



# Match Report



## Shepherd Neame Cup (Round 1)

### Maidstone FC 71 v Dartfordians RFC 7

Played at The Mote, Saturday 7th September, 2013

# Brachers

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Despite the score line, Maidstone were not at the top of their game, which showed all the hallmarks of an early season encounter with a number of unforced errors from a side understandably still to fully gel. However, it would be churlish to admonish a side that racked up 71 points in front of a good home crowd - so from a cup perspective and as a formal start to the season, this was a job well done.....



With some key players unavailable, Maidstone showed that they had more than enough fire power and squad depth to field a very strong 19 players, and whilst newly promoted Dartfordians to London 3 were dogged at times, the gulf between the two sides was clear for all to see.

It only took Maidstone a couple of minutes to get on the score board, when winger, Brill ran in first of his hat-trick of tries from the 22 having the pace to exploit space created out wide. Stretching the defence was the theme of the first half and with some slick handling, there followed 2 tries by centre Dorman and another by Brill, all started in mid-field and finished out wide on the left. However, it was not all one-way traffic and Dartfordians exerted some early pressure but they lacked the precision and composure to be any real threat. With just the one conversion added by fly-half Van De Westerlo, the half finished on 22-0.



The second half was a far more cohesive performance from Maidstone and having used the width of the ball to good effect in the first-half, they started to use their forward runners off the break-down. Hitting space through the mid-field channel, the forwards adopted an off-loading

game, which stretched the Dartfordians defence further. This culminated in Brill's third try down the left flank.

There was then a period of play, where Dartfordians starting to rally but this was short-lived as continuous pressure from Maidstone gradually began to wear down the Dartfordians defence, culminating in a quick tap penalty taken by skipper, Williams to dive in under the posts. This was closely followed by another try from Williams, this time running in unopposed from the 22. Van der Westerlo added the extras and with 10 minutes into the second half Maidstone, were 36 points to the good and beginning to dominate all areas of the game. However, against the run of play, the Dartfordians, 13, Phillips picked up a dropped pass by Maidstone to score from half-way out, much to the cheer of the away crowd. This was converted to give Dartfordians their only points of the game.



Normal service was quickly resumed and following a snaking run from Brill, forward, 2<sup>nd</sup> Row Alex Sterzu cut a good line to run in under the posts. Sterzu, featured in the next try, making another telling break and off-loading to flanker, Hyland to score. The next try was a stroll in for Van De

Westerlo and the game finished with the second try for Sterzu, running a direct line once more against a now very tired Dartfordians defence. With all the scores converted by Van De Westerlo in the half, the final score was 71-7.

Maidstone start their London SE 2 league campaign next week against Warlingham (away), which is likely to be a much sterner test and a benchmark in terms of how far this side has come since winning the league title last season as unbeaten champions.



### **Maidstone**

Ben Williams; Sam Bailey; Olly Smith; Alex Hadi; Lee Evans; Jack Davidson; Paul Highland; Matt Iles; Adrian Hogben; Caleb Van De Westerlo; Willie Brown; Mark Dorman; Lucian Morosan; Sam Brill; Josh Jensen

Replacements (All used): Danny Baker; Alex Sterzu; Richard Parker; James Douglas

