



## Match Report

Pre-Season Match

**Gosport & Fareham 14 v Maidstone 35**

Played at Gosport Park, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August

KO: 3-00pm

Maidstone travelled to the south coast to face a committed and well organised Gosport & Fareham side in what at times was a fractious match it was Maidstone's execution and superior fitness in the final quarter of the match that proved the difference between the two sides. On a narrow pitch and with the visitors still looking to shake off a degree of pre-season 'ring rust' the first half of the contest was hard fought and evenly matched, a Josh Pankhurst try converted by Caleb Van De Westerlo opened the scoring although Gosport managed a score of their own before Josh Jensen crossed to re-establish a lead as the interval approached.

It was Gosport that looked the brighter at the start of the second half as they levelled the score at 14-14. Maidstone then began to dominate as they started to generate much quicker ball, and passes began to go to hand releasing the outside backs with Jensen crossing for his second try before Sam Brill touched down to extend the lead to fourteen points. With Maidstone's higher fitness levels beginning to tell in the final quarter of the game, flanker Paul Hyland completed the afternoon's scoring with Van de Westerlo completing a 100% record with the boot for Maidstone to run out 14-35 winners.

In summary, Head Coach Andy Foley was happy with what he termed a 'good day at the office' for both the 1<sup>st</sup> & Mustangs XV; although still plenty to work on before the league campaign commences.