

# C VENTRY



**VS RICHMOND RUGBY**

Saturday, September 2nd 2021 | Kick-Off: 3.00pm



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COVENTRY RUGBY

# THE TEAMS



1861  
RICHMOND RUGBY

## HOME

## STARTING XV

## AWAY

Tom Emery

15

James Kane

Tom Howe

14

Hamish Graham

Rob Knox

13

Cameron Mitchell (C)

Tom Griffiths

12

Ronnie Mclean

Rob Stevenson

11

Max Trimble

Tony Fenner

10

Ted Landry

Josh Barton

09

James Lennon

Toby Trinder

01

Johnny Harris

Suva Ma'Asi

02

Jack Musk

Joe Jones

03

Jimmy Litchfield

Nile Dacres

04

Freddie Hosking

Jonathan Kpoku

05

Will Carrick-Smith

Adam Peters

06

Huw Worthington

Joshua Bainbridge

07

Toby Saysell

Ryan Burrows (C)

08

Mark Bright

## REPLACEMENTS

Joe Richardson

16

James Hadfield

Ryan Bower

17

Kurt Schonert

Phil Boulton

18

Ntinga Mpiko

Ryhs Thomas

19

David Massey

Fred Betteridge

20

Bryan Hodge

Joe Snow

21

Lennox Anyanwu

Evan Mitchell

22

Callum Watson

Connor Doherty

23

Lewis Dennett

**MATCH OFFICIALS - Referee** Joe James **ASR1** Nick Marshall  
**ASR2** Dean Richards **Fourth Official** Tim Allatt

I>P

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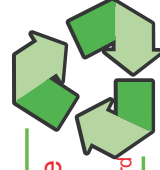
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# THE CHAIRMAN

# JON SHARP

Welcome!

What a difference a fortnight makes. From high hopes following a sparkling victory over the highly-fancied Doncaster Knights in the opening game of the league season, the following week we slipped on the banana skin that is Dillingham Park, home to Ampthill RFC. Remarkably, we have never yet won a league match there and the sense of foreboding that steadily grew amongst our supporters there was all too familiar, with the exchanged quizzical looks between us at half time asking, 'How come we are 15-nil down when the opposition had never been in our 22 with any attacking intent'? The three tries we finished the game with left us just short but we should have completed the job and botched a couple of clear-cut chances as well as conceding far too many penalties.

Lessons will have been learned and the lads have been training hard this week to put that disappointment behind them and to focus on what is needed to beat today's visitors. Richmond Rugby have recruited very strongly for this season and have shown what they are capable of, beating Ampthill strongly pre-season although they too slipped up last week against Cornish Pirates. Richmond also recorded a pre-season win over London Scottish, who interestingly play Ampthill today.

It is somewhat bizarre that having won one, lost one, we sit at second place in the league table, which the unbeaten Jersey Reds are currently topping. Ealing Trailfinders of course have a game in hand, with each team getting a free weekend due to there being an odd number of teams in the league, so realistically we can currently claim third place. Ealing will be playing at The Mennaye on Sunday, and whilst they are expected to win promotion this year, the league is already shaping up to provide an entertaining season between really competitive clubs, with a few upsets in prospect.

As always, the focus is on today. We need to get back to winning ways and to demonstrate that we can adapt our game plan to the opposition, the referee's interpretations and the conditions. The one guaranteed advantage we have today is the home crowd, whose vocal support at the Doncaster game was without question the sixteenth man.

Let's hear it again today. C'mon Cov!

**Jon Sharp**  
Executive Chairman



Charter  
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## In partnership with Coventry Rugby

Working together, we've helped deliver over 100 hours of rugby-based learning to schools in Coventry and the wider West Midlands area.

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## DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

# ROWLAND WINTER

Welcome back to the BPA for today's game against Richmond.

Richmond have recruited well over the summer with some big additions to their pack and players like James Kane, Owain James, and Will Homer adding real pace to an already threatening backline led by former Cov crowd favourite Max Trimble.

