

Match Report

Ophir 14 Academy 10

We had started the season well – Top of the League...; but we've had a few injuries recently; some folks on holiday; some weeks without a game. However, we looked at this fixture as tough, but "winnable", and in addition, we had a new recruit on display – Gareth Douglas in the Engine Room: Welcome!

What an afternoon, 3-4 degrees, howling wind, p---ing rain, 2 inches of mud on Ophir's fine pitch. Our start matched the weather – wick, and got worse. We did not really compete fully with Ophir from the off - into a gale, we failed to kick for position, decision making was sometimes strange, and our line out was useless. Therefore we struggled – pinned in our 22 and unable to get out. By 9 mins we were 0 -3 down, and by 21 mins we were 0 – 8 down when our defence opened up like the Red Sea, when some people didn't fancy a tackle.....

Finally, in the last few minutes of the first half, we got out of our half and Gideon v R banged home a pen: 3- 8 at half time.

Among the Jelly Babies and moaning, we agreed that the second half needed a vastly improved performance and, as we couldn't kick, or win line outs, we'd have to drive Ophir off the pitch.

Believe it or not, that's how we started off – fantastic, and what do you know, Jamesy S drove over the line from 5m with GvR converting: 10 – 8 on 45mins and we're in business! Maybe not. Some folks obviously thought that was enough for the day and we gradually slipped back into the first half standard – we didn't front up to an aggressive Ophir team.

By 49 mins Ophir scored again, 10 – 11. Even when the ref finally binned the Ophir #15 for one of the many high/late tackles of the day – we still contrived to lose possession and territory, and they scored on 66 mins to finish 10 -14 winners.

What more is there to say? The league table says it all.....Looking at our fixtures between now and Xmas –that's the season boys: Ophir, Lurgan and PSNI all to come before Christmas. Are you up for it? Let's see.....

The Management.....