

## Match Report

Deal & Betteshanger 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 10 v Maidstone Mustangs XV 42

Away at Deal & Betteshanger, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Kick-off 2:00pm

On an afternoon more akin to midsummer than early September, Maidstone's Mustangs XV took on a Deal 2<sup>nd</sup> string in what was their first real preseason outing as a team as opposed to a senior squad fixture. From the start Maidstone made it clear that moving the ball through hands at every chance would win them the game. A solid mixture of youth and some experienced heads was a key point, Andy Bacon, Dan Cummings, Mike Laurenson, Dave Tugwell and Martin Maytum, provided the experienced backbone of the side with the younger element, nine of whom were Under 20 proved to be too strong for the host side.



First half tries for Ben Hunter, Sam Weston and Ben Hollingsworth with Tom Holmes adding the conversions set the platform. All of the scores came from some great inter passing and support play at pace which left the Deal defence in disarray. The second half saw another trio of tries for the Mustangs, with Tom Hunter grabbing a brace to complete his hat-trick and a touchdown for Matt Vickers, who also converted his own try with Sam Ellis adding the extras for the other two.

To their credit Deal stuck to their task and the Mustangs spent substantial periods in defence, but it wasn't until well into the second half that Deal finally got on the scoreboard with two unconverted tries.

For Maidstone's Mustangs XV organised defence and simple passing and support play proved to be the winning method in a very entertaining game.

