

## The Lancing of Longton

Firstly apologies for no report from the Wolverhampton game, here is a brief description. Complete mud bath, tried to play like Fijians, Nath Potts can tackle like Bruce Lee but kicks like Linda Lee, therefore we lost 14-12. Gutted. However with the title hopes dashed the Legion have a never surrender attitude, and crossing the Pennines of Staffordshire once more they marched into battle against the pie eating gravy guzzlers of Longton to lock horns in battle.

The game was also a double header as the winner would go through to the semi finals of the Cup, so like most men the Legion were excited at the prospect of a jolly good Semi. Howells had been retained by the first team this week, obviously Roberto Adams wasn't too bothered by his 40 a day habit of roll ups. Sargent James Plumb was called off his wing of the Legion onto the first team pitch as well so in stepped recruits Francis and Legion Skipper Noberto Styles. Francis again was walking the streets of Shifnal this time just to top up his tan in the salon, however Lowbridge as cunning as ever swiftly nabbed the dab handy left winger to don the boots for the Legion once again. Styles back after a number of weeks saviouring the first team reprised his role in the 2nd row with Vice Skipper Woodhouse to make a partnership deadlier than the bash brothers in the mighty ducks.

The game kicked off and Newport found themselves defending their own 5 metre line after team Fiji of Longton had produced some magic of would be legion defenders. Although despite Longtons best efforts the Legions defence held out stronger than a Gavin from Auto glass window repair. First to break the scoring efforts was outside centre CJ van der Linde, the South African flyer finished off a move that came straight out of the top draw. Francis converting 0-7.

Next the Legion were pinned on their own 22 when the boot of fly half Alex Mayer nudged the ball into the hands of the on rushing Francis, the Shifnal flyer caught the ball and outpaced a number of men before offloading to No.8 Pugh who then passed back to Francis for the beautiful man to score under the posts and take the game to Longton. 0-14.

New winger, colt Ace Gambino flew out of the traps on the half way line to bounce three tacklers and race away to score out wide. Two more quick fire scores from the back row players Pugh and Harris meant the Legion were racing away into the lead to assert them selves on the game. Longton did claw a try back after good work from their forwards driving their side through the Legion defences. Allowing their fly half to dance through the line like Micheal Jackson in a video shoot.

There was time for one more score on the stroke of half time, newly converted Pubist Luke Kendall was noted to have had more than the legal Legion requirement of 7 Beers maximum Fridayevening, he had 8 Beers 2 bottles of Merlot and a Rajas special to prepare for the trip. So when his battalion of forwards caught and drove a line out for Kendall to submerge under. It wasn't unusual to see the Hookers remnants of special all over the tryline and ball. Francis heaving over the conversion. 5-36.

Lowbridge was pleasantly pleased with the performance so far and with an eye on the league told the legion to push on and gain as many points as possible. That being said Longton then put up a good fight for the 2nd half and scored next to take the score to 12-36. However Ace Gambino raced clear again to score out wide and finish off a good Newport move. 12-43.

CJ van der Linde and Gambino had been deadly all day and it was no surprise to see them score two great try's to round off the Legions efforts for the afternoon. However the move of the match simply came from midfield when Sherlock Holmes Henry raced clear to Bounce one man and then off load to the on rushing Pugh who then passed to Mayer to put in a simple pass for Kendall to score in the corner. No wait folks, to the dismay of the crowd Kendall's previous evenings escapades meant the porky little pudding couldn't quite grasp the ball as it slipped through his fingers. Like a refugee to his country is simply did not stick.

There was time for Longton to score one more try when their Number 8 kicked over and raced away to score. Final score 17-55.

On a day when the Legion were able to right a few wrongs of the previous week, they did so with a bit of panache when victory was uncertain. The Legion march into battle against the Table toppers of Burton in what shall be an enthralling encounter. Hopefully the ladies of Newport will assemble and

cheer on the lads with all their might. Mentions this week go to the front row union of Rogers, Kendall and Gregory. The entire back line was like a piece of Mozart but Mayer, CJ, Francis, and Gambino were sublime.

On rolls the machine.

Viva le Legion

Report Don Marko, Jami Loworlone