**Hertfordshire Rugby Football Union**

**Press Notice**

**Half Century for Herts against Middlesex**

**Middlesex 5 Hertfordshire 59**

Hertfordshire took big step towards winning Division 3 Pool 2 of the Bill Beaumont Senior Mens County Championship, by comprehensively beating Middlesex at Grasshoppers RFC by 59 points to 5.

The win was based on complete set piece dominance by the Herts pack led by hooker and Captain Steffan Jones (Hertford) who also scored no less than four tries from forward drives near the line. The visitors won at least four scrums against the put in as well as a number of the Middlesex linesout. Their speed at the breakdown also provided plenty of good ball.

However, the backs did not operate as smoothly as last week, partly because Middlesex provided much sterner defence than Bucks, with the result that most of the scoring came from close quarter play within the Middlesex 22.

Hertfordshire set the tone at the first scrum with a concerted drive, but at that point the referee did not recognise the visitor’s superiority. However, from then on the home pack was on the back foot at the set pieces.

The visitor’s pressure was soon rewarded when they kicked for a 5 metre line out following a Middlesex infringement and from the ensuing catch and drive Jones touched down. Herts ran the ball from the restart and following a maul near the Middlesex line the pack drove over for a try, converted by Iwan Dawes to give them a 12 point lead.

Herts continued to dominate play but it was another15 minutes before they scored again, from another lineout catch and drive, touched down by Jones and converted by Dawes. Then shortly before half time Middlesex won the ball in broken play and their centre crossed the line for an unconverted try.

Within 5 minutes of the restart Herts knocked on near the Middlesex line, but drove the home scrum back, won the ball and moved it givving space for wing Matt Shaw (Harpenden) to touch down. Five minutes later and a further seven points were added as Jones scored from another line out. Then midway through the half No 8 Liam Fitts (Letchworth) scored and with all three tries converted the score was 40-5.

The game drew or a close with another flurry of scoring in the last 10 minutes with tries from Jones, Conor Turner (Letchworth) and Will Green (Royston), two of which were converted to make the final score 59-5.

Next Saturday Herts travel to Harlow RFC to play Essex in the final pool match, kick off 3,00pm.

Scorers

Hertfordshire: Tries – Jones (12m, 29m, 51m, 68m), ? 914m) Shaw (45m), Fitts (58m),
Turner (75m), Green (80m); Conversions – Dawes (14m, 29m, 45m, 51m, 58m, 75m, 80m)

Middlesex: Try –

Hertfordshire:

Johnno Wicks (Cheshunt); ⁠Alfie Robbins (Huel Tring), Josh Rudling (Hertford), ⁠Richard Streets (Letchworth), Matt Shaw (Harpenden); Iwan Dawes (Unattached), Richard Beeny (Huel Tring).

Nick Brown (Huel Tring), Steffan Jones (Hertford) (Capt), ⁠Karl Garside (Cheshunt), Josh Walker (Letchworth), Alex Kay (Hertford\_, Harry McCartney (Huel Tring), Tremaine Fry (Hertford), Liam Fitts (Letchworth).

Replacements (all used):

⁠Conor Turner (Letchworth), Will McKenna (London Welsh), Adam Greene (Cheshunt), Will Green (Royston), Tom Fawssett (Amersham and Chiltern), Ben Gilchrist (Hertford}, Harry Holman (Hertford), Kwame Adjem (Cheshunt)