**Lisburn Rugby**

**Lisburn Safe From Relegation Fears**

**Randalstown 22 – Lisburn 19**

The Connect Telecom Lisburn 1st XV, despite losing 22-19 to fourth placed Randalstown last weekend, salvaged a valuable bonus point and as a result of UUC losing to Academy on the same date, saved themselves from the fear of relegation with just two games still to play.

On a heavy pitch Lisburn started well knowing that they had to get something out of this match but against the run of play they went 3-0 down after ten minutes due to a penalty. Josh Reid immediately responded with a similar effort to even the score line but the kickers from both teams were in the ascendancy and approaching half time it was three penalties apiece as each side sought the opening try. Almost on the whistle, Randalstown got a foothold near the Lisburn line and from a five metre scrum pushed the visitors over for a well taken try to make the interval score 14-9.

Fifteen minutes into the second period Josh Reid again narrowed the gap when he kicked a monstrous penalty from the half way line to make it 14-12. Lisburn were fighting for their lives at this point and all of the play was inside the Randalstown half but on a rare incursion into the visitor’s red zone they gained a run of possession and put the ball through the phases until Lisburn ran out of numbers. The resultant try gave them a 19 – 12 lead which they maintained up to near the end of the game. With two minutes to go Randalstown got another penalty in front of the posts which they kicked to make it 22-12 and it looked as if Lisburn’s goose was cooked. However, straight from the restart they gained possession and moved the ball left to where fullback Craig Walsh had joined the line and he split the broken field wide open with a marvellous weaving run to score under the posts. Reid converted to make the final result 22-19 and gain a valuable bonus point for Lisburn.

Despite the loss, it was a good team effort from the Lisburn team in which Walsh, McCombe and Reid showed up well in the backline and Davis, Edgar, Press and Hughes were industrious up front. Next Saturday they return to their Blaris base where they take on a resurgent Larne outfit and hope to consolidate their league position in their last home game. A big support is sought.