

Match Report
Alresford vs Fareham
17th March 2018

With the snow falling mid-morning as if just to remind us all that this was a rearranged fixture from the first scheduled game, and after a few intense phone calls, the call was to play this fixture. It is very difficult to make a judgement 4 hours before a kick off, because who knows what the weather will bring. Certainly not the Met office!!

Credit to both sides, who decided that if the football goes ahead, so do we!

On a bitterly cold afternoon, Fareham Heathens started stronger and in the 4th minute, touched down in the corner which was converted. **ARFC 0 - 7 Fareham Heathens**

From purely a spectator's point of view, this match reporter began seeing something different with the boys from recent weeks, and Fareham taking the lead didn't worry me too much. Within 10 minutes, with our pack dominating everything heads down, Billy keeps the momentum, and releases the returning Shaun who touches down. The ever reliable Ted slots. **ARFC 7 - 7 FH**

In a very evenly contested first half, Fareham nudge ahead with a kicked penalty. **ARFC 7 - 10 FH**

With ARFC very much on the front foot, Ryan Cooper punched a massive whole in FH defence. Billy Lovegrove collected, supported by the might impressive Tom Andrews, who off loaded for Guns to touch down. **ARFC 12 - 10**

With the returning Batho, who seemed to have bought a new pair of legs with him, what a run that was, and Shaun hitting everything, we looked good, only to concede a penalty, which FH took full advantage of.

Half Time: ARFC 12 - 13 FH

With James Airey off due to injury, and Shem hobbling back on, although we were the better side, we were very aware that all this hard work might not be enough. Not a bit of it, straight from the restart ARFC were back at FH. Our pack totally dominating any forwards issues, and from our forwards ascendancy, Jake scored. **ARFC 17 - 13 FH**

It was about this point that my biro and fingers called it a day on the coldness front!

The remainder of the game was a credit to our boys. Fareham, who never stopped playing, and who only once crept into our half was great to see. Their defensive work and attitude is a credit to them.

However, with the boys talking and Billy talking and not punching, and Tom Andrews putting in such a shift, the boys finished the match with a kicked penalty after much offensive work.

FINAL SCORE: ARFC 20 - 13 FAREHAM HEATHENS

Man of the Match: Tom Andrews

(really sorry there is no team sheet but my pen seriously had the arse about the weather)

Scotty, I'll get frost bitten every week to see a performance like that!! Really so proud and pleased for everyone.