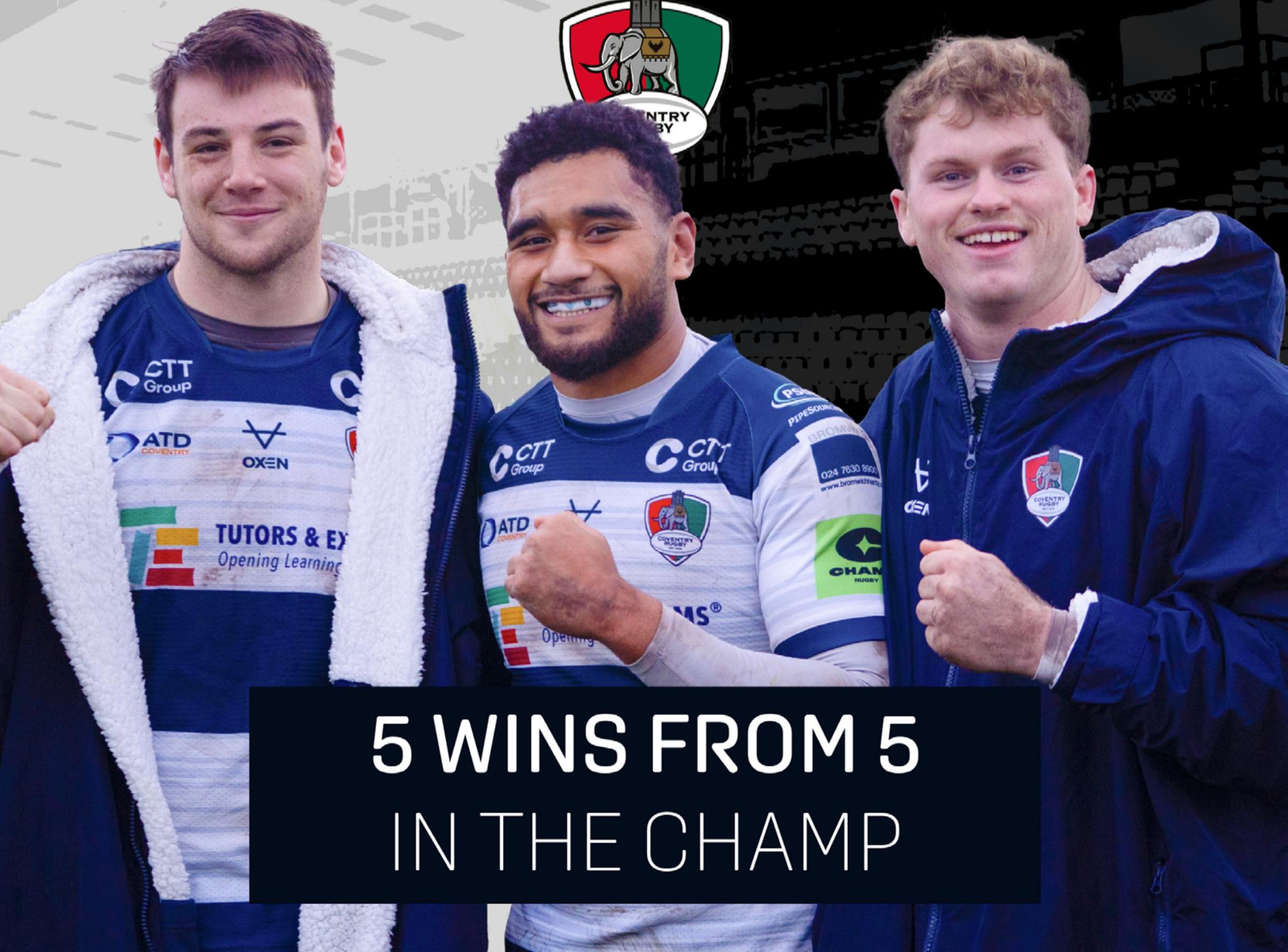


THE BLUE AND WHITE PAGES



5 WINS FROM 5
IN THE CHAMP



THE BLUE AND WHITE PAGES

COVENTRY RUGBY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2025



EWAN BAKER SCORES IN FRONT OF AN ELECTRIFIED BPA CROWD TO SECURE VICTORY OVER CORNISH PIRATES

Block Two of the 2025/26 campaign has emerged as a defining period in Coventry Rugby's season. After opening the block with a narrow defeat, Alex Rae's side responded in emphatic fashion, launching a five-game winning run that is still ongoing. Across these fixtures, Coventry have shown growing maturity, blending attacking ambition with the resilience required to turn strong performances into consistent results.

