

Worth Old Boys - Saturday 3rd October 2015, Whiteley Village

The OG's came into this game on the back of a string of good performances, most notably last week's outstanding result against Old Caterhamians, who on paper should be one of the strongest opposition teams OG's come up against. The weather was set fair and with the OG's playing down a considerable slope in the first half, the game got underway.

The OG's set off at a cracking pace and the tone seemed to be set in the first play of the game when Adam Infante put in a bone crunching tackle on his opposite man. A great marker was set down. Samuels, Hambleton, Sweeney and Lowes all looked in the mood and some good handling and great recycling saw the first OG's try with Hickey continuing his scoring form. From wide out, Hanson slotted the extras handsomely, 7-0.

What followed was classic OG's rugby; swift hands, forwards and backs combining for a peach of a try, finished off by the lively Grosso. Under the sticks so easy for Hanson, 14-0, 10 minutes gone.

Soon after, following more good interplay from the whole side, we won a lineout on their 5 metre lines. Great drills and good composure allowed Hickey to burst through for his second of the day, OG's 3rd. Again from wide out, Hanson expertly converted, 21-0 after just 15 minutes.

What followed is something of a mystery to this scribe. The OG's were better in every position on the park but as result of some poor decision making, a lack of composure and very critically a very different interpretation of the breakdown area between the OG's and the ref, the game stuttered and OG's lost their way. Continually getting pinged at the contact area eventually saw Charlie Irons see yellow, to his and other onlookers' bewilderment. With the OG's down to 14 men and an ever increasing penalty count, the home side struck back with a well worked move which saw their centre go in under the sticks. 21-7.

A nasty injury to Percival, making his much anticipated league debut, and with Irons on the sidelines meant the half ended on a difficult note. A game the OG's should have buried was far from over.

The OG's started the second half strongly, playing up the slope. Buckingham, Deal, Tavares and making his first start, Matt Dawson were all evident in both defence and attack and in the 48th minute Infante went over for his first and OG's 4th score. A great finish to a great move. Unfortunately Infante received a yellow card for reacting to getting landed on in the act of scoring, a very harsh yellow card for the winger again reduced OGRFC to 14 men.

Willis joined the fray with 20 to go and helped create a sense of composure that was required to close the game out. Play of the half, an outstanding

cover tackle by Matt Dawson on the touchline to stop their charging winger, capped off a fine debut. The high tackle conceded for this was questionable to say the least.

Some poor decision making late on saw OG's waste two or three opportunities to score and trying to run from deep uphill again, kept Worth unnecessarily in the game.

The game finished with a sense of job half done. Pinged off the park and a lack of composure made, what should have been a comfortable win, a real struggle. In the tight games, such indiscipline and lack of clear thinking will be costly. 5 points in the bag, but lots of areas to work on. Special mention to Dawson and Tierney, who both put in a great shift. **Next up for OGRFC is a home fixture against Economicals, on Saturday 10th October. Kick-off is at 2.30pm. As always any support is hugely appreciated.**