

SURREY LEAGUE 4

CROYDON 3rd XV 5 pts REEDS WEYBRIDGE NIL

If you are the loser of a game by such a narrow margin, with the winning score in the last ten minutes of play, you are entitled to be disappointed and Reeds certainly were. However, it was a game where Croydon did have the edge throughout and Reeds did so well to keep the margin so low. Up front, Croydon fielded five grizzled campaigners whose height and width were similar, it was their work that ensured some quality possession, going forward. Reeds struggled in that department, they got sufficient ball, but it was under pressure. Andy Bellis the big Reeds centre had an outstanding afternoon in defence and attack, clearly he had decided that route one through the middle of the park was the right option, breaking through on several occasions but Reeds couldn't profit from the second phase work. No question, that in terms of territorial advantage Croydon had the best of it and it was some tigerish defence from Reeds that kept their line intact. There was no score at the change round and Reeds faced an uphill battle, in terms of the ground and the game. But it wasn't all Croydon, Reeds veteran centre John Colwell was quick to spot the half gaps to open up the defence, Toby Conway-Hughes Reeds back row captain and No 8 Rob Cherry delivered any number of inspirational charges, but the homesters had some quick boys who could provide the cover. There was no doubt about the tackle of the day, it came from Reeds winger Craig Robson, a newcomer to rugby, Croydon had fired the ball out wide with the attacker heading for the corner flag. Robson turned on the gas, hunted him down and delivered a shuddering tackle that spreadeagled the runner. But to those last ten minutes, it had looked ominous with a series of attacks coming close to a score, finally the ball was squeezed out wide to one of those grizzled forwards and there was no stopping him from a few metres.

Next Saturday Reeds are at home to Old Rutlishians with a chance to over turn the defeat they suffered early season.

George Spinks

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