

4th Team Season Review 2009 to 2010

DATE	HOME		AWAY
30-Aug-09			
05-Sep-09			
12-Sep-09			
19-Sep-09			
26-Sep-09			
03-Oct-09	Bredon Star II	17 - 41	Shipston on Stour IV
10-Oct-09	Redditch Exiles	47 - 14	Shipston on Stour IV
17-Oct-09			
24-Oct-09	Alcester III	15 - 17	Shipston on Stour IV
31-Oct-09	Kings Norton III	v	Shipston on Stour IV
07-Nov-09			
14-Nov-09			
21-Nov-09	Chipping Norton III	v	Shipston on Stour IV
28-Nov-09			
05-Dec-09	Shipston on Stour IV	17 - 27	Evesham III
12-Dec-09	Spartans IV	v	Shipston on Stour IV
19-Dec-09			
26-Dec-09			
02-Jan-10			
09-Jan-10			
16-Jan-10			
23-Jan-10			
30-Jan-10	Evesham III	20 - 8	Shipston on Stour IV
06-Feb-10			
13-Feb-10	Evesham III	v	Shipston on Stour IV
20-Feb-10	Shipston on Stour IV	v	Alcester III
27-Feb-10	Shipston on Stour IV	v	Cheltenham North III
06-Mar-10	Shipston on Stour IV	v	Bredon Star II
13-Mar-10	Witney IV	v	Shipston on Stour IV
20-Mar-10	Shipston on Stour IV	v	Kings Norton III
27-Mar-10			
03-Apr-10			
10-Apr-10			
17-Apr-10			
24-Apr-10			
01-May-10			
08-May-10	Shipston Sevens		

Saturday 3rd October 2009

Bredon Star II'S 17 - 41 Shipston IV's

The ancient monoliths walked,talked,huffed and puffed ,wrestled now and then and generally 'got in the way' while the 'bright young things' scampered about,tackled with clinical precision and played rugby! The 'blend' ,a generous term to describe the team, just about came right in the end to go well clear in the last quarter of the game.

Messrs.Baker,Sabin,Barnard and Brooks looked as if they must have all had at least three plates of spinach for breakfast,the way that the home scrum shot backwards in the first five minutes, and it was almost a relief when the referee suggested 'passive scrums'as a way of giving the home team some ball .The biggest problem for Shipston's back row of Jack Barnard,Drew Adams and John Teale was in controlling the ball while briskly walking forwards!Bredon Star were much better in the loose and line out so ,once the scrum advantage had been neutralised, a competitive game took place. The entertaining match saw Shipston throwing the ball about (sometimes rather recklessly)and a mixture of rapier (Adams,Carl Slatter,Phil Hall,Henry Hobill,Jack Barnard) and Bludgeon (Brian Hobill/Rob Peters)with fly half Gary Flowers 'varying 'his own game just about bemused the home team by the end.Scorers for Shipston were;Slatter, Adams,Hobills(father and son)Hall and ,eventually.....Flowers.Kicks were taken by the same names with various degrees of success.



Saturday 10th October 2009

Redditch Exiles 47 pts Shipston 4ths 14 pts.

As expected ,eventually the greater power/technique and sheer weight of numbers of the Veterans overpowered a gallant effort from the visiting 4th team mixture of granddads and late teenagers.The slope,as often at Redditch ,is a distinct advantage and Shipston used it well in the first half with astute kicking into position from young Henry Hobill at fly half in a senior side for the first time. The line out possession was secure (or very disruptive on opposition's throw) through Jack Barnard and the scrum held its own amazingly well against much heavier and very experienced opposition. Jon Barnard,Rob Peters and aggressive kiwi wing forward Drew Adams, were all stopped on the line with Shipston growing in confidence as The Exiles struggled to click into gear.

After failing to score with these early attempts it was inevitable that the home team would eventually get going but ,even then the half time score of 15...7 was highly commendable. Shipston had created the 'stunning moment' of the half when,new recruit Harry Petrie was finally released in some space near the half way line and he simply made the older defenders look like statues as he tore in and out of helpless tackling attempts to touch down under the posts.Harry was to repeat the feat in the second half and came within a'good bounce'of a Hobill crossfield kick of getting a hat trick!