The block began with frustration at Castle Park, where Coventry were edged out by Doncaster in a dramatic, rain-soaked encounter decided in the final play. Despite the conditions, Coventry produced a determined and enterprising display, repeatedly creating opportunities and enjoying long spells of territory. Tries from Morgan Strong and David Opoku-Fordjour kept Coventry firmly in the contest, while a second-half maul score briefly handed them the lead. Even when reduced to fourteen men, Coventry defended superbly and looked set to see the game out, only for Doncaster to strike at the death. It was a loss shaped by fine margins rather than shortcomings, and one that left Coventry knowing the performance level was where it needed to be.

The cruel ending to the Doncaster game was swiftly addressed the following week at Butts Park Arena. Facing London Scottish, Coventry delivered their most complete performance of the season so far, producing a ruthless response in front of an energised home crowd. From the opening scrum, the set-piece asserted control, providing a solid platform for the backs to play with confidence and tempo. What followed was a statement display of attacking rugby, as Coventry ran in ten tries through a combination of forward power, sharp handling, and excellent support lines. The performance was clinical without being reckless, underlining the squad's depth and their ability to maintain intensity across the full 80 minutes.

Momentum carried into the following weekend with a demanding away trip to Caldy, where Coventry were tested in very different conditions. Battling a strong wind and a spirited home side, Coventry were forced to show patience and composure. Falling behind on two occasions, they remained calm, trusting their systems and leaning on a dominant scrum and disciplined defence to stay in touch. As the game wore on, Coventry began to impose themselves, with second-half scores opening up a crucial cushion on the

scoreboard. Even when reduced to fourteen men late on, Coventry's red-zone defence held firm, allowing them to close out a thoroughly deserved 33–22 victory.

By the end of the Caldy match, the Doncaster loss felt distant, and an air of assurance was brewing. The contrasting nature of the two wins highlighted the side's versatility: ruthless and expansive at home, resilient and determined on the road. Confidence was starting to grow, and Coventry were starting to embody a squad that was learning quickly and was capable of winning against a range of playing styles. With the run now established, Coventry had laid the foundations for a powerful push into the following handful of games.

MATT GALLAGHER CUP

20 / 12 / 25

Coventry and Nottingham came together for a special afternoon raising awareness for MND in honour of former player Matt Gallagher. In front of a packed, sun-soaked BPA, Coventry produced a thrilling performance to edge a pulsating encounter and claim vital points in the playoff race.

The hosts struck first through Morgan Adderly-Jones after dominant scrum pressure, before Nottingham responded to briefly edge ahead. Coventry then found their rhythm, with tries from Peter Sullivan and David Opoku-Fordjour igniting a devastating spell, capped by Dafydd Rhys-Tiueti to give Cov a 24–7 half-time lead.

Second-half scores from Allan Ferrie and Senitiki Nayalo stretched the advantage, but lapses in discipline invited a fierce Nottingham fightback. Reduced to 13 men at one stage, Coventry showed immense grit to see out the game, winning 41–36. It was a fitting contest for an important occasion, reminding everyone of the power of rugby beyond the scoreboard. We were honoured to have Matt present the trophy to Jordon Poole himself. A great day for the club.

Our next fixture was away on Boxing Day against Cambridge, a side who were very keen to put a troubled first half of the season behind them. The side imposed themselves from the first whistle, combining forward power with set-piece authority. Captain Jordon Poole crossed twice in the opening quarter, before Morgan Strong and David Opoku-Fordjour added further scores to establish a 28–7 half-time lead. Cambridge showed promising periods of attacking play in the second half, finishing the fixture in a spirited fashion, but Coventry's composure and control never wavered. A 33–19 victory saw Coventry pocket their fourth win in a row, picking up another crucial bonus point.

