

Maidstone 3rd XV 22vs.Deal and Bettshanger 2nd XV 0

League: Invicta 3, Match 8

The Mote, Saturday 17th November. Kick-off 14:30

With last week's win at Canterbury moving Maidstone to the top of the League, the county town club had the opportunity to build on that win with a victory over visiting Deal and Bettshanger. In contrast to Maidstone's form, Deal and Betts are having a difficult season with a win over Gravesend their only victory so far. That being said, Maidstone were approaching this game with caution as the youthful D&B side have been unlucky to be on the wrong end of results so often.

Maidstone kicked off with the wind behind them and instantly set up camp in the D&B 22. With the forwards providing a solid platform on which to play, the backs were looking to be creative and exploit the gaps. As Maidstone built the phases, D&B's defence stood strong with powerful tackling and great organisation.

Maidstone were guilty of several handling errors which allowed D&B to clear their lines, but apart for the occasional foray into the Maidstone half, all the attacking play was coming from the home side. With a penalty and a converted try the only scores in the first half Maidstone led 10-0.

The second half followed much the same pattern as the first with Maidstone controlling most aspects of the play. However, D&B were putting together more offensive patterns during this period, and showed that they came to play running rugby with some classy interchanges in the back line that were asking questions of Maidstone's defence.

With Maidstone's defence solid, D&B found no way through, and as the half progressed Maidstone emphasised their superiority. Two more tries and a conversion made the final score Maidstone 22, Deal and Bettshanger 0.

Today's try scorers were: Dan Taylor, Jim Walker and Ian Howson with John Hogarth adding a penalty and two conversions.

Captains Note –

I think that this was one of our best performances of the season, where we finally came together as a team to use our experience against a fit and very young side. The forwards led from the front with commitment, aggression (when required) and finally dominance with a push over try. The backs kept pushing and running well with ball in hand, whilst being resolute in defence to keep a clean sheet.

Unfortunately Dave Ruaux, who had been playing well, picked up a knee injury which forced him off. This was a double blow as he left early to go to A&E hence the short match report! The good news is that with a couple of weeks before our next match he is expected to be fit and as I am out of the country with work commitments he has agreed to Captain the side. I am sure he will do a great job and lead us to a win.

Despite not bringing the changing room beers (he did buy a jug I can hear him moan) and wanting to be substituted, I have selected Jim Walker as this week's MOTM. Jim is an inspirational forward that always leads from the front. Showing his attacking prowess with powerful running, and defensive

capabilities with his hard hits, Jim always leaves his mark on a match, both physically & verbally.

Squad:

Ollie Coomber: Dave Jackson: Martin Maytum: Richard Gray: Jim Walker: Simon Wright: Lewis Fagg:  
Edd Adams: Mike Hill: Dave Tugwell: John Hogarth: David Ruaux: Justin Evans: Chris Tomlin: Tom  
McCulkin: Ian Howson: Elliot Hogan: