

Advertiser Sports Extra

Hesketh close in on the leaders

FOOTBALL

FOLLOWING the previous week's 5-0 win at home to Blackburn side Mill Hill St. Peters, Hesketh Bank encountered a 180 mile round trip to Cumbrian side Millom last Saturday.

They duly completed a comfortable 4-0 win and in doing so they have now gone five games without conceding a goal.

Manager James Smith was forced to make changes with injuries and work commitments ruling out Jordan Smethurst, Stephen Greenwood, Josh Norgate and Richard Hill.

Assistant Manager Jamie Johnson slotted into the vacant midfield spot and defender Adam Birkby was drafted in from the reserves.

Millom is always a difficult place to travel to and get a positive result and over the years Hesketh Bank's record has not been the best.

With Millom currently at the base of the table and winning just one match so far this season the final result was not unexpected. However this was not a vintage performance from Hesketh Bank in what at times was a scrappy affair.

In fact Millom should have taken an early lead but were denied by keeper Paul Sergeant who was making his 100th appearance for the club. Jamie Dalton opened the scoring after 12 minutes when the Millom goalkeeper dropped a cross from Peter Henerty.

Pressing forward Hesketh Bank took the game to their hosts and proceeded to create and miss several opportunities only adding a second in the 24th minute when striker John Stead looped a header over the keeper from a Dan Birkby cross.

The expected floodgates did not open and the third goal only came 12 minutes from time when a delightful cross from Dalton was this time powerfully headed home by Stead. The striker has now scored 11 goals in just seven matches since his transfer from Lytham Town.

The scoring was completed in the final minute with a rare goal from Johnson whose direct free kick found its way into the corner of Millom's goal.

The win still leaves them lying in the second promotion spot behind leaders Lostock St. Gerards who also won, but now eight points clear of third place Hurst Green.

Up next is the visit to the Centenary Sports Ground of Barrow based side Hawcoat Park with a 2pm kick off.

Meanwhile the reserves will be looking to get back into action after their match was postponed early last Saturday morning with Todmorden Borough unable to raise a side, as they travel to Bolton County which also kicks off at 2pm.

The Sunday team are also on their travels this weekend after a convincing 16-0 home win over Euxton Bolts when they visit Preston side Frenchwood which kicks off at 11am.

■ For up to date details and to book a slot at the club's 3G training facility check out the website www.heskethbankafc.co.uk



Max Skofic with the line in his sights for the first try for Tarleton's first XV

Home comforts bring Tarleton double delight

Aldwinians and Aspull are despatched in pair of 'must win' fixtures

RUGBY UNION

TARLETON had a double header at home on Saturday with both teams having 'must win' fixtures.

The Second XV were against third placed Aspull who were on a good run and were going to be a tough nut to crack and the First XV were up against Aldwinians who were in a similar position to themselves in the League.

On a day made for rugby both games started off as tense and tight

affairs with all teams defending their line well.

The Firsts opened their score from a good line-out when the ball was passed wide to Max Skofic who made good yards and then dummied the remaining two Aldwinian defenders and crashed over for a good try.

Aldwinians clawed their way back into the game when a penalty to Tarleton didn't find touch and the Aldwinian backs used the ball well and scored a good try to make the scores level.

Tarleton had some good periods of play and a good break by Archie Skofic almost resulted in a try when Will Fell was given the ball out of the tackle and as he was brought down the ball almost got to the

hands of Will Parker to score but a knock on ensued.

Archie was in the action again when from a No.8 pickup he crashed over to score but it was disallowed as he had clipped the referee as he went passed.

Against the run of play Aldwinians scored from a penalty just before half time to go in 8-5 in front.

The second half was a much better one for Tarleton with the forwards gaining in confidence and providing the backs with some good ball, a run by Jack Kelly and a well timed pass to Will Fell saw him crash over in the corner to regain the lead for Tarleton

From this point on Tarleton had to defend sporadically and this they

did well as Aldwinians were held at bay for the rest of the match.

Tarleton scored further tries with one from Archie Skofic following a driving maul created from a line-out and a good 35 yard run along the line by Liam Thompson resulted in another.

A further try was scored just before the end of the match and Tarleton came out 27-8 winners.

The seconds had a gruelling match and despite a lot of intimidation they kept their cool and won with two penalties either side of half time.

A 6-0 win keeps them joint top of the league and they face Rossendale away next week and the First XV are also away against high flying Bolton RUFC.

Player-boss Brooks leads by example for West End

WEST END went away to Springfield who were lying in ninth place with West End top of the league, however the league leaders didn't have it all their own way on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

A slow start from the visitors led to a first half goal from the home side.

However the league leaders rallied together at

half time and a much better second half from the visitors resulted in an equaliser - a brilliant finish from player-manager Lee Brooks who smashed home a 20 yard strike, after

excellent work down the right from Harry McGill.

McGill was the best player on the park throughout the 90 minutes and was deservedly awarded the man of the

match award. West End now go in to next week's derby game against Ormskirk FC still top of the league but needing a win to keep up with the other pace setters in the league.