

Lowestoft and Yarmouth Rugby Football Club



1st XV Match Report 27 February 2010

BILLERICAY - 36

LOWESTOFT & YARMOUTH - 3

With no fears of either relegation or promotion to contend with, L&Y charitably decided to help out their struggling Essex opponents by making ten changes to their team and ensuring everyone's minds were away from the task of winning and more on watching the England International and having a good time on the coach trip home. Luckily for all four travelling fans, the tactics worked perfectly and they were able to spend a wintery Saturday delighting in L&Y's worst performance of the season, and watching Billericay inflict a thoroughly dogged and powerful defeat on a team six places above them.

Typically L&Y started as if their plan hadn't sunk in, and by stringing together several phases of play they began to put pressure on the home side. Props Graeme Newton and Lee Protheroe were holding their own in the set piece, Simon Coleman was winning some lineout ball and 18-year old debutant lock Adam Woodruff was charging about impressively. This platform enabled the back row of Lewis Davey, Steve Powles and captain Marc Thomas to look quite good, although it seemed the No.8 leader was sticking to the plan and only allowing scrumhalf Tom Castleton to have the ball once he was sure the Billericay defence could adequately cover any hope of a L&Y backs move. A break in midfield by Scott Nelson was snuffed out when he ran into 5 defenders but miraculously he earned a penalty 5 metres in front of the posts which Davey tried desperately to miss but unfortunately hooked inside the left post.

A stern talking to resulted in L&Y then bravely capitulating in every department. Nelson made up for his earlier incision by deftly telegraphing a gaping hole in the L&Y midfield for the Billericay centre to race through and under the posts for their first try, before sacrificing himself for ten minutes by nearly decapitating the try scorer in the next play. Protheroe decided that his team-mates were doing enough defending of the driven maul so made way for Richard Bristo to help usher Billericay forwards. This paid off handsomely at the end of the half when an Essex lineout was driven a full 20 metres over the L&Y line, and such was the success that within 15 minutes of the restart Billericay had added another couple of driven scores to their tally. By this time, L&Y were delighted with their tactics and were looking for the Billericay pack to continue their dominance, however the muddy pitch and sloping ground were obviously fatiguing the larger pack, so L&Y hooker Chris Howe gamely rolled his ankle to allow Wayne Hall a first start in the 1stXV. However, Hall obviously struggled to cope with the surrender because he soon offered himself to four sets of stamping boots, allowing L&Y's third front row replacement, 54-year old legend Simon Titterington to prove his undoubted lack of fitness.

With all this fresh blood the visitors were in danger of parity, so L&Y decided to use what slow ball they had to release their backs under pressure. This worked perfectly with a great

turnover and breakaway try from the Billericay replacement scrum half, and another similar score from the no.8, cor-blimey lets 'av a rubber duck! As the seconds ticked away, L&Y went all out for a final score and when Matt Jary threw a lazy 30 yard pass into his opposite numbers awaiting arms all Billericay had to do was run 60 metres with a four man overlap to score. Unfortunately fullback Dan Boardley and the idle Lewis Davey completely confused the attack with some bumbling defence and a forward pass brought on the end of the match. Just to round off a poor day all round, England lost at Twickenham and everyone fell asleep on the coach.

L&Y : Newton, Howe (Hall (Titterington)), Protheroe (Bristo), Woodrow, Coleman, Powles, Davey, Thomas (c), Castleton, Jary, Lewis, Nelson, Adams, Howell, Boardley

PS. Yes I am taking the mick!

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