

EDF JUNIOR VASE FIFTH ROUND

OPMs...26 Painswick...19

MAN-of-the-match Rhys Phillips charged down a late clearance for Justin Morton to pinch victory in OPMs' tie with Painswick.

The Gloucester One side, claiming to be the oldest village rugby club, had plenty of chances and led for most of the match.

The Old Boys secured the first points with centre James Frappell making a break which ended with full-back Neil Bellamy scoring.

Painswick had the benefit of the blustery conditions and came back with a try from centre Austin Smith.

The Old Boys were kept on their heels and Will Lester potted the conversion and three first-half penalties. Justin Morton replied for the Old Boys but it took an outstanding solo try from winger Martin Skelley to keep the deficit to a respectable 16-13 at the turn around.

There were plenty of chances for both kickers in the second half. Painswick kept up the onslaught to the hour mark with Lester only adding a further three points. Spoiled opportunities cost Painswick the chance to progress and fly-half Morton slotted a couple of penalties to make it all square with 10 minutes to go.

OPMs threatened the Painswick line with a succession of scrums and line-outs and just when it looked likely to be heading for extra time, Old Boys' Rhys Phillips charged down a clearance kick, Morton scooped the winning try and added the conversion to go into the next round.

Painswick chairman Roger Turley said: "It was difficult, wet underfoot."

"We didn't convert our chances and OPMs were good at the breakdowns. We wish them well in the next round."

COME BACK: OPMs veteran Sammy Matts chases down a Painswick opponent during his side's Junior Vase win on Saturday

Pictures Lucy Blake EH011207_LB04_0090.JPG



GROUND ATTACK: OPMs battle for the ball in their EDF Junior Vase clash on Saturday against Painswick from Gloucester. OPMs won to go into the next round

EH011207_LB04_001

THXS2