

# Woking RFC Match Reports

SEASON 2018/19

# Old Paulines vs Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV

29<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Type: Surrey 3 League

Final Score 11 – 24

## Lineup

1. Garvey
2. O'Shea
3. Haydar
4. Hills
5. Smith
6. Snape
7. Dickie
8. Johnson
9. Wogan
10. Aitchison
11. Jarman
12. Rose [C]
13. Sines
14. Nearn
15. Wallis

## Report

After last weeks disappointment of a home walkover the league season finally began at Old Paulines, Woking led by captain Mark Rose took the field with purpose and a steely resolve, could the unbeaten Surrey 4 champions maintain their momentum?

With the sun shining and the conditions perfect the match kicked off and before it reached the second minute youthful wing Harry Jarman crossed the try line following some fluent ball handling from Wogan, Aitchison and Rose 5-0 to Woking.

From the restart Woking controlled possession rarely allowing Pauline's the ball and taking charge of the game their pack dominant at both scrum and line out the inevitable second try cam following a powerful maul and was touched down by Rose.

Pauline's rallied their spirits following some loose play by Woking and applied pressure to a resolute Woking defence, which never looked likely to concede, a solitary three points being the home teams only reward for their first half efforts Qld Pauline's 3 Woking 12 at the break.

The second half began with Pauline's applying pressure but Woking repelling their efforts with reasonable ease until a missed tackle allowed them through for what would prove to be their only try.

This only served to provoke Woking's warriors who pressed the home team back towards their own line, inevitably they conceded a penalty seven yards from their line and quick thinking scrum half Wogan took it quickly touching down for the teams third try whilst the defence were still organising themselves.

Barring a couple of valiant attempts, Woking had the game under control and after a number of flowing attacking moves that came close, the forwards secured the ball and it flowed down their

impressive backline to captain Rose who still a fair distance out and with plenty to do skittled defenders out of his way as he powerfully surged over the line for the bonus point score and five well deserved points to start their Surrey three campaign.

Club captain Richard Grady stating how pleasing both the performance and result were considering the number of absentees due to injuries and the higher standard of rugby.

### Man of the Match

Callum Wogan

## Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV vs Guildfordians

6<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Type: Surrey 3 League

Final Score: 15 -12

### Lineup

1. Power
2. O'Shea
3. Haydar
4. Hills
5. Brennan
6. Snape
7. Johnson
8. Dickie
9. Campioni-Norman
10. Aitchison
11. Plowright
12. Rose (Captain)
13. Garvey
14. Smith
15. Wallis
16. Dinsdale
17. Hursthouse
18. Cahalane

### Report

On a wet and blustery day Woking took to the field against a well-known foe, ready for what was inevitably going to be a highly physical encounter. Moments into the match mercurial fly half Micheal Aitchison received the ball back from his powerful pack of forwards and drop kicked the ball between the sticks Woking 3 - Guildfordians 0.

Almost immediately from the restart Guildfordians powered down the left flank and Woking's defence seemingly switched off as the opposing pack trundled over for a converted try Woking 3 - Guildfordians 7. Only moments later the Guildford pack again breached the Woking defence and although there appeared to be a clear knock on and doubt as to the grounding of the ball the try was given Woking 3 - Guildfordians 12.

Following a stern talking to from captain Mark Rose, Woking took total control of the game camping in the oppositions twenty two for long periods and constantly threatening the try line but the brave

Guildford defence continually thwarted the attacks until close to the end of the first half when the dominant pack eventually breached the try line and touched down with Aitchison converting Woking 10 - Guildfordians 12 at the break.

With the rain continuing to beat down the second half began and again Woking's pack dominated strong ball carrying from second rower Dan Hills and flanker Pearce Johnson creating chance after chance, but this was not a day for silky back play and the wet and slippery ball was fumbled on a number of occasions, then following a well-directed rumble forward outstanding hooker Mick O'Shea scattering defenders around him crossed for what would be the winning try Woking 15 - Guildfordians 12.

