

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

 *Remembrance Day Special Issue*



AYLESBURY 1st XV

VS MARLOW 1st XV

| KO 3.00PM

OSTLER'S FIELD | SATURDAY | 24 OCTOBER 2026

EST. 1851

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Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to Ostler's Field for today's 1st XV fixture against our very good friends from Marlow.

Today is rather poignant, as this fixture last season, was the last time I shared a beer with Nigel. As most of you will know, Nigel Ashton was Marlow Chairman and a good friend to many of us at Aylesbury. Many of you reading this will have played against, and enjoyed a few beers with him over the years. A good man, who contributed wholeheartedly, not just to his own club, but also to the game more widely. Nigel was always excellent company and will be missed today. We will raise a glass to him during lunch. A very warm welcome to everyone travelling over from Marlow today.

This is one of the bigger fixtures in our calendar, thanks to a long history and rivalry between our clubs which goes way beyond what happens on the pitch. Some of you may not be aware of the Tony Taylor trophy, a now long retired trophy that still sits proudly in the snug with an explanation of how our two clubs worked together to help Tony, who suffered a life changing injury.

Please take the time to have a read and keep alive this testimony to the best of our game and the people who make it the great community it continues to be.

I look forward to the ever enjoyable spectacle of an Aylesbury/Marlow derby and hope we can do enough to come out on top, though I know you guys are going well this season and that we'll need to put on a performance to do so.

Our senior season is tracking along ok so far, with some good wins for all our men's teams and some significant ones for our women. You can find all our results and everything else that's going on around the club on our brilliant website, so do take the time to check that out.

As always - and as our players will confirm - your support can genuinely make the difference between

a win and a loss out there. So thank you for coming along today - please make sure you're pitch side for kick-off and letting the boys in magenta and black know you're there for the full 80 minutes.

Let's also make sure that all that vocal support is aimed only at our players and that we leave the ref to get on with the game. We want every ref that comes here, to enjoy the experience as much as you and the players do, so please let them get on with it, and when you see them in the clubhouse after the game, give them the courtesy of the agreed 30 minutes for them to grab some post match food and a beverage in peace, before chatting to them about the game (without challenging them on every thing you might have disagreed with).

With thanks to Garry at King's Farm, today we have our ever popular meat raffle which consists of six separate quality prizes, available for the winners to take home with them. Tickets are available from members of our hospitality team wandering around with card machines and raffle books or at the bar. The meat raffle will be drawn straight after the post match MOM/DOTD boat race.

Here's to a great game and a beer or two in the club after.

Paul Milham
Chairman ARFC



#COYA'S!

AYLESBURY RUGBY

PLAY FOR THE SHIRT. STAY FOR THE CLUB.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2026

Every year, nearly 100 club members gather in the clubhouse on Remembrance Sunday to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

It is a simple and sometimes moving gathering designed for all. All faiths and those with no faith are welcome.

Attendance is the most important thing so the dress is casual, including rugby kit if you have been playing that morning. Whilst not essential, veterans and service personnel are encouraged to wear regimental ties and medals.

13:00

ARRIVAL

13:20

SERVICE START

14:15

FREE CURRY BUFFET

LEST WE FORGET.

📍 Aylesbury RFC, Weston Turville, HP22 5RN

Welcome to Ostler's Field

A big welcome to everyone joining us at Ostlers Field for the another home fixture of the 2026/27 season!

Today the 1st XV are hosting "local" side Marlow, who are coming off a 31-21 win over Teddington. The 2nd XV are travelling to Didcot 2's to replicate another strong performance.

