

Advertiser Sports Extra

Rain gets the better of Bank

FOOTBALL

HESKETH BANK were left frustrated once again last weekend with all three senior matches being postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

The first team's match in Cumbria at Dalton United was postponed early on Saturday morning due to heavy overnight rain as was the reserve team home fixture against Lytham Town which consequently meant the Sunday team's home fixture was also called off.

With this coming Saturday's match at Turton already in some doubt due to continuing poor weather and in a bid to keep his squad match fit, manager James Smith organised a friendly with North West Counties side Ashton Town last Monday evening. The match was played on the 3g pitch at the JMO Sports Park, Skelmersdale and Ashton Town ran out 5-1 winners.

The squad is also now missing two regular players for the rest of the season with Ben Goodson recently moving to work in Qatar and Josh Norgate taking a year out in Australia.

However Kevin Cox who has not played since the beginning of September should be available for selection again after his long term ankle injury and to replace Norgate at the centre of defence could see the return of James Connolly the former Burscough and Southport defender who had a short spell at the club early last season.

League leaders Lostock St. Gerards have been able to play both their opening games of 2014 and have moved further ahead at the top although they dropped a couple of points, drawing at Hawcoat Park.

Hesketh Bank are now nine points behind them but have played three less games.

So with 12 league games to go and a home Quarter Final Presidents Cup tie against Turton in February, Hesketh Bank have plenty to play for.

Andy Cope's reserve side are also on their travels this weekend up the M6 to the Lancaster and Morecambe area to play Slynegh-Hest.

Meanwhile the Sunday team who have had a five week break are at home at the Centenary Sports Ground to BAE Warton the day after with an 11am kick off. Ryan Teale's team will be looking to continue their march up the table and maintain their 100 per cent league record.

Big win to beat Little

Tarleton gain revenge for defeat to Boro

RUGBY

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|---------------------|----|
| Tarleton | 24 |
| Littleborough | 9 |

TARLETON were up against Littleborough RUFC this week and were looking to avenge a 22-5 away defeat earlier in the season.

Littleborough are also flirting with the relegation zone but had put together some good results in the last two weeks so arrived at Carr Lane full of confidence.

The first 10 minutes was played at a terrific pace by both teams but neither could force an opening. The first try fell to Tarleton following a good break down the left wing by George Skofic who released the ball from the tackle and it was spun across the back line to Jamie Gentleman who crashed over for the try which was converted by Jamal Cantwell to give Tarleton a 7-0 lead after 12 minutes.

Tarleton were guilty of giving too many penalties away throughout the match and the first one after 20 minutes for collapsing the maul gave Littleborough three easy points. Tarleton then pressurised the Littleborough line and Matt Bradley crossed the line only to be held up in



Archie Skofic going over for a try. Picture by JEFF GORDON

the tackle, from the resulting scrum Archie Skofic almost made the line as well but a bone crunching tackle by a Littleborough defender kept him out.

After 34 minutes Archie took his chance with a brilliant 30 metre run down the right wing breaking through three would be tacklers to score a memorable individual try in the corner. 12-3 ahead and then Tarleton gifted Littleborough another penalty in front of the posts following a late tackle.

At 12-6 with a couple of minutes to go to half time it looked as though Littleborough were playing with

more impetus than Tarleton. However, a good attack involving all the Tarleton backs saw the ball slipped to Matt Forrest who gave the oncoming defender an audacious side step and scored under the posts. This was converted and at half time Tarleton led 19-6.

The second half was a torrid affair with Tarleton still giving too many penalties away and players being sin binned for assorted offences on both sides. From one penalty Littleborough brought the score to 19-9 but a good forwards try finished off well by Max Skofic saw Tarleton finish on a bonus point victory of 24-9.

This was a good performance and they will need to play with this pace and commitment in their next league game in a fortnight.

Both the First and Second XV are in cup action next week with the seconds playing Fleetwood away and the Firsts are up against Workington.

The Second XV continued their winning ways with a good victory against local rivals Ormskirk RUFC. This was a close match until the last 20 minutes when Tarleton upped their work rate and were rewarded with a 28-14 victory after the match being level at 14-14 at half time.

Pitch switch no problem for Kirk

ORMSKIRK under-15s were scheduled to have a home game but due to an acute referee shortage had to be switched to Collegiate so huge thanks to Karl and his team for making it happen.

Ormskirk welcomed their captain Aaron back into the team playing at centre rather than in the pack and elected to play uphill in the first half whilst they were fresh.

There was little between the two teams with both defences holding firm until Pete made a break just prior to half time to secure a slender 5-0 lead.

Early in the second half Scott finished off some superb forward play to squeeze over again unconverted however soon afterwards the hosts responded with a well worked try of their own to peg it back to 10-5.

Ormskirk pressure and good support play resulted in their final try with Scott

RUGBY

going over again and Aaron adding the conversion to give us a bit of breathing space.

Collegiate were far from finished however, scoring another converted try of their own and although both sides had further chances, defence was once again in the ascendancy and it finished 17-12.

A very good game with determined rugby from both teams and a great way to blow away the cobwebs after four weeks without playing.

This win was a great reward for the lad's efforts yesterday.

Man of the match was Chris playing at fullback for the first time - few teams kick as much as Collegiate so he had a very busy morning!

Thanks to all at Collegiate for their sporting play and hosting us so well.

Skem over moon with Cosmos win

SKELMERSDALE UNITED Youth teams had a mixed weekend this Sunday, the Under-17s winning 8-0 at home to bottom of the league Wigan Cosmos, and the Under-18s falling to a 2-1 defeat at home to Macclesfield Town.

The Under-17s got off to a flying start, with Simon Sandys slotting past the approaching goalkeeper in the first minute, he promptly doubled his tally four minutes later, finishing off a great run from Shaun Brady. United were much the dominant side and it didn't take long for the third goal to come, some good build up play from Josh Briar and Alex Hallwood resulted in Hallwood getting his fifth goal of the season.

Shaun Brady managed a hat-trick within the space of 15 minutes, all three goals being of real quality from the

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leading scorer who takes his tally up to 15 for the season.

The second half saw changes from both sides. Clayton Asprey looked very lively for United but it was Joe Gregson who netted Skem's seventh of the afternoon with a great volley from the edge of the box into the top left hand corner of the net.

Josh Coulson came on for his debut in the last 15 minutes and made an immediate impact with a great strike beating the goalkeeper and nestling into the bottom corner.

A great result which takes United's youngsters into second place behind leaders Penlake.

Man of the match was Shaun Brady. Skelmersdale United's

Under-17s' next game is away to Penlake Youth in the quarter final of the league cup.

The Under-18s could count themselves a little unfortunate this weekend missing key players, Joe Nicholson and Brandon Gaskell, they still managed to put in a good performance against Macclesfield Town. Adam Weston scored a deft header past the oncoming goalkeeper, United also missed a penalty.

Plenty of positives for Paul Nicholson's Under 18's though, especially with key players moving up to the first team on a regular basis this season.

The Under-18s are at home this coming Sunday, 2pm kick off at the West Lancashire College stadium, entry to the youth games is free, the bar is open and refreshments available.