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Record entry for 'Sevens'

The annual seven-a-side rugby knockout organised by Long Buckley Rugby Football Club in the village sports field tomorrow has attracted a record 32 entries.

And there'll be local interest from the first whistle — the Daventry All Blacks are drawn against Stewart and Lloyds to kick off at 1.30 p.m.

Daventry School has two teams entered, and the Long Buckley Club also has two teams in the competition. The final is due to start at 6.45.

Before that there is an exhibition match — between Long Buckley's Old Crocks and The Old Bar Stewards, a Banbury side.

And if the Old Bar Stewards forget to bring the champagne, which in this match is a substitute for orange-juice between periods, they must expect to be referred to feelingly in the diminutive of their title with which their supporters, forgetful of one syllable, will cheer them on from the touchline.

The picture we have to present this week is of the shield that Daventry's All Blacks rugger side couldn't win at Franklins Gardens on Saturday night.

But to have got to within one team of winning it in their first season must be a tribute

It was the Lewis Shield — Daventry's first-ever rugby club was formed only just in time to start fixtures

They decided to be cautious and concentrate upon one team. Then they stretched to two and then three. And at times-a-fourth team was put up.

And the first selection won through to the Lewis shield final — but conceded 25 pts. to Trinity Old Boys while scoring only five themselves.

The All Blacks started off like a bomb with flanker Foster in the thick of it. The team was rewarded with a try through Boote who picked up the loose ball after Cooke was stopped just short of the line.

Skipper and Ay-half Robin was the All Blacks' lot. And it all happened in the first half hour.

Leslie was short with a 40-yard penalty and then Trinity knocked three points off the arrears when Cooke notched one for them. And it stood at 5 pts to 3 pts for Daventry at the turn.

The shield they couldn't win!



There may yet be a lido

The suggestion that the Weekly Express made over a dozen years ago may yet

But Trinity inherited the dash which the All Blacks showed in the first period — only more so. They went ahead with a try from Fitzgerald in the first minute — but their kick failed.

A matter of minutes later Fitzgerald was at it again after bulwark Crane broke from a penalty close to the Daventry line. Then Lewis seized an opportunity and his try was converted by Cooke.

All Blacks skipper Robin Leslie congratulates Trinity Old Boys skipper Geoff Keats, holding the Lewis Shield. The picture is by Peter Spencer. D/5/5

Cooke missed the next conversion, though, from a try by Shadrach who ran in on his own from the 25-yard line.

Crane increased Trinity's lead from a set scrum on the Daventry line, and they polished off their evening with Cooke beating full-back Beasley — although he failed to convert his own try. Trinity earned their victory margin — by infinitely superior ground work. Had their kicking been better the margin would have been even greater.

Which should give the All Blacks something to mull over for next season. Although it was no mean achievement to reach the final after one season of existence, they can hardly rest on laurels they didn't win.

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