

OGRFC vs Merton RFC

Saturday 21st February 2015, St Georges Weybridge

On Saturday 21st March OGRFC took on Merton on the back of a very disappointing cup exit to Reigate last weekend. Merton have been on a terrific run of form themselves, reaching the Surrey Bowl Final and climbing up the Surrey 3 table so a mouth-watering clash was expected. A win would see OGRFC promoted and keep the pressure on Worth Old Boys at the top of the league.

Merton arrived and were everything that we had expected - a very big set of lads! A physical battle was expected and this most certainly proved to be the case. In the opening exchanges Merton were able to secure a line out in the OGs 22 and rumble over the line with a driving maul. A warning shot had been fired.

Chris Hanson was able to respond with a penalty in windy conditions, followed by a converted try where he finished off a good backs move to score under the posts so give OGs the lead. Just before half time Merton were able to score another try from a rolling maul which left the game evenly balanced moving into the second half, with the opposition managing to stifle the talented OGs backs.

Early in the second half Chris Hanson slotted another 3 points which was soon followed by a Merton try, 13-17 the game stood. It would remain this way for much of the second half, with the OGs showing tremendous bravery to front up to a much bigger Merton side who kept the ball tight, rarely moving it outside the inside centre.

OGRFC withstood a huge amount of pressure inside their own 22, with Sean Fanning making two vital turnovers towards the end of the game to stop Merton who were knocking very hard on the door. The scrum and defensive line held superbly well to stop Merton scoring and taking the game and possibly league title away from the OGs.

Following this period of huge pressure the OGs were able to clear their lines and move into the Merton half and look for a try which would surely win them the game.

After winning a penalty in the Merton half, fly half Toby Marshall, enjoying another terrific game at 10, nudged the ball into the Merton 22 for an attacking line out. The impressive Dan Simon hit his man and the boys rumbled the ball up. Eventually the maul was brought to a halt and after a couple of phases, Harry Samuels spotted a half gap and powered through the defence and over the line to score under the posts. Chris added the extras to take his haul for the day to 15 and the scores to 20-17.

The game then seemed to last for another 40 minutes as the boys looked to hold out for massive win. The final whistle eventually came when Mike Tierney, who had put in a gutsy performance in the front row stepping in last minute, kicked the ball out of play to end the game. A collective sigh of relief was felt as the win was secured, what a massive win for the club!

A huge thank you to all of those that came to support in the baltic conditions, whilst it wasn't the prettiest game ever it was certainly a performance that showed real heart and desire. With just two games to play, OGRFC now travel to Reeds Weybridge next Saturday to play Worth Old Boys at 3pm. Worth sit one point ahead of OGRFC and next weekend is setup to be a winner takes all clash. All support will be hugely appreciated.

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