

Match Report - Saturday 26 January 2008
London and South East League 2 North
The Reeves

Staines RFC 37 Letchworth RFC 10

Staines put their promotion push firmly back on track with an emphatic home win against Letchworth on Saturday, by 37 points to 10, putting into perspective the surprising loss to this side earlier in the season, the top 3 sides are now well ahead of the pack and it looks like it will be a dogfight between these clubs, to determine the promotion places, a situation which may not be resolved until the final games of the season.

The early pressure was all Staines, who after a somewhat nervous start, attacked the Letchworth defence at every opportunity, scrumhalf Richard Scott was unlucky to be denied a try, following an electric break, when he was dispossessed on the line, however, the home side opened the scoring in the 16th minute, when the Staines hooker, Stefan Myburg, crossed for a try, following a typical handling move involving several players.

The same player, would go on to score the next 2 Staines tries, the home side were producing genuine width in their attacking play, stretching the Letchworth defence on several occasions, the Staines hooker was on the end of one of these sweeping moves, handing off his marker to score.

His hat trick of tries was completed by the start of the second half, when Staines, now playing with a stiff breeze at their backs, used the elements to set up several dangerous positions deep in Letchworth territory, from a lineout in the oppositions 22, the home side drove the ball on, sucking in several defenders, the Staines hooker suddenly burst out of the maul, beating 2 players to score, the conversion was successful, Staines 17 Letchworth 0.

Junior Harrison, the Staines giant lock forward, then scored following a similar catch and drive from an attacking line out, the home side were now 22 points to 0, with the game virtually sewn up, nevertheless, Letchworth, with Staines reduced to 14 men after a player was sin binned, exploited this deficiency, when their scrumhalf broke from the base of the scrum, to score a good individual try.

Staines replied almost from the restart, when Andy Regan, their outside half, exploited a handling error in the Letchworth back line, offloading to centre Jon Turner, who dashed over the tryline to secure another 5 points.

Letchworth were not quite ready to quit however, they had battled hard all afternoon, attacking from deep, they launched a speculative kick towards the touchline and behind the Staines defence, the ball bounced favourably for the Letchworth wing, who gathered to score.

The try of the game was scored by the Staines lock, Junior Harrison, when, following another sweeping Staines attack, he received the ball on the Letchworth 22 metre line, at pace, moving with exceptional speed for a large man and throwing in several sidesteps, Harrison charged to the line, scoring an outstanding try.

The game was wrapped up, 5 minutes from the end, when Staines, unlike last week, were making every use of the breezy conditions, their flyhalf replacement, Dave Knill, kicked a high hanging ball deep into the Letchworth half, centre Jon Turner was quickly up on the opposition defenders and scored an opportunist try, when he was first to a wickedly bouncing ball, running in from 20 metres out, Staines 37 Letchworth 10.

Staines now have a blank weekend and a useful break in proceedings, before some difficult matches in February, including the League encounter with Chingford and the Cup game against Birkenhead Park.

Tony Brightwell