Last week, the 1st XV travelled away to welcome back Amersham & Chiltern to the league, who we had not faced for two years after their short stint at Level 5. We were faced with the challenge of going up the sandy hill and into the wind for the first half, which was met well with our strong set piece putting us over the line to take the first score of the game, with Ben Amos coming away with the try. Ball was kept in hand making good yards getting up into their half, and the scramble defence caused chaos for the home side. Scores were traded off, with Ben Amos going over for yet another well worked score, bringing the half time score to 28-10, a good position to be in considering the elements. However, coming out of the sheds at half time, we were met with a huge downpour of rain and no wind in sight. Not what we had hoped for! The first 20 minutes of the half fell away from us, with all decisions falling out of our favour, taking the score to 35-10. With 20 minutes to go, the lads rallied into action and the remainder of the game being all Magenta and Black, holding onto possession and punishing

their defensive line over and over, until we got back with two converted scores, one by Matty O'Sullivan and the last coming from Will Andrews, leaving the final score at 35-24.



Big performances came from the Set Piece Master Ben Amos, the two old heads of Ed Baidon and Darren Leggott, who had a combined age greater than the rest of the pack, but Man of the Match was secured by the bulldozing Ben Knight! Big congratulations goes out as well to the young Ellie Hammond who made his 1st XV debut from the back field!!

Last week, the 2nd XV hosted Wallingford 2's, in the search for the first victory in Counties 3 Tribute Ale Berks Bucks & Oxon North. It was a defensive battle between two well drilled sides, showing in the half time score of 0-0. However, the flood gates were opened in the second half, with returning Joe Slater scoring first, followed by tries from Quinlan Heaphy-Martin and captain fantastic Greg Smith. The lads were able to close out a solid 17-12 win to get the season back on track!

Let's hear the huge support from everyone on the touch line for the whole club representing the mighty Magenta & Black this weekend!

Enjoy today's game!

Alex Shearer

Club Mens Captain, ARFC

Club Events

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY
7th

CLUB FIREWORKS
gates open 5pm Tickets £6 under 14s £5 Under 5s Free
(Club Members and their guests only)

**CLUB ANNUAL
REMEMBRANCE DAY GATHERING**
from 1pm

SUNDAY
8th

FRIDAY
13th

JUNIOR FUNDRAISING QUIZ
starts 7pm

?

SPONSORS LUNCH

meet 12 noon – sponsors please book through John
sponsorship@aylesburyrfc.co.uk

SATURDAY
28th

All subject to change without prior notification. See also fixture list and club social calendar.
NB. Food served before all fixtures.

Aylesbury Women 1st XV Celebrate Two Impressive Victories



Aylesbury Women 1st XV have made a strong start to their league campaign with victories over St Neots and Bletchley, showing attacking flair, defensive determination and growing confidence. Their commitment shone through in both matches.

After a delayed start to the season, Aylesbury welcomed a depleted but spirited St Neots side to Ostlers Field. Both teams agreed to play under Game On rules to ensure the fixture went ahead.

The visitors competed fiercely early on, with neither side able to turn possession into points. Once Aylesbury found their rhythm, however, their attacking play took control. Forwards and backs combined brilliantly, creating space and opportunities across the pitch.

The club's established pathway from girls' rugby to the senior side was on show, with youth graduates A, Charlotte, Baylie and Louisa all making impressive contributions. Aylesbury were equally committed in defence, standing firm under pressure and winning valuable turnovers at the breakdown. Their efforts earned an emphatic 95-0 victory.

Next came a tougher challenge against Bletchley, who had won every previous meeting between the sides. Recent encounters had been closer, though, and Aylesbury were determined to turn that progress into a result.

Both sides started with real intensity.

Number eight Leila almost opened the scoring after intercepting the ball in her own half, only to be caught by determined Bletchley defenders. The deadlock finally broke just before half-time when flanker Lou crossed for a try and converted it herself, sending Aylesbury into the break ahead.

The second half was another fiercely contested battle. Aylesbury worked tirelessly to protect their lead while Bletchley continued to threaten. With just a minute remaining, the visitors scored a try to set up a dramatic finish. Crucially, missed conversions proved costly for Bletchley, and Aylesbury held on for a memorable 19-17 win.

It was a landmark result against experienced opponents and reward for the squad's hard work, composure and belief. Spectators praised the match as a contest played in the true spirit of rugby.

