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#### **CORNISH PIRATES**

	HOME	STARTING XV	AWAY
	Tom <b>Curtis</b>	15	AJ <b>Cant</b>
	Rob <b>Stevenson</b>	14	Robin <b>Wedlake</b>
	Andy <b>Forsyth</b>	13	Callum Patterson
TREE SERVICES	Will <b>Owen</b>	12	Joe <b>Elderkin</b>
I•P	Rob <b>Knox</b>	11	Callum <b>Sirker</b>
	Tony <b>Fenner</b>	10	Arwel <b>Robson</b>
	Josh <b>Barton</b>	09	Tom <b>Kessell (C)</b>
	Toby <b>Trinder</b>	01	Jack <b>Andrew</b>
	Jordon <b>Poole</b>	02	Tom Channon
	Matt <b>Johnson</b>	03	Sam <b>Rodman</b>
	James <b>Tyas</b>	04	Josh Caulfield
Deeley	Nile <b>Dacres</b>	05	Danny <b>Cutmore</b>
Antac	Adam <b>Peters</b>	06	Matt <b>Bolwell</b>
	Josh <b>Bainbridge</b>	07	Antonio <b>Kiri Kiri</b>
OVENTRY CALE OMPANY	Ryan Burrows (C)	08	Caleb <b>Montgomery</b>
		REPLACEMENTS	
	Joe <b>Richardson</b>	16	Tom Cowan-Dickie
CLEA!	Luc <b>Jeannot</b>	17	Alfie <b>Petch</b>
	Jake <b>Bridges</b>	18	Olly <b>Adkins</b>
	Fred <b>Betteridge</b>	19	Cory <b>Teague</b>
Malvern Carvell	Senitiki <b>Nayalo</b>	20	Tom <b>Duncan</b>
	Dan <b>Babos</b>	21	Ruaridh <b>Dawson</b>
Jacky & Peter Redhead	Evan <b>Mithcell</b>	22	Harry Bazallagette
	Connor <b>Doherty</b>	23	Tommy <b>Wyatt</b>
		<del></del>	





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## JON SHARP

Today we welcome Cornish Pirates who have made the long journey up from Penzance and who will provide a very tough proposition, having soundly beaten us in the corresponding away fixture in October last year. We hope to gain revenge with an expansive game on what is forecast to be a day of mild weather, albeit with a small chance of rain.

We also welcome to Butts Park Arena today some special guests who join us for lunch and the game.

The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr. John McNicholas will be joining us together with the Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Kevin Maton. Our continued good relationships with the City Council have been particularly important at this time as we navigate the complex processes involved in securing the necessary approvals for the development of the Butts Park Arena. The planned new development will not only dovetail with the wider plans the Council have for the regeneration of the entire Butts area, but as far as Coventry Rugby is concerned, will enhance the overall facilities at BPA, the matchday experience and crucially, will generate ongoing income to ensure the long-term independent sustainability of this club.

We are also joined today by the RFU President, His Honour Jeff Blackett and his wife Sally. The RFU Council, which Jeff presides over, is the ultimate decision-making body for any proposed structural changes to the game. Jeff and Sally, recently embarked on the '150 Walk' involving a 15-day nationwide tour of local rugby clubs to raise money for the Injured Players Foundation as a part of the RFU's official Anniversary Celebrations. As they crossed Warwickshire, both the Lord Mayor and myself had the pleasure of meeting them at Earlsdon RFC, where we completed a few laps of the ground. Jeff and I have been able to share some largely sympathetic views about the direction of the game below the Premiership and I look forward to being able to continue that dialogue.

All these special guests have their hearts firmly in the great City of Coventry and the great game of Rugby Union respectively, and we are proud to be hosting them here today hopefully to demonstrate what is the best of both worlds. They all have very busy schedules and to find time to come here today does us a great honour - please give them the warmest of Coventry Rugby welcomes.

C'mon Cov!!!

Jon Sharp

**Executive Chairman** 





## DIRECTOR OF RUGBY ROWLAND WINTER

Today we welcome Cornish Pirates to the BPA, and we hope to continue our good home form.

Pirates have been in great form this season, and have an experienced and settled squad that has been together for a few years now. Down in Cornwall earlier in the season, it was a tighter battle than the scoreline suggested and we were disappointed not to come away with more from the game.

