**Hertfordshire Rugby Football Union**

**Press Notice**

**Record breaking Herts beat Bucks**

**Hertfordshire 86 Buckinghamshire 13**

Hertfordshire records tumbled at Hoe Lane on Saturday as the home side beat Bucks 86-13 in their opening match in Division 3 Pool 2 of the Bill Beaumont Senior Mens County Championship.

This was Hertfordshire’s biggest win eclipsing their 68-0 win over Berkshire in 2005. In addition, debutant Matt Shaw (Harpenden) score four tries having only got on the field early in the second half, whilst Kyle Lemmon (Hertford) scored a hat trick of tries together with four conversion and skipper Josh Sharp (Letchworth) also kicked four conversions as well as scoring two tries.

Hertfordshire were superior to Bucks in all departments. The forwards outscrummaged the visitors, dominated the loose play and also took charge of the linesout although there they were helped by some wayward throwing in by Bucks.

The backs ran with pace with slick passing and secure handling, all co-ordinated from fly half by Sharp, which resulted in some thrilling tries.

Straight from the kick off Hertfordshire looked dangerous being held up over the Bucks line within moments of the start. Following the try line drop out the visitors were offside and with only four minutes gone Herts opened the scoring when they kicked for a lineout and drive hooker Steffan Jones (Hertford) over the line for a try converted by Sharp.

Bucks kicked a penalty straight after the restart but that was the end of their scoring for the half. As the home side made great use of their growing dominance, wings Lemon and Tom Fawssett (Amersham & Chiltern) soon crossed the line, with Sharp surprisingly missing the conversions. Then, midway through the half Lemon scored from a chip ahead following a scrum.

Shortly afterwards Bucks had an attacking lineout but threw over the top; Herts gathered and the movement swept the length of the field before lock Alex Kay (Hertford) finally touched down. With Sharp resuming normal service the home side led 29-3. On the stroke of half time Herts extended their lead as full back Johnno Wicks (Cheshunt) joined the line following a 5 metre scrum to make it 34-3.

Herts continued in the same manner in the second half and within a minute Sharp had crossed the line. Bucks did get a look in a few minutes later when Herts lost the ball in midfield on their 22 and Jarvis scored. Ten minutes later from one of the few incursions into the the home half Bucks ran well from a scrum to score a second try wide on the left, via West, neither of which were converted.

However between those tries scrum half Joe Stockwell (Barnet Elizabethans) had combined well with Sharp to put Sharp in under the posts.

The final quarter saw a flurry of scoring. First replacement back Shaw crossed the line following a line out then he ran in a try out on the right. Lemon sprinted in from half way to complete his hat trick before Shaw did the same. There was still time for Fawssett to score again and just before the final whistle Shaw scored his fourth try. Having taken over the kicking duties Lemon converted the last four tries to make the final score 86-13.

Next Saturday Herts travel to Grasshoppers RFC to play Middlesex, who beat Essex last Saturday, kick off 3,00pm.

Scorers

Hertfordshire: Tries – Jones (4m), Lemon (8m, 20m, 71m) Fawssett )15m, 78m), Kay (29m), Wicks (40m), Sharp (41m, 61m), Shaw (61m, 64m, 74m, 80m); Conversions – Sharp (4m, 29m, 61m, 64m), Lemon (71m, 74m, 78m, 80m)

Buckinghamshire: Tries – Jarvis (44m), West (55m); Penalty – Shearer (7m)

Hertfordshire:

Johnno Wicks (Cheshunt); ⁠Kyle Lemon (Hertford), Will Titherington (Letchworth), ⁠Richard Beeny (Huel Tring), Tom Fawssett (Amersham and Chilton); Josh Sharp (Letchworth) (Capt), Joe Stockwell (Barnet Elizabethans)

Nick Brown (Huel Tring), Steffan Jones (Hertford), ⁠Karl Garside (Cheshunt), ⁠Ollie Lacey (Harpenden), Alex Kay (Hertford), Liam Fitts (Letchworth) Tremaine Fry (Hertford), ⁠Luke Mongston (Letchworth)

Replacements (all used):

⁠Christy Basra (Hertford), Conor Turner (Letchworth), Adam Greene (Cheshunt), Tom Lewis (Letchworth), Harry McCartney (Huel Tring), Iwan Dawes (Unattached), Matt Shaw (Harpenden), ⁠Alfie Robbins (Huel Tring)