

Lowestoft and Yarmouth Rugby Football Club



1st XV Match Report 12 September 2009

LOWESTOFT & YARMOUTH – 29
WANSTEAD – 11

L&Y kicked off their first campaign in the London Leagues for eight years with a comprehensive home victory over fellow Division 3NE new boys Wanstead, last years winners of Essex One. A powerful performance by the L&Y eight, exemplified by young debutant and man of the Match Callum Cashman on the flank, laid the foundations for the four-try win. Another debutant, Kiwi flyhalf Chez Bloxham, added three conversions and a penalty, while his kicking out of hand and careful shepherding of young centres Steve Adams and Matt Howell were instrumental in keeping L&Y ahead of the game.

L&Y's massive front row started the game with a huge scrummage, but despite their effort L&Y earned the wrath of the referee for the first 15 minutes, conceding several penalties, one kicked by Wanstead 10 Paul Casey. The lighter Wanstead team were trying to throw the ball around at every opportunity but L&Y's defence matched everything they faced. One Wanstead break down the left was intercepted by hooker Wayne Nixon, and from the breakdown quick ball allowed Bloxham and Howell to release winger Daniel Boardley on a scorching 40m run into the Wanstead 22. He drew a fine tackle from their fullback only for scrum half Josh Fewkes to quickly feed Cashman to crash over on his debut. Bloxham converted, but soon after Casey pulled back another penalty to keep the visitors in touch.

An L&Y lineout near the Wanstead 22 led to the next try after a driving maul was followed by a powerful burst from Jake Titterington whose unload allowed No.8 and captain Marc Thomas to continue and drive over the line. Bloxham again converted then added a penalty after a superb 60m break from the nuggety Adams straight through the centre when his neat pickup of a wayward pass confused the first line of defence and only a high tackle could prevent him going all the way.

L&Y put the result to bed in the first 15 minutes of the second half with two fine tries, and then spent the remainder of the game soaking up wave after wave of Wanstead's frantic attacks. Simon Coleman stole a lineout near halfway and Fewkes broke into midfield from the tail, after which Titterington's further charge, and delightful pop to Thomas, allowed the opportunity to spin left to Bloxham and good passing sent Adams scudding over for a deserved score. Wanstead were a determined team, making a couple of dangerous breaks only for both Boardley and fullback Myles McAlone to make a brace of fine one-on-one tackles. It was good defensive pressure on another Wanstead attack that led to Howell intercepting inside his 22 with a clear field ahead. With fading legs, he was caught with only five metres to go, but great support from Chris Howe and Russ Wilkinson freed the ball for Fewkes to again set Thomas over for his second try.

Despite some heroic tackling throughout the side, Wanstead did eventually break the tiring L&Y defence in the dying minutes after tighthead Scott Ross was driven over in a maul for a consolation try.

Team: Bristo, Nixon, Titterington, Coleman, Wilkinson, Howe, Cashman, Thomas, Fewkes, Bloxham, Boardley, Adams, Howell, Taylor Crisp, McAlone
Bench: Curtis (on for Howe), Powles (on for Cashman), Castleton (on for Taylor Crisp)

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