With two wins from two, Aylesbury Women have shown the strength of their team spirit and the value of the club's youth pathway. From the comprehensive 95-0 St Neots win to the nail-biting Bletchley victory, the whole squad can take confidence into the fixtures ahead.

Toni Addison
Club Womens Captain, ARFC

#COYA's!

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ARFC Mens League Tables

REGIONAL 2 THAMES OF LONDON & SE DIVISION

	TEAM	W	D	L	PTS
1	Amersham & Chiltern	4	0	0	20
2	Harpenden	4	0	0	20
3	Ealing Trailfinders 1871	3	0	1	16
4	Belsize Park	3	0	1	16
5	Marlow	3	0	1	16
6	London Irish Wild Geese	2	0	2	12
7	Aylesbury Men I	2	0	2	12
8	Beaconsfield	1	0	3	8
9	Old Priorians	1	0	3	8
10	HAC	1	0	3	6
11	Teddington	0	0	4	3
12	Grasshoppers	0	0	4	3

1ST XV

COUNTIES 3 TRIBUTE ALE BERKS BUCKS & OXON NORTH OF SOUTH WEST DIVISION

	TEAM	W	D	L	PTS
1	Faringdon	4	0	0	20
2	Banbury III	3	0	1	16
3	Witney III	3	0	0	15
4	Buckingham II	3	0	0	15
5	Oxford Harlequins III	3	0	1	15
6	Aylesbury Men II	1	0	3	9
7	Didcot II	1	0	2	8
8	Wallingford II	1	0	3	6
9	Gosford All Blacks II	1	0	2	5
10	Littlemore	0	0	4	-5
11	Oxford II	0	0	4	-20

2ND XV



AYLESBURY RUGBY CLUB FIREWORKS evening

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

Gates open 5pm

PRICES

£6 per person | £5 under 14s | Under 5s go free

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HOME MATCH
AYLESBURY 1st XV

VS

Marlow 1st XV



KO: 3pm

FORWARDS

1. Henry WYSE
2. Ben AMOS *
3. Ben KNIGHT (VC)
4. Darren LEGGOTT
5. Harry JONES *
6. James ATKINSON *
7. James PHILLIPS *
8. Garin NICHOLLS

BACKS

9. Will ANDREWS *
10. Alex SHEARER (C) *
11. Matthew HAWES
12. Evan WAKELAM *
13. Jonty CHARLIER *
14. Tommy BRINDLE *
15. Matty O'SULLIVAN *

REPLACEMENTS

16. Archie UMPLEBY-TURNER *
17. Cameron WATKINS
18. Scott MCKENZIE *

* Denotes graduate from Aylesbury RFC Youth Section

COACHES: LEE IRVINE / EVAN DAVIES / BEN TOMINEY

**Thanks to INDSS for being this
weekends Match Day Sponsor**

ARFC Women's League Tables

WOMEN'S NC 2 MIDLANDS (SOUTH)

TEAM	W	D	L	PTS
1 Aylesbury Women I	2	0	0	10
2 Old Northamptonians Ladies	2	0	0	10
3 Bletchley Women	1	0	2	9
4 St Neots Ladies	1	0	1	6
5 Milton Keynes Women	1	0	0	5
6 Datchworth Ferns	0	0	2	4
7 Stockwood Park Women	0	0	1	2
8 Olney Ladies	0	0	1	-5

Youth Chairman Match Day Report

The Youth Section has made a very positive and encouraging start to the season, with strong participation, growing player numbers and excellent progress across the Minis, Junior Boys, Girls and Colts sections.

The Mini Section continues to thrive, having played fixtures against Buckingham and Tring before attending the Beaconsfield Festival. The festival gave players the opportunity to experience competitive rugby against several clubs from across Buckinghamshire and the surrounding area. Growth has been particularly impressive in the U5/U6 age groups, where more than 40 players are now registered. This provides an excellent foundation for the future strength of the Mini and wider Youth sections.

