

Bognor Regis vs Alresford

Match Report

25th November 2017

With our Head Coach sunning himself somewhere in the Caribbean, and without a tinge of jealousy as pens and people started to freeze, we travelled to the seaside resort of Bognor Regis to pit ourselves against a very good side that sat currently 3rd in the league.

Straight from their kick off, Muzzer catches and ARFC retain possession. However, ARFC couldn't clear away from our 22 and it took some great tackles, by Billy and Greg, to keep BRRFC at bay.

With 5 minutes on the clock and ARFC defending, we were awarded a penalty which Ted launched to the half way line. From the resulting lineout ARFC, through the mightily impressive Pete Rogers, wins the lineout and ARFC keep possession until Jamie is put down from not the first late tackle of the match.

This was the first of what this match reporter saw of important moments being missed by the match official.

For the next 5 minutes the game went from 22 to 22. Ryan Cooper punched a hole in their defense, then back came Bognor to test our defence..

On 9 minutes Bognor were awarded a penalty in front of the posts and to all our amazement, they kicked for the corner and missed.

A minute later, with ARFC re grouping Hancock made a sensational burst to put Bognor back in their 22. Bognor saw out the threat and for the next few minutes it was end to end stuff.

It was so pleasing to see ARFC going low again in the tackle and the commitment from every player was making this a fantastic game to watch.

However, there was a feeling of holding out and in the 21st minute, Bognor, through the hands secured their first try. **0 - 5**

With no side relenting the match continued as before with both sides having moments of threats and producing great defense.

In the 34th minute Bognor lost their prop, who was seriously hurt, and this delay seemed to hinder us. For nearly 9 minutes of injury time we were hanging on. Then in the last minute of time added on, the ball landed in Gregs hands and he so nearly went through.

HALF TIME: BOGNOR 5 - 0 ARFC

With the sun setting in West Sussex to a bracing 2 degrees, and the sun rising in Barbados to a shuddering 20c, ARFC were straight on the front foot. The really impressive Charlie took the game back to Bognor and for the first few minutes were pushing Bognor back.

This was a physical and hard fought game and tempers were likely to spill over. It did in the 44th minute, with ARFC, feeling somewhat aggrieved from decisions that we felt weren't looking after our boys, took matters into our own hands. Not great, but with our players taking so many late and unfair hits, this match reporter had no problem with ARFC standing their ground and giving a bit back. Of course discipline is crucial, and Hancock was the man for these moments.

With Ollie Ledsham now on, the confidence from the travelling support increased, but sadly he was only to last 10 minutes before a shoulder injury forced him from the pitch.

In the 60th minute, Bognor went in the corner. **BOGNOR 10 - 0 ARFC**

ARFC had given everything and with legs tiring and knocks building up, in the 77th minute Bognor ran in their 3rd try of the game in the corner. **BOGNOR 15 - 0 ARFC**

That wasn't the end, as tempers flared again, and it wasn't the end of ARFC. For the last 6 minutes Bognor couldn't get out of their 22 as ARFC showed such spirit and passion to try and get possibly a fairer reflection of the game. However, it wasn't to be and the final whistle blew.

FINAL SCORE: BOGNOR 15 - 0 ARFC.

Two points maybe worth taking from this report:

Firstly, all 3 tries scored by Bognor were inches in the corner. They didn't come through the middle of us. Secondly this was their lowest winning margin of their season.

Congratulations to Bognor, a very decent, physical side, but also well done today ARFC. As always, those that travelled were proud to support you.

Today's stars:

Rob Walls, Shem Abrahams, Dan Waite, Billy Lovegrove, Tom Rodwell, Tom Andrews, Pete Rogers, Sam Murrell, Aiden, Ollie Ledsham, Jamie PW, Charlie N, Ethan Green, Ryan Cooper, Greg, Captain Chris Hancock, Jono(Splints), Jake, Ted

Man of the match to be awarded.

From the touch line, amongst others, Charlie N was immense.