From late heartbreak to back-to-back wins, Block Two had found its rhythm, but big challenges lay ahead. Next up, were Nottingham, a side who had notably held league-leaders Ealing closer than any other team in the Champ, becoming the first team to deny them of a bonus point.

Nottingham's defence was a big talking point before the game, coming into the contest with the most tackles registered of any team. With Coventry scoring the second most points by this point in the season (382), bested only by The Trailfinders, the game was poised to be a classic. A win for Coventry would mean the opportunity to slingshot above Nottingham in the league and so, the stage was set.



Back at Butts Park Arena, Coventry produced another entertaining performance against Cornish Pirates on a wet New Year's Day afternoon. Early tries from Allan Ferrie and Peter Sullivan set the tone, while Josh Thomas' accurate kicking maintained pressure on the visitors. Despite a brief Pirates resurgence, Coventry's structured play, intelligent support lines, and resilience kept them ahead. Sustained pressure allowed Ferrie, who went on to be awarded as Player of The Match, to cross for a second pivotal try. With the clock in the red, Api Bavarda broke down the right wing, bouncing and weaving through a broken field. With Tom Miles in support and Ewan Baker to finish, a try in the last play of the game rounded off our fifth consecutive victory in emphatic fashion.

Across these fixtures, Coventry demonstrated a side growing in confidence and versatility. Whether dominating through the set-piece, executing slick attacking moves, or defending under pressure, the team showed clear progression from the foundations built earlier in the campaign. The block has yielded not only results and improved league position but the building of belief and rhythm. With a stronger foothold in Champ Rugby standings firmly established, Coventry have laid the foundations for a push up the table as the second half of the season gets underway on the 24th of January.



CALDY PLAYERS PROTEST AS CRAIG MAXWELL-KEYS BLOWS FOR A SENTIKI NAYALO TRY (RIGHT)

COVENTRY



DONCASTER KNIGHTS

29/11/25
AWAY

24-21 (L)



LONDON SCOTTISH

06/12/25
HOME

61-10 (W)



CALDY

13/12/25
AWAY

22-33 (W)



NOTTINGHAM

20/12/25
HOME

41-36 (W)



"Reflecting on the last block of games, achieving five wins from six and taking 26 out of a possible 30 points shows that this team is heading in the right direction... during the next block of games in the new year we have a real chance to secure our place in the play-offs"



Jordon Poole
Club Captain



CAMBRIDGE RUFC

26/12/25
AWAY

17-52 (W)



CORNISH PIRATES

01/01/26
HOME

41-26 (W)



JANUARY

24TH - BEDFORD BLUES - AWAY
31ST - CHINNOR - HOME

FEBRUARY

7TH - EALING TRAILFINDERS - AWAY
13TH - RICHMOND - HOME
21ST - HARTPURY - HOME
28TH - AMPHILL - AWAY

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Green 4 Motor Company plays an important role in supporting both our club and the wider local business community. Celebrating 30 years in 2026, Green 4 Motor Company has grown into a well-established automotive group with sites in Coventry, Leamington, and Stourbridge, built on strong local roots and long-standing customer relationships.

Primarily a Mazda franchise group, Green 4 also represents Isuzu and Subaru at their Coventry site and stocks over 250 quality used vehicles from a wide range of leading brands. Alongside welcoming an exciting range of new models from their key manufacturers, the business continues to provide tailored vehicle solutions for local organisations, supporting requirements from single vehicles through to large fleet operations.

Community sits at the heart of Green 4 Motor Company. From supporting local initiatives and charities, to investing in and valuing their locally based employees, their approach mirrors the values we champion at Coventry Rugby. With a loyal customer base, many of whom have trusted Green 4 for over 25 years, their commitment to

service, reliability, and long-term relationships is clear.

We are proud to work alongside Green 4 Motor Company and thank them for their continued support of Coventry Rugby and our community. Keep an eye out to see if you can spot Green 4 Motor Company on your next pint at the BPA...





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COV IN THE COMMUNITY

Coventry Rugby, alongside Charter Savings Bank, were proud to welcome GB Down Syndrome Swimming back to Butts Park Arena for their annual awards evening.

The club was delighted to host such an brilliant celebration, with athletes, families, volunteers and supporters coming together to recognise an incredible year. The atmosphere was full of pride and positivity as the DSS-GB community marked both individual milestones and collective success.

