

School 1st XV 8 - ONA 17

On a pitch which in any other circumstances would have been declared unfit for play, the much awaited fixture between the School and the ONA was held on Saturday January 9th and proved to be a tightly fought contest from start to finish.

The early exchanges were typically robust with neither side gaining any clear ascendancy but midway through the half a good kick to the corner led to an attacking lineout for the ONA and from the resulting possession Callum Greenshield drove through a gap from short range to open the scoring with the resulting conversion unsuccessful.

Enjoying their best period of possession the Old Boys launched another attack minutes later with Cole Bates producing a delightful inside pass for Lewis Rodgers to steam through close to the posts with Bates adding the points.

Turning round 12-0 to the good, the strong ONA pack looked to take charge of the game but the School responded well to the physical challenge and following a penalty by James Lewis for the School for an infringement at the ruck, the same player sold a neat dummy to stroll over unopposed and the game was in the balance at 12 – 8.

It proved largely to be a midfield battle from thereon in but on the one occasion that the Old Boys visited the School's 22 and following some robust forward drives Olly Cooper was able to force his way over the line to seal a narrow but deserved victory 17-8.

It is always impressive to see how a smaller School team fronts up to an ONA team packed with talent year upon year and they must take huge credit for the way in which they blunted many of the ONA attacks and worked so well together as a cohesive unit- testimony indeed to the coach Dave Mcgall's team preparation assisted by Dave Bateman .

ONA Will Herrington, Charles Forson, Alex Weekes, Callum Hambrecht, Ed Porter, Callum Greenshield, Ben Tarquini, Lewis Rodgers, Scott Cullen, Angus Clements, Cole Bates, Ben Elliott, Olly Hassell – Collins, Sam Randall, Jack King Olly Cooper, Matt Tucker, Will Barnes, Duncan Barr, Alex Thacker.