

## **Wirral 39 – 10 Anselmians (A) League, Saturday 8 March 2008**

There were a couple of changes to the backs this week due to the unavailability of players – Sam Capper in place of Ieuan Jones at scrumhalf & Ian White moved from the wing into outside centre in place of Colin Davies with Adam Stevens brought in on the wing.

Having missed last weekend's convincing win against Vagabonds but having received glowing reports from a number of spectators about the manner & style of the Rugby played by Wirral I returned to be treated to a first 25 minutes of scintillating running & support rugby, uphill & against the wind but then it dried up somewhat as the weather worsened & Anselmians got into the game more.

The first score came after 7 minutes when Ian White scored from a move that started with a break from behind the Wirral line & conversion by Craig Harvey (7-0)

The next score was after 13 minutes by Craig Harvey when he scythed threw the Anselmians defence from the halfway line to score – conversion missed (12-0).

Then virtually straight from the kickoff Craig Harvey made another break chipped the ball behind the final Anselmians defender for brother Danny to gather on the bounce & race in from the 22 metre line unopposed – conversion missed (17-0).

We then had 9 minutes of missed opportunities until Sam Capper ducked, bobbed & weaved his way through a number of Anselmians players before slipping the ball to Craig Harvey for him to race through the last line of defence to score wide out – conversion missed (22-0).

The final score of the half went to the Anselmians no. 15 who danced through to score wide out on the right following a scrum 10 metres from the Wirral line – conversion missed (22-5).

The second half started the way the 1<sup>st</sup> half finished with Wirral seemingly having lost their collective drive & enthusiasm & Anselmians managing to deny them possession for long periods of time. In fact the first score of the half came after 15 minutes & went to Anselmians when their no 8, Scott Tunna, scored in the left-hand corner (22-10). This put Anselmians within 2 converted scores of Wirral but at least it galvanised Wirral for a short period of time & Craig Harvey scored his 3<sup>rd</sup> try after 18 minutes following a chip through by brother Danny – conversion by Craig Harvey (29-10).

Even with the wind & the slope Wirral were struggling to inject any pace into the game the confidence & teamwork that had been on display for the past 2 games had mysteriously disappeared. It took another 10 minutes before the next score & that was Craig Harvey's 4<sup>th</sup> try when he supported a break by Tim Hodson to score & convert himself – (36-10).

The final score of the game came in what proved to be the final minute of the game & was a penalty kicked by Danny Harvey – (39-10).

Any way the important thing was another win. It's strange but a couple of weeks ago we would have been very happy to beat Anselmians by this score at their ground - & we still are – but supporters are very fickle people & 2 weeks of seeing more than 10 tries a game leads us to see 6 tries as a disappointing return.... It is also the 1<sup>st</sup> time since the beginning of the season that we have won 3 league games in succession – well done lads.

We now have a 2 week break before the final 3 fixtures:

29 March – Widnes (H)

12 April – Bowden (H)

19 April – Wigan (H)

If we win these & other results go our way then 4<sup>th</sup> position in the league at the end of the season is possible – so lots of support for the 2 remaining home fixtures plus lets support the 2<sup>nd</sup> team in their efforts to get out of the relegation zone in their league.

**Leigh Bennett**