



**AMPTHILL RFC  
V COVENTRY RUGBY**  
SAT 9TH APRIL 2022  
KICK OFF 3PM

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# WELCOME

## Chairman's welcome for Coventry Rugby



I would like to extend a warm welcome to Coventry RUFC, their directors, playing staff and supporters.

Today is the first leg of the RFU Championship Cup competition with a reverse leg on 23rd April 2022 at Butts Park Arena. The winner will face either Cornish Pirates or Doncaster on 7th May 2022.

Last week, A's travelled to the Mennaye Field for their final championship game of the season. Cornish Pirates were unbeaten at home since their shock defeat by Ampt Hill last season. We were expecting a tough day, but the squad faced up to the challenge and provided travelling fans with a notable draw, 28-28. The Pirates maintained their unbeaten record at home, but Ampt Hill certainly gave them a run for their money and should be given enormous credit for this performance.

At the end of the championship season Ampt Hill finished 6th in the table, 1 point ahead of Coventry and just 4 points behind our near neighbours, Bedford.

This year's champions, Ealing Trailfinders, will be legally challenging the RFU decision on promotion. Indications are that if the decision goes against them on appeal to the RFU, Ealing will be taking the matter further for the benefit of the game and the opportunity to continue the principal of promotion and relegation. Failure to achieve promotion will also mean that Ealing Trailfinders will remain a Championship team with only one club being promoted from National One, making the Championship a twelve-club competition. If Ealing are successful with their appeal, two teams will be promoted and it is looking likely that it will be Caldry and Rosslyn Park.

I hope everybody enjoys today's game and may the best team win.

**Come on you A's**

**Alex Radley - Chairman,  
Ampt Hill and District RUFC**

# Amphill & District RUFC v Coventry Rugby

## ACHIEVEMENTS

2019/20 GREENE KING IPA CHAMPIONSHIP 5TH PLACE

NATIONAL 1 LEAGUE WINNERS 2018-2019

NATIONAL 1 4TH PLACE 2017-2018

NATIONAL 1 3RD PLACE 2016-2017

NATIONAL 1 4TH PLACE 2015-2016

NATIONAL 2 PROMOTION PLAYOFF WINNERS 2014-15

NATIONAL 2 NORTH RUNNERS-UP 2014-15

NATIONAL 2 SOUTH 2013-2014 RUNNERS UP

LEAGUE WINNERS 2012/13

WINNERS OF EAST MIDLANDS CUP FINAL 2012

LEAGUE WINNERS 2009/10

LEAGUE WINNERS 2008/09

CUP WINNERS 2004/05, 2006/07

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Cover Image: A's top try-scorer this season Ben Cambriani bagged another brace in the 28-28 draw at Cornish Pirates last Saturday.

Picture Brian Tempest

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### **Cornish Pirates 28 v 28 1st XV**

Amphill travelled to the Mennaye Field for their final Championship game of the season. Cornish Pirates are unbeaten at home since the Mob “shock” win last season and the visitors were expecting a tough day at the office!

In the build-up to the game, Head Coach Paul Turner had highlighted the power of the Pirates pack and they were to demonstrate this throughout the first half – their scrum and set-piece setting the foundation for three tries, two from a training ground line out and maul whilst the third demonstrated the flair of the Pirates backline as fly-half Robson chipped the advancing Amphill defence and centre Wyatt gathered to score under the posts.

Amphill scored a first-half try of their own through Ben Cambriani – his first of the afternoon. Austin Wallis chased down Bragman’s kick-off and following several quick passes ‘Cambo’ chipped his man, chased to recover, and dotted down out wide.

Whilst Pirates may have been 21 – 7 to the good at Half-time they were clearly rattled by the visitors and Amphill felt they could get something from the game.

Whatever Turner and Captain Beckett said to the team in the changing room they came out firing in the second half and took only 3 minutes to reduce the deficit to 7 points. Paddy Ryan picked up from an Amphill scrum and spun away to gain 10 m, popped the ball to Cambriani who beat two defenders to score his second try of the afternoon. 21-14

The Mob were now taking the game to the Pirates and with Captain Beckett constantly encouraging his team forward, five minutes later they were level – Billy Harding finishing multiple phases of forward play for his second try of the week – he scored on loan for Wasps in midweek! Bragman again added the extras 21 – 21



Twenty minutes of pulsating rugby followed as the two teams traded opportunities to score but neither could finish before ex-Amphill man Syd Blackmore secured the host's bonus point on 70 minutes. A fourth successful conversion gave the Pirates a 28-21 lead with ten minutes on the clock.

