



Match Report Jersey Colts v Basingstoke RFC

There is little doubt that this seasons colt squad's reputation precedes them and other Hampshire teams recognise Jersey are the team to beat. The Jersey Colts remain on course for an all win season in the Hampshire League following their recent win away to Basingstoke RFC. Basingstoke lying third in the league remained somewhat of an unknown quantity in a league.

The game played in glorious sunshine was preceded by both teams pausing for a minute's silence to remember those fallen.

Jersey set the pace and tempo from the outset catching Basingstoke somewhat unawares. Basingstoke took the kick to start the game which was cleanly caught, and the pack drove forward the ball was fed to Hubert who showing his speed and agility ran through the Basingstoke line to score a try in the corner. Jersey were on the scoreboard within four minutes. Hubert went on to convert the kick.

Any thoughts that Basingstoke would be easy prey, were soon banished as their large front row and strong forwards tied to make life difficult for Jersey props Voss, Banks and hooker Lowe. However once again the Jersey Scrums technical ability and scrum half Warwick Palmer's ability to read the opposition game paid dividends.

Basingstoke forwards for their part were well drilled forcing the Jersey pack into several errors. Perhaps but for this Basingstoke may have had more difficulty getting onto the score board.

The first of several penalties Basingstoke won was for offside and to his credit their kicker did a stirring job. The first penalty going straight through the centre to give them three points.

Winger Fuller responded with the first of his three tries putting the ball down in the corner after a spirited run that saw him nearly taken out by the opposition on more than one occasion.

The set pieces, lineout and scrum were a fairly evenly matched. In the lineout what Jersey lapsed in style and technique they certainly made up for in determination by stealing the ball back.

Captain Ed Howgate stamped his authority on the team and rallied them well in attack. He went on to score try number three driving himself and several of the Basingstoke forwards over the line to touch down.

The half time score was 17-6.

Whilst the second half started of a little scrappily with Basingstoke showing some indiscipline and Jersey conceding penalties, holding on, going over the ruck and tackling the man without the ball. Jersey was penalised for holding on after Basingstoke had disrupted their put in at the lineout giving the opportunity to kick three points.



Cochrane who played on the wing for the first half, moved to scrum half for the second and took the opportunity to show why he had such a fantastic run of games playing in that position last season. His ability to disrupt the opposition and control the Jersey game put to good effect.

Flanker Matt Hefford in his debut for the Jersey Colts put in a stirring performance impressing coach Elphinston with his tackling and ability to steal the ball. Hubert continues to do what he does well, which is almost everything.

A special mention most go to 2nd row Rob Bisson and outside centre Jack Burroughs. Jack at centre using his guile, speed and determination to make ground and Bisson his strength to keep the pack moving forward and control and clear the ball. Not only did both put in a very spirited display but both turned out on their birthdays. Rob celebrating his 17th birthday and Jack his 18th.

A fine run by full back Gollop who pulled off a terrific dummy then a brilliant pass to Fuller who managed to evade the Basingstoke defence to score a try.

Try number four was the result of some good individual initiative by Ferguson. Tries 5 and 6 provided the backs the opportunity to put on a display of well timed passing and Fuller to show the perfect finish.

Coach Howgate summed up the Jersey game.. Six tries in total. Jersey started off well putting Basingstoke straight onto the back foot. Basingstoke put more of their big strong forwards in, in numbers and may have out rucked Jersey on occasions. The scrum and lineout were fairly even. But in the end Basingstoke were outclassed by both the speed and technical ability of their opponents.

It was left to referee (Peter Madden) to have the final say when he said that “ Jersey were the best team he has seen this season”. Adding that he was that impressed that he intended to contact the JRFC chairman (Bill Dempsey) to let him know.

After the game Coach Elphinston currently working in London drove back to the city content in the knowledge that the coaching team (Elphinston, Copsey, Hogate & Saunders) training sessions are paying off with the squad putting the lessons into practice into.

With a four point advantage and vastly superior points difference over second-place Basingstoke, only an unlikely sequence of results would prevent Jersey maintaining their No1 spot.

Jersey Colts next game in the Hampshire League on 27/11/11 is against Andover. After this game it is hopeful that Jersey will get to play some league games at home and show a Jersey crowd just how good they can be.

Jersey Colts remain grateful to their sponsors Bedell for their continued support.



Team: George Banks, Jack Lowe, James Voss, Rob Bisson, Matthew Hefford, Hary Chinn, Nick Volpert, Edward Howgate, Warwick Palmer, Charles Hubert, Harry Cochrane, Dominic Mayo, Jack Burroughs, Nick Dawson, Sam Fuller, Alex Szerezla, Myles Wood-McGrath, Harrison Gollop, Tom Seedhouse, Brad Ferguson Coaches Ash Elphinston, Graham Howgate. Manager Alan Williamson & Chris Fuller.. Team Sponsor Bedell.

HAMPSHIRE BOWL LEAGUE TABLE								
Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
Jersey	4	4	0	0	187	26	161	12
Basingstoke	4	2	0	2	82	107	-25	8
Alton	4	2	0	2	78	106	-28	8
Guildford	3	2	0	1	62	82	-20	7
Tottonians	4	1	0	3	66	134	-68	6
Andover	3	0	0	3	35	65	-30	3

Other Matches played 13/11/11

Nov-13 Tottonians 7 v 51 Alton
 Guildford PP Andover 08-Jan
 Jersey 34 v 9 Basingstoke