



(ESTD 1995)

Essex Div 3 CHAMPIONS 03/04
EC5 CHAMPIONS 96/97. EC4S CHAMPIONS 98/99.
Runners-up 97/98 and 00/01

Press Release – 12th February 2005

Rugby in high demand - Millwall expands again

Millwall Rugby Club has expanded again, to include a fourth adult team only a season on from introducing a third team to cope with rugby demand on the Isle of Dogs.

Playing at East London RFC, The Millwall fourth team took the field for the first time on Saturday against Champion III's. Club Captain Eoin O'Connor, playing against his old club, scored all the points for Millwall as they went down 64-14.

Despite the heavy defeat, the team was in good spirits after match as all realised they had been part of an important and historic step for the young rugby club.

At the completion of the 2003/04 season, Millwall included a regular third adult side to cope with the amount of players making themselves available on a week-to-week basis. While sitting at the top of the Merit Table Div Six table, Millwall Thirds are now an established side.

The introduction of a fourth XV was seen as the next logical step for Millwall as the game continues to grow in Tower Hamlets.

Millwall spokesperson Matt Shorrocks, who captained the fourths on Saturday, said the club was excited about the continued growth.

"It was a very proud moment running out for the fourths on Saturday. There have been a lot of people in our club who have worked very hard to promote the game of rugby in our local area and the results of their efforts are visible for all to see."

"For a such a young club lacking the facilities most clubs take for granted, like a club house and a local pitch, four teams is a unique and fantastic achievement."

Meanwhile, Millwall's first team pushed Dagenham to the limit before losing out 27-17. Scrum half Rhodri Gabe got the visitors off to a flying start in the first minute of play running the length of the pitch to touch down under posts. Dagenham answered with a try of their own almost immediately and then the two teams traded points to draw level at half time 10-all, Jermain Barnes scoring the try for Millwall.

Barnes scored again not long after the break after collecting a deft chip kick from fullback Nick Tiffin, putting Millwall in the lead once again 17-10. Dagenham again clawed back first with a penalty goal and then added a converted try to take a narrow 20-17 advantage.



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With the clock against them, the Isle of Dogs side needed to chance their arm and began to throw the ball around. After gaining some quality field position a flick pass from Tiffin found the wrong hands and the interception resulted in a Dagenham try to flatter the score line in what was a closely fought encounter.

Millwall's Llamas won their Merit Table fixture against Old Brentwoods 26-13 as they fight to keep their championship dreams alive in Division Four, currently tussling with East London Phantoms for top honours.

Also gunning for a Merit Table championship are Millwall Thirds, who maintained their Division Six winning run with a 32-3 demolition of Westcliff IV's.

Leon Alexis scored two tries for the Thirds, while Jamie Rockman, Brendon Wheeler and Martin Cooper also contributed to the scoreline. Fullback Arran Downes kicked two conversions and one penalty for Millwall.

Note to editors:

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