By this stage, the visitors had used most of their bench including Wasps Tom Bacon and Rob Hardwick. Amphill Academy graduate Sam Stirling was included in the matchday 23 at loosehead but didn't get his debut today as Cardiff Met loanee Tom Workman played the

full 80 minutes. Sam is the Academy's fourth player to make a Championship squad this season, evidencing the work being done by Academy Head Coach Paul Allen and Vili Ma'asi in the 1881s to nurture the club's young talent, and will get his opportunity in the near future!

With the clock well into the red Amphill secured their share of the points. Multiple phases saw Amphill exit their own red zone and drive forward the length of the field courtesy of Russell Bennett's boot. When awarded a penalty five metres out, A's secured the line out and another huge maul took Billy Harding over the whitewash. Bennett held his nerve to nail a very difficult kick and with it a share of the points.

Eight tries, eight conversions and some thrilling rugby that was probably enjoyed more by neutrals. Games between these two clubs can never be described as dull! Congratulations to the Pirates on an unbeaten season at home, and their third-place finish in the Championship! We're looking forward to our next visit already – we're unbeaten at The Mennaye for two seasons!

Head Coach Paul Turner following the game *"A terrific performance from every single one of our players today. The Mennaye is never an easy place to go to, and on top of a difficult week of preparation, we were really pleased with how the team responded on the pitch today. The draw and three points secure sixth place for us in our first full Championship season and that is a terrific result for a club of our size in this tough competition"*



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On 14th January this year, a very large volcanic eruption on Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai – an uninhabited island, 40 miles north of Tongatapu – the country of Tonga's main island began!

The eruption reached its climax on Sat 15th January causing tsunamis in Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, and along the Pacific Rim. At least three people lost their lives in Tonga. Some were injured and many more remain missing after 15m high waves hit the main island!

The tsunami caused widespread damage to the island and all communication was cut off due to a damaged undersea cable. More than 50 homes were destroyed and another 100 severely damaged. Whilst the waves and water have subsided, the tsunami will have a long-term impact on the islands and people of Tonga – the volcanic ash has contaminated water supplies, cut off communications, and hindered surveillance flights to allow relief efforts to begin!

Members and longer-term followers of Ampthill & District Rugby Club will be aware that we have been proud to be represented by many Tongan International players over the past ten years. We first signed Vili Ma'asi, now Head Coach of our 1881's, in 2012, and he was subsequently joined by Maama Molitika, Aleki Lutui, Paino He'hea, Soane Tonga'uiha and most recently Leon Fukofuka – Leon is a current International and played against England at Wembley in November 2021 whilst Aleki still plays for our 1st XV in The Championship! These players are credited with being a driving force behind the progress of Ampthill's 1st XV to The Championship, but have also contributed hugely to the club helping with coaching our Mini & Youth age groups and Academy Teams!

Now it is the club's turn to give something back to Tonga! Over the next few weeks and months, we will be holding various fundraising events to assist the Tonga Tsunami Relief project. This started with a bucket collection at Saturday's game against Jersey Reds which raised £610!



We will be organizing a social event for all members and supporters either at the Club or elsewhere in the Town! We will also have our annual Rugby Club Dinner & Dance on 7th May to help with fundraising! We hope that you will join us in some of these events but to kickstart things the Committee has decided to start the Club's own GoFundMe page so that our members, supporters, and sponsors can begin to assist the relief project!

If you have any ideas as to how you can help with fundraising, we would love to hear from you – [Tonga@amphillrufc](mailto:Tonga@amphillrufc)

**If you would like to make a donation please visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/Ampthill-Tonga>**





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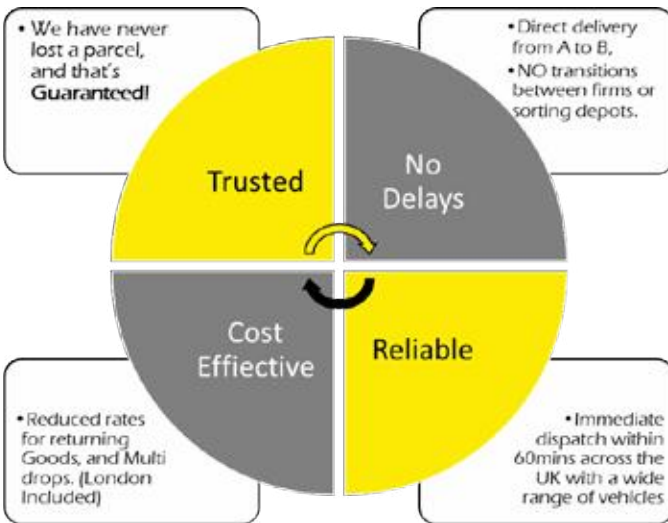
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## TWO TO WATCH



