



OVERTON RUGBY CLUB

MATCH REPORT

03/10/07

KINGSCLERE 7 V OVERTON 8

The Laverstoke Park side travelled the short distance over the downs for this top of the table clash with North Hampshire rivals Kingsclere coming away victors for the first time in some four years. The game started slowly for the visitors as the home side used their big forwards to batter the village pack into submission the home sides backs also pressed hard and made a number of half breaks in the first quarter of the game. The village pack started to get on top in the line out and used quick ball to set their backs free, showing plenty of endeavour as they ran the ball back at the home side. Scrums were proving difficult against a much heavier pack although the back row effectively shut down any pick ups and harried the Kingsclere fly half into making rash passes. The first half proved to be a tense affair as both sides vied for territorial advantage with the villages suffering a blow when out side centre James Mountain limped off with an ankle injury. Changes were made with Alan Cornell moving off the flank and into the centres with Paul Sullivan coming off the bench and slotting into blind side flanker position. Overton continued to ruck and maul well with the backs putting the home sides backs under so much pressure that they were effectively nullified as an attacking force forced into make hasty passes and having to take some big tackles. Before half time industrious flanker Jack Fillery spent 10 minutes in the sin bin for an alleged late tackle, he was joined a minute later by his opposite number for a similar offence. Going into the break 0-0 neither side were really on top although the visitors had had more possession and were looking to convert this into points.

A large, white rugby ball with red and blue stripes is positioned on a green grass field. In the background, a white goalpost stands against a clear blue sky.

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The second half started as the first finished, the visitors were pushing forward and with the forwards sensing a chink in the home sides pack a series of rolling mauls brought the try line in sight, but despite the obvious dominance in the back division the forwards pressed on and were eventually turned over and forced deep back into their own 22 metre zone from the clearance kick. Kingsclere won the line out and in a poor ten minutes for the visitors poor decisions and inability to perform the basics correctly gifted Kingsclere a try as a poor pass from the home sides centres bounced kindly for their large prop who bulldozed over the line. The try was converted. Straight from the re start the visitors kicked the ball long, the stand off and centres chased the ball down and the resultant pressure forced a knock on from the home side, Overton did not need the advantage as they won the resultant ruck and sent the ball bind through 3 pairs of hands for winger Matt Woods to touch down in the corner. Dan Williams failed with the conversion but the visitors were back in the game with 20 minutes to go. Overton continued to press forward and nearly put the game away several times with the best chance going to Alan Cornell in the centre who failed to gather a lazy pass from Dan Williams. The backs continued to apply pressure and this forced an error from the home side gifting an easy penalty kick from Dan Williams in front of the posts with 10 minutes to go. The final period of the game was very tense as the visitors camped themselves inside Kingscleres half absorbing a great deal of pressure as the clock counted down for a team win that kept the Laverstoke Park outfit on top of Hampshire Three. The Pack this we were superb with the front row of Arch, Plows and Salmon coming out on top in the head to head battle, second row Joe Smith was named man of the match being industrious in the loose and dominant in the lineout. Back row Nigel Hall was awarded the big hitter shirt. The pick of the backs were the rear trio of Woods, Marchment and Clark who showed sparks of exciting and elusive running, only needing a metre more space on several occasions that would have put a totally different slant on the game. Next week Overton travel to Fawley for a re arranged league game that will be another tough top of the table clash.

Team from

Gavin Plows, Reinhaultt Arch, Chris Salmon , Daniel Harmes, Joe Smith, Jack Fillery, , Alan Cornell, Nigel Hall, James Smith- Jones, Dan Williams, Matt Woods, Jon Baker, James Mountain, Dave Clark, Carl Marchment.

Replacements, Paul Bond, David Pinchback, Paul Sullivan

A large, realistic-looking rugby ball is positioned on the left side of the page, resting on a green grassy field. The ball is white with red and blue stripes.

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