

## March Bears back to winning ways

### Bourne RUFC 7 March Bears 17

Last Saturday, the March Bears travelled to Lincolnshire to play Bourne RUFC in a friendly fixture. Tries from wingers, Jimmy Beresford and Gile Low and a debut senior try from scrum half Billy Yorke sealed the victory and boosted confidence back into the team following last week's defeat at Shelford. From the start March took control of the set piece. Veteran front row pair Mark Pauley and Gary Howlett both impressed in the scrum and the combination of skipper Todd Woollard looking for his first international call up and Paul Galloway jumping well in the line out secured plenty of ball for the backs to work with.

The first score of the afternoon came as Beresford recreated last week's effort by slipping his defender and racing to the line to make it two tries in two games, Matt Day's unsuccessful conversion took the match towards half time with a slender five point lead. March continued to attack in numbers but were held back by the Bourne defensive line. Eventually Billy Yorke saw the gap and grounded the ball for a well deserved try. This time Day kicked the extras and the half ended with March in a comfortable twelve point lead.

Without substitutes available, March continued the second half unchanged. Within minutes, Gile Low was crossing the line to extend the Bears lead. Again Matt Day's kicking was adrift but the team were still happy with their seventeen point advantage.

With Bourne bringing on substitutes, March needed to dig deep into their fitness levels to sustain the constant Bourne pressure. A well worked move down the back line saw the Bourne winger sneak through into the corner and ended up under the posts to bring the home side back into the game. The conversion brought Bourne just ten points behind March with just fifteen minutes left on the clock. With victory in their sights, March attacked the length of the pitch deep into the opposition twenty two, a long floated pass by Mark Pauley found fellow March Legend Jamie Kerse heading towards the line but his opposite number defended well and the attack seemed to be over. Quick play from the March backs shipped the ball back across the pitch with Galloway powering his way over the line. The unsighted referee judged the ball to be held up resulting in a scrum for the Bears with barely minutes left to play. A knock on at the base of the scrum conceded a turnover for Bourne who were able to clear their lines as the game drew to a close giving March a well earned victory.

Next week March travel to Saffron Walden in a Greene King Premier division match, all players are requested to attend training on Thursday nights at the sports field in Elm Road from 7pm onwards.