

Alresford vs Fordingbridge

Match Report – 21st October 2017

With Storm Brian threatening, both sides went into this match knowing that playing the elements as well as each other was probably going to have a biggest say in the final outcome of this mid table clash.

And so it proved, straight from the kick off ARFC, enjoying the wind advantage, started to push FRFC back, and within seconds Connall was nearly through but held just short.

With FRFC trying regroup, Ryan Cooper welcomed himself back to the fold with some typically aggressive defensive work.

In the 4th minute FRFC were awarded a scrum, ARFC totally over powered FRFC's forwards and ARFC made a strong statement of our packs power.

Early on, we got ourselves again into such strong positions, especially through the forwards, and then made wrong in game decisions.

It took until the 6th minute until the home side breached our half, and without a fantastic tackle by Ted, our hard work could have been undone..

However, ARFC regrouped, the dominance of our forwards came to the fore again. Jake in particular stopping all in his path, and his determination released our backs, allowing Ollie to pass to perfection to put Ethan in the corner. **FRFC 0 - ARFC 5**

Fordingbridge were not about to give in. Absolutely fair play to them, they took the game to us. There was some great defense by ARFC, notably Pete, Billy, Muzzer and Rickey, but ultimately ARFC couldn't hold out and FRFC scored. **5-5**

ARFC now regrouped, believed and with the forward pack dominating, Connall again broke and offloaded to the returning Ryan who finished beautifully in the corner. **5-10**

This game never felt comfortable and in the driving rain Fordingbridge started to dominate crucial areas and scored.

Half Time: 10 - 10

The second half followed and again ARFC found themselves in promising areas but for whatever reason, couldn't put this game to bed.

There were moments when ARFC totally regrouped and pushed FRFC miles back under their line. Likewise, ARFC had to show incredible defense to keep Fordingbridge off our line with minutes remaining.

However, with the clock ticking down, and with ARFC nursing some serious injuries on the touch line, when the final whistle blew, I believe both sides were happy to take a very physical and well deserved draw.

Not our best performance but a draw away from home is very much something to build on.

Final Score: 10 - 10

Man of the match: Jake

Match Day Team: Dan Waite, Chris Hancock, Shem, Billy Lovegrove, Tom Rodwell, Sam Murrell, Pete Rogers, Jake, Ollie Ledsham, Connall Cook, Ethan Green, Ryan Cooper, Ricky, Greg, Ted - Tom Andrews, Jack Meakins, Jono