The Junior Boys' season is now in full swing, with the U13 to U16 teams completing a busy programme of fixtures against clubs from across the region. Results have been very encouraging, with considerably more wins than losses. More importantly, the overall standard of rugby has been excellent across every age group. Several new players have also joined the U13 and U14 squads, further strengthening these teams and demonstrating continued success in both recruitment and player retention.

The Girls Section continues to go from strength to strength. The U12s have welcomed 20 new players this season, creating a strong platform for the continued development of girls' rugby at the club.

All age groups have already played several matches, with a particular highlight being victories across every age group when hosting Buckingham. The teams also attended the Halton Girls 10s Festival, where the U16s won their section. They have since made an excellent start to their RFU National Cup campaign with a comfortable opening victory over Chinnor. Several U18 players are also progressing into the Senior Women's team and making a significant impact, clearly demonstrating the strength and effectiveness of the club's player pathway.

The Colts Section currently has 41 registered players and continues to show excellent promise. The squad has won one of its four friendly fixtures, producing some excellent rugby. Although the team exited the RFU National Cup against a very strong Harpenden side, participation provided valuable experience. Attention now turns to the OBB League, with the first fixture scheduled for Sunday 8 November.

Overall, the Youth Section is showing continued growth, strong participation, improving playing standards and a healthy pathway from our youngest players through to senior rugby.

Thanks

Paul Andrews
Youth Chairman





Aylesbury Rugby Club at War: Service, Sacrifice and Legacy 'Their Names Live On'

Captain G. L. T. (Tom) Robinson* joined the 10th Royal Hussars during the First World War. He was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for bravery and returned home after being wounded at Gallipoli. His eldest son, **J. M. (Mike) Robinson***, joined the Royal Engineers at the age of nineteen and served in Persia and Iraq.



Bob Matthews (bottom), with Tim Mahoney in the Knurow prison camp

William (Bill) A. Nelson* and **Tom Garside** were commissioned into the 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion of the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry on 1st September 1939. Bill was captured in France and returned on 10th May 1945. He later worked as an area representative for a corn merchants' and millers' firm. Unfortunately, no further information is available about Tom.

Bill Marshall served in the Royal Artillery, ultimately commanding a regiment. After the war he returned home and later moved to Durham.

Robert (Bob) Mathews was Vice President of the Club for many years and served in the Intelligence section of the 1st Bucks Battalion. Captured in 1940 and imprisoned at Knurow, he befriended fellow prisoner Tim Mahoney and together they escaped. After losing touch upon returning to England, they reunited in 2000 as reported by the Bucks Herald.

E. Claude Davey was called up for service during the Second World War. After the war he worked for Aylesbury Electricity and was occasionally granted time off to play for Aylesbury. His employer did not allow him leave to play for London Welsh, except for his international duties, for which leave was always granted.



Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars - 1914

Former prisoners of war meet again

by Amanda Harley

TWO prisoners who hid inside a wall cavity to escape from the Germans during the Second World War have been reunited 50 years later.

Dunkirk veteran Robert Mathews (80), who was born and grew up in Aylesbury, only discovered his old friend Tim Mahoney was alive when he saw an interview with him in The Times marking the 60th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuations.

Robert, a former pupil of Queens Park School, joined the Intelligence Section of the First Bucks Battalion when he was 18. He was captured by the Germans in 1940 and taken to Knurow prison camp in Poland where he struck up a friendship with Tim.

As the Russians advanced, the prisoners began a forced march into Germany. Robert had devised a daring plan to slip away from the march and when everyone had to pack up within 20 minutes, they took their chance.

The trio managed to get to a nearby barn and climb up into the rafters. They dropped down into an outside wall cavity where they stayed for six days and six nights with only one bottle of water and six biscuits between them.

Robert said: "The outside of the wall was brick and the inside was made of plasterboard with a cavity of 14 inches between," said Robert who recalled it



HAPPIER DAYS: Robert and fellow team mates from Aylesbury Rugby Football Club

rained during two of the nights.

"Tim tried to push his handkerchief through a crack in the wall to catch the moisture," he said. "It was like Chinese torture to be so thirsty and hear the rain outside".

