

Vets match report

21 September 2019

Vets 47 - 14 Faversham II

Match report by Matt ;

You've all probably seen those clips from the Lions' 1974 tour to South Africa when the pitch was the colour of the most golden of pale ales and as hard as rock. This is what faced us for our opening fixture of another season. It slightly begs the question whether Vets' rugby should really be played in such conditions - especially with 72 year old Steve Pooley playing the opening quarter in the second row and ageing elbows and knees in the firing line.

Anyway we don't know any better so after a nervous kick off we settled into our stride and took the lead when flanker Nick East rumbled over after about 10 minutes. Faversham however soon struck back when one of their centres slid between two defenders for a converted try to take the lead.

This lead wasn't to last long. With our forwards securing good territory and possession through the set pieces centre Richard Cutbill found himself scything through their defence after cutting a great line for a converted try by fly half Mick Walker.

With half time looming an unfortunate and awkward landing for a Faversham player saw the game halted for a suspected dislocated knee. As this necessitated an ambulance being called we upped sticks and moved to the Somme where the pitch there looked like the colour of urine after an evening on the aforementioned pale ale.

Second half and the forwards continued to dominate possession leading to a pushover try with flanker Colin Frost leading the claim for the touchdown (and no doubt thankful that he made it to the previous evening's 'tactical awareness session' at the 'Pot). With centre Chris Leggatt now hitting his straps it wasn't long before another try - this time utility 'special forces' forward Chris May finishing the move under the posts.

At this stage of the game the two refs on the pitch (meaning the official ref, Simon Wright and scrum half Gary Whitehead) considered it an opportune time to discuss the finer points of the game. Now, while Gary can be quite persuasive, there was only going to be one winner. Buoyed by the 50 (?) yard march downfield Faversham scored next after some good work by their backs (who by this stage had a Stones' player guesting for them because of another injury).

This was only a brief respite for the away team however. Full back Stuart Bates was next on the score sheet for the hosts (although he was very concerned for a second that his impersonation of Mr Stretch would have only found the five metre line).

Two further tries completed the scoring. Firstly sub flanker Simon Seal chased down a neat chip from sub winger Paul Hodges before Chis Leggatt weaved his way to the

try line to add the proverbial icing. After a dodgy opening kick off Mick Walker ended up with an impressive 12 points (impressive in that most of our tries were scored under the posts!).

Special mention to Faversham's fallen comrade who apparently is recovering well and a thank you to ref Simon Wright for sacrificing his game time.

MotM: The newly svelte but rumbustious as ever Nick East;

TotM: Despite Bob Purfitt doing a 'Richard Ewence' and falling over his feet with the try line beckoning, there is only one real contender - Gary Whitehead.

PS: Further success at the Hawaiian night post match - as far as I'm aware no-one suffered from food poisoning after the BBQ.

PPS: It's rained this week. Alleluia.

(ME)

Game stats:-

11 min M try 05-0 (Nick East)

16 min F try 05-07

21 min M try 12-07 (Richard Cutbill, Mick Walker con)

12 – 07 HT

19 min M try 19-07 (Colin Frost, Mick Walker con)

20 min M try 26-07 (Chris May, Mick Walker con)

21 min F try 26 -14

24 min M try 33-14 (Stuart Bates, Mick Walker con)

29 min M try 40-14 (Simon Seal, Mick Walker con)

33 min M try 47-14 (Chris Leggat, Mick Walker con)

47 – 14 FT

Ref : Simon Wright

Team;

01 Christopher Hogg

02 Mark Ingram

03 Bob Purfitt

04 Nigel Maddaford, head injury 1st half temp (& again in 2nd half) replaced by Chris May and then Tom Clarke

05 Steve Pooley – replaced after 1st quarter by Tom Clarke

06 Colin Frost – replaced in 4th quarter by Adrian Clark

07 Nick East

08 Chris May – reshuffled into 2nd Row, Simon Seal replaced Chris.

09 Gary Whitehead (Captain)

10 Mick Walker

11 Adrian Clark 1st half / Paul Hodges 2nd half

12 Richard Cutbill

13 Chris Leggat

14 Matthew Ellesmere 1st half (then played for Faversham / Danny Mcleash 2nd half

15 Stuart Bates

16 Karim Neseiyif (Officially the new Vets Captain) - Water boy and sub not used.

00 Mark De Ritis - critic

23 Alex De Ritis - photographer

50 David Tugwell - Tour Manager