Aside from the disappointing result and performance last week, we also lost Senitiki Nayalo with a knee injury which will rule him out for a few weeks at least. 'Tiki' joins Luc Jeannot (knee), Louis Brown (knee), Andy Forsyth (hand), Tom Stanton (groin), Sam Aspland-Robinson (hamstring) and Ethan Caine (shoulder) on our injury list. Ewan Ashman (last week's try scoring hooker) is unavailable, but thankfully we welcome Joe Richardson back from his period of isolation due to covid.

We do welcome Ryan Bower (prop London Irish) in to the squad this week, as well as Connor Doherty (centre / wing from Sale). Ryan has over 100 premierships appearances with Worcester and Leicester, and has joined us on a short term deal while Luc Jeannot is out injured. Connor covers the injury to Andy Forsyth, and has looked impressive in training over the last month.

This week, we have some great news with five of our senior academy being invited to the England U20s training camp in Bristol. Jake Bridges (prop), Tom Ball (back row), Evan Mitchell (flyhalf), Ollie Betteridge (centre) and Louis James (centre/wing) have worked hard and impressed with the senior squad and we are really pleased for and proud of them to gain this recognition. Without wanting to repeat what is written elsewhere (website & programme has lots of info), it is safe to say we are delighted that our academy programme is being viewed alongside the Premiership models and we hope this continues!

Enjoy the game today!

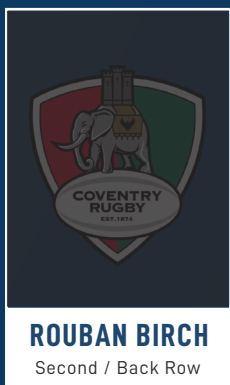
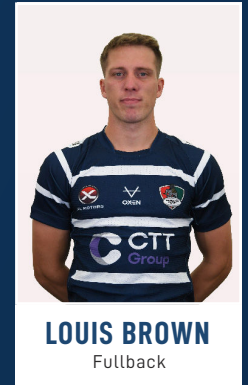
**Rowland**

# COVENTRY RUGBY

## SENIOR SQUAD



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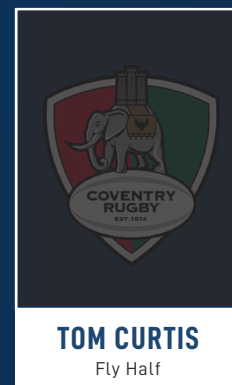
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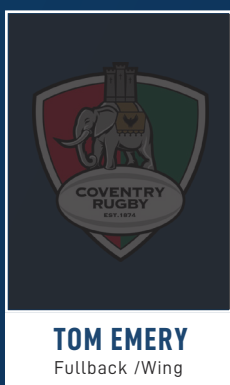
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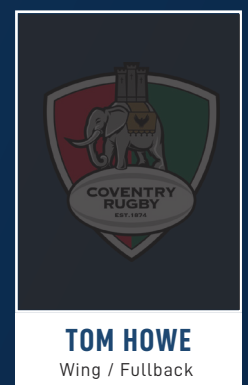
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**LUC JEANNOT**  
Prop



**JOE JONES**  
Prop



**ROB KNOX**  
Centre



**JONATHAN K'POKU**  
Second Row



**SUVA MA'ASI**  
Hooker

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**JAMES MARTIN**  
Wing



**SENITIKI NAYALO**  
Back Row



**WILL OWEN**  
Centre




**ADAM PETERS**  
Second / Back Row



**DAN RICHARDSON**  
Prop

Dual Registered  
Leicester Tigers



**JOE RICHARDSON**  
Hooker

Dual Registered  
Worcester Warriors



**JOE SNOW**  
Scrum Half

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**TOM STANTON**  
Centre / Wing / Fullback