The large supporter contingent celebrating Woking's second successful outing in Surrey 3, Vice President Mr Justin Key in his post-match interview stating that although there would be some tough tests ahead it was a great start for the club particularly with a lengthy first string injury list and that he was proud of those such as Simon Power, John Dickie and Tom Smith who had stood up and represented the club with distinction.

### Man of the Match

Mick O'Shea

## Sutton & Epsom vs Woking 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

13<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Match Type: Friendly

Final Score: 21 – 12

### Report

A great effort on Saturday from all involved saw the 2nd XV push an experienced Sutton & Epsom RFC all the way. However, two late tries saw the home side run out 21-12 victors. First half tries came from Colin Pearce and Evan Marchant.

## Old Caterhamians vs Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV

20<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Final Score: 65 – 7

### Lineup

1. D. Garvey
2. D. Camioni-Norman
3. C. Pearce
4. A.L. Haydar
5. L. Bell
6. R. Snape
7. J. Dickie
8. P. Johnson
9. H. Jarman
10. M. Aitchison
11. T. Smith
12. M. Rose (captain)
13. G. Nearn

14. M. McGiven
15. C. Wallis
16. P. Rose
17. R. Cahalane

## Report

Woking's third outing in Surrey III was always going to be a big test with the club suffering a lengthy injury list to first string players, but following a confidence inspiring team talk from captain Mark Rose and the experience of vintage tighthead prop Colin Pearce they took to the field purposefully and with intent.

Old Cats started strongly only to find Woking's defence robust and they only managed a solitary penalty in the first twenty-five minutes. Led from the front by captain Mark Rose who made a number of strong tackles and the experienced Mike Aitchison who used the ball well with a strong kicking game the likes of young players Marc McGiven, the third of the McGiven dynasty, and John Dickie stood up and were counted as the pressure mounted.

Following a facial injury to full back Chris Wallis it was inevitable that Woking's brave defence would be breached and so it was to be following a handling error in midfield. It was not all defence from Woking and with Aitchison directing play they came close to drawing level on a number of occasions but ended the half 8 - 0 down.

The second half started following the same pattern until injuries to wing Gareth Nearn and fly half Aitchison allowed the flood gates to open and Old Cats took full advantage appearing to cross the line at will, Woking showed fine spirit never allowing their heads to drop and scored a well-deserved converted try touched down by John Dickie.

Following their first defeat in over a season captain Mark Rose thanked all those that had stood up to cover injuries and told them never to forget how defeat feels and to avoid ever feeling the same again by training hard and listening to their coaches and showing the same hard-nosed resolve as they had today.

## Man of the Match

John Dickie

## Woking 2<sup>nd</sup> XV vs Old Freeman's

20<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Type: League

Final Score: 14 – 7

## Report

In a scrappy game dominated by set pieces, it was Woking who came out on top against Old Freeman's with a 14-7 victory. Scorers were Kieran Lambert and Mark Sargeson who added the extras.

## Man of the Match

Mark Sargeson

# Old Johnnians vs Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV

27<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Type: League

Final Score: 29 – 19

## Lineup

1. D. Garvey
2. M. O'Shea
3. C. Pearce
4. L. A. Haydar
5. J. Hursthouse
6. M. Brennan
7. B. Dinsdale
8. P. Johnson
9. M. Aitchison
10. M. Rose
11. G. Nearn
12. M. Sargeson
13. P. Rose
14. K. Siddons
15. C. Wallis
16. J. McGiven
17. R. Cahalane

## Report

As Woking took to the field looking to return to winning ways a steely determination was evident on the players faces but unfortunately, they started slowly and ten minutes in Johnnian's youthful backs split the Woking defence and ran through to dot down for a converted try, this was quickly followed by a fortunate interception which added a further five points for the home team. Woking were not able to get any good ball and when they did were unable to keep it.

Johnnian's third try came following some good handling in midfield, Woking needed a spark and it came from Pearce Johnson playing at number eight he fought for the ball tussling with two of the oppositions forwards close to half way before running powerfully through several tackles to touch down for the teams first score of the afternoon on twenty minutes, the try was duly converted by Aitchison, and the game began to turn Dinsdale robbing opposition ball at rucks and forceful runs from Johnson, Garvey and Paul Rose causing some nervous moments for the home support.