### **Ryan Burrows (C):**

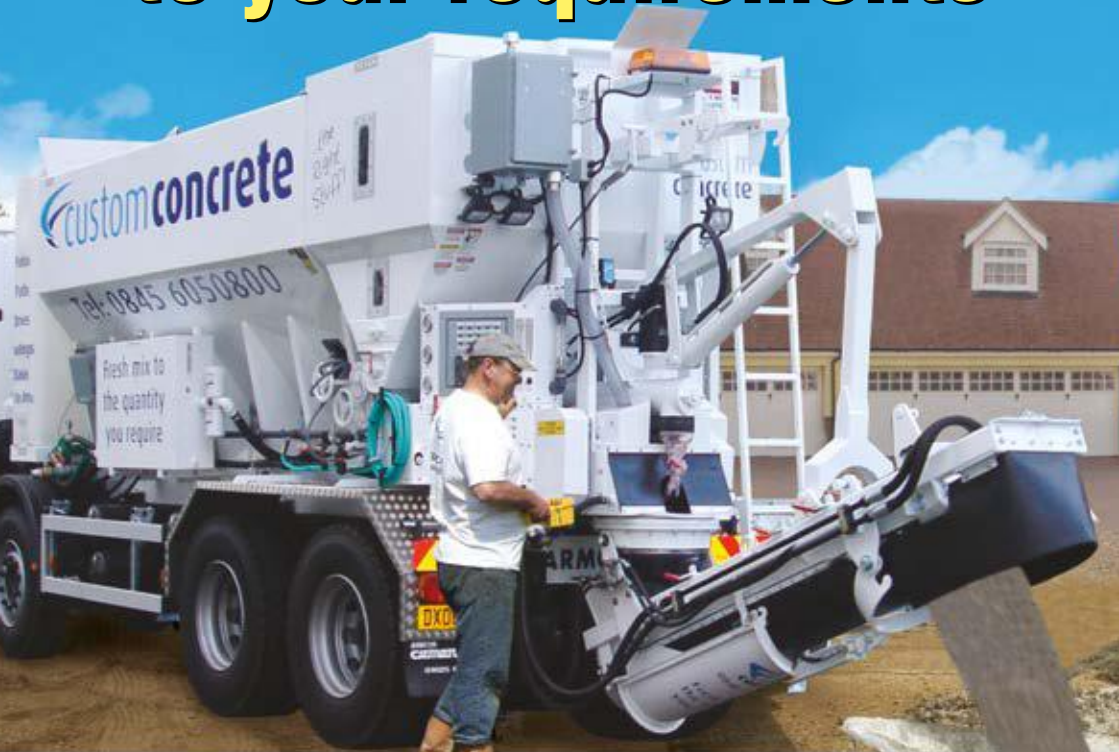
Voted Coventry Rugby's Supporters Club 'Player of the Season' for the 2019/20 campaign, Ryan Burrows has provided experienced leadership to Coventry Rugby since arriving in the summer of 2019 on a three-year deal. Prior to this, Burrows joined Newcastle Falcons in 2017 from Yorkshire Carnegie and has gone on to make 30 appearances captaining the side on a number of occasions. Renowned for his powerful ball carrying and robust defence, Burrows continues his Captaincy for the 2021/22 season.

### **Tony Fenner:**

Fenner joined Coventry in 2016 after his career had taken him across the globe to Italy, France, New Zealand and South Africa. He assisted in helping Coventry win the 2017/18 SSE National League 1 campaign, where they were promoted to the RFU Championship for the 2018/19 season - the first time since 2010. Fenner's versatility has enabled him to play in multiple positions, appearing in full back, inside and outside centre numbers - before making his first start of the season at fly half, in which he has played his most and best rugby. In January 2019, he signed a new deal with Coventry Rugby that will keep him at the Butts Park Arena until the end of the 2021/22 season.



