

Woking RFC Match Reports

SEASON 2017/18

Woking 1st XV vs Haslemere

30th September 2017

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 102 – 5

Report

After a long summer, the 2017/18 league campaign finally rolled around for Woking RFC. After starting a week late due to a bye in round 1, the start to the season almost stalled again due to Haslemere struggling for players. However, it was a case of the show must go on, especially with Woking Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Graham Cundy and Will Forster in attendance for the season opener. After some negotiation, Woking were able to loan Haslemere some players and it was game on.

From the off, it was one way traffic with Haslemere having no answer to a large Woking pack who created a strong base for Gareth Nearn, Jake Sines and captain Michael Aitchison to touch down. Not wanting to miss out on the glory, the forwards also got in on the scoring with second rows Patrick Watts and Joe Bennett grabbing one each and hooker David Garvey performing a fine job in the absence of Rory Blundell grabbing two tries. Outside half Justin Dougherty was also in fine form with the boot nailing 6 of 7 conversions. Woking dominated all facets of the set piece and open play which was a testament to the solid pre-season work under head coach Pete D’Cruz to take a 47-0 lead into half time.

The comfortable lead allowed D’Cruz and Aitchison the opportunity to experiment with the line up in the second half, as well as give those who had been loaned to Haslemere for the first half some game time. Early into the first half, this looked to have been a mistake as David Garvey, now in the White and Blue of Haslemere got his personal hat trick to prevent a complete whitewash. This shock forced Woking into action who reverted back to their play in the first half. The scores came thick and fast from both backs and forwards, special note going to old dog Jon Hursthouse who got a well-deserved score; much of his work going unnoticed. After an action packed 80 minutes, the game concluded 102-5 to Woking.

After the game, Pete D’Cruz commented “I can’t have asked for more from the guys who played today. Every man who played for either side gave everything and we’ll enjoy this evening. However Tuesday we will be back to work with Raynes Park next week being a completely different test.” Club President Stanley Fisher commented “What a great day for Woking RFC. Both our sponsors and guests from Woking BC thoroughly enjoyed the display of rugby as well as the hospitality laid on afterwards. I’d like to thank Haslemere for doing everything in their power to ensure the game was played despite league points not being on the line.”

Woking 1st XV vs Wandsworthians

21st October 2017

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 81 – 7

Lineup

1. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
2. D. Garvey
3. L. A. Haydar

4. S. Gilbert
5. P. Watts
6. D. Hills
7. S. Rhodes
8. J. Bennett
9. C. Wogan
10. M. Aitchison
11. C. Wallis
12. O. Leslie
13. J. Sines
14. M. Boorman
15. G. Nearn
16. R. Blundell
17. J. Saul
18. P. Schulze

Report

Except for the strong swirling wind, the conditions were near perfect for Woking RFC to host Wandsworthians in the Surrey League 4. After winning the toss Woking's skipper Michael Aitchison elected to play into the wind and sun for the first half. Wandsworthians opened with a kick high into the cross-wind and Woking showed intent receiving it to play wide through several phases and forcing the opposition to commit the breakdown. The resulting concentration of forwards allowing Calum Wogan at scrum half to pass out to the backs in plenty of space, resulting in the first try of many.

The pattern was repeated as Wandsworthians kicked their restarts high into the wind, allowing Dave Garvey and Steve Rhodes to gather the ball and run it hard into the centre of the field either for Callum Wogan to spin it wide or for forwards, in particular Joe Bennett, to barge through the defensive line. After 25 minutes Woking was already 22 points up.

Wandsworthians continued to play and hold their heads up and after a series of penalties were close to Woking's line and a ferocious 10 minutes of defensive play ensued. Woking offered Wandsworth nothing as each attempt for the line was driven back with hard tackling and rucking. Multiple penalties conceded eventually leading to Shaun Gilbert (lock) being yellow carded. Woking continued to absorb the attack and countered with Jake Sines sprinting up the pitch to score. Half-time score 29-0.

Into the second half Woking were struggling to maintain a playing pattern with any possession leading to a score after just a few phases and more points were quickly added with Joe Bennett (3 tries) and Pat Watts (1) rampantly competing to flatten opposition tacklers, who were simply not able to counter the hard running Woking's heavier forwards.