Johnnian's 19 - Woking 7 at the break.

The second half began with Woking dominating, now the wind and slope were with them, and captain and fly half Mark Rose took control of the game powerful surges forward from their now dominant pack creating scoring opportunities but they did not trouble the scoreboard until prop Garvey decided to solve the issue himself charging through the opponents like skittles to add the second try.

With plenty of time left in the game Woking looked the likely victors, a rolling maul forcing Johnnian's from the half way line back to their own try line only to be forced out at the very last moment, a defence splitting run from Nearn again so close but no score. injuries to Pearce, Haydar and then

Dinsdale halted the team's momentum and Johnian's exploited the gaps to cross the line on two further occasions, but Woking showed true resolve and fighting spirit forcing the foe back well inside their twenty two winning a line out just five metres out, Man of the match Johnson safely winning the ball and the walking wounded of his pack summoned the strength to push him over for the final score of the game.

### Man of the Match

Pearce Johnson

## Merton vs Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

Type: Surrey 3 League

Final Score: 17 – 15

### Lineup

1. D. Garvey
2. M. O'Shea
3. L. A. Haydar
4. J. Hursthouse
5. M. Brennan
6. J. Parker
7. J. Dickie
8. P. Johnson (Captain)
9. R. Cahalane
10. M. Aitchison
11. E. Gough
12. R. Snape
13. D. Hills
14. T. Smith
15. B. Hall
16. J. Plowright
17. E. Marchant
18. S. Power

### Report

With an early kick off due to the Autumn Internationals, Wokin'gs injury ravaged warriors took to the field well prepared by captain for the day Pearce Johnson.

Merton started strongly making a number of runs into Woking's twenty two, each of which was repelled by a well organised defence and slowly Woking gained dominance particularly at the set piece, with props Garvey and Haydar punishing their opposite numbers in the scrum and Johnson and Parker unbeatable in the line out. Fly half Aitchison marshalled his team around the pitch skilfully and Woking's superior forward pack placed their opponents under concerted pressure for lengthy periods but failed to trouble the scoreboard and against the run of play Merton broke out and thanks largely to two missed tackles dotted down to start the scoring with a converted try. Woking continued to pressurise Merton but again failed to score as repeatedly the final ball went to ground rather than hand and yet again Merton ran through some weak tackling to double their advantage Merton 14 - Woking 0 at the half time break.

As the second half began it was extremely obvious that captain Johnson was not going to allow his players heads to drop as he led by example and motivated his team to continue their dominance. From a well won lineout Woking set up a powerful maul which Merton just could not stop and it trundled over the line for Dickie to touchdown Merton 14 - Woking 5. From the restart Woking again terrorised the Merton defence with replacement prop Power coming close only to be tackled at the last. Merton struggled, unable to cope with Woking's power and repeated infringements led to a number of penalties and a yellow card. From yet another powerful surge forward by the pack Aitchison spotted the opportunity and dropped a goal to add a further three points. With time running out again the pack were camped on Merton's try line and following a number of warnings the referee awarded them a penalty try giving Woking the lead for the first time in the match. As the game moved into added on time Woking conceded a penalty in front of their posts which Merton duly converted to take the win.

Club Chairman Andy Burrell speaking after the game stated how proud he was of the team and, in particular, those second team players who had stood up to cover injuries and given their all and the great leadership shown by Johnson and Aitchison.

### Man of the Match

Pearse Johnson

## Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV vs Old Glyntonians

17<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Type: Surrey 3 League

Final Score: 24 – 7

### Lineup

1. S. Power
2. M. O'Shea
3. D. Garvey
4. L. A. Haydar
5. T. Smith
6. R. Snape
7. J. Parker
8. P. Johnson
9. R. Cahalane
10. M. Aitchison
11. G. Nearn
12. M. Rose (Captain)
13. P. Rose
14. H. Jarman
15. C. Wallis
16. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
17. J. Dickie
18. J. Hursthouse



## Report

As both teams observed a minutes silence in respect for the passing of Woking player Oliver Dinsdale, a week ago, there was a determination on the faces of both the Woking players and supporters and a will to perform at the highest levels for him.

