

SATURDAY, 31st October 2009

Bramley-Phoenix II 14-38 Aireborough II

Aireborough's 2nd team, helped out by veteran Jimmy Dolan (a late find on Friday night in the White Cross), travelled the short distance to Bramley with only 16 players after several late withdrawals due to illness. They were confronted by a strong looking Bramley team with 9 subs, but it was Aire who tore into the Bramley side, recycling the ball several times in the first few minutes to enable some slick passing to put in Andy Pickup wide out. Tom Holdsworth stepped up and coolly slotted the conversion, making it look easy. Some strong defence in the centres repelled several Bramley attacks and turn-over ball and some quick passing from James Kinghorn and Simon Sharp allowed Pete Robinson to snipe in at the corner. However Bramley stormed back and after sustained pressure an overlap enabled their winger to go in at the corner.

Strong words from the captain prompted Aire to bounce back and after a strong run from man of the match Liam Godley, a couple of quick rucks gave Aire the overlap which the excellent Andy Pickup took with ease to score. However, disaster struck from the kick-off when Holdsworth was caught dreaming about Fifa 2010 and allowed the ball to bounce kindly into the Bramley winger's hands to score under the posts. 19 -14 to Aire at half time.

The second half began with Aire on the back foot, but fortunately Bramley missed a kickable penalty to narrow the score to a point. After this Aireborough decided to dominate possession and pound the Bramley line. Some great defence kept them out, but it was only a matter of time before Aire scored. They did this through the pack with the excellent Luke Exley going close before Godley stormed through to score with several tacklers on his back. This seemed to be the score that turned the game as some excellent tactical kicking kept Bramley pegged back before captain Kinghorn pounced on a Bramley mistake to widen the score and Pickup surged through to score his hat-trick. A great performance from all 16 players but thanks must go to the front row of Sharp, Dolan and Mark Lester who coped admirably with the fact that there was no recognised hooker in the team.