

# Maidstone Barbarians 17 - 19 Lordswood II

Trys: Gilles (3)  
Cons: Tuffrey

Trys: No. 12, No. 9 (2)  
Cons: No. 10 (2)

Early Bird 6: Lordswood S&S Club. Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Kick-off 14:15

With a returning Matt Ellesmere at 10 and Andy Bell continuing his role as a fine Scrum-Half, Mike Gilles returned to slot in at Outside Centre to begin.

Maidstone were quickly introduced to the Lordswood game plan of looping Centre runs and within the first 15 minutes found themselves 12 – 0 down. It looked like it was going to be one of those days at the office until the Maidstone pack got rolling again. With incisive driving down the right, MMB got to within 5 metres before Mike Gilles got involved to help the ball to be driven over the line for the first Maidstone score. Tuffrey coolly added the extras 12 – 7.

Maidstone finished the half the better side have carried the ball well for most parts and containing the break aways from the Lordswood no.9 – playing at Fly Half. As half time hit, Maidstone felt upbeat, as they should coming back and holding their ground.

The second half became a dogged affair with both sides battling in the middle of the park. Andy Bell moved to 13 and Gilles moved to 9 which appeared to be a stroke of genius from Captain Colin Frost. As Gilles collected from a line out on the right hand side by the 22, he threw a glided pass to Ellesmere to give to Tuffrey for the crash. The latter actually found himself darting in between defenders and making ground with Andy Bell in great support to receive the offload in the tackle he drew the FB and Winger in. As contact was about to come thundering in, a looping Mike Gilles collected the ball to Bell's right and ran over into the corner for Maidstones second Try. From the side, the conversion slide wide of the post.

This seemed to rattle Lordswood who came back straight away and tried to take a penalty shot at goal which was fired wide of the upright from 24 metres out. It was a day where the backs just could not support the Forwards as fluidly as in previous weeks and finally with a maul being held up Lordswood went over again to inch closer to victory as they now led 19 – 12. Maidstone would come again like a Pitbull not knowing when it was beat and marched up the hill for Gilles to complete his Hat-trick with 15 minutes to go. Matt Ellesmere bravely took on the very tricky conversion which was taken by the wind agonisingly at the last second, away from the left hand upright.

Lordswood seemed to have shut up shop by the end and could have had another except for FB Paul Hodges slowing proceedings down as the last man. If he doesn't stop you, he'll stop you long enough for the Barbarian horde to get back.

It was a game where the MMB showed just how well they can play. If only there was a little more backline cohesion to support the forwards, the score may have been different.

**Next up:** December 22<sup>nd</sup>: (H) Maidstone Vets. Memorial Game

- *A friendly in name and spirit but with pride, as well as a trophy up for grabs it should be a great encounter. The MMB are in fierce form and have the capability of getting their hands on the cup. However, these are the Vets. The men that have the respect they deserve for what they have seen, done & can still get away with! Hopefully the Referee will have his wits about him.....*