

Enniskillen III – 29 Armagh IV – 15

Enniskillen's 3rd Battalion entertained the Armagh 'Dream Team' on Saturday seeking revenge after a controversial defeat at the Palace Showgrounds a few weeks previous.

However, after a good pre-match build up from Enniskillen, it was Armagh who started the stronger and after a spell in the driving seat, opened the scoring with a kick in front of the posts.

'Skins then got their act together and after their first visit into the opposition's "22" were awarded a penalty, in front of the posts, which Keith Hurst easily despatched to level things up.

This buoyed the home side and not long after Jimmy Moore crashed over in the corner after good work in the pack and simple, but effective, backline moves. The 'Skins pack were in the ascendancy and the front row of Adam Breen, James Prenter and David Irvine stole at least six balls against the head facing a heavier and more experienced front row.

With a breeze at their back 'Skins were in total control and despite several instances of lack of discipline scored again in the opposite corner. Good forward play again saw Ross Duncan doing what he does best, crashing the ball into the heart of the opposition, and a clever off-load resulted in the outstanding Robert Murray scamper into the corner, with Hurst making a superb conversion.

Murray added a second score before the break, after some superb support play, he took another off-load in the tackle and raced clear to touch down leaving Hurst a simple conversion to the right of the sticks

When the half time whistle came both sides had been reduced to 14 men after the Armagh scrum half used his boot in an unsporting manner, to which a Skins player reacted, however the hosts were going well.

After the break, the referee's judgement on scrummaging was harsh on the home team and a free kick in the home "22" resulted in the chunky Armagh wing forward coasting behind the tryline after some very weak attempted tackling.

This kicked 'Skins into a higher gear and once again after superb forward play the ball was flashed wide and Norman Richmond sent Moore in for his second try of the game, which Hurst once again converted. Dave Tyson was crashing the ball up well and Richie Grey used all his experience to disrupt the visiting lineout, but the visitors once again scored after some more sloppy defence from the hosts.

'Skins now will know that if they are to challenge in the Butler Shield they will have to improve defensively, but they did hold out here for a super victory against a team five league places above them going into the match. A good performance from all 18 men, but as too often is the case, a sluggish start and verbal indiscipline can be terminal and too often ends in defeat.

The homeguard of Breen, Grey, Murray and McCleery got Christmas into gear at the club with a civilised game of post-match centurion, which the Captain won after much deliberation from bar staff and the TMO.