

Academy 59 - Ophir 7

A big night all round for everyone; 1sts v old friends Ophir, plus 2nds v B'hinch on the adjoining pitch – mid-week Rugby Special??

So far, results and performances were going the way we'd planned and hoped – the next installment had a hint of payback, given the cock up at Ophir before Xmas, plus the "Bull" was back, however, "Slugger" Douglas was out with a bad throat.

From the off, it was obvious that Ophir had been on the "bamboo shoots" as this was a bigger outfit than that faced previously. However, we clearly had an edge, and a clear desire to right old wrongs. We started crisply and got control "early doors". We moved Ophir this way and that, until, on 8mins, we struck for the first time; from a sound scrum, SteveO struck down the middle, bursting the line to feed KD to score, Rory D added the points: 7 – 0.

Ophir didn't really get a chance to recover for the remainder of the half:

- 11 mins; SteveO pounced on a poor clearance kick to take the score to 12 – 0;
- 18 mins; poor execution among the Ophir backs handed Kyle D another score: 19 – 0
- 23 mins; we counter attacked from deep in our half, Rory D shot up the right flank to go 40 m, swerved out then in, lobbing a pass to Ollie "Bookworm" Mort to score: 26 – 0
- 25 mins; direct from the restart we moved the ball from contact out along the line to Normski, who put the "guttie" down to score from 40m, 33 – 0,
- another restart – the Ophir #8, got a bit carried away, hitting Gurt in the air as he got ready to catch the restart – yellow for you big boy!

That was it for us for a while, and we eased off to allow Ophir to get a consolation try on 31 mins, 33 – 7.

We finished the half with another line break midfield, for Rory D to finish off; 38 – 7.

In the second half we rattled in three more scores:

- We hoofed a kick for position deep into the Ophir half on 45 mins, Ollie chased up, as he does week in week out, to force a fumble, grabbed the ball and fed the other D – Graeme: 45 – 7.
- On 48 mins, Rory D intercepted another laboured Ophir back move to run 60m to score, and convert via drop kick: 52 – 7,

The next 20 mins went a bit flat – we didn't execute particularly well, conceded too many penalties, but defended resolutely. On the downside, Ricky P saw yellow after several bouts of fisticuffs, and the "Bull" took a nasty looking knock to the right shoulder – not good news!

Anyway, our last score on 68mins, emphasized the new power of our defence added to our traditional threat out wide, when Ophir battered away through route one, got nowhere, moved the ball wide, screwed up, and Rory D took off up the pitch from

inside our own 22 to score: 59 – 7.

Not much else to add really, other than our PSNI friends saw enough to give them something to ponder.....Next stop Cavan; see you on the magic bus!

Well done to JA and co. against the 'Hinch on the other pitch – 100% tonight!

The Management.....

Try Scorers	
S McCARTHY	1
N CARSON	1
G DOBBIN	1
K DOBBIN	2
O MORT	1
R DRYSDALE	3

Team	
15	GAVIN BRAIDEN
14	RORY DRYSDALE
13	KYLE DOBBIN
12	STEVE MCCARTHY
11	NORMAN CARSON
10	MICHAEL SCOFFIELD
9	OLLIE MORT
1	JAMES MCKAY
2	RICKY PRESS
3	LEE MOODY
4	GRAEME DOBBIN
5	ROBIN RAMSEY
6	GARETH LYNN
7	NEIL SAUNDERS
8	JAMES SAMPSON