After another series of penalties against Woking, Wandsworthians were able to capitalise on just enough space to get over the line between the posts for a consolation try.

Man of the Match

Joe Bennett

Mitcham & Carshalton vs Woking 1st XV

28th October 2017

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 21 – 108

Lineup

1. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
2. D. Garvey
3. L. A. Haydar
4. P. Watts
5. S. Gilbert
6. R. Snape
7. S. Rhodes
8. J. Bennet
9. C. Wogan
10. M. Aitchison
11. C. Wallis
12. M. Rose
13. J. Sines
14. J. Dougherty
15. G. Nearn
16. R. Blundell
17. D. Hills
18. M. Boorman

Report

Woking continued their excellent unbeaten start to the season with the visit to Mitcham on a day with perfect conditions for running rugby.

Captain Micheal Aitchison directing play from fly half, behind a Woking forward pack that dominated at the set piece, set loose what at times was an unstoppable backline. From centre the communication and organisation of Mark Rose meant that every gap in the Mitcham defence was exploited to the full. From the kick off Woking quickly ran in three tries all of which were converted by in form goal kicker Justin Dougherty, the key to the scores was the speed at which scrum half Callum Wogan produced the ball for the backs.

Mitcham had no answers no matter how bravely they defended never shirking a tackle they could not halt the flood of tries. Number eight Joe Bennett and second row Patrick Watts running over the opposition gaining metre after metre. Mitcham did have some luck as they intercepted a possibly over ambitious pass in Woking's twenty-two to score under the posts. This appeared to provoke the clinical Woking team to extract vengeance as straight from the restart they tore the opponents apart to cross the whitewash for the bonus point try.

As the first half drew to a close a knee injury to the Mitcham loosehead prop would mean that scrums would be uncontested for the rest of the match taking away Woking's dominance in that area.

When the second half began it was obvious that Woking had adapted and even without scrum advantage, they were able to gain and retain possession running in try after try sixteen in all

fourteen of which were converted by the imperious Dougherty. The final try scored in the eightieth minute demonstrated Woking's ruthless desire, coach Pete D'cruz stating post-match how pleasing the eighty minute display had been and that the systems and lines that had been worked on in training had been executed to perfection. Although pleased he reminded the team of tougher tests to come and the need to maintain both the skill level and work rate if they were to consolidate their table topping position.

Man of the Match

Mark Rose

Woking 1st XV vs Reigate

4th November 2017

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Scores: 100 – 0

Lineup

1. D. Garvey
2. R. Blundell
3. L. A. Haydar
4. P. Johnson
5. P. Watts
6. R. Snape
7. S. Rhodes
8. D. Hills
9. C. Wogan
10. M. Aitchison
11. J. Dougherty
12. M. Rose
13. J. Sines
14. M. Boorman
15. G. Nearn
16. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
17. C. Wallis
18. J. Hursthouse

Report

It was traditional rugby weather for Woking to host Reigate in the Surrey 4 League for the first time in two years since Reigate's promotion and relegation. Woking were nervy before the match despite a big win against Mitcham & Carshalton (108 – 21) the previous week because some easy points had been leaked so an impregnable defence and clean score sheet were team targets.

Play was aggressive from the kick-off with Reigate gathering Woking's kick and playing hard forward phases straightaway. However, Woking's counter rucking was furious, and the visitors struggled to do much with the ball until it was turned over. Now it was Woking's turn to play tight phases until enough space opened up for centre Jake Sines to slip through Reigate's line and open Woking's account with a try between the posts.

Woking gathered the restart, with Michael Aitchison(10) and Mark Rose(12) moving the ball faster than Reigate could cope with. Shell-shocked but determined Reigate came back with spirit and used

a penalty to get inside Woking's 22, gathering from their lineout to move the ball quickly from side to side. However, the Woking defence was adaptive and offered nothing. Still determined to score Reigate's forwards tried relentlessly to drive through the line but could not breach it, even after a concerted 7-8 minutes of trying.

