



## Southampton Spitfires Rugby League Club 2008 Press & Online Coverage.

St Ives Roosters



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### St Ives Roosters 56 Southampton Spitfires 28

London Amateur Rugby League

Saturday 7th June 2008

St Ives Roosters used their free weekend in the RLC Eastern Division to play a London League fixture against Southampton Spitfires. Roosters Coach, Ian Hill, used the game to try out some new players and give the less experienced members of his squad some game time. One of the Roosters new signings clearly made a big impact with former Cambridge Eagle Lee Kupyn scoring a hatrick of tries.

The large Southampton pack exerted early pressure on the Roosters and opened the scoring after 6 minutes with an unconverted try. Roosters hit back with a try from Eddie Embley. Embley was used in the unfamiliar position of hooker and managed to cross the line from close range to bring the Roosters level.

The lead was nearly extended straight away as James Shearman made a break but dropped the ball as he neared the line. He did make amends soon after with a break from the ball to score next to the posts. Jimmy Allen converted to give the Roosters a 10 - 4 lead.

Kupyn then scored his first try of the game from a drive close to the line. The try was converted by Jack Blackley. He followed this up with his second try 5 minutes later. Off loads by Blackley and David Sykes allowed him to cross near the posts with Blackley once again successful with the conversion. This made the half time score 22 - 4.

The Roosters were soon into their stride at the start of the second half with Charles Paxton scoring after receiving a long pass from Allen. The Roosters then lost their composure and let Southampton back into the game. They scored three converted tries in quick succession to bring themselves back into the game 26 - 22. With an upset looking likely the Roosters hit back with Kupyn, using quick footwork, completing his hatrick with Blackley converting the try. The lead was quickly extended by veteran Dan McCormack with a short range drive. Blackley added the conversion. Southampton battled to reduce the Roosters lead and scored another converted try which was to be their final score of the day.

Roosters took control in the last 20 minutes a fine piece of individual skill allowed Paxton to score his second try which was quickly followed by a Blackley try after he was set up by Michael Drake. This extended the lead to 50 - 28.

The final try of the day was by Centre Paul Ashbridge who broke inside his own half to run 60 metres to score in the corner. The difficult kick was converted by Allen to give St Ives a 56 - 28 win.

The Roosters are at home this Saturday to league leaders Hainault Bulldogs in an RLC Eastern Division game. The game kicks off at 2.30pm and will be played at St Ives RFC, Somersham Road.

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## Match Report - 22 June 2008

[www.southdorsetgiants.co.uk](http://www.southdorsetgiants.co.uk)

Final Score Southampton Spitfires 80 - South Dorset Giants 4

This first ever game for the newly formed South Dorset Giants was played as a Development / training game and it took the form of four quarters each twenty minutes in length with a break.

The Southampton Spitfires side contained some experienced players and some members of the South of England RFL squad.

South Dorset Giants playing their first ever Rugby league game under the stewardship of Captain Dave Allan and coached by Army Rugby league player Anthony Cowburn and Assistant coach Mel Barlow started the game full of spirit and determination and were unlucky to go behind after a runaway try from the Spitfires. The giants stuck at their task and showed promise for the future as their understanding of the game and the skills required to play Rugby League improved as the game progressed. In the end and despite the Giants scoring through Prop Tim Comben who cashed over in the corner to add a consolation try (4 points) and the conversion was missed (2 points) it was the Spitfires that run out the worthy winners

There was a lot of good work showed today by the Giants players, they stuck at their task and in the end we learnt a lot from the game which will hold us in good stead for the future, there was some great running from loose forward Will Hughes, centre Adam Hoxey and wing Ryan Lewenden, good tackling from centre James Ford, hooker Andy Wood and prop Tony Worle.

South Dorset Giants man of the match was Anthony Cowburn for his work both on and off the pitch coaching this newly formed team, whilst playing as Scrum Half.

### Giants team

Paul Walmsley, Nathen Walmsley, Mark Sample, James Borrington, Dave Allan, Tom Comben, Andy Wood, John Leatham, Lian Berry, Will Hughes, Ryan Lewenden, Adam Hoxey, Anthony Cowburn, James Ford and Tony Worle.

Next match is at Monmouth Ave, Weymouth on 5th July to Exeter Centurions



## Spitfires Players Star in Southern Victory

# West Midlands Conference 38 South Conference 42

Written by: Chris Wilson  
Jul 30, 2008.

The South staged a dramatic late fight-back to overcome the West Midlands 42-38 at a sweltering Chosen Hill on Sunday.

The Midlands had cruised into a seemingly unassailable 32-14 lead but errors began to creep into their play and the South took full advantage to steal the result.

The 'home' side looked by far the more assured in the early stages and it was no surprise that they took the lead with a fine try. The lively scrum half Stephan Fourie exchanged passes with Johan Schoeman to score under the posts and convert for a 6-0 lead after six minutes.

The South hit back, making the most of two penalty awards to score firstly through Nick McPherson and then Arron Nelson. With Matt Antis kicking one goal, they led 10-6.

