

Alresford vs Isle of Wight

9th September 2017

Match Report

The 1st xv kicked off their new season in snows group Hampshire 1 with much anticipation but also with thoughts of do we belong in this league, can we cope with this league?

Led by our new captain Ollie Ledsham, 3pm arrived, the heavens opened and the baptism of fire was truly alight.

This match reporter must now admit that in that torrential downpour around kick off my notebook turned to stodge and my pen simply refused to work so this is less a match report but more of a summary!

I.O.W started strongly and took the lead through a couple of penalties. However ARFC did not look out of place and as the half wore on ARFC came back into the game, found their feet and went into the break ahead courtesy of a Pete Rogers try and a wonderful try from Greg after a cheeky reverse pass from Connell.

The second half was a tight affair with I.O.W really coming back into the match and then regaining the lead midway through the second half.

However, with ARFC bringing what has been happening on the training pitch onto the match pitch, and along with sheer hard work, determination and the flair of James Airey who scored the decisive winning try, ARFC held on to win 24-20.

Captain Ollie Ledsham led by wonderful example, inspired it seemed from his elevation to the role, likewise Shem our new pack leader who galvanised his pack and was absolutely outstanding, not just how he played on the pitch but what he said on the pitch.

ARFC deserved this win and their moment of history.

It's difficult not to get too carried away with this start, but we go again next week against Overton who can be our banana skin.

I began this report/summary with questions. The answer to both is an emphatic yes!

A massive well done and great start to the players and coaches and thank you to all of you that came and supported, to Jess and her team behind the bar, and Julie for the wonderful food.

Man of the Match – Harry

Team – Rob w, Shem, Jack, Billy, Harry, Pete, Muzzer, Jake, Ollie, James PW, James A, Charlie, Guns, Connall, Greg, Jono(splints), Tom A, Ted