



JERSEY COLTS V ALTON RFC SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER

Jersey Colts played their third game in the Hampshire League against Guilford a club that predominately plays in the Surrey League. It was a fast paced, spirited match, with Chris Levesley amassing 30 points as the in-form Colts notched up their third consecutive win.

Jersey renowned for being slow starters finally seem to have got the coaches message. This was perhaps the first occasion where the Jersey team flew out of the blocks and stamped their authority over the early exchanges. Jersey were first on the scoreboard. A try by Levesley was the first of many for the outside centre who played a smart tactical game throughout. That opened the floodgates in a game that saw Jersey run in 7 tries. 5 were converted to add extra shine to the final result of 45 –6

The Jersey side exploited their speed and guile in the backs the result of some slick offloading by the forwards. No 8 Howgate was dominant in the line out which put an end to Guilford's tactic of kicking for touch to gain ground. The Jersey scrum have good technical ability and real strength. Captain and scrum half Huelin again gave a very fine display of his ability to read the opposition game and motivate his team to respond effectively to any potential threat. Backs, Summerauer, Fuller, Crabtree and Levesley put on a display that the newer members of the team would be foolish not to emulate. Give these guys just an inch of space and they will score.

The pack continued their good work from recent weeks showing early dominance in the set-piece and securing plenty of possession and there was more of a cutting edge in attack. Jersey however did not have it all their own way. Guilford showed sufficient grit to keep the Jersey defence under pressure on their own line on several occasions. The team battled well to repel some sustained assaults, leaking only one try opportunity just before the break when the last line of defence somehow managed to wrestle the diving Guilford player onto his back and hold the ball off the ground. Try not given.

Jersey still have a tendency to give away needless penalties and possession, constantly offending at the breakdown. To date they have not suffered the consequences and are fortunate that it has not cost them dearly both on the scoreboard and in league position. On this occasion Jersey escaped lightly with Guilford converting two early penalties. For their part Guilford had trouble maintaining possession and at times just couldn't get into the game. Jersey dominated the first half going in to the break 21- 6

At the start of the second half the hosts raised their game but struggled to get any real foothold. The possession they got was received deep in their own half and they were limited to kicking and chasing. On the contrary, Jersey looked lively and confident and stuck to their game plan. The forwards secured the ball, the backs put pressure on the attacking team and attacked well, and the whole team tackled with determination. The action continued to come thick and fast and the Jersey Colts pace and ability to offload conjured other tries.

In summing up the game Levesley said “ I thought the boys grafted well today, in attack we played our patterns well which opened up the gaps and we put the points on the board. Our defence was also good, a few times we had to defend our own line and we did it well pushing them back. Another good win to carry on our good season so far. Best wishes to our youth coach, James Ellershaw from all the boys”.

The win gives Jersey their third in a row and they remain league leaders something to fill them with confidence ahead of their next game (13/11/11) against Basingstoke.

The Colts Team are grateful to Bedell for their ongoing team support.

Team: George Banks, Jack Lowe, James Voss, Oliver Smith, Ed Howgate, Rob Bisson, Tom Seedhouse, Tim Corson, Luke Huelin, Charles Hubert, Chris Levesley, Jack Burroughs, Alex Summerauer, Sam Fuller, Harrison Gollop, Sam Crabtree, Dom Mayo, Oliver Bale. Coaches Ash Elphinston, Graham Howgate. Manager Alan Williamson. Team Sponsor Bedell.