

## Ampthill Jets 66 Hertford 3rdXV 10

Scoreline suggests a good performance from the men in Maroon and Gold but it was not of a level which will trouble next weeks opponents Beds Ath 2s. What's more it was costly as far as injuries go with Daryl, Will, Jacks A and C all picking up knocks, the latter two looking quite serious.

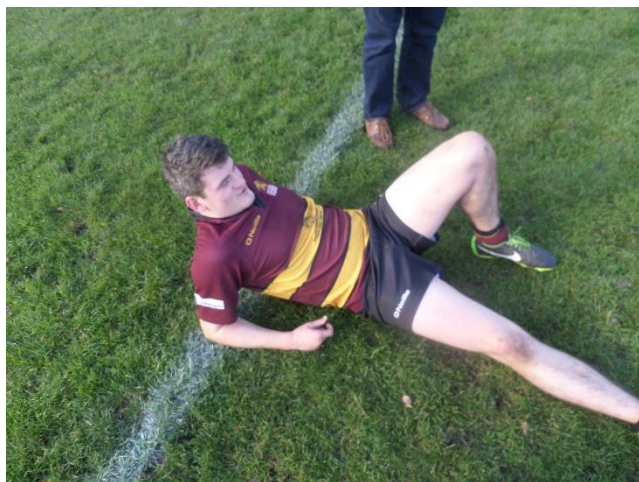
Hertford were industrious and disruptive, and Ampthill failed to keep cool heads and allowed the match to become a dogfight. That played right into the hands of Hertford who had an experienced scrum half running their endeavours. That said our own scrum half James Kearns impressed and scored more than one try. Try of the day though went to Jack Adamson who made a great break, passed the ball on ran a support line, scored and went off injured in virtually the same movement!

Other tries of note came from centre and man of the match Connor Barry who ran over a defender (his brother will not believe it but we had witnesses). Even coach Jonny came on for a cameo, he got beaten up in a fight with a small Hertford back but did cross the line from all of two yards out.

Unfortunately, with no current physio our injuries may impact us over the coming week and as we have second placed Ath away we need to regroup and go again.

Post match social with a wrestling theme brought a smile to some of the ladies who lunch. Hard choice as to who was the campest pair, Jacks Tomkins and Saunders were close but just edged out by speedster duo Bazza and James. There are some images which just can't be unseen!!

Still unbeaten this season but much more required next week. Pictures show the squad discussing how they were going to approach the game and Jack Chellew off injured.



## Cheshunt 2s 5 Ampthill Jets 76

A first for Ampthill Jets with a visit to Cheshunt for this Herts and Middlesex Merit Table 1 clash. Cheshunt is known for being where the head office of retail giant Tesco is based but soon they will be known for the quality of their rugby pitch. Work is well under way on developing a new clubhouse and £800,000 3G artificial pitch with completion expected early in the New Year.

On the normal, sloping and short grass pitch though Ampthill proved that league position doesn't lie. Season league debuts for backs Sonny Bill Chellew and Woody brought even more experience to the squad.

First ten minutes though was all Cheshunt as Ampthill took to the field with too arrogant an attitude, players all wanting to make that big hit and losing their defensive shape. How the home side didn't score a couple of tries in the opening period is anyones guess.

Finally we got down to business and within 23 minutes from kick off flying winger James Rochester had a Patrick of tries. In total 12 tries were scored by the boys in Maroon and Gold with 8 of them converted by Pete.

Several highlights of the match included captain Big G taking the kick off and rampaging all the way to the try line only to be controversially penalised for a double movement as he grounded the ball. Then there was the big clash in contact between

Tom Chellew and the rotund Cheshunt 10 with Tom, for once, coming off second best!

As for man of the match serious contenders were mobile prop Alex Crawford who seemed to pop up everywhere and full back James Kearns who showed guts in defence and class in attack. On balance though this weeks MoM was Jack Chellew. Tackle after tackle and a real thorn in the opposition side.

The Jets had a number of selection challenges this week and were able to lend squad players with the Extras and the 5ths. Next week is a rest week and then the going gets tough with fixtures against Hertford 3s and Beds Ath 2s.

Pitches show the Ampthill pack ready to scrum and the engine room known as the Adamson brothers.



## Ampthill Jets 78 Hemel Hempstead 2s 7

Wow, what a result. On a day when all Ampthill sides turned in performances the Jets didn't let the club down. Attendance at training is high at present and it is starting to show on the park. With such competition for places the lads don't know until late Thursday who has made the 18 man squad and this week we not only assisted the Extras we had to leave a number of squad members with no match. Tough choices and we also have to help get match time for some 1881s and this week that was centre Paul Mason who turned in a polished, professional and committed performance, thanks Paul.

