

## Quarter Final Jason Leonard Cup

### Kent U20's v Hertfordshire U20's

Kent U20s travelled to Harpenden RFC on Sunday 3 May to face Hertfordshire U20s in the quarter final of the Jason Leonard Cup. Although the final scoreline suggests a one-sided contest, the match itself was far more competitive than the numbers imply.

Played at a relentless pace throughout, both sides were forced into uncharacteristic errors. Hertfordshire struck first with an early try, but Kent responded immediately after the restart with a well-worked score of their own. Kent then applied sustained pressure and came agonisingly close on several occasions, only to be denied by a determined Hertfordshire defence just short of the line — a pattern that would repeat throughout the afternoon.

Hertfordshire, by contrast, proved clinical. Almost every visit to the Kent 22 resulted in points, helping them establish a 26–12 lead at half time.

Kent began the second half exactly as required, crossing for a converted try within two minutes to narrow the deficit. However, Hertfordshire responded immediately from the restart to restore their two-score advantage. As the pace of the game and the warm May sunshine began to take their toll, both sides turned to their benches, with fresh legs finding space against tiring defensive lines.

Kent continued to threaten but were repeatedly held up inches short of the try line. With 15 minutes remaining and chasing the game, Kent opted to run from deep rather than kick for territory. The match opened up dramatically, but Hertfordshire capitalised more effectively, scoring three quick tries to Kent's one during the closing stages.

The final score saw Hertfordshire progress to the semi-finals with a 64–29 victory.

#### **Kent Scorers**

**Tries:** Jake Caple, Finley Ashdown-Denney, Harry Crowley, William Lawes, Liam Kiernan

**Conversions:** William Lawes, George Rehbein