Dual Registered  
Gloucester Rugby



**ROB STEVENSON**  
Wing



**TOBY TRINDER**  
Prop

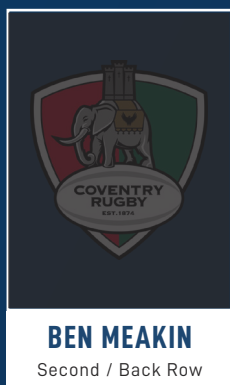
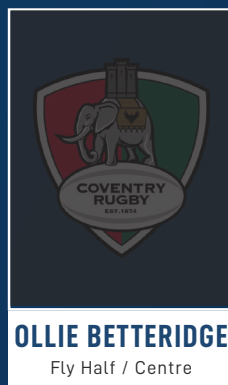
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## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

**Louis Mann** : E [lmann@coventryrugby.co.uk](mailto:lmann@coventryrugby.co.uk) T 02476 231001

Find more about our players at [www.coventryrugby.co.uk](http://www.coventryrugby.co.uk)

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### Rugby in Schools

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# TODAY'S OPPO

## RICHMOND RUGBY

*By John Butler*



**T**he Richmond club from South East London are our welcome visitors to the Butts Park for this latest Greene King IPA Championship match.

Our rivals & friends over many decades, their players, officials, board & supporters are welcome indeed on their first here in two seasons.

Director of Rugby Steve Hill has remained at the Athletic ground & has continued to oversee a senior squad which have remained part time. Something which the Richmond club have stood very firm on.

After relegation back to National League One, Richmond regained their Championship status from the beginning of last season.

They have begun 2021/22 with an away defeat at Cornish Pirates, followed by a quite extraordinary comeback last week at home, which saw Nottingham dismissed 27pts-24, Richmond having been 3-24pts down with some 20 minutes to go. Two yellow cards seemed to have had the totally different effect upon the sides.

Whatever the true facts, Richmond rallied with lock forward Will Carrick-Smith crashing over in the 79th minute for the match winning try. Earlier, the New Zealand born no 8 Mark Bright, a close season signing from local rivals London Scottish, had secured a try hat trick in a very significant second half performance.

There are three players in the Richmond squad with very close previous links with Cov. Wing-

er Max Trimble, a BPA favourite during his time here, scored 45 tries in 62 appearances between 2016/17 & 2019/20. Prop forward Jimmy Litchfield, who originally moved to London Scottish made 48 appearances in the blue & white over two seasons beginning 2016/17, whilst the third former Cov link is centre threequarter Ronnie McLean.

Ronnie, grandson of the famed Mike McLean, spent his earlier years at the Butts Park, beginning in 2007/08 with 31 appearances over two seasons.

Whilst fixtures between ourselves & the Richmond club, which for many years also took in 2nd XV games, since the inception of league rugby 34 years ago, all meetings have been either in the old League One (now the Championship) or National League One.

Today's meeting is the 21st between our two clubs in League Rugby, Cov currently leading 10-7 in victories, with 3 drawn; quite a high number out of a total of 20. The first meeting back 1987/88 was at the Athletic ground which brought us 22pts – 9 win. Some seasons later, sadly Richmond, together with co tenants London Scottish, had to battle their way back from the bottom of the league pyramid, meaning for 17 years, 1995/96 – 2012/13, there were no matches between us.

Last season brought just the one game & a Cov win in London by 42pts – 22, before the season was cut short, meaning there was no return match here.

Prior to today's match, Richmond are seeking their first ever win here at the Butts Park Arena.

# RICHMOND'S SEASON SO FAR

*By Richmond Rugby*

Richmond embarked on the 2021/22 Championship season with plenty to prove. With just the one win from 10 league fixtures last season, the 'Mond' were determined to improve throughout preseason and provide the Athletic Ground faithful with a squad and game-plan that can compete against the best in the competition. DOR Steve Hill promoted the long-serving Rob Powell to the role of Head Coach and the club welcomed a number of new and exciting players, including number 8 Mark Bright (former London Scottish), utility back Will Homer (former Scarlets), lock Will Carrick Smith (former Bedford), scrum-half James Lennon (former Bedford), fullback James Kane (on loan from Ealing) and centre Lennox Anyanwu (dual-registered at Harlequins).