That success has been record-breaking. In 2025, Great Britain set Short Course world relay records in the 4x50m freestyle relay (Scarlett Jones, Cerys McCrindle, Amalia Freeland, Caitlin Hatfield), the 4x100m freestyle relay (Scarlett Jones, Caroline Faithfull, Amalia Freeland, Caitlin Hatfield), the 4x200m freestyle relay (Amalia Freeland, Scarlett Jones, Caroline Faithfull, Caitlin Hatfield), and the 4x50m medley relay (Caitlin Hatfield, Holly Sullivan, Amalia Freeland, Scarlett Jones). The programme also

continues to hold the Long Course 4x200m freestyle relay world record, set in 2024 by Caroline Faithfull, Cerys McCrindle, Amalia Freeland and Caitlin Hatfield.

Down Syndrome Swimming Great Britain (DSS-GB) is a volunteer-led charity that supports children and adults with T21 or Mosaic Down syndrome to develop as high-performance swimmers and compete at national and international level. As a resources hub across Great Britain, DSS-GB shares best practice and practical guidance with families, clubs and coaches, while also providing specialist insight around training, health, nutrition and classification.

We're very grateful to GB Down Syndrome Swimming for choosing to hold their awards night at the BPA again, and we wish all athletes and everyone involved continued success for the upcoming year!

A few of the amazing athletes involved in the events can be seen enjoying their evening below!



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ACADEMY REWIND



Coventry U18s delivered a controlled and increasingly clinical performance to secure a 34–10 win over a committed Hartpury Bulls side under the lights at the BPA.

The game started in earnest with Will Dorrell, Ezra McGlashan and Charlie Stallard all going close before Coventry made their pressure count. Harry Doust rumbled over following a well-executed maul, although Stallard, who had started the evening full of energy, was unable to add the extras.

Momentum built further when, from the kick-off, left wing Archie Samuel (Stourbridge RFC / RGS Worcester) returned a caught ball with real intent, beating an array of red shirts before being brought down inside the Hartpury 22. Coventry capitalised, earning a scrum where Tom Jennings scythed through off a flat pass from Conor Horan to beat the full-back and score under the posts – a moment of real class from the Warwick School inside centre.

Coventry continued to find their feet against a Hartpury side that were both committed and up to the task. Breaks from Will Dorrell, who consistently found space on the far side of the Hartpury defensive line, increased pressure on the visitors, while staunch defensive work from Cornelius Nartey stood out throughout.

Arguably the moment of the evening followed, with captain Dorrell (King's School Worcester) getting the BPA on their feet. A sharp break down the blindside saw him beat three defenders before grubbering around the oncoming full-back for scrum-half Conor Horan to collect and dot down.

The sides then exchanged points, with Hartpury deservedly finding the try line. Coventry responded through the lively Archie Samuel, before powerhouse tighthead Sol Gordon rumbled over from close range. Stallard added a long-range penalty to see out the evening and put a gloss on a strong all-round performance.

An excellent night at the BPA, with clear evidence of growth in both cohesion and execution.

UPCOMING FIXTURES:

U18 vs Nottingham Rugby U18 – 24/01/25 – Butts Park Arena

U18 vs Cambridge RUFC U18 – 31/01/26 – Butts Park Arena

Tickets are free for both fixtures. A free ticket booking is required via our website at www.coventryrugby.co.uk/tickets/matchday-tickets



ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

We are incredibly proud to highlight ATD Coventry as the Founding Partner of the Coventry Rugby Regional Academy and one of the club's Main Sponsors. This partnership reflects ATD Coventry's commitment to supporting rugby talent across the West Midlands while strengthening their connection with one of the region's most historic clubs.

Automotive Trim Developments (ATD) is a Midlands-based engineering and manufacturing group specialising in interior trim and electro-mechanical assemblies. While the automotive industry remains their core focus, ATD works across a number of different sectors including defence, bus & coach, rail and furniture, delivering both luxury bespoke products and high-volume production solutions. Operating from five sites across the Midlands, ATD combines skilled craftsmanship with advanced technology to provide full-service solutions to a wide range of transport and specialist markets.

