

Sunday 25th October 2010

DK U15 19, Droitwich U15 57

Squad:

Matthew Acaster, Alex Brooks, Scott Fawkes, Hayden Green, Miles Leglister, Rhys Hamilton, Ryan Healey, Patrick Keen, Isaac Latham, Matthew Mclaughlin, James Wheeler, Harry Bayliss, Will Hancox, Tom Parkes, Jack Taylor, Ben Aston and Will Squire.

With a large number of absentees for various reasons, only seventeen players were available. Conditions were ideal for running rugby, most of which unfortunately came from the visitors who were dominant for much of the game. A threatened DK comeback early in the second half was swiftly countered and Droitwich were worthy winners. The home side were unable to perform at quite the same level as last week, with the forwards conceding possession in the loose rather too frequently and losing most of the lineouts. Kicking out of hand usually resulted in Droitwich counter attacks and Will Hancox had to cope with a rather unpredictable service from the set piece. This combination of problems, plus an early injury to Hayden Green, meant that Droitwich were able to control proceedings, running in a total of eight tries, four in each half. No less than seven of these were converted. Their number 8 and inside centre had particularly influential games, but overall it was a fine team effort from the visitors. The game was played in excellent spirit by both sides.

Positives for DK were that a number of players of necessity had to be out of their customary positions and will have gained additional experience as a result. At no time did heads go down and for a fleeting few minutes in the second half, it seemed that the game might even be close. At 26-0 down, Ben Aston set off towards the distant Droitwich line, running through a number of tackles to score. Droitwich responded immediately, with their powerful number 12 performing a similar feat at the other end (5-33). Back came DK, with Tom Parkes picking up a loose ball to run round the defence to score under the posts. This was a particularly warming moment, when one recalls the events of a wet evening in Yardley almost a year ago. There then followed the best move of the match for the home side, started by Scott Fawkes, one of the club's unsung heroes. Coming away from the back of the scrum, he made at least 30 metres before the cover arrived, but good placement of the ball allowed it to be recycled and to go through several pairs of hands before Harry Bayliss finished off the move. The latter's successful conversion meant that at 19-33 down, there was a glimmer of hope. However, a penalty in front of the posts meant another three points for Droitwich who from then on, were rarely under pressure and were able to run in three further tries.

We move on, with next Sunday seeing the visit of our old friends from just down the road in what promises to be an interesting encounter.