

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September**

**Leodesians 3rds 7 Aireborough 2nds 52**

Aire's second team continued their excellent start to the season with a superb display against Leo's 3rd string. Fielding another very strong side as the large squad at Nunroyd provided 3 experienced first teamers. Aire quickly got into their rhythm and dominated the early exchanges with James Greenwood opening the scoring. The build up play leading to the try was excellent with multiple offloads and great support play, its already a contender for try of the season.

As the sun rained down on a blistering hot day Aire continued to force their hand. The forwards took an immediate hold in the scrum including some sterling work in his first full game at hooker by Stuart Williams. Within 10 mins the scoreboard was ticking over again with Greenwood crossing the line for the second time to open up a 12-0 lead for Aire.

With the heat punishing the Leo's team the fitness and speed of the Aire team began to shine through. Huw Williams had a great game at scrum half combining excellently with the backs as well as setting up plenty of crash ball for Mark 'disco boots' Howarth at 8. The next try came from the speed out on the wing of Scott Waterhouse who has started the season with a couple of tries and plenty of gas to worry opponents.

The next points, taking the game to 24-0 came courtesy of a jinking run from Huw Williams as the first half began to slip away for Leo's. Playing at fullback for the first time this season young Will Marlow provided the final blow to Leo's hopes of staying in touch. Marlow's blistering pace and strength on the ball let him punch through for the first of a hatrick of tries in a man of the match performance.

In testament to their dogged determination on such a hot day Leo's made Aire work incredibly hard in the second half to keep a clean sheet. With the scrums uncontested the forward play was all about the breakdown and Leo's started to get the upper hand. Were it not for typically brave and relentless performances from Lester and Booth Leo's would have stolen ball after ball.

With still a third of the game to play Aire were reduced to 14 men after a knee injury to Liam 'arm of god' Godley which brought an unfortunate end to a great game for Godley who had put in some bone crunching tackles. The Aire bench was already depleted after an unfortunate rib injury to Nic 'nice tan' Barber leaving Aire a forward short.

With about 15 mins to go Leo's finally got the try they richly deserved for their persistence on such a draining day. Crossing the line by the posts to take the score to 45-7. Their rich deserts meant nothing to the fierce Aire coach 'Angry' Andy Wray who gave the Aire team the full hairdryer Alex Ferguson style in the in goal area.

The words of encouragement clearly did the trick as Aire cleaned up the problems at the ruck and started to focus again on gameplan. With both sides tiring in the heat it was Aire who finished the days scoring with Pete Robinson running in a pacey try to the far corner. Phil 'the spaniard' Sharpe wrapped up the days play with a conversion taking the score to

52-7 and his personal tally for the day to 12.

Next week see's a tough test as Aire take their unbeaten record to Bradford Salem who always provide a tough physical test.

### **Knareborough 2nds 54-10 Aireborough 3rds**

Aireborough Third Team's season started with a trip to Knareborough where they faced second team opposition. Aire started the game in a positive manner with some good defence and commitment but gradually the atrocious rugby playing conditions and the youthfulness and speed of the opposition's first team players began to overshadow Aire's efforts. A well worked try was scored by Bob Middleton following some good interlinking from man-of-match Nick Stamp, Tony McCaul and Ian Waite-Pullan, but Knareborough played to their strengths, creating quick ball and using their pace in the backs to overwhelm Aire's defence on a regular basis. Some committed last gasp tackling from Andy Watts, Iain Craven and Peter Wilkins stemmed the flow but the superior mobility of Knareborough was always going to be an advantage. Aire's forwards grafted in the scrums with good recovery work at number eight by Chad Smith and latterly, Adrian Wedgewood and high effort levels by Andrew Wood and Adam Windass in the second row. The lineouts were ably thrown in by Neil Gardner with high leaping from Simon Wilson and Smith, assisted by Ian Wilkinson and Kyle Knox. A consolation try was scored near the end of the game by Andy Walker following a good final five minutes but unfortunately it was too little, too late for Aire.