

## Match Report - Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### **Camberley v London Irish (Lions) – under 15**

It was a dull, grey, cold morning in Camberley as the London Irish Lions (under 15s) prepared for their fourth league match of the season in the Surrey League Division One. Following three victories in their first three league matches the London Irish team now faced an away match against newly promoted Camberley who were unbeaten so far this season. Following the postponement of the previous week's match, this was the London Irish team's first match since their victory over Cobham before Christmas. A particular problem facing the team was the state of the pitch which was very poor- it was very soft and muddy following the recent bad weather. The match was scheduled for an 11.00am kick off.

Camberley kicked off and went on to the attack but the play soon moved back to the halfway line as London Irish defended well with some excellent tackling. As play moved into the Camberley half London Irish collected the ball from a scrum and the ball was quickly passed to the left side. Following a great forward run past a number of defenders the ball was passed outside to **Alex Abbot-Tavener** who collected the ball at speed and ran through to score near the posts. A great try for Alex who had just returned from a long period out due to injury. **Robert Lynch** converted the try.

#### **Camberley 0 – 7 London Irish**

Shortly after the restart Adam Szczotka injured his ankle and had to go off. Camberley then got a penalty but the attempted kick at goal went wide of the posts. Play moved back to the Camberley half as London Irish started to apply more pressure to the Camberley defence. The conditions were having a major impact on the match as it became a hard physical contest with strong tackling and rucking while the London Irish backs were finding it hard to play their usual flowing passing game as the muddy pitch made it difficult. Play moved between the halfway line and the Camberley '22' as London Irish continued to attack. A scrum was again won inside the Camberley '22' and **Andy Ski** collected the ball and made an excellent run through the Camberley defence to score near the posts. **Robert Lynch** again converted the try.

#### **Camberley 0 – 14 London Irish**

Camberley continued to fight back with some very tenacious rugby and went on the attack as the game continued to be very physical. Camberley were awarded two quick penalties which they decided to run but were met with some very strong tackling by the London Irish defence. The play then moved back and forward over the halfway line before the ball was collected inside the London Irish '22' and kicked up-field. The kick was chased down and a great tackle on the Camberley back as he attempted to gather the ball was followed up by a good ruck by London Irish. The ball was won and passed across the field from right to left.

**Jobi Burke** received the last pass and made a great run past the Camberley defence to score on the left side. **Robert Lynch** again converted the try with a tremendous kick from just inside the left touchline.

### **Camberley 0 – 21 London Irish**

From the restart Camberley responded strongly and went on to the attack applying pressure to the London Irish defence inside the London Irish '22'. Camberley were again awarded a penalty which they decided to run but the London Irish defence held firm. However a London Irish player was then given a yellow card for repeated infringements by the team inside their own '22'. The player concerned was unlucky as he was penalised for the last infringement. Camberley were awarded a penalty and quickly passed the ball across the field for a player on the wing to dive over and score in the corner. The conversion was missed and the half-time whistle blew.

### **Half Time: Camberley 5 – 21 London Irish**

London Irish went straight on to the attack from the restart and threatened to score again even though they were still playing with only 14 players. London Irish were awarded a penalty and following an excellent quick passing movement **James Stanhope** received the ball behind his back and demonstrated excellent skills to pass the ball around to his front (much to the amusement of his team mates) while at the same time breaking through the Camberley defence to score on the left side. The try was not converted.

### **Camberley 5 – 26 London Irish**

Both teams now appeared to be feeling the pace of the game and the very muddy conditions were taking their toll. As play moved back to the halfway line the London Irish player who had received a yellow card in the first half returned to the game and London Irish were now back to full strength. The game became even more physical as both sets of forwards battled it out for possession. The London Irish forwards continued to win all of their scrums while at the same time winning some of Camberley's scrums against the head. Meanwhile the London Irish backs were showing real tenacity with some excellent tackling against a strong Camberley side who refused to give an inch. The game continued to be very physical with strong tackling and rucking by both sides. After a period of fairly even play, as the match moved into the last quarter, Camberley's attack started to apply more pressure and at one stage a Camberley player nearly broke clear but was stopped by a great ankle tap. Meanwhile Alex Abbot-Tavener had to go off injured. Camberley were now applying strong pressure and they threatened the London Irish try line but the London Irish defence remained strong and the ball was cleared towards the halfway line. As London Irish started to move forward a Camberley player collected the ball and broke away down the left wing to score a very good try as he ran around under the posts to score. The try was converted.

### **Camberley 12 – 26 London Irish**

From the restart Camberley went back on the attack but London Irish continued to defend very well and were awarded a penalty. From the resulting kick London Irish went back on to the attack and now threatened the Camberley try line nearly breaking through to score on two occasions. Camberley were defending well with strong tackles but play continued in Camberley's '22' and another try for London Irish seemed inevitable. **Robert Lynch** then received the ball after yet another scrum had been won and sidestepped a number of defenders, splitting the Camberley defence to run through and score a great try under the posts. **Robert** then converted the try and the final whistle blew immediately.

#### **Full-Time: Camberley 12 – 33 London Irish**

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 have now won all of their first four league matches and remain on top of the Surrey League Division One. Taking into account the long break from playing due to adverse weather conditions this was a great team performance on a very heavy pitch that made playing good rugby very difficult. The match was hard and physical and the London Irish players again demonstrated a real fighting spirit, great teamwork and a determination to win. Credit must be given to Camberley who also played with great strength and determination up until the final whistle. This victory by London Irish was hard earned and very well deserved and the whole squad of players deserve real credit.