening match of their Championship campaign they welcomed Hartpury University to Trailfinders Sports Club. In what was a fairly routine victory for the Trailfinders, they ran out comfortable 54-20 winners in a match they dominated throughout.



In Round 2 Trailfinders had a bye week, giving them plenty of time to prepare for their long trip down to the South West to play Cornish Pirates. However The Pirates posed a much tougher test than Hartpury did in the opening round. Ben Ward's men ended up falling to their first defeat of the season struggling to take hold of the game at The Mennaye Field, narrowly losing a hard fought match 15-12.

Despite the loss to Cornish Pirates the weekend before, Trailfinders turned their fortunes around in empathic style a week later, with a victory at home to Nottingham in Round 4, they ran in 12 tries, beating their opponents 78-19. They visit Butts Park Arena this weekend looking for their first away win of the season.





PLAYERS TO WATCH

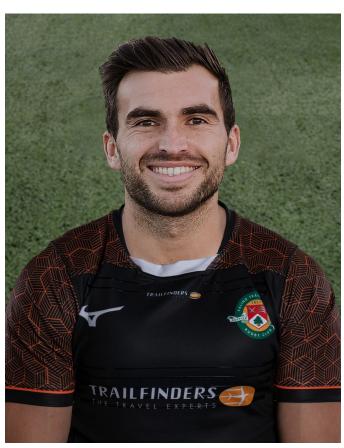
One of Ealing Trailfinders stand out performers at the start of this season has been Malon Al-Jiboori. The flanker moved to West London in April earlier this year and has now seemed to find his feet within the Trailfinders team. The American international is the only player in their squad to have played for their country and he has scored two tries in the opening three matches of this campaign.

Another player that has made an excellent start to the season is Trailfinders' scum-half Craig Hampson. The experienced half back has started all of their three matches this season, picking up the man of the match award in Round 1. He was also in fine form against Nottingham assisting four tries and even getting on the scoresheet himself with an excellent end to end one-two break with winger Charlie Walker.

MALON AL-JIBOORI #23



CRAIG HAMPSON #9



WE'VE MET

BEFORE









19 / 03 / 2021
BUTTS PARK ARENA

L 19 - 55 | 2020/21 CHAMPIONSHIP

The last time we faced out friends Ealing Trailfinders was in the short-lived 2020/21 Championship Season. The season heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning we only faced the London side this one time during that campaign.

Fixtures between Cov & the Trailfinders go back just 10 seasons to 2011/12.

Coventry combatted a hard-fought battle but in the end, Ealing left the deserved winners with a 36 point lead.

COVENTRY RUGBY

T Rob Stevenson, Nic Dolly, Cameron Jordan **C** Tony Fenner (2)

EALING TRAILFINDERS

T Ryan Smid (2), Will Davies (2), Fraser Strachan, Simon Uzokwe, James Cordy Reddan.

C Craig Willis (4), Steven Shingler (2),

P Steven Shingler

Y Bobby de Wee

Ref Alex Thomas









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Rugby in Schools

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PLAYER PROFILE

NAME

Josh Barton

AGE

23

POSITION

Scrum half

PREVIOUS CLUBS

London Scottish

WORST SPORTING INJURY

Broken heart

FAVOURITE PRE-MATCH MEAL

Fajitas

DREAM DINNER GUESTS (DEAD OR ALIVE)

Big Narstie, David Attenborough, Rob Knox & James Acaster

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESINATION

Anywhere Carribbean

MOST EMBARASSING SONG ON YOUR PLAYLIST

Bleeding Love - Leona Lewis

FUNNIEST MEMBER OF THE SQUAD

Rob Knox

WORST DRESSED OF THE SQUAD

Tom Griffiths

WHO WOULD YOU LEST LIKE TO ROOM WITH ON THE TEAM

Tom Emery & Rob Stevenson



JOSH BARTON

Josh Barton signed for Coventry Rugby ahead of the 2021 season. A product of the Millfield School and Bristol Bears acdemy, Barton signed from London Scottish. Barton was named in the Championship Team of the Season at the end of 19/20 and has become a staple in Coventrys starting 15. Also starting today, Barton is one to look out for on the



