

## Alresford vs Fordingbridge

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

### Match Report

At 2.30pm ARFC took on a Fordingbridge side just above us in the league and bragging rights at stake after a 10-10 draw in the forest.

From FB's kick off, ARFC became bogged down in our 22.

With both sides squaring up to each other, and the likes of Ted a man possessed, the match started to pan out as very much expected. Two very evenly matched sides. In the 12th minute, Kato so nearly punctured through FB defence but was stopped just short.

With ARFC keeping the pressure on, and the forwards dominating their strength, ARFC push over for Jake to put down. **ARFC 5 - 0 Fordingbridge**

From the restart back came ARFC, with Muzzer leading by captain's example, kept FB back. With tempers rising and the referee's decisions testing both sides, we knew we were witnessing a highly contested match. With Ryan Cooper and Ethan Green communicating, both with their attack and defence, and Billy Lovegrove as always trying to direct plays, for the next 10 minutes we looked ok without ever being totally convincing.

On 25 minutes, FB took a rare visit to see what our 22 looked like and received a penalty which was kicked. **ARFC 5 - 3**

Back came Alresford and Ryan Cooper broke only to be fouled. The outstanding Ted kicked to give ARFC a 5 point cushion. With Rob Walls catching every restart things were looking good. However, on 30 minutes, ARFC went down to 14, FB grew back into the match, and despite committed defence, FB went over only to be denied by an obvious forward pass. The pressure was going to tell, and good hands by FB saw FB touch down and convert.

**8 - 10**

Before ARFC can regroup, FB come through again, far too easily and extend their lead by 9 points.

**HALF TIME: ARFC 8 - 17**

From the restart, ARFC looked like a side that knew we had the power of the forwards, and the pace and ability of the backs and within 3 minutes Kato flew into the corner after great team work. **ARFC 13 - 17**

ARFC kept on the front foot and in the 52nd minute the returning Shem got the ball down to bring the match back to one point. **ARFC 18 - 17**

With FB showing renewed energy ARFC started conceding penalties in dangerous areas. Despite FB missing these chances, for whatever reason, and despite some great defensive work, Kato included, we seemed to lose our way and direction. This despite Billy desperately trying to guide us.

Through all the boys' efforts, notably Pete, this felt as though we were going to be on the wrong end of this match, and sure enough in the 74th minute FB breezed through us to score. **ARFC 18 – 22** and converted **ARFC 18 - 24**

With ARFC defeated but not surrendering, FB broke once more and scored in the far corner. **ARFC 18 – 29** Converted

**FINAL SCORE: ARFC 18 – 31 Fordingbridge**

Team:

Rob Walls, Tom Andrews, Jake, Sam Murrell, Billy Lovegrove, Pete Rogers, Ted Hepelstall, Ryan Cooper, AJ, Connall Cook, Kato, Ethan Green, Shem, Jack, No 6!, Alex,

**Man of Match: Ted**