

NEW MILTON LED ON 'MERI' DANCE

BOURNEMOUTH 4's 38 – NEW MILTON 12

A new decade of Bournemouth Rugby started with The Bedouin's scoring an emphatic victory over an alleged New Milton 3rd & Veterans team that contained no less than 6 1st team players after their Hampshire Cup game was called off.

The cold weather relented allowing the Chapel Gate pitch to thaw just in time under a weak wintry sun, it took only 8 minutes of New Year rugby before Steve Merifield went over near the corner to put the home side into a deserved lead.

The expected strong New Milton challenge was not allowed to happen as Bournemouth took control all over the park with outstanding performances from the whole team, the pack matched their bigger opponents and the backs ran riot.

Long distance tries from Phil Todd, Ramon Mallette and again Merifield combined with three Mallette conversions put the Bedouin's in complete control by half time, even an inspired substitution of hooker Dave Upton for star winger Ramon could not hold back The Bourne invasion.

HALF – TIME: BOURNEMOUTH 4's 26 – NEW MILTON 0

Confusion reigned as Bournemouth struggled with half time substitution's and found it difficult to start the second half with 15 but after a couple of minutes of brainstorming the referee was happy and the game could restart!

The second period was played in jovial mood by the hosts with all the backs roles bar one were taken up by forward players including the svelte Andrew Wiseman filling in at Full Back, he actually spent more time trying to put on his body hugging shirt than playing his position.

On the scoring front Mark Petrie scored on 50 minutes which was expertly converted by Matt Coxon and the outstanding Steve Merifield completed his hat trick on 59, New Milton managed a converted score just after the break and scored with last play of the game on 71 minutes and then told the official that they had, had enough.

In conclusion a good blow out for the whole squad and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in the freezing conditions and a squad of players playing the great game of rugby with a smile on their faces, it just could catch on!!!!

BOURNEMOUTH FOURTHS LINE UP:

1: SEAN BUCKLE, 2: GUY ANDREW, 3: ANDY WISEMAN, 4: MATT NORMAN,
5: STEPHEN BOWES, 6: LEE DEAN, 7: NICK DARVILL, 8: MARK AWDAS,
9: MATT COXON, 10: JOHN COXON, 11: ED MESSIHA, 12: CRAIG DEAN,
13: PHIL TODD, 14: RAMON MALLETTE, 15: STEVE MERIFIELD

SUBSTITUTES:

16: DAVE UPTON, 17: AL RAWORTH, 18: SIMON DOWNS, 19: DAN THOMAS,
20: VILLI NAVUASESE, 21: LIAM CHAMBERLAIN, 22: MARK PETRIE

SCORERS:

TRIES: MERIFIELD 3 (8,17 & 59mins), TODD (20mins), MALLETTE (35mins), PETRIE (50MINS)
CONVERSIONS: MALLETTE 3 (17,20 & 35 mins), COXON M (50mins)

MAN OF THE MATCH: STEVE MERIFIELD

DOUGHNUTS OF THE DAY: P.STRAUGHAN (REF), PHIL TODD, RAMON MALLETTE