Sadly, tired from the attack Reigate enabled Woking to play champagne rugby in style and leaked several tries in quick succession with Doherty dumping his opposite number and running over to score and Pat Watts knocking forwards over like skittles. Half-time 29-0.

The second half opened as the first half had ended, with Woking gathering the ball and substitute Chris Wallis scoring from deep within his own half on his second touch of the ball. Reigate clearly looked tired, but they stuck at the game with good spirit and frequently showed their desire to get on the score sheet. Sadly, with new boys Ryan Snape (flanker) and Pearse Johnson (lock) tackling and securing around the ruck, Reigate simply could not translate possession into territory and with hard running from Rhodes, Watts and Garvey in the forwards Woking repeatedly broke the line to score.

Man of the Match

Callum Wogan

Old Suttonians vs Woking 1st XV

11th November 2017

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 0 – 29

Report

Woking travelled to Old Suttonians looking to protect their superior start to their season in Surrey 4.

With Woking missing a few key players through injury, and Old Sutts showing some promising results, it had the making of a very competitive game.

Old Sutts KO with a beautiful high ball, to instantly put Woking under pressure, which was received and secured by the in-form "bolt" like prop David Garvey.

After a few breakdowns Woking unleashed their salsa master on the left wing (Jordan baker) who danced his way through 8 mesmerised Sutts players to score in the corner.

Old Sutts returned with some big runs to then be driven back into their own half and into touch.

The Woking pack walked towards the line out like a pack of wolves about to eat. Rory throws a peach of a ball, collected by Dan hills in the clouds, and joins the back of a brutally powerful Woking maul to score which was converted by aitch.

Woking pick up their excitement and aggression which allowed the ref to misread a fly hack by wallis as dangerous play, forcing a yellow card.

Woking didn't seem phased by being a man down and came straight back with some poetic play to allow the mountain that is Joe Bennett to score to put Woking 17-0 up.

Half time came after 10 minutes of stale play by both teams.

Second half started with Jordan being put in the corner for his second and bonus point for the team.

After what seemed like an eternity of stale play by both teams, Wallis pressed up on defence to catch a sensual interception to score an outstanding individual try under the posts which was converted.

Old Sutts still searching for their first score by putting David “the dildo hands” Garvey under pressure with a well chased restart, which was dropped in Garvey fashion.

Woking finished with solid defence for their second game conceding no points.

Man of the Match

Jack Saul

Guildfordians vs Woking 1st XV

25th November 2017

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 7 – 19

Lineup

1. D. Garvey
2. R. Blundell
3. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
4. P. Johnson
5. P. Watts
6. J. Saul
7. S. Rhodes
8. J. Bennett
9. J. Dougherty
10. M. Aitchison
11. C. Wallis
12. M. Rose
13. J. Sines
14. G. Phillips
15. G. Nearn
16. J. Hursthouse
17. S. Gilbert
18. P. Robertson

Report

Despite Woking’s impressive start to the season, the unbeaten side had been keeping a keen eye on neighbouring Guildfordians similar run of victories in Surrey 4. The teams approached the fixture with 12 league wins and 0 losses shared equally between them, and Woking knew the trip to Stoke Park would be the biggest test of their season so far.

The game started with intensity and it was soon evident it would be a physical encounter, with direct running from both sides being met with crunching tackles all over the pitch. When their turn to attack, Guildford were struggling to break the gain line and impressive defensive line speed from Woking centres forced a fumble from the Guildford back line, and Jake Sines was quick to pounce on the loose ball and break away to score under the posts and open the Woking account at 7-0.

The visitors forward momentum continued and the dominant Woking scrum provided the foundation to begin piling on the pressure in attack. Even the resolute Guildford defence couldn't prevent Woking number 8 Joe Bennett crashing through two tackles in the middle of the pitch and adding Woking's second under the posts.

The Woking domination of the scrum continued, which enabled Justin Dougherty and Michael Aitchison to orchestrate waves of Woking attack and fullback Gareth Nearn was unlucky not to score on more than one occasion. The Guildford defence held out well and Woking were unable to convert their possession to points which looked like it may come back to haunt them late in the second half when a Guildford kick deep into Woking territory led to confusion in the Woking defence, and the ball bounced free for Matt Kipping to capitalise and score a poachers try in the corner to make the half-time score 14-7.

