

## **Enniskillen – 34, Larne – 7**

Enniskillen recorded a fairly comfortable win against the East Antrim visitors to complete a league double over the league newcomers.

The opening was bright with 'Skins taking the game to the visitors but eighteen minutes were on the clock before the opening score came, and it was 'Skins who were rewarded for their early endeavours. In the stiff breeze outhalf James McIntyre saw a penalty attempt drift wide, but a mistake from the resulting “22” drop out was pounced on by skipper Alan Wilkinson, who covered the ground quickly to score an unconverted try.

The next score came only three minutes later as 'Skins, with their tails up, cut into the Larne defence. A great run from Clive Donaldson took play into the heart of the visitors' “22” from where 'Skins had one or two goes for the line only to be held up short. With an overlap wide on the left the chance was nearly passed over with a loose pass, but fullback Nigel Johnston managed to dive in at the corner to double the lead to 10 – 0.

On the half hour mark 'Skins recorded their third try and effectively ended the contest. A powerful scrum set the home side in motion putting the visitors on the back foot and two rucks later Richard Beatty powered through a missing Larne defence to romp home. McIntyre added the conversion and 'Skins had a commanding seventeen point lead.

This proved to be the last score of a first half dominated by the home side but in truth the fourth, bonus point, try should have been scored before the break when two good chances were squandered with a lack of control.

Despite the missed opportunities just before the break it took 'Skins only five minutes of the second period to secure their bonus point. The game from the restart had been played deep in Larne territory and following another dominant scrum David Taylor punished the visitors with an unconverted try.

With the bonus point in the bag however 'Skins lost their way for a period, failing to keep possession and throwing the ball wildly in search of more points and they came unstuck when an interception was taken half the length of the pitch for a converted try to Larne, giving the score a semblance of respectability at 22 – 7 going into the final quarter.

'Skins did bounce back immediately, knuckling down to the task at hand and within five minutes Taylor had added his second try, taking an inside ball and romping home to stretch the lead to twenty points.

The closing minutes saw some scrappy periods of play, but just as the game seemed to be petering out, Ally Duncan received the ball and with seemingly nothing on managed to pick his way past the Larne defence to end the try scoring. McIntyre added his second conversion to leave the final score at 34 – 7.

A satisfying win, which with more control could have been even better. However this result lifts 'Skins into second place with games in hand going into the month of November which sees three crucial league games starting this Saturday with a trip to Lisburn.

Team: Michael Leitch, Robbie Murray, Richard Beatty, Hazlitt Brian, Gavin Parke, David Buchanan, Eddie Roofe, David Taylor, Ricky Connor, James McIntyre, Ally Duncan, Alan Wilkinson, Michael Law, Clive Donaldson, Nigel Johnston.