Last week at Ealing was tough, on the pitch we struggled to match them physically and when we created opportunities we lacked accuracy. The positives from the game included having over half the team that finished under the age of 22 years old, and despite the result they picked up valuable experience. However, losing Phil Boulton (dislocated wrist) and Suva Ma'asi (broken jaw) added to the disappointment of the result, and we don't expect either player to play again this season. They join Joe Snow (knee), Jon Kpoku (hamstring), Tom Emery (shoulder), Rhys Thomas (peck), and Ben Meakin (elbow) who are all out of action for the rest of this league campaign.

In brighter news on the injury front, Senitiki Nayalo makes his return after four months to the match day squad. 'Tiki' has some Army games in the months to come, but for now it is great to have him back involved. We also welcome Adam Peters back to the squad this week, and Louis Brown is back in full training next week.

Will Hurd and Dan Richardson are both required by Tigers for this weekend, so we are excited to see Senior Academy prop Jake Bridges in the match squad, and we have welcomed Matt Johnson (prop) from Exeter Chiefs who has joined us on dual registration until the end of the season, and moved up to Coventry last Monday.

The U19 Academy continue to go from strength to strength and had a big win v Worcester away last Wednesday. Over the last few months a number of the U19 players have trained with the senior squad, with Fin Ogden (scrum half), Leo Jowett (outside back) and Josh Marsden (prop) involved more recently.

Your support of the team has been brilliant all season, and especially in the last few home games. Please shout louder than ever today and don't underestimate the positive effect it has on the team!

Rowland Winter Director of Rugby





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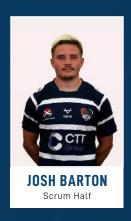
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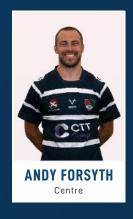
Dual Registered Sale Sharks





GB Rugby Sevens







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Dual Registered Worcester Worriors



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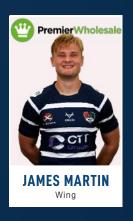


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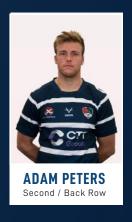
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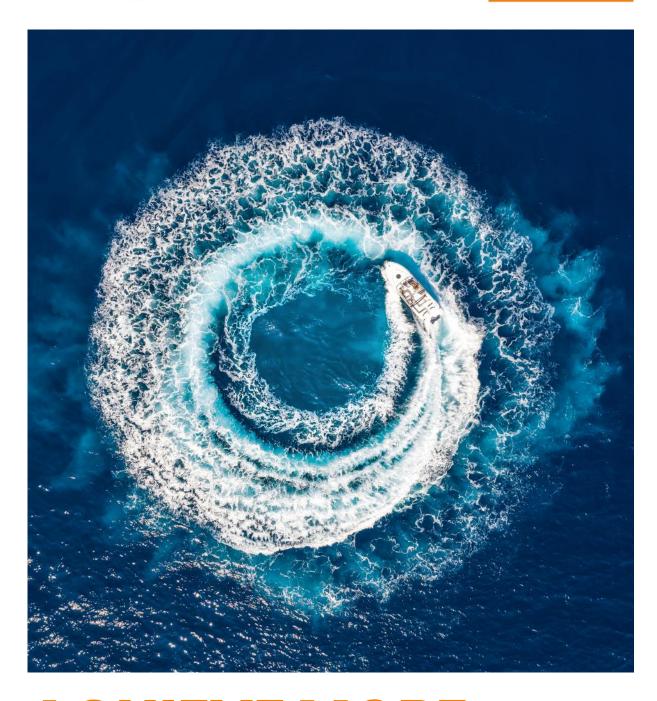
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## TODAY'S OPPONENTS

By John Butler

Back to the Butts Park today, where we give a warm Coventry welcome to Cornish Pirates, formerly of course Penzance & Newlyn.

The Pirates enter today's match on the back of a 52 pts – 17 home win over Nottingham Rugby last weekend. A result which saw them retain 3rd place on 43 points, just behind Doncaster Knights on 46 & the leaders Ealing Trailfinders with 51. The Pirates though do have two games in hand over Doncaster & one over Ealing.