Guildford came flying out of the blocks for the second half, recycling the ball well and looking to have resolved some of the scrummaging challenges they had in the first half. The Guildford pressure started to mount and Woking looked stretched, leading to openside Steve Rhodes being sinbinned for tackling in an offside position. Woking's new signings Jack Saul, Pierse Johnson & Patrick Watts were pivotal in compensating for the sinbinning with aggressive and effective defence to hold off the Guildford attack until Rhodes was able to return to the pitch.

Woking brought on experienced locks Shaun Gilbert and Jon Hursthouse for the final quarter in an attempt to bolster the scrum and thwart the ferocious Guildfordian effort to even the scoreline, a decision that proved invaluable when Woking turned over 2 attacking scrums on their own 5 metre line, regaining possession when Guildford looked their most dangerous and allowing man of the match Joe Bennett to pick the ball up at the back of the scrum and launch an attack that concluded with David Garvey drawing two defenders and releasing Chris Wallis down the wing to make it 19-7 and seal the game for the visitors.

A hard-fought win for Woking and a very entertaining game of rugby from two strong sides. I'm sure both teams will be looking forward to the return fixture in March.

Man of the Match

J. Bennett

Farnham 3rd XV vs Woking 2nd XV

2nd December 2017

Type: Cup

Final Score: 38 – 14

Lineup

1. N. Otter
2. M. Sipin
3. S. Power
4. L. Bell
5. J. Hursthouse
6. S. Gilbert
7. B. Dinsdale
8. J. Dickie
9. R. Cahalane

10. M. Sargeson
11. T. Smith
12. E. Marchant
13. T. Blackburn
14. K. Lambert
15. J. Baker
16. B. Bremner
17. B. Simmons

Report

Woking Rugby 2nd XV travelled to Farnham RFC to start their battle for the Incentive FM Surrey Plate. Woking, sitting top of their league table, were eager to make a statement on Jonny Wilkinson's boyhood turf.

Woking worked tirelessly at training to implement a new 15-man zonal attacking pattern, and the dry weather and pitch conditions were perfect for running rugby. From the off, Woking had Farnham scrambling from side-to-side, through industrious work by the forward pods in making the hard yards and securing quick ball, and crisp hands from out-half Mark Sargeson to release the backs. A final pass was knocked on with the try line beckoning to deny an early Woking score.

Farnham were also eager to run at any opportunity which had the Woking defence stretched out wide. A kick-chase and favourable bounce of the ball led to their winger gathering at pace to run in for the first score. Farnham had their tails up and scored another two tries in quick succession through their powerful backs and some missed one-up tackles.

These scores felt somewhat against the run of play. Woking were enjoying the lion's share of the possession and territory, through dynamic carries from the forwards in midfield including John Dickie and Jon Hursthouse. The front row helped by Lee Bell out wide saw Woking work from end-to-end up to the 5 metre line. With Even Marchant screaming for the ball out wide, a parting of the Red Sea allowed for scrum half and skipper Ross Cahalane to dummy and run in under the posts.

Woking scored again shortly after the break with flanker Shaun Gilbert brushing off four tackles to rumble in under the posts. With both sides electing for running rugby to please the clubhouse terrace, it became a lung-busting effort to keep up. Woking however had the nudge at scrummaging throughout due to a fantastic, combined front and second row effort, with positions changing to cover injuries. Although Ben Dinsdale and Tom Blackburn defended magnificently throughout, Woking ultimately could not halt another couple of scores from the Farnham backs to seal them the game.

Man of the Match

B. Dinsdale

Woking 1st XV vs Old Ruts

10th February 2018

Type: Cup

Final Score: 17 – 20

Lineup

1. D. Garvey

2. R. Blundell
3. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
4. L. A. Haydar
5. J. Hursthouse
6. T. Boreham
7. D. Hills
8. P. Watts
9. J. Bannister
10. M. Aitchison
11. G. Nearn
12. Rose
13. T. Eker
14. Nutt
15. C. Wallis
16. J. McGiven

Report

The day was cold, wet, and blustery, which made for extremely difficult playing conditions, handling errors: dropped passes and misplaced passes marred the game. But to their credit both sides were prepared to play an expansive game, running from all parts of the field.