Robert never doubted their ability to survive: "Failure is not in my dictionary," he said.

It was difficult for the men to hear how the fighting was going, although the battle seemed to move to the south. Then it went so quiet that they could hear a cockerel crowing.

They stayed hidden for a few hours not daring to come out until they heard

a vehicle approaching and someone give an order.

"I knew it was the Yanks by the pitch of the voice, and I realised that they had pushed through," said Robert.

"We staggered out of the cavity, collapsed outside and just stared at each other. We looked terrible. We just looked at each other and laughed".

When the three men returned to their respective homes after the war, they kept in touch. Robert returned to Aylesbury and began a printing apprenticeship.

Robert and Tim last saw each other in 1948 when Tim was working with a transport company. They lost touch and

all attempts by Robert to find his friend failed.

After seeing The Times interview, Robert contacted Tim's daughter. "She said she knew exactly who I was because her father talked about me every day and my picture was on her wall," he said.

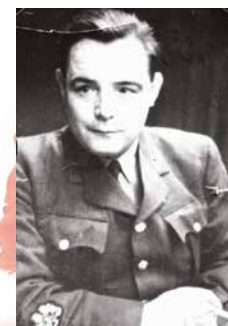
Robert and wife Jean journeyed up to Shropshire from Portsmouth for the reunion with Tim and spent a wonderful weekend talking about old times.

"It was quite emotional," said Robert. "One of the most important things in life is friendship. But prisoner of war friends are something special."

Joe Hill was a Royal Air Force Warrant Officer in the Catering Corps at RAF Halton at the beginning of the Second World War.

Joe was also stationed in various parts of the United Kingdom and Scotland, where he organised catering operations for military camps during the Second World War, ensuring effective provisions for the troops. Additionally, he served in Nairobi and Aden. He retired after approximately 30 years' service.

Joe and his wife resided on Pound Street in Wendover, where they raised five daughters. His granddaughter continues to live in Wendover and her ex-husband and son actively involved with the Club. Other grandchildren also participate in Club activities.



Derek ("Chuck") Thrower served as Club Captain in 1948. A distinguished player, he represented Roslyn Park and took part in an England trial. In education, he taught at Queen's Park and later moved to The Grange School, subsequently becoming Headmaster of Misbourne School in Great Missenden. During the Second World War he served in the Royal Air Force; he was captured by German forces and held as a prisoner of war. He was released at the end of the war and returned home.

Peter Deavin – Lieutenant 132063, Royal Engineers – MC: he joined the 249 Field Company of the Royal Engineers (Territorial Army) and was mobilised at the outset of the Second World War. He attended the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) in December 1939, was commissioned in May 1940, and became a Lieutenant. Although initially posted to France, he did not deploy as the evacuation of Dunkirk was underway. He subsequently worked on defensive preparations in England. On 24th/25th October 1942 he was transferred to El Alamein in the Middle East and served in the Western Desert until the conclusion of the North African Campaign. During this period he was wounded twice, awarded the Military Cross (MC), and mentioned in dispatches. He later returned to England and served as an OCTU instructor.

Other Club Members & Players Called Up:-

Other Club members and players called up included:

Percy Black; Laurence Viney (son of Oscar Viney); Bill Armitage; John G. A. Lucas, MC; Geoffrey P. H. Lucas; Chris Batchelor; N. S. Banks; F. E. C. Child; T. M. Meyer; John Meyer; R. Pollard; E. F. Poole; C. A. Stroud; Jimmy W. Robins; R. E. Wilkins; G. T. O. Jones; P. L. Parrott; N. Parrott; A. W. Tobbs; R. C. Batchelor; Allan Claude Wallace*; K. Coster; V. G. Stubbs; Mervyn Snipper; Rev. Fred Britnell; Ted Britnell; John Harrison; John Newman; and Frank Phillips.*

