

OE STAGS RUGBY

Stags rugby is back! On 28 September the Old Eastbournian Stags hosted the Merlins from London, a team that we have played multiple times in the past and who have always been a fierce opposition.

It was a well-balanced match played in 20-minute thirds to accommodate for the lack of match-day fitness post our College years, but both sides gave it their all with the Merlins coming out on top with a 14-10 victory. Debut tries from Murray Trott and George Marshall kept us in the fight, but unfortunately it was not to be. Seeing the camaraderie between the different age groups is what the Stags is all about, and this was certainly on show on College Field. With many players never playing together before, there were hints of the 'joué joué' style that we have adopted over the years.

It was great to have a range of ages playing in the Stags, which is what the club was set up for, and I encourage as many leavers of the 2020 class to get involved after July. Special mention must go to Jeremy Dodge, who continuously pulls the strings on his annual College Field match and we hope that this wasn't the last time that we see him pull on the infamous maroon and white squares.

With a large hole to fill after the departure of Oscar Orellana-Hyder, I hope that the Stags will return to their former glory with a continuous string of matches in the coming years.

I only hope that Hector Veasey has recovered from his cramp that he stopped the match for.

James Potter



The Stags team on College Field on Reunion day, Saturday 28 September