



(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 – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2004

### ***Millwall drop league game, but thirds make history***

Millwall suffered their first league defeat on Saturday at the hands of Bancroft, going down 23-12 however the club's third team created history by beating Wansted threes 35-27, for their first ever victory. The llamas continued their good form in the merit table with a 26-17 win over Bancroft two's.

With the Isle of Dogs club still searching for that elusive three-team victory, the 1<sup>st</sup> XV struggled to compete with Bancroft's intensity late in the match.

Millwall matched Bancroft's forward play with evasive running from their centres resulting in Phil Antenbring crossing for two tries, one of which was converted by Fly half Nick Tiffin.

While the match was still in the balance at 12-all, a crucial penalty goal in front of the posts from Bancroft edged them in front.

With just six minutes remaining in the match, Millwall launched an attacking raid on the Bancroft line, looking to steal a last minute victory. Antenbring again crossed but was held up. From the ensuing possession, Millwall again looked certain to score but the experienced home side stifled any attack thrown at them.

As time ran out on a Millwall come back, Bancroft held on to possession and worked their way back up the pitch on the back of precision kicking. In the dying minutes, with the Millwall defence tiring Bancroft sealed the victory with a well-worked forward try in the left hand corner blowing the margin out to 11 points.

Meanwhile, Millwall Three's received a standing ovation from their fellow club members upon returning from their five-try romp of Wansted in the Merit table.

Millwall dominated the Westcliff forwards even though they had the smaller pack and continued to do so, despite being a man down when Alan Cranny left the pitch injured.

The third team, formed early last season has served as an introduction to rugby for Tower Hamlets youngsters, with a few Millwall veterans thrown into the mix.

Third team manager Kev Doherty, who has worked hard to establish a positive culture within his team said he was ecstatic for the players



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“In the thirds, we aim to go out and have fun every week but I have to say, it's even better when you come away with a win.”

“It's hard to name the outstanding players, everyone was exceptional”

The Llamas, unbeaten in all their matches this year put other Merit table clubs on notice with a strong win over Bancroft Two's at Victoria Park.

Jermain Barns scored three tries in the 26-17 victory, while Leon Alexis grabbed his try with a 40-metre dash to the line.

Millwall's 1<sup>st</sup> XV hope to put the Bancroft loss behind them this week when they host Dagenham in a league match at Victoria Park, while the Llamas and Three's have a week of from their respective merit table matches.

**Note to editors:**

For further details please contact Matthew Shorrock, Millwall RFC Press Officer, 07890836958 or [pressofficer@millwallrugby.com](mailto:pressofficer@millwallrugby.com)

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