

March Bears 7 vs Ely IIs 25, Saturday 24th November

This local derby was enlivened by the welcome return of some old faces. Steve Howells slotted neatly into the established back row of Ben Saxby and Doc Richards and this trio promptly set about giving the well drilled Ely forwards a lesson in fluid attacking Rugby.

Within ten minutes Steve Howells had crossed the line for March, the culmination of some excellent teamwork by the forwards. Ely were rocked and a lot of glum faces were trapped behind the posts for the conversion attempt.

Colin Buck's kick sailed through the uprights but Ely's riposte was swift and devastating. However the conversion was missed so March retained a slender lead.

It was not long before some poor March tackling combined with some aggressive running from Ely saw them take a lead they were never to relinquish.

March fought doggedly but there is very little a team can do when a much heavier opposition continually pushes them off the ball.

There were some excellent individual performances: in fact every player deserved the Man of the Match but at the risk upsetting unmentioned players a few deserve special mention.

Jason Rainbow tackled himself almost to a standstill, Jamie Kerse made some good bludgeon runs into the Heart of the Ely Defence, and the forwards were set an example of aggressive, hard hitting and supportive running by Ben Saxby, Doc Richards and Steve Howells.

At the end of the day the spoils went to the better prepared team, March matched Ely on an individual basis, but with a little improvement in communication, team work, and match preparation. March could have pushed Ely even harder during the latter stages of the game. Ely took full advantage in the second half, slowly wearing down the smaller and lighter March side, to win the game 7 to 25

March Bears train every Thursday evening from 7.15pm; anyone looking for a friendly, sociable local club is welcome to turn up join us.