

Wirral 2`s match report.

Leigh 3`s (away) 01/03/08.

Wirral travelled in good time to try to record their first away win of the season. With Leigh 3`s only a few places above Wirral, and more importantly only 4 points ahead, a win here would bring Wirral closer to survival.

The last two games had not started well for Wirral, and Gary Hastewell asked before the game that we play from the first whistle rather than waiting for the opposition to score twice! Taking his own words on board, Gary waltzed through some lacklustre defence in the first minute to score under the posts. Sam Broadbent converting. **0 – 7.**

Wirral then soaked up midfield pressure from the large Leigh forwards, turning ball over, and using the strong wind to keep Leigh pegged in their own half. Wirral became stronger in the forwards with excellent performances from Matt Brown (debut) and first full start for Ben Marsh. The FEMALE referee gave Wirral a penalty and Sam stepped up to slot it over, **0-10.** With Leigh players starting to get frustrated and arguing amongst themselves, the Wirral forwards turned the screw and this resulted in another penalty being awarded in kicking distance. Sam calmly slotted this one as well. **0-13.** Half time score.

As Wirral lined up to receive the restart, the referee drew the Wirral captain over to explain that Leigh needed to go to uncontested scrums as their prop was injured! This gave a platform back to Leigh, who had been struggling in the scrums, and with the wind behind them tried to pin Wirral back. A couple of Wirral handling errors allowed Leigh to score in the corner, but the conversion was to say the least inept!! **5 – 13.**

With the Wirral forwards not exerting energy in the scrums, they decided to take the Leigh forwards on up front. This resulted in several rolling mauls and pick and goes moving Wirral up the field, only for a knock-on or eventual turnover to give the ball back to Leigh who kicked it downfield. This continued to happen with neither side able to add to the score, but with Wirral looking the better side.

The next score went to Wirral from great forward and back interplay, resulting in Macca and Col Hughes attacking down the right wing. With Col kicking ahead, but then being tackled without the ball by the covering defender, the female ref called advantage, but Macca ran through and with another kick on scored in the right corner. Conversion attempt worse than the Leigh one earlier. **5 – 18.**

Leigh managed to cross again but Wirral never looked like letting this one slip. A few unsavoury incidents in the second half, namely Gary Hastewell`s head apparently being mistaken for the ball in a ruck!! and the Leigh 10`s late tackle on Pat Granby with resulting handbags!! Couldn`t detract from an excellent Wirral performance, and **FIRST AWAY WIN!!** Well done to all the players. Home game at last next week, lets keep it up, and us!

Final Score 10 – 18.

Andy Bell.