

Last Saturday the March Bears kicked off their new year in style with a comfortable win in the Greene King Premier League over a very strong team from St. Neots.

The game kicked off on a very firm playing surface and the much larger pack from St. Neots soon had the Bears on the defence for the opening fifteen minutes, good solid defending was needed along with some ferocious tackling, in particular a few outstanding try saving tackles from full back Gile Low. A good turnover meant March were able to clear their lines, with skipper Todd Woollard spiralling a kick over the half way line for the backs to chase. This seemed to be the turning point in the game as the Bears surged forward and started to play to their potential. The first score of the game came after a well rehearsed line-out on the visitors twenty two. Paul Galloway soared up to take the ball and the well drilled forwards mauled their way up to the try line. Mark Arnold seized the opportunity and grounded the ball to give the Bears a well earned lead.

The second try was not far behind the first, a long kick up field once again saw the much fitter March forwards regain possession from the ruck and Woollard crashed over to double the Bears points.

With half time soon approaching the Bears needed to continue the hard work. Man of the match Scott Layton was inspirational with marauding runs deep into the opposition defence, the March back row always in close support released sprightly prop forward James Knight to thunder over the line and put the Bears into a comfortable lead.

The second half kicked off with March starting the brighter of the two teams with Katy Boxall leading the way to every breakdown, setting up a solid platform for the March back division. The youthful combination of Jamie Kerse and Tarzan Hill were starting to make inroads through the St Neots defence.

The continual pressure from March started to exploit the frustration in the visiting team and they were guilty of giving away numerous penalties. Quick thinking from scrum half Ash Howlett saw him take a quick tap and spun a long pass to new March signing Kris Feavior on home debut, putting the home fans on their feet as he barged through a number of weak tackles to earn himself a place on the score sheet.

Further ill discipline from the visitors saw March awarded a penalty 5 metres out from the St Neots try line. The ball was touched and put captain Woollard over for what he thought was his second try of the game, only for the ref to call it back for a scrum to St Neots for a lack of precision by Howlett at the set piece. From the resulting scrum Howlett made amends by showing his predatory instincts to pounce on a loose ball, he then pirouetted his way past the scrambling defence to touch down underneath the posts leaving Matthew Day the simple task of converting his first kick of the game.

As the game started to draw to an end and the result in the bag the Bears started to think of their first winter solstice provided by club sponsors The Square, this allowed the opposition to score a dubious try.

Next week March play host to St Ives looking to make it a hat trick of wins in the league. Kick off 2.15

Training starts again this Thursday with the county coaching team taking over for the remainder of the season. 7 for a 7.15 start.