Old Ruts opened the scoring with a well-crafted try in the right-hand corner in the first 5 minutes. Unconverted. Early in the game Woking flanker Tom Boreham, who had just returned to play following a period of time out because of concussion, received another knock to the head and was replaced by veteran Jim McGiven. Woking hit back with a try out wide from Tom Eker. 7 – 5. Woking then created a well worked try from a line out down the line with a loop move to put McGiven into the corner. Converted. 12-5

Old Ruts response was a try from a counterattack after a kick deep into their half from Woking. It moved through several pairs of hands before being scored on the left. Unconverted. Play resumed and tempers became frayed and the shape of the game was temporarily lost as several players from both sides lost their discipline. The referee blew up and calmed the two sets of players down and the rugby resumed, shortly after came the half time break. 12-10 to Woking.

Woking's lineout was working efficiently with Dan Hills and his lifters operating well along the length of the lineout. He even managed to steal a couple of the Old Ruts throw-ins. The scrums were evenly matched, neither side gaining the upper hand during the first period

In the second half the Old Ruts scrummage started to gain dominance with some wrecking set pieces, this led to an increase in possession and eventually to a well fashioned try in the righthand corner. However, Woking were awarded a penalty kicked by Mike Aitchison. to level the scores at 17-17. With only moments left the game looked certain to go into a period of extra time, Old Ruts made one final surge into Woking's twenty-two and following an infringement at the ruck were awarded a penalty which they duly slotted to win a hotly contested match 17-20.

Man of the Match

L. A. Haydar

Woking 1st XV vs Old Suttonians

10th March 2018

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 29 – 10

Lineup

1. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
2. R. Blundell
3. D. Garvey
4. L. A. Haydar
5. D. Hills
6. P. Johnson
7. S. Rhodes
8. J. Bennett
9. J. Dougherty
10. M. Aitchison
11. G. Nearn
12. M. Rose
13. M. Boorman
14. H. Jarman
15. J. Baker
16. J. Hursthouse
17. S. Gilbers
18. P. D'Cruz

Report

Under dark skies and with a deceptive swirling wind the match kicked off, determination etched onto the faces of the Woking team. Just moments into the game, following strong and damaging surges forward by Woking's powerful pack, and some accurate passing, flanker Pearce Johnson picked a perfect line and surged through Old Suttonians defensive line at great speed to touch down for the first try. The swirling wind pushed the ball wide of the posts as the conversion was missed Woking 5 – Old Suttonians 0.

Immediately from the restart there was a repeat performance Woking's number eight and birthday boy Joe Bennett dispensing with defenders at will before an intelligent run from second row Dan Hills created the space for Pearce Johnson to touch down for the unbeaten league leaders second score again the conversion was unsuccessful Woking 10 – Old Suttonians 0.

Much to Old Suttonians credit they rallied and increased their intensity as Woking appeared to dial theirs down a notch, both defences creating a stalemate which lasted for the rest of the first half, barring an Old Suttonians penalty, making the half time score Woking 10 - Old Suttonians 3.

The second half began much as the first half had ended the game badly needed a spark and this was provided by Woking flanker Steve Rhodes who made a number of bludgeoning runs into the heart of opposition defence creating gaps and space for his backline to exploit but inaccuracy and over ambition meant that these opportunities were wasted. From a penalty on the twenty-two Woking centre Mark Rose directed the play and picked a superb line and at speed he collected the ball and surged over the line defenders flying all around him, scrum half Justin Dougherty adding the points for a successful conversion Woking 17 – Old Suttonians 3.

As Suttonians tired, gaps began to appear, winger Gareth Nearn out pacing the defenders jinking and stepping them to cross the try line only to overrun the pitch, something I don't think his team mates will let him forget any time soon.

Following this Woking moved up a gear first Joe Bennett crossing for an unconverted try then fly half Michael Aitchison dummied a pass and breaking through to score under the posts this score was converted Woking 29 – Old Suttonians 3.