Under the new coaching set-up and with a talented group of players, Richmond delivered two wins from two in an impressive preseason campaign. The first came against Ampthill in August, scoring four tries to run out 26-7 winners, before a hard-fought 17-13 victory over rivals London Scottish.

Richmond kick-off their Championship season with a road trip to the Penzance. The opening fixture against Cornish Pirates was always going to be a challenge, but Rob Powell's side fought strongly throughout, scoring two impressive tries through the speedy Will Homer and powerful Jack Rouse. The final score was 33-18 to the Pirates but the visitors took plenty of positives back to the RAG. Last Saturday in front of a vocal home crowd, Richmond clawed their way back from a 24-3 deficit against Nottingham to snatch a breath-taking 27-24 bonus point win. The comeback victory featured a hat-trick to Mark Bright and a last minute score from Will Carrick Smith. The win will surely give Richmond a huge amount of confidence heading into today's fixture against a difficult Coventry side.





# RICHMOND PLAYERS TO WATCH

## MARK BRIGHT #08



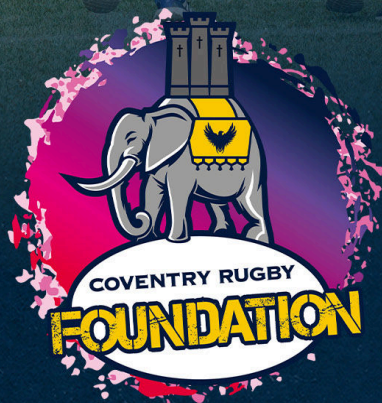
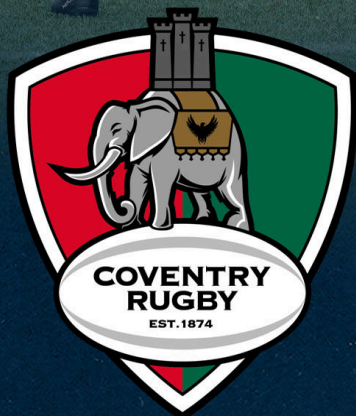
Veteran Mark Bright has made a huge impact at Richmond following his off-season move from rivals London Scottish. The 43-year-old has hit the ground running at his new club, wearing the number 8 in Richmond's preseason matches and the opening Championship fixtures. With 183 league appearances to his name, Bright has shown no sign of slowing down. His performance against Nottingham last Saturday highlighted the powerful impact he continues to have. Bright scored three rampaging tries in a player of the match performance, igniting the Richmond comeback and sending the Athletic Ground crowd raucous. With an almighty leadership presence, huge experience and plenty of rugby left in the bank, Bright will prove a huge challenge for any opposition this season

## MAX TRIMBLE #11



Former Coventry wing Max Trimble returns to Butts Park for the first time this afternoon following his move to the Athletic Ground ahead of the 2020/21 season. The 29-year-old has started both Championship fixtures so far this season and will be determined to deliver a lethal performance against his old club today. With electric pace, quick feet and an eye for the try-line, Trimble is one player you don't want to miss. Combining with a very exciting Richmond back-three, featuring fullback James Kane and the experienced Will Homer, Trimble will be ready to fire on all cylinders today





# COVENTRY RUGBY

## COMMUNITY | FOUNDATION

The Community Department and Coventry Foundation have had a successful summer in delivering multi sports and rugby camps throughout the surrounding areas to approximately 300 children. Project 500 supported by the Coventry Rugby Foundation was another huge success with 3 camps taking place at the Butts and Morrisons supermarket supporting us with food parcels for all involved.

### UPCOMING RUGBY CAMPS

This October will see the following camps taking place:

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**28H OCTOBER** - Butts Park – Multi Sport

**29TH OCTOBER** - Earlsdon RFC

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