

30 Sep. 07 - Under 13s AWAY at Holt

Swaffham travelled to Holt for the first match of the season as youth players with 19 members in the squad.

Following a successful recruitment campaign during the summer months a number of the squad were embarking in their first ever game of rugby. The game whilst played on a full sized pitch was agreed by both teams to be split into 3 sections.

Milligan started the match with a high kick which was well chased by the pack. Swaffham competed hard for the ball and following a turnover at a ruck the forwards secured possession and rumbled onward with Sayer in the driving seat. With Holt's defence rallying Swaffham were awarded a scrum.

Manley struck the ball well and Sayer secured it at No.8. From here Potter and O'Brien tore into the opposite front row with a well controlled drive. With Holt's defence moving in to support the creaking scrum Hudson, at scrum half, pounced and attacked the blind side. As he was tackled to the ground Potter was on hand to pick up and drive over the line for the first try of the morning.

This is where playing on the full sized pitch took its toll a bit with Milligan missing the conversion from out wide.

Holt restarted and Swaffham gathered well taking the ball wide with Alex Taylor and Rosey combining well in the centres, to push deep up the pitch. From a knock on Holt took the ball and kicked to clear their lines. The kick was gathered at pace by Sam Jones from Full back who ran from his own 22 line to score under the posts in a wonderful solo effort. Milligan converted this one.

The Swaffham team stepped up a gear with crunching tackles piling in from Harry Wright, George Adcock and Rosey. The pack also stepped up rucking and mauling well. O'Brien and Perks combined well for a rumble down the left wing only to be driven into touch 10 metres from the line.

The start of the second section provided for a bit of slap-stick with the restart kick bouncing all over the place before one of the Holt players grasped it and crossed unopposed for an easy try. (Not converted)

Swaffham maintained their policy of playing every squad member and had rotated most of the other positions too.

The pack whilst in different positions provided the same solid platform for Hudson to work from. A swift, flat pass to Milligan in the centre broke Holt's defence again. Desperate tackling provided a Holt scrum but Perky in at Hooker took it against the head and Swaffham were on the attack again. A strong run by Ryan and support from Josh at the ruck caused Holt to concede a penalty which Alex Taylor drilled into touch 5 metres out.

The line out worked well with swift ball to Hudson who broke two tackles on his way to the line for his second try of the morning. Alex Taylor now playing as Fly Half was inches short on the conversion attempt.

The restart kick was however a thing of beauty landing on the 10 metre line and gathered by a Holt player just as Sayer hit him like a missile and dislodged the ball.

Milligan was on it like a flash and set off at speed for the line only to be pulled down by an excellent tackle from Holt's Fullback. As he hit the deck he popped the ball up to Hazza who was on his shoulder to score his first try for Swaffham. Alex Taylor Converted.

The final section of the game saw Swaffham restart and win a scrum. Holt managed to nick one against the head and set about attacking the Swaffham defence.

However the boys weren't about to let them pass and Potter, Rosey, Thompson and Ed Jones all make good tackles.

The ball control and ability to recycle allowed time and space for the backs to attack and Alex Clark exploited this with an excellent run and pass to Bradley. Swaffham recycled again and went for the forwards route. Sayer drove the ball on and with Potter, Perks, Thompson and Adcock providing the extra drive crashed over the try line. However, excellent body positions from the Holt defence held the ball up.

Swaffham weren't to be denied and put the drive on at the 5 metre scrum. Hudson darted again but offloaded to Potter who crashed into and grounded the ball at the foot of the post for a try.

The conversion fell to Milligan who having had problems with the kicking tee took a drop kick which bounced over off the crossbar to add the extras.

The final passage of play saw Swaffham gather and clear the restart kick before Alex Clark bundled the Holt winger into touch and the ref sounded the final whistle.

The match finished **HOLT 5 – SWAFFHAM 31**

An excellent result for a developing squad who worked hard for each other and really worked as a team.

Thanks as ever to all the travelling support and for the provision of the oranges!!

Swaffham: A Potter, J Manley, J O'Brien, M Thompson, H Perks, H Wright, G Adcock, T Sayer, J Hudson, J Milligan, A Taylor, J Taylor, S Jones, A Clark, E Jones, S Rose, Bradley, Rowan and Ryan