The second half was a hard one for Shipston as ,with only 12 players against the 4 of the home team they could not withstand the slope,better forward work from the home side and the everpresent overlaps.Scorers for the Exiles were Paul Hughes,Dave Joins,Jason Habgood,centre Mark Broadhurst(4),Tom Cresswell(capt.) and ,in a fitting tribute to the memory of his recently deceased father,Pete Shotbolt. The circle of players who honoured Pete's father on the pitch at the end of the match brought the whole afternoon into focus and completed a perfect tribute to person who did so much for Redditch club over many years.

Saturday 24th October 2009

Alcester III's 15 pts. Shipston 4ths 17 pts.

There was something inevitable about the outcome of this very tightly contested game.Shipston's dress code of 'urban street hoodies culture',and the fact that they had a bit more youth and 'attitude' in their team than the vets based Alcester, led to them 'stealing' the game. Up front ,the old grafters and grunTERS of Barnard,Brooks and Baker ably supported by Kurt Rushworth(2nd row) and the outstanding Jack Barnard just about hung on in there against much heavier and wily apponents. Gary Flowers,Joe Furness and the irrepressibly chirpy and ageless John Alexander, kept the back line intact. More or less everywhere else in the side there was 'yoof',enthusiasm,the promise of something unpredictable but interesting!

Shipston's scores followed three creative pieces of individual inspiration. Gary Flowers (a pin point crossfield kick to the corner) for Nick Fresson to soccer dribble beyond the static defender to dive on,Alex Taylor (stunning counter attack run from fullback) which led to 'mastermind'Chris Baker feeding back blind side for Kurt Rushworth to crash over and a brilliant little chip kick from Simon Hartnell(wing),which allowed new scrum half Phil Nicholls to show off his Moreton Morrell 'horse hoof'skills ,pick up without breaking stride and ,ney,canter off under the posts.(the full arking dive to touch down was ,of course,over elaboration, especially at 4th team level but that's 'new school'for yer). Flowers conversion was the only successful kick of the day from either side,with the Alcester incumbent having a day he will want to quickly bury deep,deep in his memory!

Saturday 21st November 2009

Chipping Norton III'S 38 pts. Shipston 4ths 15 pts.

A mixture of 4ths/3rds/2nds players formed Shipston's only Saturday senior side(1sts had cup Sunday cup game) for the short trip south across the county border into Oxfordshire. Under pressure early on,Shipston were reliant on steady play from the experienced Andy Powell(No8),clinical tackling from open side forward, Howard Boswell and some strong individual runs from defence through Kris Ransome (9) and Dean Howe(12). On Shipston's first period of sustained pressure,young,powerful prop Jack Cowpland crashed over. The home side fought back strongly to score two tries outflanking the visitor's defence but Shipston countered this with their finest handling movement of the whole match.Lee Williams made the most of his opportunity ,running in the try in the corner from some 40 metres out. A stunning individual try from centre Ollie Morris had nudged Shipston into the lead on the hour mark but with conditions rapidly worsening,Chippy started to use their reinforcement options on the touchline.

With the significant loss of Dean Howe(shoulder) and Boswell(bang to head),these fresh players made the remainder of the game somewhat one sided as their injection of pace and individual skill meant that the tiring Shipston back line couldn't plug the gaps which were emerging. Ben Haynes,Simon King and the experienced Bryan Sabin battled hard amongst the forwards and Shipston were indebted to an old club member'Dutchie'the Butcher for anchoring a comfortable front row down for the benefit of Rob Easton ,at hooker.

Saturday 5th December 2009

Shipston 4ths 17 pts. Evesham III'S 27 pts.

