

## **Thurston 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 11 – 10 Harwich & Dovercourt 2<sup>nd</sup> XV**

Thurston 2nd XV returned to action after a month without a game of note with an away victory over a strong Harwich side on Saturday.

The Thurston pack bolstered by the returning Wilson, Allen and Man of the Match Abercrombie Fitch looked to dominate the set plays, but it was only some big hits in the midfield from Channing, playing his last game before paternity leave, and Hale who prevented the lively Harwich backs from making the most of the limited possession that they secured.

Indeed, it was slightly against the run of play that the home side took the lead ten minutes before half time. Harwich's elusive full back should have been stopped at source when he picked up the ball just outside the 22, but four missed tackles allowed him to score near the right corner. Crucially the conversion was missed.

An immediate response was required and a succession of probing kicks from outside half Woody gained Thurston a foothold in the opposition 22, and it was from a lineout ten metres from the line that the visitors drew level. The ball was secured, smuggled to the back of the maul, and there was no stopping Wilson crashing over the last yard.

The second half was a tense affair, the lead changing three times in the last 20 minutes. First Woody kicked a penalty for Thurston, before Harwich regained the lead with an unconverted try in the corner. It was to be Thurston's day however, a series of rucks set up by Jellie drew the inevitable penalty for offside and Woody calmly stroked it over from thirty yards against the wind.

The local derby away to Bury is up next this Saturday, with Thurston looking to avenge the defeat they suffered in October.