



OVERTON RUGBY CLUB

MATCH REPORT

22/08/07

ISLE OF WIGHT 37 V OVERTON 5

The village side travelled over to the island to play in the second round of the national junior vase tournament against opposition from Hampshire 2. Playing up a league was always going to be difficult and this was made harder as 7 first team regulars were not available, it was also the first time this season that a second team was fielded. The new look Laverstoke park team also included 4 players playing only their second games after long lay offs together with players making a come back after injury. The big island pack put pressure on the younger and much lighter visiting pack from the whistle but constant pressure from the back row forced handling errors from the home side and good rucking technique allowed the visitors to turn over ball. The backs were also forcing handling errors from the home side through hard tackling and strong running. Dan Williams pounced on one of these errors in the visitors 22m zone after 10 minutes and shipped the ball to James Smith-Jones to sprint 50m for the first score. Dan Williams failed to make the conversion and in an uncharacteristically bad day failed to add 4 penalty kicks latter in the game, all of which in a normal day he would have made, indeed it was his kick that took the village outfit to this round of the cup. The island side struck back after 5 minutes with a well worked try through forward power and added a penalty before half time. Overton continued to pressurise and disrupt the home sides ball as scrummaging technique and good line out ball set the back up for a few surging runs. After 20 minutes as the visitors threatened the try line winger Will Doel was tackled and an innocuous fall resulted in a broken wrist. With no substitutes the visitors were forced to see out the game with 14 players. This was always asking a lot from players new to the game and from those coming back to the game however the village out fit stuck to their task well and it was only in the last 10 minutes that the home side really made their extra man count running in 3 further tries.

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Captain Dan Williams was proud of his players as his side competed well in all phases of the game; the referee commented that Ryan Cornell, Jack Fillery and James Smith- Jones stood out while David Pinchback and Paul Sullivan both performed well. The front row of Gavin Plows, Paul Bond and David Pinchback faired well against much heavier opposition and the second row of Dan Harms and Joe Smith were industrious and came out equal to their bigger opposite numbers. Eventually the home side better fitness and extra man made a difference as despite the forwards continuing to win ball with which the backs were unable to find much free space in which to run. There were many positives to take from the game and also areas where Coach Jonty Spall needs to work on ahead of next weeks home league clash with Stoneham Park. Player of the week goes to new boy Jack Fillery and the big hitter to our smallest player James Smith-Jones.

Team from

Gavin Plows, Paul Bond, David Pinchback, Daniel Harmes, Joe Smith, Jack Fillery, Paul Sullivan, Ryan Cornell, James Smith- Jones, Dan Williams, Simon Cox, Tom Fillery, Alan Cornell, Will Doel, Dave Clark.



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

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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, Reinhault 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



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