

Wirral 2's match report.

Whitchurch 27/10/07, away.

What can I say about today's game! Having agreed to play the game without a society referee in charge, and a Whitchurch "old-boy" assuming that role!!, it became apparent that we were going to be in for an interesting match. The "old-boy" informed Phelo that he had only ref'd at schoolboy level previously! On awarding Whitchurch head and feed at the scrum he would say "Our ball", and on Wirral head and feed would say "Their ball". Do I need to say anymore!! The Wirral lads played with their normal grit and determination, keeping in the game right up to the last minute!! (see below). Unfortunately the lack of control from the referee, and constant direction from the Whitchurch spectators led to a very disappointing defeat for Wirral. **Final score 38 – 26.**

Wirral highlights:

Phelo's first try on 11 mins, from excellent forward – back interplay, with Graham using his dancing feet to skirt past the Whitchurch full-back, who was rooted to the spot expecting to be trampled over. Conversion by Neil Peters. **0 – 7.**

(Three converted tries from Whitchurch in next 20 mins gave them a **21 – 7** lead)

Phelo's second try just before half-time following a dummy and sprint from Dave Halhead on the right wing, switching with Phelo, who's running line took him under the posts. Neil converting again. **Half-time score 21 – 14.**

(In the first 20 mins of 2nd half Whitchurch extended their lead to **33 – 14**)

Stu Charlton scored the next Wirral try on 77 mins following a pick, drive and off-load by Phelo from a scrum on the Whitchurch 22. Conversion missed. (Sam Broadbent from bang in front!!) **33 – 19.**

With Whitchurch out on their feet Matt Slater sprinted onto an Aidy O'Brien pass and scored a well worked try. The referee stating that there was five minutes left when Sam lined up his conversion attempt that was successful. **33 – 26.**

With Wirral now one score away from a draw, as the Whitchurch players advanced for the re-start the ref announced this would be the last play of the game!! Where did those 5 minutes go!! Whitchurch kicked off Wirral recycled and having to keep the ball alive passed along the back line, where unfortunately one of those South Sea Islanders popped up to intercept and score for Whitchurch!! **Final Score 38 – 26.**

According to the League we were not obliged to accept the alternative referee offered, although having travelled and wanting to play you take what's on offer. Apologies to the Wirral players for having to endure the lack of control from the Whitchurch "old-boy". I have to congratulate you all on your self control and restraint in such circumstances, good job I wasn't playing!!

Andy Bell.