

Southampton vs Alresford

Match Report

25th March 2017

On a bright but very blustery afternoon and what seemed an age to come Southampton v Alresford kicked off at 3pm.

The first 5 minutes were played almost entirely in Southampton's half, but playing against the wind, it was always going to be difficult to keep the pressure on. With ARFC at times looking a bit ring rusty Southampton pulled themselves back into the match and starting asking questions of our decision making. On 12 minutes Billy took a massive, and some might say an unfair hit, which forced him from the field. If we weren't sure from the start, we knew now that this was going to be a tough battle against 'an up for it' Southampton side.

However, ARFC regrouped and in the 20th minute Olly L went over for the first score of the game. Back came Southampton and in the 30th minute went over in the corner, the first points conceded by ARFC this year. With both sides taking no prisoners, we went into half time at 5-5.

Half Time:

Southampton RFC 5 - 5 ARFC

3 minutes into the 2nd half, with our forwards on top and the wind behind us saw a lung busting run from Greg result in a penalty, which Olly L tapped and went, scoring to double our lead. Despite the wind, the always dependable Ted slotted to give ARFC a 7 point lead. However 2 minutes later with ARFC making some uncharacteristic mistakes, let in Southampton to bring the score back to 12-10.

With nerves beginning to wobble on the touch line but with the likes of Ryan Cooper, Shaun Memory and Sam Batho throwing themselves at anything that moved, quality, desire and skill allowed Greg to run in a 52nd minute try which Ted kicked to give a score line of 19-10.

For the next 20 minutes ARFC had to show guts and stamina to keep out a determined Southampton side who never stopped believing they could hurt us. With seconds left on the clock, ARFC were awarded a penalty, Cane screams for a try, Shem picks up the ball and charges at Southampton's line which results in Jake touching down.

It must be mentioned that the two late introductions of Aiden and Jack Meakins helped put this game to bed. Great players and great coaches.

A vital, and hard fought win that inches us closer to that ultimate goal, promotion as champions.

FINAL SCORE

Southampton 10 – 24 Alresford

ARFC Man of The Match - Shaun Memory