

Alresford vs Ellingham & Ringwood

Match Report

28th October 2017

On a glorious Saturday afternoon ARFC looked to put last weekend's performance behind us, and with a strong starting lineup, looked forward to taking on a very decent Ellingham & Ringwood side.

With both sides hovering around mid-table after solid starts by both sides to the season, this would be a real acid test of our credibility to this league.

E+R kick off and immediately ARFC were on the back foot.

Ollie Ledsham clears and seems to give ARFC time to regroup. However, with Alresford pressing, E&R seize the opportunity to intercept an ARFC attack and ease to a simple score under the posts which was easily converted. **ARFC 0 - 7**

As the first few minutes wore on, the power of ARFC's forwards was obvious. When it came to the Alresford's pack, the domination was clear. However, with the strong wind against Alresford, the domination of the forwards would not be enough and it took some fabulous defensive work by the likes of Ted, James and Ryan amongst others to keep ARFC in the hunt. Gradually ARFC grew into the game more and more and in the 14th minute a great release by Ryan almost put Ted in the corner.

With Alresford filled with new confidence, the pressure kept coming and Ollie was illegally held up before the line and ARFC were awarded a penalty try. **7 - 7**

E&R came straight back and only a late try saving tackle by Ryan Cooper, possibly a bit high, but understandable prevented E&R going over again. However as a result, Ryan left the pitch and E&R slotted the resulting penalty. **7 - 10**

30 minutes in and Ethan was so nearly through. Pack leader Shem re grouped his forwards and allowed ARFC to dominate again. With Alresford dominating and Ethan threatening to score every time he received possession, a flowing move started by Ted and finished by Jamie saw ARFC regain the lead. **12 - 10**

This seemed to galvanise ARFC and raise doubts with E&R. ARFC's defense was so much improved from last week and the willingness to support each other at the break down was so much quicker. All this combined to put Jake over for ARFC's 3rd try. Ted slotted to give ARFC a half time score of.

Half Time: ARFC 19 - 10

The second half began with ARFC kicking off, and although Alresford showed great defense with Sam Batho in particular loving be back in the side, the appointed official gave one of many head scratching decisions, giving E&R a penalty. **ARC 19 - 13**

For whatever reason, we took our foot off the gas and allowed E&R to come straight back at us and in the 49th minute another penalty saw E&R come back to within 3 points. With ARFC still reeling, and with E&R having momentum saw the visitors extend their lead. **19 - 23**

With ARFC down to 14, Alresford showed real guts and determination, and that was surpassed by then being down to 13!) ARFC really went for it. Ollie released Connall who sprinted clear to put Alresford back into the lead. Up stood Ted and slotted. **26 - 23**

With minutes remaining, Sam B bursts forward, releases Tom R, who eases everyone's nerves by touching down under the posts. **33 - 23**

With so many injuries to both sides, stoppage time never seeming to end, and with legs tiring E&R scored again. **33 - 28**

With seconds remaining and everyone thinking don't blow this, Pete Rogers, our man of the match gathers, retains possession, allowing Ollie to gleefully boot the ball off the pitch. The final whistle blows!!!

FINAL SCORE: ARFC 33 – 28 Ellingham & Ringwood

Today's stars:

Rob Walls, Shem Young, Dan Waite, Sam Batho, Tom Rodwell, Pete Rogers, Sam Murrell, Jake, Ollie Ledsham(Captain) Connall Cook, Ethan Green, James Airey, Ricky, Ryan Cooper, Jamie PW, Chris Hancock, Ted Hepelstall, Jack Meakins.

Man of the Match: Pete Rogers