

Hardenhuish Year 8 Rugby Secure Comfortable Victory over Sheldon, 50-10, by Fin Fielder (Captain)

A rivalry known for quite a few years now, it certainly didn't disappoint.

Hardenhuish won the toss and chose to play up the hill for the first half of the game. The match began with a slow start from both teams, handling errors and simple mistakes for the first five minutes. This slow start didn't prove costly for either side until a knock on at Sheldon's 22m line. Hardenhuish scrum.

Hardenhuish played through the phases until the forwards created space down the blindside for the backs to score in the corner. The momentum stayed with Hardenhuish for the next five minutes, scoring another try using a similar style play to score on the other side of the field. The momentum switched as Sheldon, using their rather tall forwards, powered over the line for their first try of the game.

Another unanswered try resulted in 2-2 with 5 minutes left in the first half. Good scramble defence from Harden resulted in a knock on from Sheldon. Some good team play keeping the ball alive marched Hardenhuish attack up to the 22m line in the opposing half. A penalty was conceded by Sheldon. A good kick to touch marched Hardenhuish further to the 5m line. Then the forwards took control to get a well worked score under the posts. Half time.

Hardenhuish needed to up their game to beat the Sheldon team from across the way. An inspiring talk by Mr. Fox drove up the team's intensity in this second half and showed what we could really do: to be more aggressive in the breakdown because Sheldon were beating us in that area of the game.

A sharp start to the next 25 minutes proved well for Hardenhuish, putting a quick try on the board helped the team a lot. The momentum stayed with Hardenhuish as another try was added by good determination to shrug off the defensive attempts and score under the posts. Three minutes later, the gap behind opened up for the kick through which led to good team pressure on the Sheldon fullback. The gaps opened out wide which was used wisely by the backs to score another.

Two more tries in quick succession showed the pace we had. The game evened out for the last 10 minutes. Hardenhuish still holding off the desperate attacks from Sheldon held them to two tries in total. However, Hardenhuish finished strongly with a team try that summed up the day, teamwork, aggression and pace.

Final score 50-10. Areas to improve on include rucking and being more organised in defence but overall a good team performance.