

MATCH REPORT



46 - 12



And so we moved on to our next League match against our local rivals from up the road. It was a fitting date to play being remembrance Sunday as it takes some deep thinking to remember the last time we played them at home (2012 if you must know !)

The players had earmarked this game as the one that they wanted to win more than any other – so many reasons for each of them individually and also for some of the coaches. Me I can think of nothing better.

And so to the match – we took to the field playing into a fairly strong wind but still started the brighter. Camped in the Southend half it looked inevitable we would score and rather fittingly it was ex-southend player Baily that popped over for the first try – he looked like he enjoyed it.

The next 10-15 minutes continued the same with South unable to get out of their own half . After a good line out the ball moved across and Charlie appeared to extend our lead only for the ref to announce it was not grounded. With no South African TMO available we had to let that one go !

South came back into the game through their forwards and a combination of poor judgement and even poorer tackling saw them go in under the posts to take the lead. Less than 5 mins later a carbon copy move saw them extend the lead.

West regrouped and pushed back into the South 22 but again needless handling errors allowed South to clear their lines . After several penalties they moved down the pitch but could not convert .

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A lot of headshaking from the Manager at how we had been the better side and yet again were behind – but Coach Ziggy assured me he had it in hand and I duly left him and the others to the HT team talk – probably a good idea !

The second half and West again started brightly and with plenty of movement out wide it was an easy run in for Tyrese to kick start our second half. Still behind but with the wind behind us and confidence growing by the minute it would not be a normal Sunday if Charlie B did not get on the score sheet which he duly did. The tactics were now simple – move it out as quick as possible – Ben scored the try to put the first bit of daylight between the two teams. There was only one winner from this point it was just a matter of how many. A superb back line move finished off by Owen was followed by a second for Charlie B . Not to be outdone Owen ran in from about 60 yards . As the game came towards an end it seemed as if one of the forwards might actually get on the scoresheet but they did the right thing 5 yards out with one to beat and allowed Tyrese the easiest of tries to end the half on a high.

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Whilst im still not sure how a team loses one half 5-12 and wins the second 41 – 0 - I couldn't care too much it was a joy to watch.

Immensely proud of the players for a truly outstanding performance that's been a few years in the making and should give the players more belief and confidence going into future games.

Great team spirit, great sportsmanship even in the face of adversity and a great bunch of lads playing for each and every one of their fellow players – they are exactly what a rugby team should be and I hope they continue for many years to come !

For those of you reading this from other clubs you know how long we have waited for the inevitable tide to turn and today was the day – you also know how much it meant to me. Thank you for your kind words .