

Saturday 3rd October 2009

Aireborough 3rds 5 – 42 Old Brodleians 4ths

Aireborough's first challenge was to find a full team and this resulted in a makeshift affair with several people playing out of position in the backs. Throughout the game there was a strong wind which caused havoc in the lineouts but hooker Neil Gardner coped well with this, in addition to some committed, aggressive work in the loose. The forwards made good ground in patches and, marshalled by scrum-half Andy Turnbull, set a solid platform for the backs but Old Brods defended well and countered with some good breaks through Aire's defence and recycled the ball quickly throughout the game. Aire's only score was a try by Simon Wilson, playing at centre which followed a break through Brods' defensive line by number eight, Martyn Helmsley. Aire's backs defended well with some excellent tackling from Wilson and Peter Wilkins in the centres and some outstanding last gasp, try saving defence from man-of-match, Andy Walker. Stuart Howorth was drafted in to fill the boots of injured stand-off Tony McCaul and coped admirably despite being a relative novice in the position. At half time the score was 5-15 to Old Brods, but in the second half Brods gained the advantage of the wind and the slope to put the game out of Aire's reach.