

Match Report - Saturday 26 April 2008

London 2 Play Off, Jersey RFC 15 v Staines RFC 0

With Jersey only losing 1 game at home in the past two seasons, this was always going to be a difficult game. Staines put a great deal of effort into the planning of this game. Having watched Jersey 2 weeks earlier Head coach Eddie Jones tailored a game plan to stifle the running skills of a number of Pacific Islanders of which are largely responsible for this recent Jersey success.

Staines got off to a poor start when they found it difficult to secure a well placed restart. This resulted in a scrummage where Jersey moved the ball wide and were rewarded with a penalty as the ref determined James Cornish the Staines 15 to be offside.

Jersey elected to kick for touch and the lineout produced quick of the top ball which saw a confident back line score out on the left wing. This put the home team 5-0 up in 3 minutes. This appeared to be the wake up call Staines wanted as the next 30 minutes saw the visitors attack the Jersey line and on 4 occasions they were denied crossing the Jersey try line by a solid Jersey defence.

This tight home defence turned defence into attack and soon the Jersey pack were in a attacking mode, which through a well worked scrummage saw a try scored under the posts. The try was converted and the half time whistle was blown, which saw the home team going into to the second half with a 12 points to 0. lead

The second half was for much of the game played between the 22s with Jersey just taking the edge. Staines looked strong in the set scrum and did disrupt a number of Jersey Scrummages. Some ill discipline by the visitors saw Jersey kicking for the lines and soon they were rewarded by a kickable penalty which was soon put between the uprights.

This put the game out of reach for the visitors.

With the game approaching the final whistle Staines battled hard with notable performances by Staines No 8 Tom Cleary and centre Jon Turner.

With Jersey gaining promotion to London 1, Staines must know look to improve their away record, it has been a good season with only 6 loses and 21 wins. Their points difference over all other teams in London 2 North is quite flattering, they are a team that can play great attacking rugby, the team are aware of areas that need improvement and are philosophical in the approach that is needed to produce wins and are keen to accept the challenges that are laid down before them.