

Minehead Under 13 v Bridgwater

Minehead Under 13's first fixture of the season was at home against Bridgwater. Minehead elected to play down the slope with the breeze behind them in the first half. They made good territory in the initial exchanges, choosing not to kick but use driving rucks and mauls at the heart of the defence. 5 mins in Minehead were awarded a scrummage on the ten metre line. Ethan Carr at fly -half ran to the blindside straightened up on the defenders and put Jack Lewis into space, he beat the cover defender to score in the corner.

Minehead were utilising their strong driving play, and they transitioned well when Charlie Gunter picked and drove from a ruck ten metres out only to be stopped short. The ball was spun wide where Reece Hollingsworth found himself unopposed on the wing to dot down.

Keeping up the pressure they scored again within five mins. Rio Howard was passed the ball from a scrum on the halfway line, he attacked the space and kicked over the advancing defenders. Lawrence Sandy was quickest to the ball and hacked it on. He showed deft hands to collect the bouncing ball and fend a chasing defender to score.

The next ten minutes saw possession see saw, but good defence saw numerous attacks neutralised. Minehead holding up attackers in the tackle and support players latching on to win the turn over from the ensuing maul.

Ben Summersgill scored the final try of the half with a good individual effort. He received the ball directly behind a scrum on the twenty-two line. Feinting to go blind he ran to the openside. Stepping the defender in front of him, he threw a dummy pass which split the defence and he raced in to score, Minehead 20-0 up at half time.

In the second half Minehead played with more width when they had the ball running up the slope, but quickly closed down Bridgwater when in defence giving them no time in possession. However minor handling errors gifted the ball to the opposition. From one such incident Bridgwater had a scrum on their ten metre line, they kept it tight with a number of pick and goes from rucks. However, the runners became isolated and Charlie Gunter stole back the ball and he fed Ethan Carr, quick hands fed Jack Lewis and he attacked up the slope. He passed to Sandy who outpaced the defence to score his second of the match.

Another error gave Bridgwater a scrum ten metres from their line. This time they elected to kick, it was caught by Lawrence Sandy. He beat the chasing defender and ran into space down the hill. Straightening up he drew in the defence and passed wide to Seb Chip who was supporting on the wing and he cantered over to score.

Minehead repeated the feat again this time quick hands put Oliver Bretherton was put into space. He thought ignored a three man overlap outside him and side stepped several defenders to score.

Minehead's game went off the boil as they relaxed giving territory to Bridgwater. Minehead pulled down a maul and from the tap penalty they fed their strongest player who was eventually stopped just short of the line. However, quick thinking saw the ball picked up and driven again, over the Minehead line.

Minehead were now on the back foot and Bridgwater in the ascendency. They continued to pressurise and were awarded a scrum on the Minehead twenty-two. Again they utilised their strongest player who stood out from the scrum. Receiving the ball from the scrum half he burst several tackles and fended the cover defender to score in the corner.

In the final play of the match Bridgwater chose to run out of defence. Minehead held up the maul and ripped the ball with Farley Bruce breaking free. He rode several tackles and off loaded to Isaac Sweetland who was in close support. Sprinting clear and he dove over, the final score 40-10 to Minehead.

This was an impressive first outing for the Under 13's, with several new players who have gelled well into the team. Man of the Match Lawrence Sandy, Man of Steel Isaac Sweetland.

Minehead - Oliver Bretherton, Farley Bruce, Ethan Carr, Seb Chip, Nathaniel Coates, Charlie Gunter, Reece Hollingsworth, Rio Howard, Jack Lewis, Jack Lintern, Jude Murray, Lawrence Sandy, Ben Summersgill, Isaac Sweetland, Luke Westcott, Jacob Whittaker, Brandon Williams,