

## OGRFC vs Old Rutlishians RFC

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015, St Georges Weybridge

Waking up on a Saturday morning to the sight of snow settled on the ground is not the joyous thing it is at Christmas time for players and supporters alike. It means one thing, a cold and miserable day for rugby! In Baltic conditions on the last day of January, OGRFC took on Old Ruts at the College looking to keep the pressure on league leaders Worth Old Boys. By kick off, the ground was in perfect condition given the recent weather and once again is a true testament to all the ground staff at the College who were are very grateful to.

With a cold wind into their faces in the first half, OGRFC started the game as they had done two weeks ago, with some basic errors across the park and failing to really get into any rhythm of play. Scrum time was again a positive in tricky conditions against a large pack, with Lincoln University student **Lex Powell** making a cross country round trip to help out an OGs side that is suffering from several injuries / availability issues. It was great to see, however, **Mike Ford** returning from a few months out and **Ali Stanley** back into the second row for the first time in 2015.

With a 10/12/13 combination, in **Chris Hanson**, **Eoghan Sweeney** and **Aidan Lowes**, that had reached the Daily Mail Final all those years ago, it was no surprise that the first try came from some good work from this partnership. Lowes initially broke through the line, before setting up a ruck for **Ben Wheeler** to punch a hole in the opposition defence. After recycling the ball inside the opposition 22, Hanson was on the end of a decent move to see OGs move 5-0.

The second try for OGRFC was the best of the day and it came on the stroke of half time. After a well-rehearsed backs move around the half way line put Lowes through another gap, OGRFC slowly and carefully worked a number of phases, putting into practice things that they have been talking about all season, to work their way into the Old Ruts 22. Another forward drive allowed quick ball to be generated for the backs which resulted in Lowes scoring a terrific team try. 10-0 HT.

Early in the second half, after well worked move off the base of the scrum on the half way line involving Captain **Luke Buckingham**, **Alex Willis** and **Francesco Grosso**, OGRFC were able to win a lineout 15 metres away from the opposition line. After finding his man at the line out, **Tom Hickey** marshalled the pack towards the line, rumbling over from an impressive distance out showing great control and composure. Hanson added the extras, 17-0.

The next period of the game was very scrappy, with neither side causing much of a threat and defences standing resolute, combined with continual breaks in play for infringements which meant the game lost any fluidity. OGRFC were desperate to get the 4<sup>th</sup> try and secure an additional bonus point.

Team clown **Harry Samuels**, who turned up with no socks or boots and did not take part in the warm up other than to practice his now infamous sidestep by himself, was to provide the moment of brilliance to win his side the bonus point. After a mix up at their scrum, Harry was able to pick up the loose ball before beating two defenders with his well-rehearsed step to score under the posts. 24-0 FT.

A huge thank you to all those that braved the freezing weather to support. Next up, OGRFC take on Streatham Croydon away which is always a tricky and feisty encounter. Following that, we are back in Cup action, taking on Reeds Weybridge in Whitely Village on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February. The most important event taking place that day.

OGRFC is proudly sponsored by Trailfinders