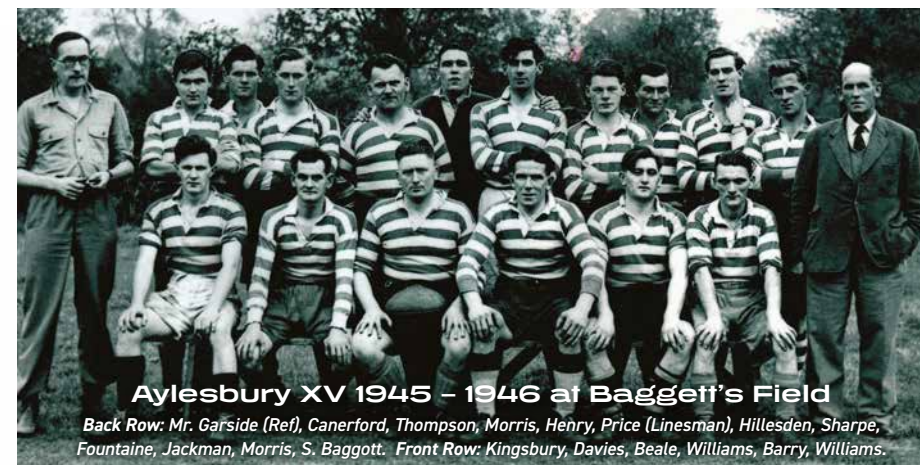
* = ARFC Life Member

Military Cross Citation El Alamein 24/25th October 1942

Award: Awarded Military Cross., The London Gazette, 4 February 1943. Action for which commended:-

On the night of 24th/25th October 1942 this officer commanded the party detailed to clear the southern gap in the minefield. His party came under heavy shell fire before the minefield was reached; two of his carriers receiving direct hits. When clearing operations started, heavy machine gun and mortar fire was experienced and further casualties were inflicted, including both Sgt's of the party. When setting up lane markers and lamps, the party was sniped. Lieutenant Deavin, with great courage and coolness, continuously reorganised his parties despite the loss of 3 NCOs and kept work going. Finally, completing his gap, he carried out a recce for 1 mile on the enemy side of the minefield. Without this officer's personal leadership and devotion to duty, the task could not have been carried out.

Awarded M.C. 13.1.43. B. L. Montgomery G.O.C. Field Force. Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery Command 30 Corps



Geoffrey Cowen – 116th Gordon Highlanders Regiment – Royal Armoured Corps During the outbreak of war, Geoff was employed at Lloyds Bank. He enlisted in 1941 and, after a week of 'square bashing', was selected to attend the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) on the Isle of Man. Having learned German at school, he found this knowledge tactically useful in service against the Germans.

He was stationed principally at Meerut in north west India and also spent time in Calcutta, Lahore (now in Pakistan), briefly in Kunming, China, and during the advance towards Rangoon (as Burma was then known), where he encountered Japanese forces. In a less usual role for the regiment, its personnel crewed tanks, anti tank guns, mortars and anti aircraft guns. The Japanese, specialists in jungle fighting, proved extremely difficult to defeat. For much of the Burma campaign, the 116th acted as the leading tank regiment, operating at the forefront of the advance. On 14 August 1945 news was received that the war with Japan had ended, although the official surrender of Japanese forces was not received until 12 September. The 116th Gordon Highlanders

were the last armoured regiment to come out of action and, at the end of the war, the British regiment furthest from home. After hostilities ceased, their tanks were handed over to the 5th and 9th Horse of the Indian Army. Geoffrey returned to the United Kingdom in 1946 with the rank of Major, aged 23.



The Second World War plaque at Twickenham was unveiled on the 28th April 1951 by H.R.H Princess Elizabeth. It commemorates all rugby players who lost their lives during the Second World War. During the Second World War, Ron Ostler undertook many of the Club's administrative responsibilities. He served as Vice Chairman until 1960 and was then appointed Chairman



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Sponsorship

At Charlton Design and Build, we are proud to support the local community by sponsoring the Stoke Mandeville Girls Football Team and Aylesbury Rugby Club, along with our new partnerships with Berkhamsted Fc and Buckingham Boxing club. Our commitment to fostering youth sports and promoting teamwork aligns with our values, as we believe in empowering the next generation through physical activity and collaboration. We look forward to witnessing the growth and success of these talented athletes as they represent our community on the field.

