

## March Bears 0 Ely Tigers 35

Last Saturday the March Bears hosted local rivals Ely in a Greene King Premier League match at the Sportsfield in Elm Road. With a number of March players calling off at the last minute, and others just not even turning up, March were left with a weaker squad than was planned and ended up playing with players out of position and without substitutes.

The game started well for March however as they had the visitors firmly pinned down in their own twenty two for the opening fifteen minutes, only long clearance kicks from Ely rescued them on three of four occasions and stopped March crossing the line. As soon as Ely had cleared their lines though, March found themselves conceding a try against the run of play and were seven points down by the half hour mark. With Skipper Todd Woollard leaving the pitch through injury, March were down to fourteen men for the rest of the half. Another try from Ely just before the whistle secured them the half time lead 12 – 0.

Once the second half had started, March once again came out on top. With long periods of possession and good work from the forwards, March should have had points of their own, again Ely capitalised on mistakes from March and two quick tries secured the win. March played out the rest of the game with spirit and not even a further try from Ely in the dying minutes could put the Bears heads down.

After the match, Captain Todd Woollard said “The commitment from the players this afternoon was immense. A very strong Ely team was humbled by March, if the March players that had confirmed their availability had not let the team down, the result may have been very different.”

Next week the 1xv are rested while the March Legends take centre stage playing Spalding Vets in a friendly.