Woking got the perfect start opening the scoring with a converted try in the third minute, following some good link play in midfield Ryan Snape dotting down.

Old Glynionians then worked their way into the game and began dominating particularly at the scrum and but for resolute defence Woking could have found themselves behind, as it was, they went in at the break level at seven all.

As the second half began it was obvious the set piece had been sorted out and Woking, being marshalled by in form fly half Michael Aitchison took control of the game. Now dominant at the line out thanks to some excellent work from second rower Tom Smith and the scrum due to the experience of old stalwart Alisdair Hamilton-Wilkes at tighthead prop their backs began to get good ball and trouble the opposition defence. Aitchison's intelligent kicking game finding space and it was not long before Woking found themselves with a five metre line out which Smith collected safely and set up a maul which rolled over for outstanding hooker Mick O'Shea to touch down twelve seven to Woking.

As the game opened up, Aitchison and captain Mark Rose began to exploit the space and apply pressure to the creaking Old Glynionian defence, which following a powerful surging run from Paul Rose was breached for a third time Snape crossing for his second of the day. Old Glynionians composed themselves and began to work their way back into the game but without the penetration to be able to add to their score. Woking then displayed some excellent ball skill the ball working its way down the line with the defence floundering Aitchison who had come round on the loop crossed for the well-deserved fourth and bonus point try.

Woking still with an extensive injury list were worthy winners on the day and fully deserved maximum points.

## Man of the Match.

Chris Wallis

## Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV vs Old Caterhamians

9<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Type: Surrey 3 League

Final Score: 12 – 84

## Lineup

1. L. A. Haydar
2. M. O'Shea
3. C. Pearce
4. M. Brennan
5. J. Hursthouse
6. J. Dickie
7. J. Wright
8. P. Johnson (C)

9. R. Cahalane
10. M. Boorman
11. B. Hall
12. M. Sargeson
13. O. Leslie
14. T. Smith
15. H. Jarman
16. J. Bannister

### Report.

A brave display from Woking who fought with spirit and passion for the whole game but could not stop the league leaders running away on the scoreboard.

Woking's pack, led by captain Johnson, forced Caterham to contest every ball but when the ball went loose - despite maximum effort - Caterham's impressive back line were unstoppable running at pace and moving the ball with accuracy.

Midway through the first half, Woking's pack turned over the ball and set up a powerful maul which they controlled and rolled from the twenty two eventually crossing the try line for outstanding hooker O'Shea to touch down, to sum the day up the conversion hit the inside of the post but bounced out.

After further excellent rugby from Caterham, Woking's pack again worked their way into the opposition twenty-two and powerful play from props Pearce and Haydar kept them moving towards the line, flankers Wright and Dickie protecting the ball just short of the line allowing number eight Johnson to burst through the last defenders and dot down, this time Jarman conversion flew through the posts for the extra points.

Woking played with pride and made no excuses, but they need to see key players returning from what is a crippling long injury list. Club President Stanley Fisher stating how proud he was of those players that had stood up in the first team to cover injuries "everyone out there today played their hearts out" an encouraging sight for the future.

### Man of the Match.

Pearce Johnson

## Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV vs Old Johnians

16<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Type: Surrey 3 League

Final Score: 17 – 40

### Lineup

1. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
2. R. Blundell
3. S. Power
4. D. Hills
5. J. Hursthouse
6. M. O'Shea
7. J. Dickie

8. P. Johnson (C)
9. R. Cahalane
10. M. Sargeson
11. T. Smith
12. M. Boorman
13. J. Sines
14. G. Nearn
15. H. Jarman
16. M. Rose

## Report

On a perfect afternoon for rugby, Woking welcomed back Blundell, Sines, Nearn and Rose from their extensive injury list to bolster those that have stood up bravely over the past couple of months.

