



Squad Report

Hurricanes Team Name: Under 11	
Festival: Hastings & Bexhill	
Date: 10 th October 2010	Location: Hastings & Bexhill RFC
Report Authors: Ross Sutton	
The Hurricanes were: Forwards: William Bellingham, Tom de Bruin, Ben Few, Ollie Gibbons, Toby Risebrow, Owain Summers & Will Sutton Backs: Rory Acock, Tom Cornwall, Jake Grady, Theo Hall, Henry King, Jay Massey-Taylor, Lucas Munro, Max Murphy, Jamie Pryke, Nicholas Sobowale & Mikey Taylor	

Session/Match/Festival Report

The contrast in weather conditions to last week could not be more pronounced with Hastings basking in glorious October sun. The only issue me was parking as the gate was closed and I had to find a friendly cul-de-sac. The advantage of reaching under 11 level is that we now get to play on the flatish pitches rather than the grassy slopes of the William Parker school playing fields. The Hurricanes were drawn in a group consisting of Eastbourne, Haywards Heath, Lewes and the unknown Warlingham (Surrey). The other group was Crowborough, East Grinstead, Hastings & Bexhill, Hove and Sevenoaks. The two teams in each group would contest the solitary final.

Heathfield 10 v Eastbourne 0

With talks of a merger between these teams put on hold, who would come out with the honours? We lost to them in this tournament last year but got our revenge in the East Sussex championships. With their boy mountain in the second row, could our forwards match up? Heathfield took an early lead when good ruck ball saw the ball move out to the wing and Nicholas carry on from last week and score a try. The Heathfield pack were dominating and winning all the forward battles. The much improved rucking saw a lot of possession gained but the boys not being able to convert the chances. The second half saw much of the same with Heathfield unable to kill the game off. A run and pass from Jay released Max whose run was just stopped short of the line. One particular highpoint was a superb take by Tom dB at the back of a lineout. Jay eventually managed to score a second try in the corner and effectively win the match. A great opening performance apart from the final execution.

Session/Match/Festival Report (Cont)

Heathfield 10 v Warlingham 5

We have not played this Surrey team before and they looked impressive in their opening game with some big forward players. Warlingham took the lead when they ran a penalty, won quick ruck ball and then went to our blind side which was totally wide open. Heathfield equalised from a similar blind side move. Rory picked up from the back of our scrum and darted round the side to run in. Both sides then had some good possession with Jay halting a couple of their attacks with big tackles. Heathfield wasted some of their chances with tap and go's that should have gone out wide to the wings. All square at half time. In the second half Toby scored a fair try only for the referee to arrive too late and say he had been held up. Whether he thought he had to make up for this, he then awarded a try to Heathfield when Jay emerged from a mass of bodies with the ball in hand. At 2-1 the game was very tight but Heathfield managed to keep the play in the Warlingham half and prevent a good team from scoring again.

Heathfield 10 v Lewes 10

Watching their other matches it was clear that Lewes would no longer be a pushover having recruited a number of new players over the summer including two sizeable forwards. With a number of changes made to the starting line up, Heathfield started badly when they did not take the ball cleanly from the kick off and put themselves under pressure. Only a great tackle from Jamie stopped Lewes scoring. Heathfield then settled down and a great passing move involving Jay and Theo released Jamie to score in the corner. Lewes made it even when they kicked through and from a resulting 5m scrum their big forward went over when no player was prepared to take his legs. Just before half time, Heathfield nearly took the lead when a passing move to the wing was knocked on just short of the line. In the second half Lewes went ahead when Heathfield could not deal decisively with a kick through. Almost straight away Heathfield levelled when a neat passing move along the backs fed Tom Cornwall to sprint in. With the scores locked at 2-2 the end to this game became very scrappy and a couple of Lewes players playing dirty. Will S took a punch to the eye and some other players said they were kneed and kicked. The referee had to stop the game at one point and tell everyone to calm down. The game finished with the scores locked.

Heathfield 25 v Haywards Heath 0

Heathfield knew from the other results they just had to win this game to make it through to the final. Heath were one player short which meant the Hurricanes unfortunately also had to lose a player in a game they had to win! Despite this the victory was never in doubt. By half time the Hurricanes were four nil ahead. Jake opened the scoring with a strong run and Ollie picked up from a ruck to drive over for the second. Theo scored the third after some great passing from the centres Jay and Jamie. Jake got his second when he caught the ball from the restart and weaved through the Heath tackles. In the second half an announcement came over the tannoy that the under 11 final would be between Hove and Warlingham. Hold on a minute – what about us!!! Your intrepid reporter made his way over to the control centre to say they had got it wrong. They checked the summary sheet which said Eastbourne beat us 2-0 and this was confirmed on the referees record. Luckily the Warlingham coach who was in charge of this game did confirm that we did actually beat Eastbourne. Back to this game I did see a run from Henry King nearly resulting in a try and saw from a distance that Lucas scored the fifth and final try but sorry I have nothing else to report on as I was tied up in negotiations.

Session/Match/Festival Report (Cont)

The Final

Heathfield 10 v Hove 20

Following on from the confusion of who should be in the final, there was then no referee and then no match ball. I thought we were going to be in danger of hearing the school bell ring for morning lessons. With all the other finals played this game eventually kicked off nearly an hour later than scheduled. The game started well for Heathfield but a knock on and a failure to go wide (instead of running back into trouble) saw the early possession squandered. However Theo did open the scoring when he sprinted across the pitch to score in the corner. Heathfield then went on the attack and penalties were being awarded against Hove for not retreating. With the chances not taken, Hove made it level at half time when a crash ball was knocked on in the tackle and the dangerous Hove backs put together a good move. In the second half, with a more dominant set of forwards, the wind behind us and use of the slight incline, I was expecting us to go on and win this game. However with Jamie, Theo and Rory all off the field with knocks, Hove scored straight from the kick off when tackles were not made. Hove then proceeded to score two more quick tries which effectively ended the game as Heathfield gave away some silly penalties and failed to nail the Hove runners. In the last play of the game, Will S made a determined drive but was stopped on the line but the quick support of Mikey saw him pick up and get one try back.

Summary

I have to say that today the boys played some great rugby, particularly against Eastbourne and then Waringham who may just have been a better side than Hove. It was a long day and you all worked very hard. Hove had not conceded a try until the final and had a longer break than we did. That said, if you do not tackle you are not going to win matches. Whether you start or come on, you have all got to put in your share and not leave it to the few who do (we know who you are). Overall the performance was a vast improvement on Haywards Heath the week before. The forwards are now playing for each other and this is showing in the amount of ball they are the winning. The backs scored some great individual tries but you have to start working together. Run forward, commit the tackler and then a good pass to your team mate. Solo breaks are ok but there has to be a clear gap and space to run into. We have to become clinical and take more of the chances we create. Finally well done to Owain who got his first taste of competitive rugby for the Hurricanes.

Next week – Training at home 9.30am.

Record

This: Played 5, Won 3, Drew 1, Lost 1. Tries for 13 & against 7
Season: Played 8, Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 3. Tries for 21 & against 13

Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, Sportsmanship