

Isle of Wight 2nd XV vs Alresford 2nd XV

15th October 2016

Match Report

Alresford 2nd XV travelled to The IoW club on Saturday afternoon having won their previous 4 games.

18 players and 2 supporters caught the Midday Ferry and arrived at The IoW pitch.

Word must have spread around the Island of our unbeaten start to the season as it was apparent we were playing a much stronger opposition than their previous results suggested.

As usual we didn't start well and soon found ourselves 20-0 down within 20mins. In true Alresford style we rallied and got on the scoreboard with a well taken Bertie Penalty. IoW came back and scored another 7 points at half time to leave us 27-3 down.

By this time Bert had struck the post with another kick at goal and Aiden had gone off injured.

A Re-shuffle saw Ady go from 10 to 9 and Bert slot in at 10.

The 2nd half was all Alresford with the home side only entering our 22 with long re-starts.

We camped inside the opponents 10 and were rewarded with another kick at goal which Bert slotted over.

The forwards (well marshalled by Russ) were now all over the opposition at lineout time and in the loose. The IoW were giving away far too many penalties and after Bert had struck the post with another attempt Ady stepped up with a 3 pointer. 27-9

What happened in the last 15 mins shows how far the two's have come since summer training. We've bought into the game plan and on a weekly basis are rewarded with tries.

Try nos 1; we stole their lineout ball on the 10m line, Ady shipped it out to Ryan who found himself at first receiver. Martin Strong ran the most superb dummy line which gave Ryan 2 men to beat which he duly did popping the ball down in the corner. Bert converted his toughest kick of the day to make it 27-16

Try nos 2; This had been waiting to happen all afternoon, The IoW hooker had been over throwing to his shortened lineout. Ady anticipated the overthrow, caught the ball just outside their 22m and set off. The IoW backline stood mesmerised as Ady (what I mean is they didn't think I could run that far, nor did I but I just about got there) made the journey into the 22. Before he knew it the try line was begging and Ady dived in for another try. Bert converted to make it 27-23.

Alresford gathered the re-start and went for the killer blow only to be denied by a lineout steel by the IoW's mom (nos 6)

A credible score line to travel home with washed down with a couple of pints and a bottle of Port supplied by the IoW.

Thanks must go to all who travelled especially Justin, James Mulhill & Gary who were playing their first & second games of the Season.

This was a true test for the strength in depth at our wonderful club. It is no surprise that it took a very strong opposition to defeat us.

We should take this as a compliment with Russ nearly 60, Ady 50, 4 others in their 40's & a couple of teenagers too that sides are worried about playing us.

Author: Ady Cobb