

Lowestoft and Yarmouth Rugby Football Club



1st XV Match Report 19 December 2009

LOWESTOFT & YARMOUTH - 5
BECCLES – 37

Beccles took the points in the Waveney Valley derby for the second time this season and reinforced their senior ranking and league favourite status by romping to victory against L&Y and taking away a 30 month unbeaten home record in the process. As with most good teams, Beccles made their own luck and pounced on every opportunity to score. L&Y made much more of a contest than the scoreline suggested but their more ponderous approach made hard work of breaching the determined Beccles defence whereas, despite conceding large portions of territory and possession, every time Beccles seemed to attack, they scored either through outstanding pace, or by capitalising on the luck of the bounce. It was a harsh lesson L&Y must learn before they have any chance of challenging for league honours.

A breakdown infringement after 3 minutes gave Beccles man-of-the-match Luke Wade the chance to kick the first three of his 17-point haul early on. Shortly after, he was given space out on the left wing but, as the L&Y defence closed him down, he chipped into midfield then miraculously appeared out a of melee of players to run in the softest of tries under the posts. This defensive lack of communication spurred L&Y into a period of dominance but their pick-and-drives did little to challenge the defence in open play. A couple of loose kicks allowed Beccles fullback Dylan Rowney to stretch his outstandingly quick legs, but the defence held firm particularly Steve Adams in the centre and Josh Fewkes and Kristan Taylor Crisp on the wings. L&Y captain and No8 Marc Thomas had an outstanding game and along with Chris Howe and Steve Powles was at the heart of every decent L&Y surge. However they were being out-thought by the more experienced visitors. The traditional L&Y strength in the scrummage was being negated by the referee's lack of knowledge and Beccles wisely took full advantage by standing up at every scrum and cleverly stopping the total dominance of Jake Titterington, Richard Bristo and Wayne Nixon. It wasn't until the 25th minute that L&Y finally got a maul rolling and took it a full 40 metres to the Beccles line only to be foiled by another breakdown infringement. They couldn't press home the advantage, and when Rowney got possession of the ball inside his 22 he made a devastating arcing burst around the L&Y defence and into the home half. A delightful overhead inside pass to the supporting Sam Williamson foxed his shadowing defenders and the Kiwi's step back outside took him clear to score a quite brilliant try in the corner. Wade converted and after 35 minutes with very little possession Beccles already had the game won. L&Y gamely continued their determined onslaught and another maul down the right gave Tom Castleton and Scott Nelson the chance to send Myles McAlone bursting through the Beccles midfield. Rowney caught him on the line but a quick release to Brad Sutherland saw the fullback over the line and showed what L&Y could do with quicker use of their possession.

L&Y knew if they played smarter, they had a chance, and the third quarter was all theirs again in terms of possession and territory as they penned Beccles into the left corner of their 22. A Stuart Murray clearance kick down the line was cleverly kept in play by Sutherland, however the fullback promptly passed the ball straight to the charging Williamson for the Kiwi centre to gratefully accept an easy second score. L&Y were thoroughly down-hearted but again they came back into the attacking left corner and tried unsuccessfully to drive their lineout over the Beccles whitewash. On 70 minutes Beccles stole an L&Y lineout on their 22, and with a drive and a penalty clearance downfield they totally broke the home teams' resistance and ruthlessly closed in for the kill. First they showed L&Y how to score from a 5m scrum when Geyser broke from no8 and popped to Rowney for a deserved flop over the line. Wade added another penalty, then in the final minutes the rotund centre came right from a breakdown, kicked into space on the wing where Rowney

unsurprisingly won the race to the bouncing ball and tapped inside for captain Stuart Murray to collect, jog over and seal a convincing, if lopsided, scoreline.

Team: Bristo (McElroy), Nixon, Titterington, Coleman (Oakes), Wilkinson, Powles, Howe, Thomas, Castleton, Nelson, Fewkes (Boardley), Adams, McAlone, Taylor Crisp, Sutherland

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