A possible top spot therefore is still mathematically possible before today's match. Our visitors have long held the hope & desire to reach the Premiership, with the Stadium for Cornwall still figuring firmly in those plans, together with Truro City FC; COVID 19 has however been just one of the reasons why there is still a way to go before the dream hopefully becomes a reality.

Away from home, Cornish Pirates have claimed two wins thus far, at Ampthill & Nottingham, whilst losing at three, Jersey Reds, London Scottish & Hartpury.

Dual Head Coaches in Alan Paver & Welshman Gavin Cattle have been in charge now since 2016, Paver also making 360 appearances for the club previously.

Fly half Arwel Robson, previously with the Dragons, is top points scorer with 86, although missing last week's match for COVID reasons. Deputising for Robson, Scottish born 23 year old Harry Bazalgette played a significant part in the Nottingham win. Hooker Tom Channon on 8 is leading try scorer, closely followed by winger Callum Sirker with 7, Sirker having had a very brief spell here on loan whilst still at Wasps.

Another name well known to us here at the BPA is scrum half Tom Kessell, now in his second spell at the Pirates, having played 54 times times for Cov between 2017/17 – 2019/20, before briefly figuring at Bristol before making a return to his Cornish roots.

The first league meeting between our clubs came in season 2003/4 when Cornish Pirates were still Penzance & Newlyn. There came a 9 year gap 2009/10 - 2018/19 when there were no meetings because of differing league status. Today then is the 19th league meeting overall, currently the Pirates having a big 15-3 lead in wins following their 40 pts - 5 home win at the Mennave Field earlier in the season. Last season there was just the one meeting, Cornish Pirates winning here 19pts -30 in the shortened season.

The clock has to be turned back three seasons to find Cov's last Championship win in the fixture, 2018/19 by the slender margin of 18 pts -17. Those of you with sharp memories may however also recall a Cov win in the home leg of the Championship Cup Quarter final in season 2019/20.

Disappointingly, our away form has seen us still seeking a first win. Today however in front of what hopefully will be another large & vocal crowd, it would certainly be good to notch up another home success. The support shown for the squad in the 67 point thriller against Hartpury was magnificent, as was too the actual size of the crowd, bearing in mind also what else was going on locally that afternoon!. The local Cov support has remained magnificently loyal, as was seen again for that Hartpury visit.

More of the same today would be very welcome indeed!



## TWO TO WATCHER By Phil Western

#### **CALLUM SIRKER**



The Cornish Pirates confirmed in June 2021 that wing Callum had signed a one-year contract with the club.

Now aged 23, Callum started his rugby at minis level with Teddington, then later moved to Richmond and was in the Wasps Academy. He played for England at under 16s level and in June 2016 joined England 7s from school, before in April 2017 making his HSBC World Sevens Series debut at the Hong Kong Sevens

As next a Wasps Senior Academy player, Callum was a stand-out performer in the 2018 and 2019 Premiership Sevens competitions, and he also featured in the 2018/19 Premiership Shield. He earned promotion to the Wasps' senior squad for 2019/20 but was cruelly injured early on.

Returning to fitness only near the latter part of last season, since joining the Cornish Pirates he has made eight appearances and scored seven tries.

#### **CALEB MONTGOMERY**



Back-rower Caleb joined the Cornish Pirates on loan from Worcester Warriors in September 2021. Also, on the same day as the announcement was made, he in the evening not only featured for the Pirates in a pre-season friendly played against the Royal Navy but was also a try-scorer in the team's 55-3 points win.

Born in Portadown, Northern Ireland, prior to joining Worcester, Caleb had played club rugby for Banbridge in the All-Ireland League, besides being a regular in Ulster's A team in the 2018/19 season. He also made his senior debut for Ulster as a replacement against Leinster in January 2019.

