

## **Alresford vs Southampton**

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

### **Match Report**

Alresford RFC fielded a strong 15 but without the injured Splints, took on a resurgent Southampton side that had won their last 3 matches, and immediately took the game to the visitors.

After 7 minutes the pressure told and we were rewarded with ARFC scoring deep in the corner. The match became a little stop start until Shaun Memory so nearly scored with a beautiful chip and run that was thwarted just short.

On 18 minutes ARFC got their just rewards after a fantastic catch from the very impressive Pete Rogers from the lineout resulted in Jack Meakins going over for his first try of the season.

5 minutes later Jack made it two for the season, latching on from a brilliant kick from Bertie and scoring to give ARFC a 15 point cushion.

Southampton fought back and in the 28th minute the visitors kicked a successful penalty which saw them reduce the deficit but with great defending, in particular, by Pete Rogers, Bert Watley and Ryan Cooper saw ARFC going into the break with a 12 point lead.

#### **HALF TIME**

**ALRESFORD RFC 15-3 SOUTHAMPTON**

The second period Southampton came flying out the blocks which seemed to catch ARFC out and in the 45th minute a SRFC penalty clawed backed another 3 points.

With ARFC now off the pace, 3 minutes later, SRFC were awarded another penalty which reduced the lead to 6 points.

After a couple more scares ARFC finally found their form and resilience by not letting SRFC out of their 22 for the final 15 minutes. ARFC's togetherness and desire eventually broke a strong SRFC defence and saw Greg touchdown with 2 minutes remaining which was then brilliantly converted by Bertie Watley.

A tough game and credit to Southampton but also well lead from the front from the again impressive captain Sam Batho who made a point to the players after the game that winning easily against some teams is one thing but when your backs are against the wall shows much more. Well done to all involved.

#### **FINAL SCORE**

**ALRESFORD RFC 22-9 SOUTHAMPTON**

**MAN OF THE MATCH: JACK MEAKINS**