As Founding Partner of the Coventry Rugby Academy, ATD Coventry plays a key role in enabling the programme to thrive. The Academy now supports over 400 young players, alongside Post-16 Education pathways at Barr's Hill in Coventry and St Regis in Wolverhampton, giving players the chance to develop their rugby skills while accessing quality education.

ATD's support ensures the Academy can continue nurturing talent and providing pathways to professional rugby, with senior academy players already featuring in Coventry Rugby's pre-season and Champ fixtures.

Alongside their Academy involvement, ATD Coventry is prominently displayed on the first team kit and pitch-side at Butts Park Arena, reinforcing their commitment to the club's progression at all levels.

The company has been a visible fixture of the recent series of U18 Academy fixtures at Butts Park Arena with the ATD logo worn proudly by the next generation of rugby players coming through the West Midlands.

We extend our gratitude for all the support provided by ATD so far, and look forward to developing our relationship further as we head into 2026 and beyond.



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Sapphire Louvres is a valued supporter of Coventry Rugby and an established name within the local business community. Based near Coventry, the company manufactures and supplies bespoke louvre grills and window ventilation systems for the architectural sector, delivering high-quality solutions to projects across the UK.

Sapphire Louvres operates with an in-house powder coating facility to support efficient production and lead times. They also offer a full qualicoat warranty on the powder coating of their products. Their extensive portfolio includes heavy duty and high performance louvres, louvre doors, window ventilation, curtain walling, Brise Soleil, and solar shading, all produced with a strong focus on quality, performance, and cost effectiveness.

Customer experience sits at the heart of how Sapphire Louvres operates. Their knowledgeable team supports clients at every stage, from early discussions through to installation and after-care, ensuring clear communication, excellent service, competitive pricing, and reliable delivery throughout.

We are proud that Sapphire Louvres continues as a Main Club Sponsor for the 2025/26 season, with their branding



once again visible on both home and away kits and around Butts Park Arena. We thank Sapphire Louvres for their continued backing of Coventry Rugby and their commitment to improving the club and the region.

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

One of Warwickshire's most established law firms, Lodders, has become a valued part of the Coventry Rugby family. With shared values around ambition, community, and long-term progress, the relationship has quickly developed into a genuine connection that supports the club as we look towards the future.



As Coventry Rugby Club's Commercial Legal Partner, Lodders provides trusted guidance across the club's day-to-day operations, helping to support key commercial activity with clarity, confidence and care. Lodders work closely with organisations and individuals across the region, bringing a practical, solutions-focused approach backed by deep expertise.

Lodders is known for combining excellent legal expertise with real-world understanding, offering clear advice and creative solutions across business, property, dispute resolution, and personal legal matters. With offices in Stratford, Henley-in-Arden, Birmingham, and Cheltenham, their wider team of specialists also supports a seamless, friendly, high-quality service.

Lodders' backing is evident on matchdays, with the firm sponsoring the 2025-26 players' kits and pitch-side advertising. They will also kindly be sponsoring our matchday against Doncaster Knights on the 21st March.

We're delighted to have Lodders alongside us and look forward to continuing to build on our partnership into the future.



SNAPS FROM THE BPA



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Ambiance Flooring is a valued supporter of Coventry Rugby and a proud Coventry-based, family-owned business. Specialising in luxury vinyl flooring, Ambiance provides high-quality flooring solutions across residential, retail, and commercial environments, combining strong visual appeal with long-lasting performance.

Ambiance Flooring's products are designed to deliver the look of natural materials while offering greater durability, lower maintenance, and excellent value. Manufactured to exacting standards, their flooring features a robust 3mm construction with a 0.7mm polyurethane-coated wear layer, ensuring reliability in high-traffic settings as well as comfort and quality in the home. With modern imaging and printing techniques, Ambiance Flooring can recreate the appearance of materials such as hardwood, while remaining more pliant, insulating, and practical for everyday use.

Their extensive range allows solutions to be tailored to any space, purpose, or design requirement, with custom-fit options available to create striking and effective results. Backed by a 30-year residential guarantee, Ambiance Flooring products are built to stand the test of time.



We are particularly proud to have Ambiance Flooring as our Scoreboard Sponsor at Butts Park Arena and thank them for their continued support of Coventry Rugby.

