

Lowestoft and Yarmouth Rugby Football Club



1st XV Match Report 30 January 2010

LOWESTOFT & YARMOUTH – 29
WYMONDHAM – 12

L&Y exacted revenge for their earlier away defeat to Wymondham with a thoroughly dominating defeat on a surprisingly good surface of fluffy snow at Gunton Park. Director of rugby, and the day's man-of-the-match, Scott Nelson was cheered by what he described as L&Y's most complete and consistent win of the season. Indeed, L&Y started well and, rarely for them, maintained the pressure and control for almost the entire match, scoring five tries to two, keeping possession for almost 80% of the game and only conceding territory for a 10-minute spell late in the second half. Saying that, Wymondham made the match a true contest, causing the huge L&Y front row several problems, sniping well in the back-row, and bravely coming back into the game after 30 minutes despite only two attacking chances.

L&Y started well with a charge from 45-year old lock Russ Wilkinson, but despite keeping possession they found themselves back inside their own half after some good pressure defence from the visitors. From a scrum Nelson dinked a wonderfully weighted chip 20 yards over the advancing defence for speeding centre Myles McAlone to gather in full flight, round the winger and fullback and finish brilliantly on the right. With the L&Y monopolising possession and controlling their driving play impeccably, young scrum half Tom Castleton was allowed his best game in a 1stXV shirt and gave Nelson an armchair ride at flyhalf. A drive from the L&Y pack took play from just inside the visitors half to only 5m out, bursts from Jake Titterington, Marc Thomas and McAlone forced a penalty near the posts, and when captain and no.8 Thomas nominated a scrum, his pick-and-go allowed flanker Lewis Davey to force his way over the line. Davey missed his second attempt to convert and shortly afterwards Nelson missed a penalty attempt following a clean break from prop Wayne Nixon.

Wymondham forced a turnover near midfield and when fly half Tom Wilson launched a huge garryowen into the L&Y 22, blatantly offside pressure caused L&Y fullback Josh Fewkes to spill the ball and Wilson followed through to scoop up and score before adding the conversion. With their possession L&Y should have been out of sight, but they kept their heads and Nelson calmly used every opportunity to pin Wymondham back with a varied kicking game. It was from a forced lineout inside the visitors 22 that Steve Adams took the ball into midfield, before Titterington burst back down the blindside sucking in enough defenders for Castleton to open out again and give Nelson the space to barge over by the posts. Davey got the kick and L&Y deservedly led 17-7 at the break.

The second half was a more turgid affair as the temperature dropped and the legs became tired. The visitors tried desperately to kick for some territory but the young L&Y back three of Fewkes, Daniel Boardley and Matt Howell dropped deep and coped admirably, keeping play inside the Wymondham 22. Some dogged defence kept the home team out and when an attack involving some superb handling was thwarted wide on the right, a break blind from the scrum by Nelson gave hooker Chris Howe the chance to follow up and be forced over. With around 15 minutes left, Wymondham finally earned some continuous possession and mounted their best attacks, forcing some terrific last-ditch defence on the L&Y line. With substitutions all around, the Reds finally found the space to squeeze winger Alex Brusser into the far left corner and leave Wilson with too hard a kick. In the final minutes, L&Y went back to their previous game, dominating possession and getting Nelson to kick into the corner. From a defensive line-out excellent pressure from Ryan Oakes forced Wilson to kick straight to Steve Powles inside the goal area, who gratefully touched then cheekily launched the conversion over the posts.

*L&Y team: Nixon, Howe, Titterington, Coleman, Wilkinson, Powles, Davey, Thomas (C), Castleton, Nelson, Boardley, Adams, McAlone, Howell, Fewkes
Bench: Oakes (for Davey), Jary, McElroy*

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