The bonus point win secured, again, Woking turned down the gas and as the game faded to a close Old Suttonians put together an excellent move which ended with a deserved converted try Woking 29 – Old Suttonians 10.

The referee who had controlled the game well brought the contest to an end. Woking remain league leaders and undefeated and with positive results in the next two weeks promotion could be secured.

Woking Life Vice President Mr Justin Key stated post-match that "it was crucial to maintain the drive and desire that had got the team to this position and not allow complacency to creep in."

Man of the Match

P. Johnson

Reigate vs Woking 1st XV

17th March 2018

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 6 – 47

Report

After the Beast from the East caused games to be postponed two weeks ago, the rearranged fixture ironically took place in freezing temperatures and snow. A very muddy pitch made for a very slippery ball, which hampered any free-flowing rugby but provided a cracking battle between Reigate and Woking.

Early exchanges saw both sides scoring points, with Wogan and Blundell taking tries after very solid forward work from the Woking pack. Reigate slotted two penalties after failing to cross the try line due to resolute Woking defence. At 6-12 the game became as bogged down as the pitch. Scrum after scrum saw both packs holding their own, but the fitter Woking pack began to dominate, and the flow of the game began to shift in Woking's favour.

With the tiring Reigate pack, space began to open up around the pitch. Mark Rose and Mike Aitchison spread the ball around, and Woking's outside backs Gareth Nearn, Jordan Baker and Tom Eker started to make inroads down the outside channels, backed up by the bulk of centre Matt Boorman. Tom Eker managed to create himself a scoring chance out wide and the conversion into the wind from Aitchison took the score to 6-19.

Reigate shifted their defence to cover the wider channels, and Woking spotted the gaps around the tight. Some excellent pick and go rugby from Gilbert, Hills, Rhodes and Bennett gave Alisdair Hamilton-Wilkes a fall over the try line, much to his bewilderment! Aitchison converted to bring the half time score in at 6-26.

The half time huddle provided some much-needed warmth! Pete D'Cruz and Sophie Williams, the new coaching duo, hurled instructions into the wind that did not fall on deaf ears. Simplify the rugby.

The second half saw some very strong running from Joe Bennett and Dave Garvey, who rather than offloading took the ball to ground and provided a solid platform of phases for Rose and Aitchison to orchestrate territorial rugby, pinning Reigate back in their own half. Reigate's defence was strong, but after a bouncing ball from Gilbert found Steve Rhodes, Rhodes smuggled his way through the confused defence to score, again converted by Aitchison, 6-33.

Reigate's scrum finally collapsed, Rory Blundell leading his scrum from hooker, whilst Pearse Johnson wreaked havoc on the opposition back row. With almost all the ball playing into Woking's hands the lads closed the game out with two fantastic tries. A beautiful pass from man of the match Jordan Baker gave Dave Garvey an easy belly flop over the line, whilst some great handling from all the team saw Shaun Gilbert finish the day off in style. Both tries converted again by Aitchison who had a good day with the boot in blizzard conditions, finished the match at 6-47.

Maybe the Woking lads had been provoked by some goading words on Twitter from Reigate in the morning, but the Woking team looked rejuvenated after a couple of difficult weeks of slightly lackluster rugby. Things look very much on track for the big title clash next week at Byfleet Recreation Ground, against 2nd place and local rivals Guildfordians. Skipper Mike Aitchison commented after the game, "The team spirit was there today, everyone dug in and stepped their game up. With two more games to play, we have everything to lose, but a good week of training and a continuation of the team spirit shown today will certainly put us in a great position to get the result we need next week. One game at a time."

Woking 1st XV vs Guildfordians

24th March 2018

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 38 – 10

Lineup

1. D. Garvey
2. R. Blundell
3. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
4. S. Gilbert
5. D. Hills
6. P. Johnson
7. S. Rhodes
8. J. Bennett
9. C. Wogan
10. M. Aitchison
11. C. Wallis
12. M. Rose
13. J. Sines
14. M. Boorman
15. G. Nearn
16. L. A. Haydar
17. J. Dougherty
18. J. Baker

Report

As kick off approached and a large crowd gathered on the touchline, Michael Aitchison led his team out for their penultimate league match of the 2017/18 season with high expectations placed on the team they lined up purposefully.

