

In yet another turnaround from earlier in the season, it was the March Bears who were victors against Shelford. The Bears' hosts had won the game at the March ground so were confident of bagging themselves another win on home soil.

Due to some late call offs and people not bothering to turn up March pulled together a side with first team debutants and old hands. With players like Nick Ruddock and Paul Galloway unavailable it was always going to be tough.

March hit the ground running as right from the first kick off they found themselves with the lead thanks to a superb pick up and dash to the line by one of the March debutants Leigh Brookes. Darryl Veenendaal converted to make the score 7-0 after just 20 seconds. With Shelford stunned by the early touchdown they kicked off to the Bears. A great catch and offload from the restart by Jon Aspinwall set March off on the attack again, the ball being moved quickly along the backline to find its way into the hands of Delarey Veenendaal who out paced the opposition defence before passing to the flying James Beresford who ran in unopposed to dot down underneath the posts. Veenendaal converting once again for a 14-0 lead.

Delarey Veenendaal was the next to go over for March going passed the last defenders in a fine display of top quality finishing, converted once again by his brother to take March 21 points clear.

The third try kicked Shelford into life and they started to come back at March. It was through the forwards though where Shelford got their first score managing to squeeze over following a maul from a line out. From the restart Shelford were awarded a penalty, with March confused by a dubious refereeing decision the Shelford fly half ran away to score unchallenged underneath the posts to take the score to 21-12 to March. In the last few stages of the half March pressed for more tries only for the poor refereeing display to cut them short on several occasions.

The second half was much more of a scrappy affair with neither team really getting the better of the other. The multiple subs that Shelford had at their disposal meant that they had a lot of fresh legs to keep bringing on, but it was March who got the next score thanks to a slick piece of running by the March fly half who scythed his way through the opposition defence to score. Veenendaal completing a good day with the boot slotting over the conversion.

The extra legs told for Shelford as the game went bringing themselves back into the game with a penalty try. The score narrowed March's lead to 9 points. From this point March defended heroically not allowing Shelford to cross the March line. In particular there was some excellent tackles from Josh Rose and Matt Day. The great defensive display gained March a penalty which they decided to run. The ball was moved along the line into the hands of the curly topped Veenendaal who would have flown up the pitch to score if the referee had not have made yet another poor decision and award Shelford a scrum. From that scrum Shelford scored their final unconverted try to bring the game to a close.

After the game March captain Todd Woollard said 'I am really happy with the result we got here today. We played a strong Shelford team. We know it wasn't our best display, but we got the win which is the most important thing. We hope we can iron out the little mistakes that crept into our game today at training on Thursday. I would like to thank all the lads who

played today for their super effort and send a reminder to the ones who didn't make the game that full commitment is needed next week for a very important game'.

March travel away to Cantabs next week for a crucial cup and league double header. All players are requested to try and make themselves available for this fixture and training on Thursday evening at 7pm.