A strong Evesham side visited Mayo Rd. where, 'to their surprise' (and that of the home side too!) ,conditions underfoot were nigh perfect for a game of lower tier rugby. Having not played for a couple of weekends ,and with some younger 2nd team players 'but in new positions' guesting in the 4ths ,Shipston were understandably somewhat lacking in confidence and 'loose' in positional organisation in the first quarter. The big mobile Evesham centres and back row players fully exploited the situation with the visitors racing into a 17pt lead ! Though steam was coming off him by now,his old head was focused and Rob Fox along with fellow veterans Guy Loveridge,Bryan Sabin and Jon Barnard managed find some mileage in the old bodies to throw themselves into the fray! The home scrum began to gain the upper hand.

Gary Flowers,the 'star back'Fred Brookes, and the ever willing Ian Petty had some ball with which to attack for the first time and the game stayed a real contest from then on. The match was notable for the increasing contribution made as their confidence grew, of the number of colt aged players in the side. David Bishop(2nd Row),Hugh Haines and Curtis Rushworth(wing forwards) and the backs Carl Slatter(scrum half),Andy Gudgeons(centre) ,Dan Cross(wing)made telling contributions with Cross a real threat on the right wing every time he got the ball . Highest tackle count went to Will Dyche (no.8) with some technically perfect stuff coming from ex Bath colt,Fred Brookes.

Shipston scores came from Carl Slatter (pin point 'over the top' throw at the line out by 'The Sly Fox',) to put Carl over unopposed,the pure pace of Fred Brookes in outrunning a 'good centre'from Evesham ,and a 'pressure try' shared really by Fox,Loveridge and Barnard following a miscontrolled line out from the visitors on their 5 metre line. Flowers chipped over the one 'kickable' conversion.

The 4ths string now have a mid season break from fixtures,but expect to be back in action'even stronger'in the New Year! Team..1.Guy Loveridge 2.Rob Fox 3.Jon Barnard 4. Bryan Sabin 5.David Bishop 6.Curtis Rushworth 7.Hugh Haines 8.Will Dyche 9.Carl Slatter 10.Gary Flowers (Capt.) 11.Nick Fresson 12.Andy Gudgeons 13.Fred Brookes 14.Dan Cross 15.Ian Petty

Replacements: Jack Barnard (2nd Half),Simon Hartnell(for Fresson),Clive Brooks(for Sabin).

Saturday 30th January 2010

Evesham III'S 20 pts Shipston 4ths 8 pts.

A mixture of 4th and 2nd team members travelled the short distance to the riverside setting to take on a well balanced home team..The pitch was in perfect condition and the sun shone throughout to make occasion a 'picture'.The first half was essentially one of stalemate with play largely confined to the central areas of the pitch,and pressure causing numerous turnovers and a high scrummage count. With each side possessing only one main line out jumper possession was keenly contested at the throw with Campden sixth former ,Dave Bishop,winning an even share of his own and the opposition's ball.The loss of Howard Boswell(centre) with a nasty looking head gash affected the balance of the Shipston side and they opted to take on the home pack up front rather than spin the ball wide to use the threat of James Partridge and Ben Haynes on the wings.Rees Gidley's driving aggression,supported by canny Scot,John Alexander at scrum half,was the most likely source of a Shipston score and it was that combination that eventually produced a deserved try late in the second half... A close range try at the end of the first period eventually broke the deadlock to put Evesham ahead and although Gary Flowers coolly slotted a penalty and just failed to put Shipston ahead with another (crossbar rebound)at the start of the second half during Shipston's best sustained attacking spell,Evesham's heavier pack and 'bigger free runners' began to dominate.Until Shipston adopted a 'keep the ball alive and see what happens' attitude towards the end of the match ,it was largely a 'defensive 'performance to keep the score respectable.

Will Dyche had an inspired match when he was involved with the forwards,Rob Peters enjoyed his forays in a counter attacking role from full back(with one notable period of complete absence!) and Hugh Haines increased in confidence as the game went on.

James Partridge showed some hithertow undiscovered tambourine skills after the game which clearly need.. exploiting during the remaining games this season.(He particularly wanted me to mention this!)