

Shevington Sharks U11's vs Newton Storm U11's – Sunday 25th March 2018

West Bank Bears U11's vs Shevington Sharks U11's Thursday 29th March 2018

Two games in the space of 5 days faced the Sharks U11's this week & both couldn't be more chalk & cheese in respect of conditions played in & the amount of free-flowing rugby & scoring taking place.

First off, the Sharks finally got to play at home for the first time this season & was surprisingly played in rare, wonderful sunny conditions & both teams seemed to revel in this as the ball was given lots of air in an end to end see-saw battle, offences on top here as the score rattled along. Opponents Newton Storm came with a fierce reputation from previous meetings between the two teams & didn't disappoint in a sometimes, bad tempered affair that had its flashpoints but that only went to provide a terrific spectacle with some great determined running from both sides & equally muscular & brutal defence on show.

The Sharks scored first & just about managed to keep their noses in front most of the way with tries from Olly Fairhurst, Harlen Smith, Harry Brandon, Brody Lucas, Louie Fairhurst & Ben Galbraith, making his first appearance of the season. Conversions were added by Harry Brandon, Ben Galbraith, Harry Townsend, Olly Fairhurst & Harlen Smith as the Sharks got on the board with their first win of the new season, 34-24 with 6 tries & 5 conversions to Newtons 5 tries & 2 conversions.

Coaches choice for MOM went to Olly Fairhurst for a top defensive display & the parents vote went deservedly to Brody Lucas who definitely stood up to be counted today. All in all a superb start to the Sharks home fixtures & hopefully they can make this an impenetrable fortress in the coming months.

Up the Sharks!

Awards:

Parents MOM: Brody Lucas

Coaches MOM: Oliver Fairhurst

The Sharks re-arranged mid-week fixture at West Bank Bears in Widnes couldn't have been more different, played in mostly freezing rain with very little light and defences were definitely on top here with hardly an inch given by both sides, a veritable war of attrition but played in the most sporting & fair manner.

The Sharks did their watching, wet parents proud on this dreary night & every lad gave a 100% effort for 100% of the game & with new boy Sam Kelly making his debut & with Tom Carter & George Lowe making their first appearances of the season, everything seemed to be against the Sharks, but in adversity, courage & determination thrive.

The Sharks struggled to make any headway in the first 10 & were pinned in their own half & was no surprise when the Bears took the lead after 10 minutes & with a successful conversion it was 6-0 down. The Sharks though were galvanised by this & toughened up their defence & even though the Bears tried every attacking trick in the book & were very adept at offloading, the Sharks were diligent & beady eyed for anything thrown at them, always wary of the ball being spread out to the edges, a brick wall of blue & red faced West Bank. It stayed at this score for most of the game until

the Sharks stubborn defence finally wore the Bears down & in a rare attack Olly Fairhurst spotted a gap & slid gleefully home for the only other try of the night, Tom Carter held his nerve to convert & equalise, 6-6 now.

It didn't end there as West Bank roared back at the Sharks relentlessly till the end, but the resilient defence held tight, the wall stayed up, their siege mentality to the fore & the Sharks held on for a truly bravely fought draw & was a credit to every lad out there, and the parents who made the hazardous journey to get them there in awful conditions.

No awards were given on this occasion, but it seemed all 13 battle worn kids deserved this award really, 13 men of the match, but special mention for their defensive efforts on the night to Tom Carter & George Lowe who were monstrous in the tackle.

Up the Sharks! (Again)

Awards:

MOM: Bailey Gerrard, Oliver Fairhurst, Harlen Smith, William Metcalfe, Harry Brandon, Ben Galbraith, Luke Gledhill, Brody Lucas, Harvey Sadler, Louie Fairhurst, Sam Kelly, Tom Carter & George Lowe.