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Rugby

Saltash..18 OPMs...19

A TRY by OPMs hooker James Ball seven minutes from time earned OPMs victory in a tightly-contested local derby.

It was the Old Boys' first win since returning to the Cornwall/Devon League this season, but it leaves fellow newcomers Saltash still waiting to get off the mark.

The Ashes started the stronger and they were on the scoreboard within five minutes when debutant flanker Ben Davenport broke clear after some good back work to run in from 22 metres out. Fly-half Will Virgo converted for a 7-0 lead.

That soon became 12-0 in as many minutes when Davenport charged down a clearance kick by the visitors to score his second of the afternoon.

Saltash increased their advantage to 15-0 on 20 minutes with a Virgo penalty, but at that point OPMs came to life.

The visitors reduced the gap to 15-7 with a try by James Eastbury, which fly-half Todd Croft converted.

After the break Ashes had hooker Rob Eatwell sin-binned, but the home side held firm while a man down.

On 65 minutes Saltash went 18-7 up with another Virgo penalty and were looking good for the win.

But OPMs had other ideas and when Ashes had lock Jason Lockley sin-binned, the visitors took full advantage. Darren Ewers dived over in the right corner and Croft added the difficult conversion to make it 18-14 with just 10 minutes to go, before Ball grabbed the winning score seven minutes from time.



DRIVING FORWARD:
Saltash make hard yards despite being outnumbered by three OPMs defenders

Picture Lucy Blake
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