This top of the table clash could decide the league championship and secure promotion. As the game began you could feel the tension around the pitch, but Woking's well prepared team remained unaffected. Straight away they tore the Guildfordian defence apart allowing Joe Bennett to cross the whitewash for the first try of the day.

A lack of concentration from the restart led to Guildfordians immediately replying with a try of their own, two minutes into the game and the score at 5-5. Woking regrouped and began to take control of the game marshalled around the pitch by the outstanding Michael Aitchison. Woking's powerful forwards dominating and crushing all in their path. Guildfordians seemed to have no answers to the Woking game plan.

Following a scrum which saw Guildfordians fly backwards at great speed, scrum half Callum Wogan touched down to restore the lead. Woking now with total dominance piled on the pressure. Aitchison imperious as he marshalled his troops, and the Woking pack starved the opposition of any possession. It was not long before the beast of a man that is number eight big Joe Bennett decimated the defence in front of him to score his second try. Aitchison then slotted an excellent penalty to extend the lead as half time approached.

Again, Woking's forward pack marched Guildfordians backwards and the ever-alert Aitchison spotted a gap which he fully exploited to score the bonus point try.

Guildfordians rallied and following a neat piece of interplay they pulled a score back, half time Woking 28 - Guildfordians 10.

The second half began and the excursions of the first half showed in the Guildfordian team as Woking dominated in every area of the game. Second row powerhouses Dan Hills and Shaun Gilbert not only securing their own lineout ball but also winning a number of the oppositions. From one of these Woking set up an unstoppable rolling maul with hooker Rory Blundell crashing over the line for another five points ending the game as a spectacle, Guildfordians pack wearily trudging back for the restart.

As the game was drawing to a close and celebrations were starting in the excited crowd, arch try poacher Rory Blundell crossed again – Woking 38 – Guildfordians 10 as the referee who had had an excellent game, put his whistle to his lips to bring the game to an end.

Celebrations that were to last long into the night began in earnest. Head Coach Pete D'cruz gathered all the players, coaches and volunteers together on the pitch to enjoy the moment that Woking won Surrey 4 and were crowned champions.

Egham Hollowegians vs Woking 1st XV

7th April 2018

Type: Surrey League 4

Final Score: 7 – 27

Lineup

1. D. Garvey

2. R. Blundell
3. A. Hamilton-Wilkes
4. S. Gilbert
5. L. A. Haydar
6. P. Johnson
7. S. Rhodes
8. D. Hills
9. C. Wogan
10. M. Aitchison
11. G. Nearn
12. J. Dougherty
13. J. Sikes
14. M. Boorman
15. C. Wallis
16. M. Armstrong
17. P. D'Cruz
18. T. Eker

Report

As Woking travelled to their last league match of a championship winning season hopes were high that it would end undefeated and enter the history books as a perfect performance.

With Egham still very much in with a chance of promotion themselves this was always going to be a hard-fought contest and as the match started their passion and intent was obvious.

Woking appeared sluggish and struggling to achieve their normally very high standards but defended valiantly as they got to grips with the game. Egham were the first to register on the scoreboard with a well worked converted try.

Woking responded almost immediately when Jake Sines picked an excellent line and broke through the Egham defence to touch down out wide, the difficult conversion was narrowly missed leaving the score at Egham 7 Woking 5 and it would remain that way for the rest of the first half as the two teams cancelled each other out.

Following input from the coaching team of Pete D'Cruz and Sophie Williamson during the interval, Woking started the second half with far more purpose. Egham now began to struggle to contain them as Woking took full control of the game. Outstanding powerful runs from flanker Steve Rhodes and prop Dave Garvey sapped the strength of the opposition and lead to a converted try for scrum half Callum Wogan.

Woking were displaying high fitness levels and Egham resorted to a series of offside infringements in an attempt to halt Woking's relentless march forward. From one such offence Michael Aitchison slotted the resulting penalty to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

As the match progressed, Woking dominated in every area and outstanding lineout work from second rowers Dan Hills and Shaun Gilbert secured good ball allowing their dominant pack to set up a maul and rumble over for their third try of the day.

