

Legion Reign on Sutton Parade

The legion ran out against a strong willed skilful Sutton Coldfield side **this Saturday**, in conditions Bear Grills would have enjoyed. Playing on the first team pitch, which Neil it looked fantastic, and supported by an army of fans thanks to managers Lowbridge social media appeal the legion were in for a seesaw ride of a game.

Losing talismanic fly half Peter Thomas to the 1st team bench and winger Josh toupe Evans meant 3rd team stalwart Phil Wilkes came into the side and put in a good shift for the 40 year old veteran as did inside centre Jack Pennels who put aside the boxing gloves for the afternoon to spar down the 12 channel for the legion. George Crowe who has been outstanding at scrum half was unavailable due to commitments with registering with local university Harper Adams. George will now spend the next 3 years drinking more ale than is physically possible, running naked through Newport high street chased by eggs and flour and dodging taxes like a professional football manager. In stepped Nathan Potts who instantly was very commanding and assuring in the 9 roll.

The game kicked off and the Legion played up the hill, good phase work from the forwards saw full back Jake Lucas scored a good individual try rounding a number of players before out pacing the opposition full back to score. Joe Richards converting 7-0.

Next the legion can under immense pressure from the Sutton back line, two penalties meant their fly half who was very impressive slotted both from a difficult angle pegged the away side to within a point. A line out within the 22 saw the ball fumbled between the legion forwards hands and their open side pounced like a ferret in a rabbit hole to score their first of the afternoon. 7-11.

The legion came out of the blocks and were offloading like a Fijian sevens side with almost every forward touching the ball. A ruck in the midfield was identified by Wilkes to see an 8 on 3 overlap. Wilkes called and then passed to the on rushing fly half to score. Sorry ladies and gentlemen, the opposition fly half, he raced away like an Ethiopian chicken. Unlucky Phil. 7-18.

Just before half time there was a sterling fightback, the forwards kept it tighter than Simon Harris belt buckle. It was off such good work that the forwards rumbled their way to within 5 metres of the try and line and up popped the grinning Henry Holmes to score. HT 11-18.

Words of look to keep possession around the breakdown, and then go wide when the space was there saw the Legion claw back the lead **within 10 minutes** of the restart. A line out drive from the 22 saw top try scorer Chris Upsher go over for his 4th of the season. The bisexual front row forward cannot stop scoring, and by bisexual he can play anywhere across the front row. 24-18.

On came the changes Woodhouse replaced the impressive Howells, Pugh came on for Holmes and Marston replaced Richards. Within minutes disaster struck.

Lucas gave a mazy run Mike Brown would have been proud of, a wayward pass saw Sutton collect send a high ball in the air and safe as houses Keyzor to attempt to catch it. However despite his best efforts hacksaw jack saw the ball bounce of his chest into the arms of the onrushing Sutton winger who raced away to score a try under the posts. Let it be noted Woodhouse did make chase however the gigantic superman flop at the end was just not enough. 24-25. Game on!!!

Jonny Styles has been a marvellous captain this year taking games by the scruff of the neck when they needed him and delivering a performance that was worthy of Legioncy. It was off such a run from Styles he offloaded to a he onrushing Pugh who had been impressive from the bench and then passed back to Noberto who raced away under the posts. The legion going ahead 29-25.

Upsher grabbed a 2nd from another catch and drive line out for his 5th of the season the returning hooker has made a real impact this season, but to round off the day with his first touch of the ball was Alex Wells. The centre had been marvellous in defence but managed to step a would be defender and touch down to the right of the posts for a good score. 39-25.

Sutton had the final say. Nathan Potts, who was impressive at scrum half for the first time this season, threw a pass that was sponsored by BUPA to fly half Wilkes, this led to a spill of the ball

after a thunderous tackle and the Sutton 10 raced threw to score the final try of the game. FT 39-32.

It was a great game for the spectator, despite the conditions both sides were willing to have a go and play some offloading rugby resulting in a try fest. The league is hotting up now, with the legion keen to set right the damage from Stoke 3 weeks previously. Mentions this week go to Keyzor, Styles, Potts, Upsher, Lucas and Wells. How lever this week's MOM picked by John Tucker was loose head Matt Pardesi despite the hangover he produced a sterling performance.

On rolls the machine
Viva le Legion

Report a very wet Mark Lowbridge

Pardesi, Upsher, Gregory, Howells, Holmes, Keyzor, Thompson, Styles ©
Potts, Wilkes, Brazendale, Sheran, Wells, Richards, Lucas
Pugh, Woodhouse, Marston