

## Wyvern V Chard 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012

This hugely anticipated clash had much build up with in the Wyvern camp. Chard remained the only team to have beaten Wyvern this season. (A bad tempered affair where the result was contested)

Wyvern were a strong outfit today;

Lawton and Harding joined by Black in the front row, Doug James and Ian Scovell in 2<sup>nd</sup> row with the returning Taz and Copper at flank with Cookie starting at 8, giving him a chance to show us what he could do in the absence of Chris Richards.

Half backs were Shane and Knell, Alder and Hodge in the centre, Billy and Horsfall on the wings with Mitchell at fullback.

Chard were over early with plenty of players and looking organised.

Wyvern wanted to pressure Chard, compete for possession then go wide away from their pack.

Wyvern spent most of the opening 10 minutes deep in Chards half, putting pressure on their half backs and challenging for possession.

At the ruck Wyvern had possession and passed out to the backs. Mitchell in from fullback hit the line with the crash ball but was held meters from the line, isolated the ball was slow.

When it did come again it was passed out wide but intercepted by a Chard back who ran the 90 yards to score, chased all the way by Horsfall who almost had him on the line.

Completely against the run of play, Wyvern found themselves down; 0-5 .

Wyvern managed to respond immediately from the re-start, a good chase saw Chard under pressure and when they failed to clear their lines Wyvern attacked with real aggression.

In almost an identical position at another ruck, this time the spritely Doug James took the ball, with an outrageous dummy he wrong footed the flat defence and ran through the gap barely touched to score. Converted by Mitchell; 7-5

Wyvern continued to challenge and Cookie enjoyed the freedom of running from 8.

Chard were their usual violent and aggressive selves. But found it hard to keep control of possession. The Wyvern back row were snuffling out everything and putting pressure on the half backs.

The Wyvern pack were dominant early on, shoving Chard off their own ball in the scrums and stealing ball in rucks and mauls.

With Chard getting increasingly frustrated Wyvern were positive and good possession fed quickly through Knell to their backs saw Billy out wide in space, he beat his man and sailed over to score. Converted by Mitchell; 14-5

Wyverns third try came from more good possession from the forwards releasing the backs, Knell directed the plays well and this time Mitchell's run was successful in stretching Chard's defence he went over in the corner, unable to convert his own try; 19-5

Despite Wyvern's pack being dominant and the backs enjoying the space Capt Copper warned his players not to ease off. Chard would be pissed off and were far from out of this game.

Wyvern had to remain calm and disciplined as some challenges and decisions were questionable, it was Wyvern who remained composed and on plan.

Excellent pressure in the scrums saw Chard on the back foot, when they did pick the ball out Shane, Taz and Copper were all over the 8 and 9, spoiling possession and when it did get to their 10 the Wyvern backs were up quick reducing his options.

Wyvern's fourth try came from stolen Chard possession, Shane fed Knell who made a good break, off loading to Alder who crashed through at pace and stormed through to score under the posts. Converted by Mitchell; 26-5

First half over and bonus point gained.

2nd half saw Taz replaced by Deano who played at 8, with Cookie moving to the Flank. Matt Shane came off and the Wizard Evans on at 9.

Chard never looked likely to come back from their 20 point deficit; in fact they were barely in Wyvern's half except for kicks to touch. Wyvern were too tight defensively and unlike last week against Wellington, they were not giving away penalties in the tackle area.

Ignoring the aggressive Chard tactics Wyvern kept on plan and were attacking from all areas of the park. Deano and cookie were rampaging from deep and with supporting runs from Copper and James Chard were kept on the back foot.

Billy finished off a flowing move left, that had seen all Wyvern players involved, (footage has appeared on facebook) Mitchell converted; 33-5

Evans who was injured in the attack had to go off, 2 minutes after coming on with a shoulder injury, so Shane was back on after his long rest.

Wyvern had constant possession only the line outs were Chard's relief from pressure but with the Wyvern Back row testing the off side line Chard's 10 had little options and his backs could make nothing of their possession.

Wyvern attacking Chard possession again, pressured the Fly-half deep in his own 22, stepping away from the charging back row, he stepped inside and kicked to clear his lines. This was charged down by 'Charlie Charge down' Knell and followed up by Alder who pounced on the loose ball and scored.

Converted by Mitchell; 40-5

Final Wyvern subs on for the last 20 minutes, Flookie on for Hodge in the Centres and Grant on for Harding at prop.

Cullen would have come on, on the wing but Wyvern had tries to score, so while he was removing his tracksuit Wyvern dished out ball through their backs, good hands now with Alder and Flookie saw Mitchell released out wide who cruised round to score his 2<sup>nd</sup> try.

Unconverted; 45-5

Wyvern possession at the scrum saw a back row move called. Deano's pick and go from 8 saw him run down the blind side, feeding Horsfall on the wing who ran hard backing himself, beating his man and ran in 40m to score supported by his back row. Unconverted; 50-5

Horsfall's reward for scoring was to be replaced by Cullen for the last 15mins. Grant now off with his ankle injury proving too pain full and Harding back on at prop.

Chard were soon under the cosh again , wyvern again on the attack had a lineout with Chards 22. Call for front ball saw Lawton Charge down the 5m line supported by Black and Copper.

Stopped before the line the ruck ball was recycled quickly. Shane passed out to Knell who used Deano on the crash ball who broke 2 soft tackles and crashed through to score. Mitchell failed to convert after he was verbally abused by the Chard players; 55-5

Final points were scored by ex-Chard player Billy Whizz with the Chard efforts in defence dwindling Billy found himself with space out wide and cantered the 70 metres round the outside to score. Unconverted; 60-5

Wyvern were not done yet, with time still left on the clock Wyvern went wide once more and it was Billy who had the last say. He got the ball and this time rather than going wide he stepped inside and like a hot knife in butter, he sliced through two tacklers, who just ended up taking each other out.

Billy ran in under the posts and then converted his own try with a cheeky drop goal.

Final score 67-5. Although the ref awarded 11 tries the original result was recorded on the score card as 62-5. Later the ref agreed the try/conversion count made it 67-5.

It was a fabulous day for the red of Wyvern. A much needed piece of revenge after their first meeting 4 months ago.

Wyvern remain on course for the top of the table, and title decider on 14<sup>th</sup> April v Burnham. But there are 4 important league games before then.

Wyvern have no game this Saturday but will train at 2.30pm before the international match v Wales on in the bar at 4pm. Training as usual on Wednesday nights.

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