



# Old Iltydian RFC

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## MATCH REPORT 1 September 07

### Brecon 17 - Old Iltydians 23

After last year's tremendous success with the Old Iltydians gaining promotion to Division three South East and winning the East District cup, the new season seemed to arrive quicker than usual!

With pre-season training going very well under coach Matt Lloyd and new assistant player coach Richard Langmead it was with some confidence that the Iltydians travelled to Brecon for their first game of the season.

The first ten minutes of the game were fast and furious with the Iltydians confidence showing in those early phases of play. However this pressure and good play did not produce any points and then it was Brecon who came more and more into the game. Brecon, playing with a strong wind in their favour, capitalised on a number of uncharacteristic mistakes and errors to score a converted try pretty much against the run of play, putting them into a 7-0 lead.

A further penalty increased the Brecon lead converted by the outside half who was using the strong wind to good effect and keeping the Iltydians camped in their own half for long periods of time. The Iltydian forwards, encouraged by captain Mark Coles, began to take some control of the game as the half progressed gaining lots of possession and territory. As a result of another Brecon indiscretion at the tackle area, Iltydian outside half Matthew Maunder who was making his debut, converted a superb penalty from around 50 metres bringing the score to 10-3 to Brecon.

The first half ended with this score-line, and the half can only be described as an error strewn contest with both sides struggling to come to terms with the referees interpretation of the tackle and ruck areas.

The Iltydians began the second half with some superb play and strong running from second rows Darryl Howden, also making his debut, and Mark Berridge, Matt Phillips and Aled Richards making inroads into the Brecon defence. A further penalty from Matthew Maunder who was now controlling the game from outside half using the wind effectively and using the far more controlled ball he was receiving to keep the Iltydian forwards camped on the Brecon line.

This control saw some brilliant interplay along the backline resulting in right wing Matt Williams racing in for a tremendous try, once again converted by Matt Maunder putting the Iltydians into a 13-10 lead. The Iltydian team began to move up another gear now with some tremendous interplay between forwards and backs. Further good work by the forwards and backs allowed Matt Taylor to make a break, crossing untouched under the posts, converted by Matt Maunder, with the score now at 20-10 and the Iltydians coasting to a win.



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Full back Eugene Williams was put in at the corner after swift interpassing only to see the ball knocked out of his hands by the desperate Brecon defender!

Outside half Matthew Maunder had to leave the field with 20 minutes to go with a dislocated finger being replaced by new player coach Richard Langmead, also making his debut.

The game began to deteriorate into a scrappy affair, with both sides working hard for possession, but numerous mistakes made the game a bit stop/start. 'First game of the season' mistakes began to creep in, and whilst the Iltydians looked as though they would coast in to the finish, Brecon had other ideas, managing to scramble over with a 'scruffy' try from the forwards close to the posts, which was then converted.

The last few minutes were a little frenetic to say the least - a converted penalty from Richard Langmead after some good work by the forwards forced Brecon to move offside at a ruck, easing the scoreline to 23-17. The closing minutes saw Iltydian captain Mark Coles sin-binned for a technical foul at a ruck. With 14 men for the final six minutes the Iltydians defence held up well for a hard earned but deserved away win.

The game produced some tremendous effort from a number of players but special mention must go to Matthew Maunder, Eugene Williams, Darryl Howden, Matt Phillips and youth product Jason 'Twiner' Thomas.

JP Manders