The Midlands then cut loose with fine handling and support play tearing the South defence to shreds. Fourie bagged his second after Ben Constantine released Alan Bryan and the scrum half was on hand to take the scoring pass. Five minutes later, Danny Burke soared through a gap on half way to race to the posts and then three minutes further on, Fourie danced past defenders before freeing his outside men and clever hands from Ronnie Haines put Mike Venn in for the try. Fourie converted two of the three scores.

With a handy 22-10 interval lead, the Midlands looked to turn the screw. Three minutes into the second half, John Hanna broke the line and found Constantine on his shoulder who raced away to the line. Burke converted.

After a golden chance had gone begging when Constantine's pass to his winger went to ground, the South stemmed the flow, Ross Brooker intercepting a pass to race away for an unconverted try.

The Midlands soon responded as Constantine stretched over from close range to give the Midlands an 18-point lead.

However, three tries in seven minutes from the South put the game right back in the melting pot. **Tommy Gray was heavily involved scoring the first with a neat dummy before McPherson grabbed his second try after snapping up a loose ball in his own half. Then an error close to the Midlands line allowed Adam Sanders to score under the posts. With Gray converting all three tries,** the scores were level with just under a quarter of the game to go.

The Midlands seemed to have grabbed the upper hand when Constantine fought his way out of tackles to score his third try of the day converted by Fourie but as the clock wound down, they were unable to control possession and kill the game

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A mistake deep in the Midlands 20 saw Sanders force his way over for his second try with five minutes left before, in the last few seconds, **Dave Strange reached his own kick to touch down in a scramble of arms and legs. Gray's conversion put four points between the sides** and when Burke's restart sailed out of play, the South showed how it should be done, controlling the ball for the remaining three tackles of the game to earn a hard-fought win.

#### Teams:

**WEST MIDLANDS:** Danny Burke (Gloucestershire Warriors), Johan Schoeman (Bristol Sonics), Alan Bryan, Ben Constantine (both Gloucestershire Warriors), Dave Murray, Dom Swann (both Bristol Sonics), Stephan Fourie (Gloucestershire Warriors), Stafford Lloyd, Harry Marson, Gareth Lloyd, Neil Holder (all Bristol Sonics), Ronnie Haines (Gloucestershire Warriors), Jon Hanna (Redditch Ravens). Replacements: Josh Lloyd, Dave Wheller, Sam Barker, Ed Tofts (all Bristol Sonics), Danny Price, Neys Schreiner (both Gloucestershire Warriors), Michael Venn (Telford Raiders), Tom Saddington (Redditch Ravens).

**Scorers:** Tries; Stephan Fourie (4, 27), Danny Burke (32), Michael Venn (35), Ben Constantine (43, 52, 66).  
Conversions: Stephan Fourie 4 from 5, Danny Burke 1 from 2.

**SOUTH: Dave Strange (Southampton Spitfires)**, Rich Sinclair (Bedford Tigers), Arron Nelson, Nick McPherson, Aiden Oakley (all Kent Ravens), Matt Antis (Plymouth Titans), **Scotty Hancock (Southampton Spitfires)**, Gerald Dolan (West London Sharks), **Tommy Gray (Southampton Spitfires)**, Andy Melbourne (East Devon Eagles), **Adam Grogan, Adam Sanders (both Southampton Spitfires)**, Gaz Williams (Plymouth Titans). Replacements: Perry Pudge (Loughborough Uni), Ross Brooker, Andy Flint (West London Sharks), Manbir Mahn (Kent Ravens), Paul Hyder (Hainault Bulldogs).

**Scorers:** Tries; Nick McPherson (8, 59), Arron Nelson (15), Ross Brooker (47), **Tommy Gray (56), Adam Sanders (63, 75), Dave Strange (79).**

**Conversions;** Matt Antis 1 from 2, **Tommy Gray 4 from 6.**

Penalties: West Midlands 3, South 9.

Scoring sequence: 6-0, 6-4, 6-10, 12-10, 18-10, 22-10, (HT), 28-10, 28-14, 32-14, 32-20, 32-26, 32-32, 38-32, 38-36, 38-42, (FT).

Despite the defeat for the West Midlands, the seven Gloucestershire Warriors players on show performed well. Ben Constantine scored three tries while Stephan Fourie was lively, scoring twice and kicking four goals. Danny Burke came more into the game when he moved to halfback and scored a good try as well as kicking a goal while the other try came courtesy of Fourie and Ronnie Haines' inventive work out wide and was scored by Mike Venn who plays for Telford Raiders but is a University of Gloucestershire student.

Alan Bryan proved dangerous out wide particularly when setting up Fourie's second try while Danny Price and Neys Schreiner put in solid performances and contributed fully when they were called from the bench.

Coaches Dom Swann and Karl Fearnley were disappointed at the result but felt that the players selected had put themselves in the frame to become the core of next season's squad and hopefully to figure in a strong West Midlands challenge for the planned Regional Championships.

**Glenn Tyreman** was pleased overall with the way his new-look South squad had responded to adversity on the field and while he felt some players had not done themselves justice others had taken their chance well.

He was pleased with the standard of rugby played and hoped that should the players maintain that form then the South of England Origin side would be a formidable team.