Ampthill started at a pace with the forwards carrying strongly and the backs with speed and footwork. By half time Ampthill were over 50 points to the good but coach Jonny was still not happy with the error count. Some of our most 'experienced' supporters on the side were distraught when Ampthill conceded a try to Hemel and were calling for the Managers head!

Now on a day when flying winger James Rochester bagged a hat trick ( he bought his jug) you would have thought man of the match was easy, not so. For his ever improving performance, strong carries and sheer doggedness the MoM this week goes to Billy Ward. Great performances all round from the squad today. A sign of how tight this group is was when veteran prop Kinney danced his way over for a late try. We can have all these fleet footed youngsters but you need a rock in the front row and when you have one with a cheeky sidestep even better!

Away to new opponents in Cheshunt 2s next week, can the unbeaten record continue?

Photos show man of the match Bill Ward and the tightknit group before kick off.



## Harpenden 2s 10 Amphill Jets 41

Harpenden have produced some great players over the recent years. Jack Singleton, England and Worcester hooker, George Ford Leicester and England Fly Half, plus British Lions Owen Farrell and Maro Itoji. Thankfully none of them were available for Harpenden 2s this week!!

There is a saying that forwards win games and backs decide by how much. That was certainly the case in this match with all 7 tries scored by the backs. Winger James Rochester remembered why he is selected showing serious pace for a hat trick of tries. Conor Barry also bagged a brace of tries matching James for pace. At the other end of the Usain Bolt scale for speed Colin Liddell got two tries as well.

Amphill didn't start very well though and butchered a couple of certain tries including one where hooker Oli Cresswell broke the line and made a pass which no Amphill player seemed to want! Oli had his best game for Amphill in some while and just needs to curb that desire to question the referee throughout the match- he is certainly his mother's son!

Adamson boys dominated the lineout, young props Alex and Jake the scrums and Morgan Phillips was a constant threat in the centres.

Harpenden were good hosts and voted Colin Liddell as man of the match, describing him as that little 10 who cut us apart. Amphill had their own 'Richard of the day' in Tom Swarbrick who managed to injure himself in the warm up.

Not everything went well for Amphill though. They suffered a humiliating defeat in the post match boat race, captain George looking like a 8 year old girl having her first sherry on Christmas day!

Still unbeaten and with players to come back coach Jonny hopes to have a selection problem for next weeks home fixture against Hemel Hempstead 2s. Come down and watch this group of lads in the maroon and gold, it's free and we don't go through the woods to find a pitch!

(Photos below show 2 line outs hit by Oli Cresswell, man of the match Colin Liddell starting another attack and Captain George high in the air)



## Ampthill Jets 14 Letchworth 2s 3

First Herts and Middlesex league match for the Jets saw an unusual squad given so many unavailable players. Huge thanks to the ever youthful Terry Nelson who again stepped in to prop. 3 forward players made the bench so the girls in the backs weren't allowed to get injured.

Tight opening with Ampthill scrums dominating a larger pack (just shows that Wednesday training sessions matter) but the pretty boys soon put Ampthill 14 points up thanks to tries for both wingers Tom Swarbrick and Robbie Thomas, Conor Williets converting both. Letchworth could only have a penalty to show for their efforts and the half ended 14-3.

A monsoon then arrived and neither side could add to the score during the second period with Pete Thompson and Man of the Match Conor Williets controlling territory with some clever clearance kicks.

Good league debuts for teenage forwards Chadrack and Jake and a cameo from coach Jonny towards the end who gave away an inevitable penalty for smashing so done in the tackle but refusing to get off him!

Scrappy at times but the league campaign is off to a winning start. If some of our players who are currently missing in action want to join in the fun just show up on Wednesday night at training or confirm your availability. Tough away match next Saturday at Harpenden 2s.

## Ampthill Jets 54 Bedford Queens 1XV 5

Ampthill Jets had their one and only pre season match against Bedford Queens Firsts this weekend. Queens are a good bunch of boys playing in the same league as first teams from Dunstable, Biggleswade and Rushden. The week before they had lost a tight match against Bletchley 1st XV 31-29 so they are no mugs.

As expected Queens dominated the early scrums and kept the ball tight amongst their large forward pack. Ampthill had a young side and we saw fine debuts from the likes of Jack Tompkins, Tom Swarbrick, James Kearns, Joe Rochester and Chadrack. On a hot September day the younger Ampthill side defended brilliantly and in attack moved the ball swiftly around the park and away from the big boys. Running out a slightly flattering 54-5 winners coach Jonny will have been pleased with all the squads efforts. Man of the match was Jack Spurr who just edged out strong performances up front by Billy Ward and Jack Chellew.

The Jets now have a free weekend before their league campaign begins at home against Letchworth 2s on Saturday 16th Sept

