

Lowestoft and Yarmouth Rugby Football Club



1st XV Match Report 19 September 2009

BECCLES – 27
LOWESTOFT & YARMOUTH – 3

In the clash of Waveney's rugby rivals, Beccles retained the bragging rights over L&Y with a hard-earned but comprehensive victory at their Beef Meadow stronghold. Beccles played the vast majority of the rugby, and their experience at this level led them to play a wider game on a crushingly hot day, hoping the larger L&Y pack would eventually tire. Where in the Eastern Counties league last year, other teams failed in that tactic, Beccles had the fitness, speed and skill to execute their game plan, forcing L&Y to rush their own game and make far too many mistakes and poor decisions to challenge effectively.

The first 30 minutes were even honours, with L&Y's Chez Bloxham cancelling out Luke Wades opening penalty. A superb long touch kick from Beccles' Australian fullback Dylan Rowney took play from his 22 well into the L&Y 22, and from the lineout, Beccles turned over the ball, made a couple of charges infield and lock Paul Wilson managed to rumble over for Wade to convert easily. L&Y's front five marginally had the best of the scrums and were sharing the lineouts, but too often the team shunned the wide spaces where tough young centres, Steve Adams and Matt Howell showed signs of being able to trouble their more experienced counterparts. While the L&Y back three of Tom Castleton, Myles McAlone and especially Daniel Boardley were tackling everything Beccles ran at them, they barely received a pass to attack with, relying instead on having to run back kicks from the opposition. L&Y's scrambling defence stifled a number of dangerous attacks and the back row of Lewis Davey, Chris Howe and Marc Thomas all made notable tackles, but a debatable high tackle from Boardley eventually allowed Wade to give Beccles a 13-3 halftime lead.

The third quarter was about as dour as rugby gets, with some pernicky decisions by the referee and a lack of ambition from both sides. By now L&Y were getting more reward out of driving the ball through the forwards, but some fine diagonal kicks from Wade pinned them back. From a lineout on halfway Beccles made a half-break, Wade continued in support through midfield and after a couple of neat offloads, scrumhalf Marcus Sale added their second try for Wade to convert. With the result effectively decided, L&Y set about salvaging some pride and spent the final period camped on the Beccles line. Stephen Powles, Ben McElroy and James Laurie all came on, and twice the visitors drove scrums over the line only to be foiled by determined defence. With the final play of the game, Bloxham set Adams charging into the Beccles midfield only for him to spill the ball out of the tackle. Beccles hacked the ball out of their 22, Rowney got a foot to it before McAlone could cover and then the Aussie showed his pace to beat Boardley to the touchdown under the L&Y posts. Wade ended the game with the conversion.

*L&Y team: Bristo, Woodhouse, Titterington, Coleman, Wilkinson, Howe, Davey,
Thomas, Fewkes, Bloxham, Boardley, Adams, Howell, Castleton, McAlone
Bench: Powles (on for Davey), McElroy (on for Bristo), Laurie (on for Castleton)*

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