



Match Report

Invicta League

Blackheath 3rd XV 40 v Mustangs XV 12

Played at Blackheath, Saturday 2nd November, 2013

Injury, unavailability and 1st XV call ups saw a much changed Mustangs XV travel to SE London to play a Blackheath side currently second from bottom in the Invicta League. However, league position aside; the hosts, with no Heathens fixture paid the county town club's second string the compliment of fielding a team with number players from their senior sides who were returning from injury, the consequence of which was a 40-12 scoreline in favour of Blackheath. That is not to say that Maidstone didn't have their opportunities as they failed to put away several clear cut opportunities which on another day they would have taken.

Blackheath were first on the scoreboard from a penalty try awarded when both front rows had stood up on a 5-metre scrum, but those are the vagaries of referees interpretations, some go your way, others don't. Alex Clark kept the Mustangs in touch as when he touched down although the attempted conversion missed its mark. Blackheath immediately hit back to lengthen their lead, taking advantage of an uncharacteristic lapse in the Mustangs defence. Maidstone continued to attempt to play attacking running rugby and were able to gain territory, but it was the execution of final pass in two on one situations that meant they failed to add to their score, with Blackheath stretching their lead with another score on the stroke of half-time.

Injury saw back row Sam Weston leave the field and the Mustangs had to reshuffle their resources with Duncan McLintock moving into the pack, Blackheath also made changes of their own but it was Maidstone that started the second half the brighter and some solid play by the pack saw a surging run by Nick Bunyan breach the home defence for a converted score. However, any hopes of a Mustangs fightback were extinguished as the match progressed with Blackheath registering two more converted tries.

This was a hard fought match for the Mustangs against a side that on the day were much stronger and more experienced than their league position belied.