

Once again the Vets saw themselves taking the 3rd Team fixture against a far younger opposition.

With only 17 players confirmed it was good to see the return of Bobby Keynes from his non-playing members status, or so it was rumoured.

This was again the proverbial game of two halves, missed passes and miss-fielded kicks saw the the first half end with the vets 14 points down and nothing on the scoreboard. This could quite easily have been the same story in the second half.

This however was not a game to give up lightly, and a spirited second half response saw the team resurgent. The poor handling from the first half was a distant memory, it was replaced with excellent interplay between backs and forward, off-loading and slick passing resulting in the first score for Stuart Russell, apparently his first score in ten years and well worth his return to rugby this year.

Good ground was now being made by both backs and forwards, a 15 man game was now the order of business, some storming breaks through the centre saw Richard Cutbill break the line to put the team on the front foot, with both backs and forwards now taking the ball forward and securing at the ruck, the team came into its own.

A strong run by Ian Wilkinson gave Neil Cole the next, with the final try going to the returning Bobby Keynes.

With four minutes to go and a score line of 17 – 15 to Canterbury, could this be another famous comeback as in the previous game.

Sadly not, the final word was with the younger side. Good hands saw a move from one side of the pitch to the other, and even with the scrambled vets defence, the opposition had the final score with a well finished try.

The words “ we need to get of the bus earlier” are ringing in my ears with a Nor'n Irish wee twang.

It is however true, when we get our game heads on, we are a good match for any of the third team opposition.