We also have great pleasure in getting behind a brilliant cause, supporting The Wing Singers in an event they are doing locally, in support of the impact singing can have on mental health, which will see money raised given to Mind, Lindengate and Space charities.



#COYA's Column

ARFC Colts - 2026/27 Season Update

The 2025/26 season was one of the most successful for ARFC Colts in recent years. Competing in two leagues, the squad finished champions of the Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire (OBB) League and runners-up in the Hertfordshire League, narrowly missing out on a league double.

Promotion to OBB League 2 followed, and with a busier fixture schedule, the decision was made to withdraw from the Hertfordshire League. This allows the squad to concentrate on its new league challenge while arranging development fixtures to provide valuable game time for all players.

The squad has grown to 42 players, including 15 returning senior Colts, four experienced players from the former Chesham Colts and a strong group of junior Colts progressing from last season's Under-16s.

The coaching team remains largely unchanged, with Dave Mason (Head Coach), Chris Umpleby, Will Mitchell and Paul Warwick joined by Matt Wilson, who moves up with last season's Under-16 squad, bringing valuable continuity and knowledge of the younger players.

The season started later than planned following RFU guidance concerning unsafe pitch conditions after the exceptionally hot summer. Nevertheless, pre-season fixtures against higher-level opposition produced encouraging

performances and provided useful preparation for the challenges ahead.

Our coaching philosophy continues to place enjoyment, development and teamwork at the heart of everything we do. As players mature and prepare for the transition into senior rugby, maintaining their enthusiasm and confidence is particularly important. Several players have embraced new positions, developing their skills while giving the squad greater flexibility and strength in depth.

The Colts also entered the National Cup, facing a strong Harpenden side on 4 October. Despite a spirited performance, ARFC were defeated, leaving the squad free to concentrate on the OBB League campaign.

There is plenty to look forward to this season. The players are developing their understanding, building friendships and learning to trust one another both on and off the pitch. Rugby is about much more than results: attitude, camaraderie, commitment and personal development are equally important.

With a talented squad, dedicated coaches and a positive team spirit, the foundations are firmly in place for another successful and rewarding season.

One Team. One Club. One Goal.

David Mason



AYLESBURY RUGBY

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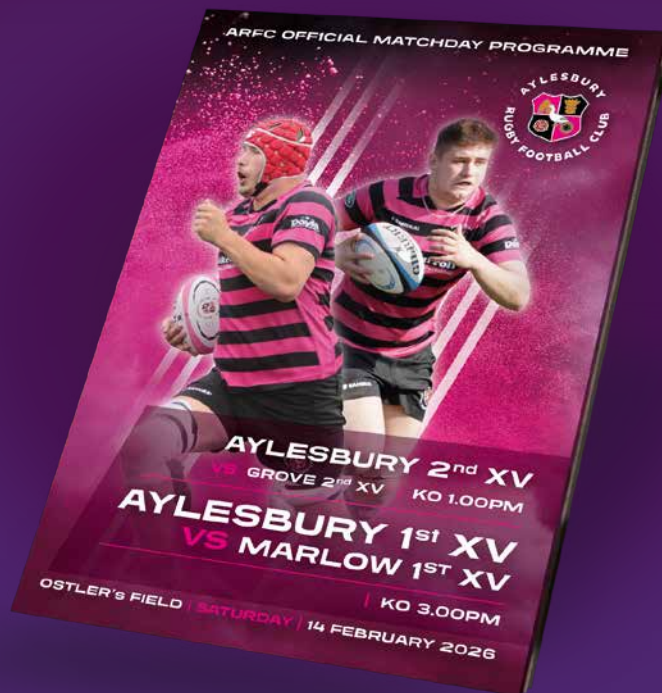
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