

Berkswell and Balsall 32 – 3 Newbold on Avon RFC
Midlands W3 S

With several enforced changes just hours before kick off and players in unfamiliar positions, Newbold knew that this game was going to be an uphill battle. Kicking off playing up the slope with a strong wind in their favour, Ben Harrison played a disciplined role, keeping possession and kicking well for the corners. The first scrum set the pattern for the rest of the game with Newbold being shunted back making it impossible to win any clean ball. Danny Facer stood strongly taking the occasional ball from the base of the scrummage and making good yardage but unable to get the ball out to the threes where Newbold's strength was. Berkswell were awarded a penalty for handling the ball on the floor which was dispatched into touch just inside Newbold's 22. A catch and drive resulted in an early score and immediately the home side quickly realised that forward power was the direction to go. They followed this score with a further two tries using exactly the same tactics, failing with all conversions. Newbold replied with a penalty which transpired to be their only score in the game, despite the threes having several opportunities narrowly denied. The score remained at 15 – 3 at half time.

Newbold kicked off the second half and continued to keep the home side at bay, each time Newbold's backs received the ball they attacked Berkswell's line and it was only resolute defending prevented Newbold getting back into the game. With 10 minutes remaining the score had not changed but the efforts began to show as the home side's forwards lifted the game and scored a further 3 tries converting one from under the posts, making the final score 32 – 3

Newbold will need to be at their very best for Saturday's local Derby against Old Laurentians whose current form in the league suggest an easy win for them. However local derbies tend to bring the best out of Newbold. Be sure to come along and get behind your team.