

## March Bears 5 Shelford 28

Last Saturday March Bears played host to Shelford Rugby Club in the Greene King Premier League. With the recent inclement weather, Shelford had all other matches cancelled and so sent a very strong team to March. With numerous Cambridgeshire county players in the team usually playing to national league standard, March had there work cut out to avoid a turkey shoot.

The difference in standard was apparent from the kick off as Shelford attacked the Bears defence relentlessly for the opening ten minutes, strong tackling and good support from March kept the visitors at bay but it was only a matter of time before they crossed the line to open the scoring.

March having won their previous two outings in the league found themselves in unfamiliar territory as a second try from Shelford was scored and confidence started to drop. March skipper Todd Woollard led by example with a ferocious tackle attempt but came off second best against the man mountain wearing Cambridge colours. With Woollard limping off the field, March now had to dig deep as injuries came thick and fast. March man of the match Katy Boxall was outstanding in the loose play following Woollards example with a fine display of defensive tackling.

The bears regrouped and managed to hold off the constant threat from Shelford until half time when a few tactical changes were made to stem the tide. This tactic seemed to work as soon into the second half following a number of clever phases, March winger James Beresford showed his opposite number a clean pair of heels and crossed the line to half the deficit. The conversion attempt by Jamie Kerse fell short of the posts.

Now Shelford bought the rest of their subs bench on and March conceded two more tries by silly mistakes and lack of discipline. With time running out for March to make a comeback, further injuries and having used up all available subs, they played out the final ten minutes with just fourteen men.

Training for March continues on Thursday evenings from 7 until 9pm. All available players are encouraged to attend.

Next week March travel to Bourne in a friendly fixture, kick off 2:15.