

Penguin's vs Weybridge Vandals – 09/10/04

Final Score 19-75

Disaster looked set as the team assembled on the gravel of the Weybridge Vandal's car park. A small loyal gathering of Penguin's were anticipating whether we had enough players to compete. Eventually 11 of us assembled in the changing room and put on a freshly pressed Penguin's shirt to go out to battle. We managed to steal two of the Weybridge players. One was a sizable second row and the other had eaten all of the pies – yes, all of them. We were set.

At the kick off, the Vandals forwards were hungry to receive the ball. Al Jones was having none of it. Having read the field and spotted the left winger all on his own, booted the ball into the far corner. The sprightly winger was a bit shocked and the match was off to a great start. For the next 15 minutes our 13 men against their 15 fought hard. We were stuck in their 22 and there was nothing the opposition could do. Rucking was good and the backs displayed imagination and determination with crunching tackles. However, eventually being out numbered got the better of us. One lucky break and Weybridge ran the length of the field and scored. More tries soon followed from the opposition due to missed tackles by us and the fact that they had overlaps.

Payback came towards the end of the first half with some glorious running from Al Jones, Ross Perry, Jim Down and Mark Kinirons to set up a final pass to Geraint Thomason (The Penguin's other Welshman), who stormed over the line to score practically under the posts.

Half-time oranges and wise words involving abusive language and the lack of tackling set us up nicely for the next 35 minutes. They scored, we got penalties, they couldn't pass the ball backwards and Al Jones hurled more abuse at the ref. We were unlucky with the line-outs and some even prompted the 9 year old touch judge to go to specsavers. Then after a quickly taken tap penalty and a pass out to Perry followed by a quick pass back inside to Kinirons we had another try. Five minutes later and the same tactics worked to set Thomason up for his second try. At times it was all too easy to play good, fluid rugby.

In the end we walked off the field and entered the bar in high spirits. We had fought and played well. Moments of magic were followed by missed tackles and a lack of numbers in the defence. With a full team on the field things would have surely been different. The Vandals were exceptional hosts to us and many of the players were sorry to miss the raffle prize draw that took place after we had left.

Tries: Thomason x2, Kinirons

Cons: Perry x2

Team – Clive Hudson, David Green, Chris Howell, Dan Poulter, A Vandal x2, Geraint Thomason, David Manson-Bahr, Al Jones, Ross Perry, Mark Kinirons, Graham Hill, Jim Down.