

March 12 V Stamford College 7

March was back in action after last week's fiasco, of game on game off. With the availability of players now increasing, it gave March the opportunity to select a strong side for the encounter with Stamford College.

March players giving away at least half a stone a man against a big Stamford College side, the visitor's started the game trying to batter March into defeat, but the now familiar trade mark of the Bears, a defence that refuses to be breached held firm.

After weathering the storm of the first 15 minutes of the game, March started to venture into their opponents half of the field, with the probing runs of Jason Rainbow causing numerous problems for the visitor's defence.

With the Bears lifting the tempo of their game enabled scrum half Carl Cooke to supply quick recycled ball for the backs, crossed with a blend of youth and veterans, started to play some enjoyable flowing rugby, with the forwards playing their part as well.

Stamford huge pack gave March some problems, as their rucking and mauling was at this early stage of the game, was superior to March's, with the game heading towards a scoreless first half, some good inter play from the forwards and backs, enabled prop Ashley Trainor to power his way over the visitors try line to score, conversion was successful from skipper Matty Day, To go 7 – 0 up at half time.

The lead was short lived within 5 minutes of the restart Stamford College had levelled the scores, with Stamford pressing hard to increase their lead March intercept a stray pass and winger James Berseford, ran in the try of the match from 65 yards out to touch down under the posts, what appeared to be a easy conversion chance saw skipper Matty Day slide the ball wide of the upright.

With March pressing forward they were awarded a penalty under the posts, which skipper Matty Day again missed his attempt, with the ball hitting the post and bounce into play, Stamford cleared their line and capitalised on a March defensive error, from the touch line to scored what appeared to be levelling of the scores, but play was pulled back into Stamford's half as their winger had put his foot into touch. From the resulting line out March won the ball, which was put swiftly into touch.

The referee was excellent in his handling of the game, when at times it could have erupted into a free for all. All march players played superb, with veteran No 8 Steve 'Taff' Howell, using all his experience to keep pushing the March pack forwards. With young flankers Jonathan Beavis and Ben Saxby tackling themselves to a stand still, and praise to veteran forwards Steve Beesly, Roger Spendelow, Mark Martin, Martin Rose, for working hard to contain a larger Stamford College pack.

Next week March are away to Bishops Stortford 4ths in the IPA Premier merit table