

Match Report - Sunday, 7th March 2010

London Irish (Lions) v Dorking – under 15

It was a sunny but cold morning at Sunbury as the London Irish Lions (under 15s) prepared for their sixth league match of the season in the Surrey League Division One. Following five victories in their first five league matches the London Irish team now faced a home match against Dorking. The pitch was in good condition with some give in it. The match was scheduled for an 11.00am kick off.

London Irish kicked off into the sun. For the first ten minutes the match was closely contested as both sides started well with some strong tackling and both sets of forwards fought for supremacy. Play was fairly even as both sides were making a few elementary handling mistakes but these began to disappear as the game settled down. Gradually the greater strength of the London Irish forwards began to tell, particularly in the scrums, as London Irish began to apply pressure to the Dorking defence. London Irish nearly scored in the right corner before applying more pressure which resulted in the ball being won in a ruck and quickly passed across the pitch. The ball finally reached **Aaron Maddix** who sprinted powerfully past a number of tackles on the left wing to cross the line before running round under the posts to score. **Robert Lynch** converted the try and London Irish were off and running.

London Irish 7 – 0 Dorking

Dorking continued to play with great intensity fighting for every ball but they were having difficulty coping with the strength of the London Irish forwards and the speed of the passing of the London Irish backs. Shortly afterwards London Irish broke away on the left side. After a quick and accurate passing move the ball again reached **Aaron Maddix** who sprinted down the line to run around and score near the posts. **Robert Lynch** again converted the try.

London Irish 14 – 0 Dorking

The game continued with intense play and some very strong tackling by both sides. The London Irish forwards were beginning to dominate and the backs were putting together some great passing moves. Following a penalty awarded to London Irish the ball was passed quickly across the pitch and reached **Aaron Maddix** who again evaded a number of tackles to sprint through and score near the left corner. Aaron had now scored a first half hat-trick on his debut as a winger– a tremendous feat. **Robert Lynch** converted the try with a great kick from a very difficult angle.

London Irish 21 – 0 Dorking

Dorking responded immediately and went straight on to the attack but the London Irish defence held firm. During this attack Dorking were awarded a penalty which they decided to

kick for goal. The kick was missed and the score remained the same. Shortly afterwards the half-time whistle blew.

Half Time: London Irish 21 – 0 Dorking

Dorking kicked off to start the second half and went straight on to the attack and continued to apply pressure without ever really threatening the London Irish line. After a short passage of play the ball was won by London Irish. Following excellent powerful driving runs by two London Irish front row players, almost one after the other, play moved from inside the London Irish '22' to well inside the Dorking half. Another excellent quick passing move ended with the Dorking line again being threatened. Following another successful London Irish ruck **Adam Szczotka** collected the ball and drove over the line to score near the right corner. The try was not converted, though from a difficult angle the ball hit the post.

London Irish 26 – 0 Dorking

Dorking continued to show great fighting spirit. From the restart Dorking went on to the attack and, following pressure on the London Irish defence, nearly broke through but a great tackle drove the attacking player into touch. London Irish cleared the ball and again moved on to the attack. A great forward driving run by a London Irish forward was followed by a great exchange of passes resulting in **Jobi Burke** receiving the ball on the wing and sprinting past a number of defenders to score in the left corner. The try was not converted

London Irish 31 – 0 Dorking

London Irish were now dominating the match. The forwards were proving too strong for their counterparts and the backs were passing the ball around with great skill and speed. Shortly after the restart a tremendous passing movement by London Irish turned defence into attack and very nearly led to another try. Almost immediately yet another quick passing move led to the ball being collected by **Nick Shaw** who ran past the remaining defenders to score in the right corner. The try was not converted.

London Irish 36 – 0 Dorking

Almost immediately from the restart **Craig Banyon-Thomas** received a pass in his own half and proceeded to powerfully sprint over half the length of the pitch through the centre of the whole Dorking defence, evading all tackles, to score a fantastic try. **Robert Lynch** converted the try.

London Irish 43 – 0 Dorking

The game was now officially over as London Irish had a forty point lead but Dorking agreed to continue playing until full-time.

London Irish were now in complete control of the match. Both forwards and backs were combining very well and playing with tremendous strength and skill. It seemed only a

matter of time before more tries were scored. As play continued London Irish were now passing the ball around with great speed and accuracy and, following another powerful driving run by a London Irish forward, **Kane Alboni** received the ball and drove over in the right corner to score (receiving a minor 'very delicate' injury in the process!!!). The try was not converted.

London Irish 48 – 0 Dorking

Dorking continued to show great spirit and went on the attack. However play soon moved back to the halfway line as London Irish again moved forward and were soon on the attack threatening the Dorking line. Dorking continued to defend tenaciously but a combination of more driving runs by the London Irish forwards followed by the inevitable successful rucks and quick passing moves resulted with the ball being passed to **Robert Lynch** who dived over in the left corner to score. The try was not converted.

London Irish 53 – 0 Dorking

For the remaining few minutes London Irish continued to attack and threaten the Dorking line and the full time whistle blew shortly afterwards.

Full Time: London Irish 53 – 0 Dorking

This was another great win for the London Irish (under 15) Lions who also collected another bonus point for the number of tries scored. The team has now won all of their first six league matches and remain on top of the Surrey League Division One.

This was a great team performance by London Irish that at times was awesome. The power, strength and skill of the forwards were really exceptional. Also, the speed and accuracy of some of the passing moves by the backs were of the highest quality. Many of the tries scored were the result of some exceptionally good play involving both forwards and backs that was great to watch. The overall team performance was of the highest standard.

Credit must also be given to the Dorking team who played with real tenacity throughout and will be a tough match for many teams. Despite the score line this was not an easy match for London Irish.