

Old Coventrians 19- 10 Newbold on Avon RFC Midlands West 2 S

Newbold travelled the short distance to Old Covent's hoping to change the fortunes against another team in the lower realms of the league. The kick off was again disastrous with Covent's gathering the ball and scything through several half hearted tackles and scoring a converted try with only minutes gone from the clock. The second kick off was better received, clearing into touch, the ensuing lineout allowed the heavier home pack to catch and drive for the line before a sniping dash from Covent's scrum half paid dividend scoring wide out for a further 5 points increasing the score to 12 – 0. With 15 minutes gone Newbold mounted their first real attack, good running from Paul Bale advanced the visitors into the opposition 22 before being stopped illegally, Paul Cunningham narrowly missing the conversion. From the 22 a well chipped ball forced the home defender to run the ball out and Danny Facer collected the ball from a retreating scrum and advanced towards the goal line where again Covent's were penalised and Ben Harrison converted the penalty. 12 – 3. Covent's came back attacking Newbold's 22 attempting to bulldoze their way to the line; good defence prevented them advancing before knocking the ball on and giving Newbold the scrum. Well won ball shipped out along the threes, however a wayward pass was intercepted and a further converted score was recorded. 19 – 3. The Newbold side appeared to be playing at half pace allowing the home side the initiative; it took a try saving tackle from Cunningham at fullback to halt the possible try.

Further attacks from Covent's were well defended time after time until Facer rallied his players and for the first time in the game the Newbold eight began to start playing as a unit attacking the home sides 22 before being held 10 yards from the line. From a well won scrum Newbold attacked the line but were then penalised for handling on the floor allowing Covent's to clear their line and the half time whistle. 19 – 3.

Newbold's long kick off reached the home side's fullback who ghosted past several defenders before another well timed tackle from Cunningham ended the attack. Newbold worked hard to gain ground, however every good piece of work was undone by silly mistakes letting the opposition off the hook. With Covent's huge weight advantage in the first half beginning to dwindle due to Newbolds youth and exuberance, the visitors started to apply pressure with great work from the ever improving Tom Newbold and ever young Kevin Mills whose barn storming runs started to pay dividends. First a yellow card to Coventrian's flanker and minutes later a red card to their prop reduced Covent's to 13 players and Newbold began to dominate the play. Waves of attacking play were thwarted by a determined defence forcing the home side into a rear guard action. A lineout on the opposition 22 was superbly won by Gurjit Rupal and quick ball to Harrison, whose decisive break split the defence with Jamie Ferris in good support racing over the line, reducing the deficit to 19 – 10. The final 15 minutes was all Newbold, however a determined rear guard action from Old Coventrians prevented Newbold from crossing the line. A dejected visiting team knew another opportunity had again eluded them as the final whistle blew.

Saturday, Newbold travel to Berkswell and Balsall, where hopefully the team can raise their endeavours and record a much sought after win. It is well within their grasp and it is only experience and the rub of the green missing, all supporters are urged to travel and get behind these youngsters and give them as much vocal support they can muster.

