

Lowestoft and Yarmouth Rugby Football Club



1st XV Match Report 26 September 2009

LOWESTOFT & YARMOUTH – 32
BILLERICAY – 10

After last week's dire performance at Beccles, L&Y got back to winning ways with a confident 15-man display at home to Billericay. The visitors big pack destroyed Wymondham last week but got little change out of the L&Y eight who all upped their performance and dominated the set pieces and breakdowns all game. A great start and two scoring spells just before and after halftime took L&Y out of sight and, despite some underhand tactics and determined attacks in the last 20 minutes, the feisty Essex side didn't have the firepower to break back.

With Scott Nelson back in the centres and Josh Fewkes having a vastly improved game at scrum half, kiwi flyhalf Chez Bloxham had the ball and confidence to take control of the game right from the start. Some superb ball retention, quick ball and sharp passing stunned Billericay who conceded a penalty for Bloxham to convert after 8 minutes. Five minutes later hooker Chris Howe thudded into midfield on a hit-up, quick recycling left allowed Nelson to throw a long pass to Bloxham who straightened the line and gave Myles McAlone the chance to put young winger Daniel Boardley diving into the corner for a spectacular first try. With L&Y having played all the rugby so far, Billericay suddenly produced something out of nothing. A break right was stopped by a fine tackle from Boardley, but the ball came back left and the Essex centre made two simple dummies which opened the way to the posts for a simple conversion. L&Y were stunned off the boil and Billericay took full advantage, pressuring the L&Y line and forcing a successful penalty for holding-on directly in front of the sticks.

After a few stern words and the replacement of the injured Howe with Jake Titterington in the front row, L&Y produced a massive scrummage to fold Billericay over their own ball and produce a penalty on halfway. Bloxham kicked to the corner where Russ Wilkinson took a clean catch and the forwards drove for the line. The defence all covered the openside and Fewkes had a clear run around the blindside for a simple try. Just before the break, Nelson stole a turnover in midfield, and Fewkes kicked high into right hand corner for the chasing Steve Adams and Matt Howell to cause havoc in the defence where Howell scooped the ball over the line, Bloxham converting.

The initial period of the second half was even, with flankers Steve Powles and Ben McElroy noticeable in the loose for L&Y. A long clearance from Billericay was taken beautifully on the run by fullback and man-of-the-match McAlone, who set Bloxham jinking through the line and Boardley superbly finished wide out from 40 metres. Within a few minutes almost the same happened again, when this time Billericay's clearance kick ricocheted into McAlone's arms and he scorched

through himself nearer the posts for Bloxham to convert. The final 20 minutes served to remind L&Y that every game they play in this league will be a tough physical encounter. Despite losing Simon Coleman to injury and his replacement Kristen Taylor-Crisp to the sin-bin, moving Powles to hooker and prop Richard Bristo back to lock, they continued to drive the scrums backwards and deny the visitors any consolation.

Team: Nixon, Howe, Bristo, Coleman, Wilkinson, Powles, McElroy, Thomas (c), Fewkes, Bloxham, Howell, Nelson, Adams, Boardley, McAlone
Bench: Castleton (DNP), Taylor-Crisp (on for Coleman), Titterington (on for Howe)

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