Egham now appeared tired but defended whole heartedly and held their line well, but it was inevitable that Woking would eventually find the gap and score the bonus point try. This they did in the closing minute as again Jake Sines touched down to record the final score of Egham 7 Woking 27.

The perfect season achieved Woking began their richly deserved celebrations whilst the coaching team begin to plan next years' campaign in Surrey 3.

Man of the Match

J. Sines

Reigate 2nd XV vs Woking 2nd XV

28th April 2018

Type: Cup

Final Score: 0 – 35

Lineup

1. N. Otter
2. O. Nutt
3. S. Power
4. J. Hursthouse
5. L. A. Haydar
6. M. Brennan
7. B. Dinsdale (C)
8. J. Mayes
9. H. Jarman
10. P. D'Cruz
11. B. Hall
12. J. Dougherty
13. J. Plowright
14. D. Collins
15. E. Marchant
16. M. Sargeson
17. J. Parker
18. T. Smith
19. J. Dickie
20. B. Simmons

Report

After a season of ups and downs, Woking aimed to finish on a high with a visit to Esher for the Surrey league finals day. Off the field, things did not get off to the best start with a mixup over kick off times meant that players were still arriving after the rescheduled kick off time. Fortunately, Reigate were in the same position which gave Woking opportunity to change and get a quality warm up & run through under the watchful eye of coaches Pete D'Cruz and Sophie Williamson.

After a thirty minute delay, the game got underway with openside and captain Ben Dinsdale winning his own sides kick off for Woking. From the off, Woking set the platform they wanted in both set piece and open play. However small mistakes and spoiling by Reigate in defence meant the score stood at 0-0. Eventually Woking got on the board, a lineout from a penalty was won by Matthew Brennan who set up the drive. From there, the forwards kept the ball tight and it was No8 Jordan Mayes who crashed over to put Woking five nil up.

From the restart, Woking took the ball on. However, Reigate were still fighting and managed to disrupt a ruck. Confusion in the forwards saw a boot to the ball in the wrong direction and it was

only some smart action from centre James Plowright which got Woking out of trouble. Shortly after, Woking were pressing again when an interception from the Reigate centre saw him stream down the pitch. Great work from prop Simon Power and scrum half Harry Jarman saw Woking win a turnover to hold their lead. The second try was soon to come with Jordan Mayes storming up field again. Once recycled, centre Justin Dougherty took the ball within metres of the line. With a huge overlap, outside half Pete D'Cruz had a huge choice of supporting players to choose from and it was Ben Dinsdale who gratefully took the pass to crash over. Shortly after, Jordan Mayes grabbed a second try from a tapped penalty to make the score at half time fifteen nil to Woking.

Half time: Woking 15 (Mayes x2, Dinsdale) Reigate 0.

The second half started in much the same fashion with the Woking forwards setting a solid base for the backs to utilise the space. Centre James Plowright was consistently crossing the gainline and causing real problems for the Reigate defence. After another strong run by Plowright, Pete D'Cruz spun the ball wide where it reached winger Danny Collins. It appeared disaster struck when Collins dived on the five metre line. Fortunately, he realised his mistake and scrambled over to take the score to twenty nil.

Reigate again were not going to roll over and continued to hold out Woking. The legality of some of their tactics was debatable and Woking lost Harry Jarman to a head injury and Ben Dinsdale who was hit late while crossing for his second try. With fresh legs coming on and Reigate's bench empty, the game was truly consolidated with winger Ben Hall taking advantage of an overlap and then nicely cutting back inside to score. To end it all, second row Lee Abi Haydar drove over from short range to seal the win for Woking thirty-five points to zero.

After the game it was the awards ceremony where captain Ben Dinsdale was awarded the regular season league trophy and the league final trophy from Surrey RFU Chairman Tony Price. Regular Captain Ross Cahalane who watched the game from his suite at the Bellagio in Las Vegas commented "What a great way to end the season. The boys showed what they are capable of and I couldn't be prouder. I just wish I could be there to celebrate it with them. I am confident we can go from strength to strength in the 18/19 season under our new captain Ben Dinsdale."