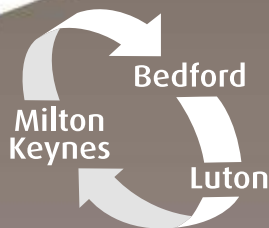
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# Fixtures 2021-22



## Home

## Away



**Sat 25th Sept**

Dillingham Park, 3.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 9th Oct**

Dillingham Park, 3.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 30th Oct**

Dillingham Park, 2.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 27th Nov**

Dillingham Park, 2.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 4th Dec**

Dillingham Park, 2.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 18th Dec**

Dillingham Park, 2.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 1st Jan**

Dillingham Park, 1.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 22nd Jan**

Dillingham Park, 2.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 19th Feb**

Dillingham Park, 2.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 12th Mar**

Dillingham Park, 2.00pm Kick Off



**Fri 17th Sept**

The Lady Bay, 7.45pm Kick Off



**Sat 2nd Oct**

The RAG 3.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 23rd Oct**

Stade Santander, 2.30pm Kick Off



**Sat 20th Nov**

The RAG 3.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 4th Dec**

Traillfinders Sports Ground 3.00pm K/O



**Sun 26th Dec**

Butts Park Arena 3.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 14th Jan**

Goldington Road 3.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 29th Jan**

Castle Park 3.00pm Kick Off



**Sat 26th Feb**

Alpas Arena 3.00pm Kick Off



**Sun 20th Mar**

The Mennaye 1.00pm Kick Off

\*All Kick Off Times are provional and subject to change

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2022 CALENDARS



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# LEAGUE TABLE

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Ealing Trailfinders	20	16	0	4	890	336	554	15	1	80
2	Doncaster Knights	20	17	0	3	524	322	202	9	0	77
3	Cornish Pirates	20	14	2	4	521	365	156	12	1	73
4	Jersey Reds	20	13	1	6	596	436	160	12	3	69
5	Bedford Blues	20	9	0	11	536	503	33	10	4	50
6	Amphill	20	8	2	10	420	511	-91	6	4	46
7	Hartpury University	20	7	1	12	524	515	9	10	6	46
8	Coventry	20	9	0	11	468	582	-114	7	2	45
9	Richmond	20	7	1	12	440	546	-106	7	5	42
10	Nottingham	20	5	0	15	407	690	-283	6	4	30
11	London Scottish	20	1	1	18	326	846	-520	3	2	11

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FRIDAY | 19:30

RICHMOND VS HARTPURY



FRIDAY | 19:45

NOTTINGHAM VS BEDFORD BLUES



SATURDAY | 14:30

DONCASTER KNIGHTS VS CORNISH PIRATES



SATURDAY | 15:00

AMPHILL VS COVENTRY



SATURDAY | 17:00

JERSEY REDS VS LONDON SCOTTISH



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## Ampthill & District RUFC v

## Coventry Rugby

- 1 Tom Workman
- 2 Theo Dan
- 3 Aleki Lutui
- 4 Charlie Beckett (c)
- 5 Theo Vukasinovic
- 6 Cai Devine
- 7 Josh Smart
- 8 Ollie Stonham
- 9 Lewis Finlay
- 10 Josh Bragman
- 11 Ben Cambriani
- 12 Tom Hudson
- 13 Josh Hallett
- 14 Tom Bacon
- 15 Russell Bennett
- 16 Billy Harding
- 17 Jamie Jack
- 18 Rob Hardwick
- 19 Jac Arthur
- 20 Paddy Ryan
- 21 Ewan Fenley
- 22 Jack Bergin
- 23 Will Partington



- 1 Toby Trinder
- 2 Jordon Poole
- 3 Matt Johnson
- 4 James Tyas
- 5 Adam Peters
- 6 Senitiki Nayaylo
- 7 Josh Bainbridge
- 8 Ryan Burrows (c)
- 9 Josh Barton
- 10 Evan Mitchell
- 11 Tom Stanton
- 12 Will Owen
- 13 Rob Knox
- 14 James Martin
- 15 Louis Brown
- 16 Suva Ma'asi
- 17 Luc Jeanott
- 18 Jake Bridges
- 19 Fred Betteridge
- 20 Tom Ball
- 21 Dan Babos
- 22 Tony Fenner
- 23 Louis James



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