

Now this is a story all about how the Legion's season got flipped-turned upside down and I'd like to take a minute, just sit right there and I'll tell you how we became the team they call the Legionnaires.

In rural Shropshire born and raised, at the White Hart is where we spend most of our days, Chillin' out maxin' relaxin' all cool and all sinking the beers and playing some pool.

When a couple of teams, who were up to no good, started making trouble in our neighbourhood. We took several big wins and Chris Wilde got scared, he said, "You're movin' up the leagues where they can compete and aren't scared.

We begged and pleaded with him day after day, saying we like our bus trips and drinking days away. He packed our bags and sent us on our way, to a league where we'd be forced to play.

Manager Lowbridge whistled for a bus and when it came near the license plate said "Viva" and had enough beer for a Legionnaire. If anything we could say that this bus was rare, But we thought, "Nah, forget it." – "Yo, Burton be scared, we are the Legionnaires."

We pulled up to the Hereford about 1 or 2 and we yelled to the driver, "Yo drop us here and don't get stuck, we'll be back in a bit looking fly like the Mighty Ducks."

We looked at our kingdom, we were finally there, to sit on our show Hereford Rugby what it's like to mix it with a Legionnaire...

SO... now that you've been enlightened, we shall move on to a more traditional match report! The Legion travelled with the 1st XV as both teams had away fixtures in their respective leagues. The Legion were pleasantly pleased to find out that there would be a pre match meeting at the Hereford Cider Museum (Dangerous decision made by the management!). Whilst the 1st XV had a serious discussion about the job at hand, Richard Biggin of the Legion had other ideas and decided that he needed 17 Bourbon, 32 Digestive and 8 Jammy Dodgers to set him up for the game. The Legion then used the time to explore the Cider Museum and came away with MANY souvenirs from the shop, including 2 Litres of Old Rosie Cider. A scrumptious mix of apples with an undertone of cedar and spice!

Arriving at the Hereford ground, Newport were pleasantly surprised to see the pitches bathed in sunshine and not the usual sludge and muddy conditions that are expected being on the flodd plains of the River Wye. From the warm up, it was clear that Hereford were here to play. Having conceded numerous matches in the previous weeks, Hereford obviously fancied their chances and it was clear that their Ex 1st XV Fly-half would be pulling the strings. Kick off confirmed the Legion's fears as Hereford came flying out of the blocks, with their exciting backs stringing miss passes, cut passes and loops galore. It was only through frantic and desperate defence from the midfield combo of Thomas, Pennells and Evans that stopped the lines being breached. It was off some of this defensive pressure that allowed Captain, Jonny Stiles to intercept a stray pass and race away for the first try of the game. Man of many positions, Jason Francis converting the try (with 7 on his back this week!).

This first try seemed to suppress the Hereford attack and it wasn't long before a clever backs move gained 40 metres and allowed birthday boy, Michael Woodenhorse to extend those inspector gadget arms and crash over in the corner. A poor take from the restart saw Hereford regain the ball and

start one of their mesmerizing attacks. Coasting past 4 would be defenders, the quick footed Hereford winger dotted over for their first score. The conversion being added making the score 12-7 after 10 minutes.

With his face burning in the sunlight, furious Jack Pennells who had been made to play at 12 instead of his usual 13 decided to show why he is the legion top try scorer and out of nothing, burst through a gap bigger than Kendall's breakfast to score the first of his 3 for the afternoon. More first half tries from AWOL Upsher and Seymour Butt with the ever reliable boot of Frandango giving the Legion a commanding 28-7 lead at half time.

The customary words from Manager, Lowbridge were the all too familiar 'this is the best team we've had out all year', 'you're playing great!', 'Henry, Shut up!' (Oh wait... Mr Holmes was on the first team pitch!!!).

The second half started in the same way as the first had ended with the Legion piling on the pressure and commanding territory and possession. As the game progressed, more gaps were being exploited in a tiring defence and the Legion found themselves attacking from all areas of the pitch. With Jackie Chan bossing the forwards, he was able to give the opposition noodle legs and scythe through a gap in the fringes with a simple Huryeo Chagi followed by a Ki-Cho E Chung, allowing him to score underneath the posts. Eager to make up for his lack of range from the Wolverhampton fixture, he opted instead to convert his own try with a Kamikaze Drop Kick as Francis had departed the field with a major boo boo to his foot. With South African flier, CJ Van De Linde also being withdrawn with a shoulder injury, the Legion would play the remainder of the match with 14 men.

It was from this shortage of backs that enabled Hereford to strike back, against the run of play to score their second try. This re-ignited the Legion and Josh Evans left numerous defenders in his wake as he and his hair cruised in for another try.

After a series of not 1, not 2, not 3, but 5 Side steps around defenders, Thomas released Pennells to outpace the defence and score yet another try to add to his tally. A second try from Jonny Stiles and Pennells AGAIN! Left the score at 62-12 and it was decided that the game should be ended early to save any further punishment. In hindsight this may have not been the best call as Newport only have a 29 points difference to Burton in a league where every point counts.

A great team performance against a team that had the capabilities to be dangerous in attack. The Legion will now face local loud mouths, Bridgnorth who are always keen to point out that they are competing at National 3 Level (We will see how you fair next year when we're back!). The game will be played as a League and Cup Double with the winner progressing to play Burton in the final.

Every player played brilliantly and MOM must be shared between Jack Pennells who scored his second hatrick in two weeks and Jason Francis who has only ever played 10 games of rugby and has played Wing, Full-back, Centre and now Flanker for the Legion!

Team: Bourbon Biscuit, Trump, AWOL, Trojan Horse, NTG, Frandango, Bearded Baby Maker, Captain Fantastico, Jackie Chan, Goode, Twin A, Van De Linde, Sunshine, Lewis Hamilton, Seymour, Dutch

Written By: Lord Pierre Van George Thomas III of Westbury, Son of King Andrew Van Goode XI