

OE STAGS RUGBY

Finally, the Stags have been back in action in 2021.

James Potter writes:

After what has seemed like an age, we have finally managed to fly the flag around the south east of England once again. The club has welcomed members new and old this year, and we hope this continues into 2022 and beyond.

The year started off with a fixture against the Sussex Barbarians, made up of Newick RFC, Plumpton RFC and St. Francis RFC. With a squad of 30, it somewhat made our squad of 11 look fairly feeble. Nevertheless, with some ringers kindly gifted to us by the Armada, we were able to play the first Stags game in over 18 months. It was a quick reminder of how well the Stags can play with no training and ageing bodies. The Sussex Barbarians came out flying with a few early tries; however, the Stags – in true Stag's style – came back with tries from Billy Reeves, Angelo Errigo, Hector Veasey and Jamie Adams. The final result ended in a 26-19 win for the Stags.

We fast forward to August, where we entered our first 7s tournament and 13 boys travelled up



The 7s squad at Richmond



The Stags and Newick RFC on College Field on reunion day

to Richmond to compete in the Summer Social. With eight of the squad fresh out of the College, they epitomised exactly what the Stags is all about. Winning two out of our four games, we advanced to the Plate Quarter Finals, where we met our untimely end against a team that had no business playing in the social tournament. Notable mentions going to Zak Hebron, Nick Crowther and Henry Turnbull.

The big one came next, College Field. The staple match for every Old Eastbournian. With ages ranging between 18 and 40, 16 players donned the face-lifted kit in the September sun. With a last-minute pull out by our regular opposition, Newick RFC stepped in. This time we had a fully-fledged side with some rugby under our belts, and more than 11 players. The Stags started off strong with pace and physicality. Angelo Errigo managed to conjure up a performance that the College hadn't seen from him before, ever, ulti-

mately earning him the Player of the Day. Notable mentions going to the ever-reliable Ben Biltcliffe and Kieran Cheney. The workhorses in the pack always giving us the front foot. The Stags ran out winners with a staggering 50-0 score.

Unfortunately, with Covid refusing to go away, that was the last game the Stags played. The club looks forward to welcoming the current Year 13 players next year, and of course, to any other OEs that fancy playing some (very) social rugby in 2022.

Stags caps 2021: Jamie Adams, Sam Anderson, Ben Biltcliffe, Jack Casebourne, Kieran Cheney, Nick Crowther, Jeremy Dodge, Angelo Errigo, Max Faulkner-Bryant, Alex Goble, Will Hatfield, Zak Hebron, Harry Hoderne, George Marshall, James McIntosh, Daniel Meade, Archie Mickle, James Potter, Billy Reeves, Alex Stimpson, Tom Tasharoffi, Murray Trott, Henry Turnbull, Hector Veasey, Leon Wood