

MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2011:
Tiverton RFC 3 V Torquay Athletic 18

Based on having the best points for tally in their League Torquay Athletic would have been hoping to garner a valuable bonus point from their visit to Tiverton who were winless and lying at the foot of the table and whose points against total is the highest.

Indeed a four try win would have put Tics top of the table for the first time this season but it was not to be against a side whose forwards competed especially well.

Nevertheless the visitors started with good intent within the first minute by running a deep downhill kick back and advancing up to the Tivvy 5 metre line where an infringement in front of the posts gave skipper James Wood a comfortable penalty kick to go 0 –3 ahead.

However for the remainder of the first period good try scoring opportunities mostly dried up for the Tics through a combination of being denied any consistent share of quick, clean ball by the opposition and taking wrong options when any opportunities arose.

The early score was cancelled out by a penalty on 4 minutes converted by winger Jimmy Atkins for 3 – 3 but thereafter both sides were unable to capitalise when good field position was worked and scoring chances were limited to penalty attempts; two for Tivvy which were both missed and two for Tics, the second of which was converted on 35 minutes by Wood to put his side 3 – 6 up at half time.

Tivvy came closest to scoring a try after 55 minutes but their left wing Chim Gale had the ball dislodged from his grasp when a whisker from the line by a last ditch tackle by centre Ollie Pitts making a welcome return to Tics colours after two seasons away at College.

Tiverton were then reduced to 14 men when replacement flanker Max Neusinger was yellow carded for going off his feet at a breakdown. Although the resulting penalty was missed Tics pressed and gained a 5 metre attacking scrum but the put in went all the way through the tunnel giving the defending side a chance to clear, only for the ball to be spilled within the in-goal area. The alert Jon Oliver pounced on it to give Tics breathing space at 3 – 11.

Within a few minutes Tics took a further foothold on the game when no.10 Wood made a break and was well supported by full back Tony McCarthy. The ball was spun wide right to wing Andy Gormley who was strong enough to stay on his feet and break two tackles to dot down. Wood converted for 3 – 18 at which score it remained.

Other results:

Torquay Athletic Extra Firsts 27 V Tiverton II's 17
Torquay Athletic Quins 49 V Totnes II's 7
Brixham Colts 23 V Torquay Athletic Colts 20