



Match Report

Evergreen Cup Plate Semi-Final



Maidstone Evergreen XV 48 v Medway Veterans XV 0

Played at The Mote, Sunday 4th May 2014, KO: 3-00pm

Recent seasons have seen Maidstone's Evergreen XV make the final of this regional competition; however, with the first round draw throwing up a rematch of last season's final, the county town club's veterans have found themselves in the Plate competition for the first time.

On an excellent playing surface in glorious spring sunshine a large crowd had assemble to watch Maidstone's Evergreen XV do battle with local rival Medway for a place in next week's Plate Final against Beccehamians. In a match played in the right spirit by both sides, the 48-0 final score against a battling Medway side confirmed Maidstone's position as one of the major forces in Veterans rugby in the county. Recent seasons have seen a bit of a changing of the guard in the club's Evergreen line up, and new skipper Nick East had pulled together a strong team which fielded no less than 6 former 1st XV captains, including current club chairman Jon Sargent.



In truth this contest was over at the half-time interval, with tries from Jon Sargent, Richard Hoyte and skipper East, assisted by the accurate boot of Dave Charlton providing a comfortable 19-0 lead at the interval. Whilst Maidstone's big forwards dominated the set piece engagements it was the back division that caught the eye, with the silky running of Man of the Match James Leverington and also Ian Howson and Dave Charlton routinely turning the Medway defence.

The second half saw Maidstone pick up where they ended the first, with all bar a 5 minute period played in Medway territory; Maidstone were keen to move the ball wide whenever possible and tries from winger Stuart Bates and fly-half Dave Charlton soon extended the lead, although Charlton's score owed a little to some good fortune and the referee being unsighted during the ground. Next to touch down was Ian Howson after he slipped a couple of tackles close to the touchline and with Charlton continuing to hit the target with the boot, to take the home side out to a 37-0 lead.





A second try for Jon Sargent followed, after a break by Jim Walker created the gap, although Sargent almost fell foul of his own footwork as he stumbled and somersaulted to the line. An opportunist try for John O'Brien rounded off the afternoons scoring from a quick tap penalty close to Medway line to bring the score to 48-0. To their credit, Medway continued to battle and were unlucky not to

breach the home side's defence when a period of sustained pressure saw Maidstone penned in their own 22m, with the visitors, spurning kickable penalties to press for the try Maidstone's defence held firm to the end.

The Evergreen XV now travel to Croydon for next week's final, on current form they have every reason to be optimistic of a successful outcome.

