

## **March Bears V St Neots 2<sup>nd</sup> XV**

March went into this game expecting to progress to the final, of the Greene King Merit Table plate competition, considering earlier in the season they had beaten St Neot's 2<sup>nd</sup> XV on their own ground with 14 men.

What turned up from St Neot's was a well-organised outfit, with several changes to the team March faced early in the season.

Playing in bitterly cold and windy conditions it was St Neots who made most of the conditions with the wind behind them, and put March under considerable pressure from the start of the game, but March's defence again stood firm denying the visitors from crossing the line.

On the odd occasion March did venture into St Neots half, the support play was poor and March could, and should have scored a couple of try's. March who continually gave away silly penalties, gave St Neots who unable to breach March's defence kicked the only points of the first half via a penalty to go in at half time 0-3 in front.

With the wind behind them in the second half March were confident they could put points on the score board, but again giving away to many penalties, enabled St Neots to capitalise by running in an unconverted try to further extend their lead 0-8.

With the odd penalty March did get, the wrong decision was made to run with the ball instead of kicking for line position, St Neots backs were upon March quickly, before they could gain any advantage.

March's normally well-organised defence crumbled in the latter stages of the game as St Neots ran in two more unconverted try's to win the game 0-18.

March put in a good performance but too many penalties were given away, and their tactics for the Match let them down

Next week March are away to Ely 2<sup>nd</sup> XV (meet 1pm) which should give them an ideal game in preparation for their second semi-final against Wisbech 2<sup>nds</sup> on Saturday April 5th