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JOSH BARTON Scrum Half







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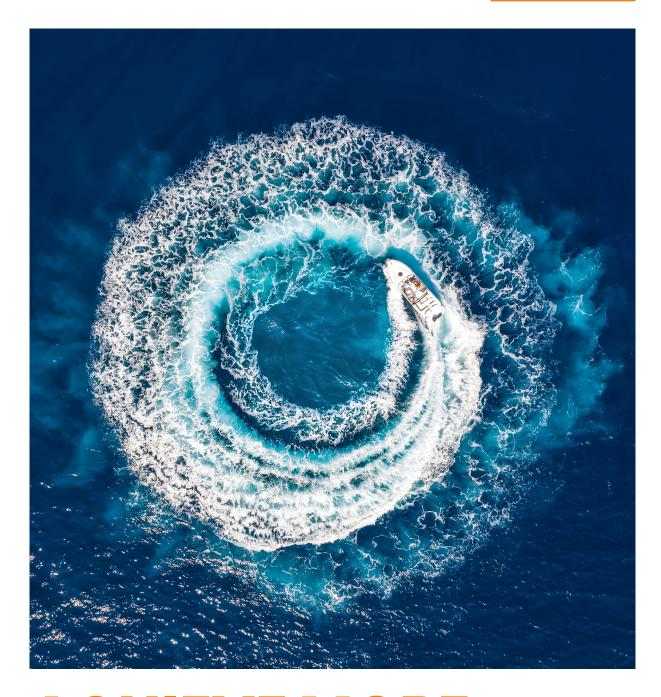


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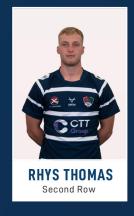












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	НОМЕ	STARTING XV	AWAY
	Tom Howe	15	David Johnston
	Rob Stevenson	14	Charlie Walker
I•P	Rob Knox	13	Max Bodilly
	Tom Griffiths	12	Pat Howard
Sa	Sam Aspland-Robinson		Angus Kernohan
	Tony Fenner	10	Steven Schingler
	Josh Barton	09	Craig Hampson
	Toby Trinder	01	James Gibbons
	Jordan Poole	02	Shaun Malton
	Jordan Boulton	03	Lewis Thede
Deeley	Nile Dacres	04	Simon Linsell
MPL FABRICATIONS	Jonathan Kpoku	05	James Cannon
	Adam Peters	06	Jack Digby
	Josh Bainbridge	07	Simon Uzokwe
COVENTRY SCALE COMPANY	Ryan Burrows (C)	08	Ryan Smid (C)
		REPLACEMENTS	
	Suva Ma'asi	16	Suva Ma'asi
	Dan Richardson	17	Dan Richardson
	Cal Ford	18	Cal Ford
	Fred Betteridge	19	Fred Betteridge
	Aaron Hinkley	20	Aaron Hinkley
Parris Tractors TRACTORS AND MACMINERY	Joe Snow	21	Joe Snow
Jacky & Peter Redhead	Evan Mitchell	22	Evan Mitchell
AP TREE SERVICES	Will Owen	23	Will Owen



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 23rd October 2021 KO 3.00pm

Cornish Pirates A CHAMP 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

Jersey 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 23/10/2021)

2021/22 Championship

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Cornish Pirates	4	3	0	1	98	75	23	2	0	14
2	Ealing Trailfinders	3	2	0	1	144	54	90	2	1	11
3	Jersey Reds	3	2	0	1	111	62	49	2	1	11
4	Richmond	4	2	0	2	93	88	5	2	1	11
5	Bedford Blues	3	2	0	1	112	97	15	2	0	10
6	Coventry	4	2	0	2	75	66	9	1	1	10
7	Hartpury University	4	2	0	2	95	101	-6	1	1	10
8	Ampthill	4	2	0	2	103	121	-18	2	0	10
9	Nottingham	5	2	0	3	109	183	-74	1	1	10
10	Doncaster Knights	4	2	0	2	108	101	7	1	0	9
11	London Scottish	4	0	0	4	48	148	-100	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	4		4	1				5
Josh Barton	4		4	1				5
Fred Betteridge		2	2					
Phil Boulton	2	2	4					
Ryan Bower		1	1					10
Ryan Burrows	4		4	2				18
Tom Curtis		2	2	1	5	1		5
Nile Dacres	4		4	1				
Connor Doherty		1	1					
Tom Emery	1		1					12
Tony Fenner	4		4		3	2		
Andy Forsyth	1		1					
Tom Griffiths	2	2	4					
Tom Howe	4		4					5
Joe Jones	2	2	4	1				
Rob Knox	4		4					
Jonathan Kpoku	2	2	4					
Suva Ma'asi	4		4					
James Martin		1	1					
Evan Mitchell	1	1	2					
Senitiki Nayalo	2		2					
Will Owen	2	1	3					5
Adam Peters	4		4	1				
Dan Richardson	1	2	3					
Joe Richardson		3	3					
Joe Snow		4	4					
Tom Stanton	1		1					
Rob Stevenson	3		3	1				5
Rhys Thomas		4	4					
Toby Trinder	3	1	4					
TOTALS				10	8	3		75
HOME				6	3	10		66
AWAY				•	•			30



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SAT 4 DEC 3 PM



AMPTHILL RUGBY

SAT 26 DEC 1.30 PM



HARTPURY

HARTPURY RUGBY

SAT 15 JAN 13 PM



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