The match got underway with Woking applying pressure from the start and forcing Johnnians to concede a number of penalties and on five minutes Nearn collected a high ball in his twenty-two and set off on a powerful run discarding opponents as he progressed down the left wing, Johnnians had no answer to his power and pace and with the assistance of O'Shea he broke through the final defensive tackle to open the scoring Woking 5 – Johnnians 0.

Johnnians addressed their discipline issues and got themselves on the front foot mounting a number of attacks but Woking's defence held firm with O'Shea and Hills making try saving tackles inevitably following a period of sustained pressure Johnnians dotted down for a converted try to take the lead.

The game began to swing back Woking's way with their pack taking control and forcing Johnnians back to their own line a strong maul leading to the impressive O'Shea scoring their second try of the day which Sargeson duly converted. Johnnians responded scoring twice themselves before man of the match Nearn set off on yet another powerful direct run down his wing supported by Smith and Sines five yards out a ruck formed and was cleared out by Hursthouse and Hills providing the space for Blundell to pick the ball up and dive over the line. As has been the story of the season injuries to scrum half Cahalane and prop Hamilton-Wilkes disrupted Woking's game plan and as the match progressed Johnnians took full advantage.

Despite the scoreline this was an encouraging performance from Woking and as returning players gain full match sharpness results will undoubtedly improve.

## Man of the Match

G. Nearn

## Woking 1<sup>st</sup> XV vs London Media

30<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Type: Surrey 3 League

Final Score: 7 – 103

## Report

Of all the tries scored by our opposition, the Woking try was undoubtedly the finest try of the match.

A little chip kick over the Media defensive line by Mark Rose was neatly picked up in the in-goal area and grounded despite the Media scrambles.

A few more flashes of brilliance like that, a lot less missed tackles, one less interception and it would have been a different game entirely.

## Mitcham & Carshalton vs Woking 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

27<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Type: Cup

Final Score: 6 – 27

### Lineup

1. P. Barry
2. M. Edwards
3. B. Bremner
4. T. Smith
5. M. McGiven
6. M. O'Shea
7. D. Campioni
8. J. Dickie
9. R. Cahalane (C)
10. D. Collins
11. O. Leslie
12. D. Garvey
13. R. Grady
14. B. Hall
15. H. Jarman

### Report

As the crowds gathered for finals day at Reeds Weybridge, the storm filled conditions meant that accuracy and strong basic skills were hugely important to the outcome of the match.

Woking, confident following two recent victories took to the field with purpose, well organised and displaying a steely edge. Although Mitcham opened the scoring with a penalty this only served to provoke Woking.

From the restart the ball was launched back to Woking's twenty-two and was safely gathered by Garvey. Setting off at pace he scattered Mitcham's defence around him and travelled the length of the pitch to dot down for a try, converted by Smith.

Woking were dominant at the set piece and before long the ball was in O'Shea's hands. Not to be out done by Garvey, he set off powerfully destroying defender after defender. Like an unstoppable force he crossed for his sides second try and full control of the game.

The tally was then further increased as the ball flowed through the hands of Woking's backline for Grady to touchdown in the corner taking the halftime score to Woking 17 – Mitcham 3.

As the second half began Mitcham failed to produce an attacking threat and following strong forward play and some silky ball skills from the backs, Campioni cut a perfect line at pace to cross for the fourth try.

Mitcham rallied but could only manage a single penalty and this only served to provoke man of the match Garvey as he collected the ball out wide in his own half and set off with only one intention.

Leaving Mitcham bodies in his wake he made his way towards the line. Just one defender to beat which he did despite a lack of discipline from the Mitcham player. Unfortunately after scoring Garvey reacted leaving the referee no option but to issue two red cards.

The final moments of the game were uneventful as the game drew to a close. As the final whistle blew Woking's players and supporters started a celebration that would go long into the night.

Captain Cahalane receiving the trophy stated how proud he was of all his players and thanked the travelling support, "a great way to end a tough season and set up our next campaign".

### Man of the Match

D. Garvey