

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018

[London 3 South West](#)

Match Report by Jim Dixon



**Portsmouth 19– 0 Trojans – Match Abandoned at Half Time due to weather conditions**

Portsmouth took on Trojans at Rugby Camp, keen to make amends for the disappointing loss last week against Winchester. With torrential rain and a strong wind blowing it was never going to be a game of running rugby with the pitch pretty sodden before kick off. There were some changes from last week with Will Brock, concussion, Tom Hopkins, dislocated shoulder so Anthony Fooks came in at No.6, Luke Peters taking the wing berth, and for the first time the Duffus brothers were playing at half back. They have played together before but this is the first time in the No's 9 & 10 role. Sully Caucau was also missing with a damaged shoulder so his place was taken by Matt Farnes.

Trojans got proceedings underway and Portsmouth showed their intent by driving the ball straight back at their opponents and were awarded a scrum which saw them take a good strike and push the Trojans pack backwards in the process. From a penalty against Trojans, Portsmouth found a good touch and from the resultant line out won clean ball which saw the Duffus brothers combine well with a good break made by Cameron (No.10) who moved the ball to full back Mark Ovens who took the ball at pace to score close to the posts. Cameron converted and Portsmouth took a 7 - 0 lead on 3 minutes. Despite conditions Portsmouth were keen to keep the ball in hand and they managed to keep play in the Trojans half. From a line out Portsmouth moved the ball to winger Peters and he was just tackled before the line and although he did manage to cross the line the Referee deemed a double movement so no try. Shortly after Trojans had a player yellow carded and also Portsmouth lost winger Luke Peters to an injury so Gareth Richards came on. He took the centre spot with Matt Farnes moving to the wing. More pressure saw good work by scrum half Alex Duffus who linked with Tim Snowden and eventually Rhys Bowen crossed for Portsmouth's 2nd try. The conversion was successful and the score was now 14 - 0 on 28 minutes. 7 minutes later after some good work by the forwards Bowen ran in from just inside the Trojans 22 to score Portsmouth's third try. The conversion missed and the score was now 19 - 0. Cameron Duffus then had to come off with a hamstring strain. He was replaced by Liam Avis who went to the back row with Fooks moving to the wing and Farnes to the centre with Richards then taking the 10 slot. With the first half in the last 5 minutes Trojans forced their way upfield and forced Portsmouth to kick to touch which should have given Trojans a line out just outside the home sides 22 but the referee blew form half time and suddenly seemed to leave the field. Rather perplexed players then followed to the shelter of the changing rooms to find that the referee was in the shower having abandoned the match due to bad conditions but without consulting both the team captains. Confusion still reigned as gradually players realised that the match was over so it is now up to the Competitions Committee to decide the next course of action which will probably be for the game to be replayed.

Portsmouth are due to play Trojans away on Saturday 29th. December in the semi-final of the Hants. Cup. There are no league matches now until 5th. January when Portsmouth are away to Old Whitgiftians. They lost to Warlingham on Saturday 22 - 9. Other results from Saturday were a surprise loss for Winchester away to Andover 41 - 21, U.S. Portsmouth beat Petersfield 24 - 10 and Battersea Ironsides beat Old Georgians 7 - 24. The league now shows Winchester still top on 53 points. U.S stay second on 48 points with Battersea jumping ahead of Portsmouth to 3rd on 44 points. Portsmouth are now in 4th. place on 42 points but with a game in hand.

Finally may I wish all the readers a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year! See you all again in 2019!

TEAM=

Parks, Hoolihan, French.

Leggott(C) Easterbrook.

Fooks, Snowden, Bowen,

Duffus, (Alex) Duffus(Cameron)

Peters, Gates, Farnes, Ovens.

BENCH=

Parry, Avis, Richards.