

Wirral 2's match report.

Vale of Lune. (29/09/07). Home.

Having been kept waiting for forty minutes to start the game, due to an accident on the M6 delaying Vale's arrival, Wirral started the game aggressive and focussed. Led once again by Graham Phelan, the Wirral forwards dominated the early play resulting in Dave Charvill crossing the Vale line within the first five minutes. Neil Peters stepping up to convert easily. **7 – 0.** However only two minutes later Charvy was having to leave the field with a hamstring injury. This provided Richie Venables his opportunity to go onto the wing, and Adam Stevens (returning to the second team) to move to his new back row position! This change allowed Vale to push towards the Wirral line, and duly slotted a penalty, given for offside. **7 – 3.** Wirral then set about regaining control of the game. Vale looked a little out of sorts, probably to do with the travelling and lack of a decent warm up, and Wirral extended their lead with a try from Phelo, from a rolling maul. Not sure that Ian Jones wasn't robbed of the ball at the last minute by Graham though!! Neil again converting from further out this time. **14 – 3.** Wirral then relaxed, as we seem to do having taken a lead, and Vale began to wake up and play some rugby. A speculative chip forward from the Vale scrum half found no Wirral player at home and he beat the defence to touch down right of the posts. Converted. **14 – 10.** The referee, from the Isle of Man, then gave a series of penalties to both sides for various offences, leading to a kicking duel and subsequent lineouts. Frustrated by this the Vale players began using their mouths and finally the ref showed a yellow card for dissent to the Vale no 7. With the half time whistle closing in Wirral using the man advantage crossed just to the left of the posts, Adam Stevens with strong running from the centres. Another successful kick from Mr. Peters. **21 – 10. Half time score.**

Vale obviously had had strong words at half time and came at Wirral from the start of the second half, managing to capitalise on Wirral mistakes and gaining two quick scores. A converted try and a penalty. **21 – 20.** As Wirral tried to pressurise Vale again, Gary Hastewell chased a kick through and tackled the full back superbly. He then attempted to rip the ball from the prostate Vale player, who would not let go. Gary then asked the referee, in only how his police training and tourettes would allow, why the Vale player was not releasing. To which the ref produced another yellow card, in favour of Vale this time. Vale were then able to use the man advantage to take and then extend their lead. Two tries with one converted. **21 – 32.** Back to a full compliment of players, and needing two tries to get back into the game, Wirral started showing that they can play some excellent rugby. However yet again the final pass or a knock – on prevented them crossing the line. Due to the late kick – off Richie Macmillan had to leave to get to work, Andy Bell coming off the bench, not to go onto the wing unfortunately, but another re-shuffle placing Adam Stevens out in the backs again! And Tom Sutton moving to back row. Tom found himself on the end of some really outstanding phases of play with both Wirral forwards and backs recycling the ball effectively and touching down under the posts. Yet again Neil converting with ease. **28 – 32.** Wirral now

sniffed the win and piled forward. Only this gave Vale the chance to break away scoring the last points in the game. **28 – 39, Final Score.**

A huge thanks to all those who played today, especially those from the 3's and 4's who despite the reluctance to wear the tight shirts performed admirably. You will be called on again through the season and I have no doubt you will accept and enjoy.

Wirral team: Ian Jones, Gary Jones, Rob Sanders, Adam Davis, Tom Sutton, Paul Gould, Dave Charvill, Graham Phelan, Dickie Birchwood, Neil Peters, Richie Macmillan, Patrick Granby, Gary Hastewell, Adam Stevens, Stu Charlton, Richie Venables, Trencé Smith, Andy Bell.