

# Match Report: Round 1

Kiama Rugby Club kicked off its 2009 season with a mixed bag of results on the weekend, coming home with a win, a draw and a loss on their away trip to Camden. Boosted by the return of several former players and a number of new recruits Kiama first grade were hopeful of starting the season in winning fashion against a rejuvenated Camden outfit.

Playing for the first time under the new ELV law interpretations Kiama were the first to score only minutes in after Lyndsay King Gee found himself on the end of a Steve Emmett charge down.

With Kiama dominating the early forward exchanges and having been denied an earlier Mitchell Payne try on the strength of a dubious home touch judging decision Kiama were unlucky not to have been ahead by further after the first 20 minutes.

Despite Kiama's early dominance scores were soon tied up after the Camden forward pack drove over close to the Kiama posts squaring up the score at the half time break. The deadlock continued well into the second half as neither team were able to launch any substantial attacking raids.

With defence dominating it was the old hardheads in the Kiama pack of Michael Quinn and Andrew Saulter leading the way, both getting through a mountain of work.

With ten minutes to go Kiama looked to have gone a long way towards winning the game when replacement inside centre Matty Archer held up a perfect ball to put his centre partner Dave McKinley through a gaping hole.

Unfortunately this was not to be with Camden hitting back almost instantly on the back of some tired Kiama defence.

With the scores once again locked the final ten minutes saw some spirited rugby from both teams however neither team could break the deadlock despite Kiama narrowly missing several penalty and field goal chances leaving the final score 14-14.

Best players for Kiama were Michael Quinn, Andrew Saulter, Steve Emmett and Dave McKinley.

Second grade were looking forward to their clash with Camden after putting together a couple of good weeks on the training paddock.

Hitting their straps early Den Nascome crossed only five minutes in after excellent lead up work by outside centre Chris Weir.

Despite a spirited early showing Camden's defence became easier to crack as the game wore on with Norm Callaghan and Matt Archer creating a number of scoring opportunities for their outside men allowing Kiama to go to the break with a 25-0 lead.

The second half saw a continuance of the expansive and creative rugby Kiama had begun the match with as Nascome, Weir and Paul Glover all continued to create havoc for the Camden defence out wide.

Despite a couple of late consolation tries for the home team Kiama continued to apply the pressure throughout the remainder of the match, taking out the game 46-12 in a good early hit out.

Best for Kiama were Callaghan, Archer, Nascome and Jeff Mitchell.

Third grade got the season off to an inauspicious start after new recruit Shane Tronc took a nasty head knock off in the early phases.

Things turned around quickly for the home team when Martin Richards galloped away with the football after taking an intercept on the half way giving Kiama an early lead. With Camden hitting back quickly the game turned into a stalemate for the remainder of the half as Dylan O'Brien and Kel Grey led the way with some fantastic defence for the Kiama side.

Allowing a few quick tries against the run of play in the early stages of the second half Kiama were soon playing catch up rugby and despite blowing a number of scoring opportunities were still in the hunt late in the game.

However a final defensive lapse put Kiama out of the game with the young third graders going down 24 –15 in a close match.

Best for Kiama were Michael Kent, Luke Paget and Shane Tronc.