

Match Report - Saturday 3 November 2007
Welwyn RFC 5 Staines RFC 56
London League 2 North

To date, Staines away record had been mixed, but this was put back on track on Saturday, in emphatic style, when they comprehensively beat Welwyn, on their own patch, scoring 46 unanswered points in the first half with a demonstration of powerful, direct, attacking rugby.

Welwyn, fielding a full strength side, opened brightly, with 10 minutes of good possession and pressure, however, Staines comfortably soaked this up and hit back in devastating fashion, Mikey Wilmott, the young Staines wing, was worked clear on the right and made a strong 30 metre run, eventually releasing hooker, Stefan Myburg, to score the opening try, which was converted by Dave Knill.

The Staines forwards began to dominate proceedings, securing ample possession for their backs, whose direct running was proving a handful for the Welwyn midfield, Staines secured a penalty under the Welwyn posts, to give them a lead of 10 points.

Relentless Staines forward pressure after the restart, put No. 6 Luciano over for his first try for the club, the touchline conversion was successful.

Staines next score was a result of excellent individual skills from scrumhalf Richard Scott, who collected his own kick ahead, passing to the Staines hooker who scored his second try of the game.

The floodgates opened, with Staines playing an irresistible brand of 15 man, attacking rugby, Mikey Wilmott set off on a 50 metre dash for the line, beating several defending players with ease to score, this was quickly followed by a period of unrelenting Staines forward dominance and great interplay between the backs, centre Jon Turner went over for a try, the Staines hooker, Stefan Myburg scored his third try of the game and eighth of the season, which was converted and the outstanding Mikey Wilmott added his second following another fine outside break, to finish off the first half with Staines leading 46 points to 0.

At half time the Welwyn coach made several astute positional and personnel changes, which considerably strengthened his sides resolve and they came out determined to make Staines work harder for their points, this, coupled with Staines ringing the changes, to give their bench some game time, resulted in a second half of stout defence by both sides and the match became a closer affair.

It was Welwyn who opened the scoring with a deserved try of their own, however, this was to be their only score of the game, Staines regrouped and re-exerted their dominance, man of the match, Mikey Wilmott, their young wing, who was standing in for Captain, Andy Turner, scored his third try of the match, followed by a fine individual try by flyhalf Dave Knill, who also capped a good display.

This was an excellent performance by Staines, away from home, scoring 9 tries in their demolition of Welwyn and keeps their noses in front of third placed Tring, maintaining their grip on a promotion slot, in this highly competitive league, it was also pleasing to see, at one stage in the match, the team represented by several 'home' grown players, who all made outstanding contributions.

Next Saturday, at 'the Reeves', Staines entertain old adversaries London Nigerians, a side renowned for their attacking rugby, it promises to be an exciting game and Staines will hope to consolidate their position in the top two places in the League, kick off is at 230 pm.

Scorers:

Tries: Stefan Myburg (3), Mikey Wilmott (3), 'Lucky' Luciano (1), Dave Knill (1)
Jon Turner (1)

Conversions: Dave Knill (4)

Penalties: Dave Knill (1)

Team:

15 Tony Willis 14 Mikey Wilmott 13 Jon Turner 12 Marinus Scheepers 11
James Cornish 10 Dave Knill 9 Richard Scott 1 Leonard Leibenburg
2 Stefan Myburgh 3 Rony Bachour 4 Junior Harrison 5 Tom Cleary 6 Luciano
Silvera 7 Eddie Landsburg 8 Eddie Jones

Substitutes:

16 Andy Norman 17 Rob Channon 18 Hywel Gammage