Arriving at Sixways, home of the Warriors in the summer of 2019, he represented Worcester in the Premiership Rugby Sevens, and then in the Premiership Rugby Cup before in 2020/21 making his Premiership debut against Wasps. Now aged 26, Caleb has made 11 appearances for the Cornish Pirates



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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 W 35-12** 6th November 2021 JO 3.00 pm

London Scottish A CHAMP L 36-23 27th November 2021 KO 3.00 pm

**Bedford Blues H CHAMP W 15-14** 4th December 2021 KO 3.00 pm

Jersev Reds A CHAMP L 29-24 11th December 2021 KO 3.00 pm Doncaster Knights A CHAMP L 31-09 18th December 2021 KO 2.30 pm

Ampthill Rugby H CHAMP W 26-22 26th December 2021 KO 1.30 pm

Richmond Rugby A CHAMP (POSTPONED) 2nd January 2022 KO 3.00 pm

Hartpury University H CHAMP W 34-33 15th January 2022 KO 3.00 pm

Ealing Trailfinders A CHAMP L 47-05 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 15 Jan 2021, 7am.

2021/22 Championship

1	Ealing Trailfinders	12	10	0	2	576	217	359	10	1	51
2	Doncaster Knights	13	10	0	3	364	232	132	6	0	46
3	Cornish Pirates	11	9	0	2	308	173	135	7	0	43
4	Jersey Reds	13	8	1	4	345	268	77	7	2	43
5	Hartpury University	13	6	1	6	379	349	30	7	3	36
6	Bedford Blues	13	6	0	7	359	346	13	7	3	34
7	Ampthill	15	6	1	8	340	398	-58	5	3	34
8	Coventry	14	6	0	8	275	403	-128	4	2	30
9	Richmond	12	5	0	7	288	323	-35	5	3	28
10	Nottingham	13	3	0	10	262	470	-208	3	3	18
11	London Scottish	15	1	1	13	269	586	-317	3	2	11

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PLAYER	STARTS	AS SUB	TL APPS	TRIES	CONS	PENS	D GOALS	POINTS
Ewan <b>Ashman</b>		1	1	1				5
Dan <b>Babos</b>			1					1
Josh <b>Bainbridge</b>	8	_	8	2				10
Tom Ball	0	7	7	4				20
Josh Barton	9 7	5 4	14 11	2				10
Fred <b>Betteridge</b> Seb <b>Blake</b>	/	2	2	_				10
Phil <b>Boulton</b>	11	2	13					
Louis <b>Brown</b>	2	_	2	1				5
Ryan <b>Burrows</b>	10		10	4				20
Tom <b>Curtis</b>	2	3	5	1	5	1		18
Nile <b>Dacres</b>	11	3	14	1				5
Tom <b>Emery</b>	1		1					
Tony <b>Fenner</b>	10	3	13		12	9		51
Andy Forsyth	7		7	1				5
Tom <b>Griffiths</b>	5	3 2	8 7	1 2				5 10
Aaron <b>Hinkley</b> Tom <b>Howe</b>	5 5	Z	, 5	2				10
Will <b>Hurd</b>	1	5	7	2				10
Louis <b>James</b>	7	3	7	2				10
Luc <b>Jeannot</b>	•	5	5					
Rob <b>Kno</b> x	12	1	13	2	1	1		15
Jonathan <b>Kpoku</b>	10	2	12	2				7
Suva <b>Ma'asi</b>	4	2	6					
James <b>Martin</b>		4	4			_		
Evan <b>Mitchell</b>	5	4	9	1	8	5		36
Senitiki <b>Nayalo</b>	2		2					
Will <b>Owen</b>	9	2	11					
Jordon <b>Poole</b> Adam <b>Peters</b>	6 13		6 13	1				5
Dan <b>Richardson</b>	13 4	4	9	•				3
Joe <b>Richardson</b>	3	8	11					
Sam Aspland-Rob-	4	1	5	2				10
inson	-	-						
Joe <b>Snow</b>	5	8	13	1				5
Tom <b>Stanton</b>	3	2	5					
Rob <b>Stevenson</b>	11		11	2				10
Rhys <b>Thomas</b>		4	4					
Toby <b>Trinder</b>	10	2	12					
James Tyas	2	•	2					
Max <b>Williams</b>	3	2	5					
TOTAL								
HOME				35	26	16		275
AWAY				<b>57</b>	40	12		403

Also played: Olly Adkins, Connor Doherty, Oli Curry, Ryan Bower, Tom Emery, Cal Ford, Finn Theobold-Thomas and Harry Clayton.



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VS JERSEY REDS SAT 19 MAR KO 15:00

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