

After two close wins away from home the Vets were looking forward to a home game with a strong turnout of players including two father and son combo's in the Coles and Coomber's.

In what turned out to be excellent weather there was a proper warm up and, despite the usual blank looks when the question about who was being lifted in the line out was asked, there was a keenness to get on with the task. The captain rallied the team around him and challenged them to come out of the blocks firing on all cylinders.

It was therefore somewhat of an anti-climax when Folkestone proceeded to score 21 (almost unanswered) points in the first 20 minutes of play. With a couple of fleet footed backs the other "Stones" made a number of half breaks which, with their superior speed, they were able to turn into converted tries, a 100% conversion rate. The only break in the scoring was Coomber senior responding for the Vets with an early penalty, Keith finishing with a 100% kicking from the tee percentage.

In the second part of the first half however things changed with the forwards starting to make their presence felt with some scrum domination and success with "pick and charge" and "catch and drive" tactics. Despite some good pressure and a couple openings for further points however the first half ended 21-3 to Folkestone.

Half time was the chance for a number of new faces to take to the pitch including the two Coles. There was the risk that the Vets would once again start slowly however from the restart the reformed Vets built on the work of the first half and ran directly at Folkestone at every opportunity. Almost all the forwards got into the action with charges round the side of rucks and mauls and imposing themselves at the line outs and the scrums. The backs also straightened their running lines drawing the opposition into the tackle and either running over them or passing out wide for the wingers. Before too long a series of drives opened an opportunity to pass along the line and a gap opened up for a run in under the posts.

Now that tails were up there was no stopping the Vets. Mayhem and Pete Gray in particular had the bit between their teeth taking on opposite tacklers every time and, in the rare instance of Pete passing to hand, taking on some poor unfortunate back who decided to kick the ball rather than charge in head first.

It was also good to see the wingers getting in on the act with Marco and Harry Cole having a couple of good runs and, along with the whole team, doing sterling work in snuffing out any attempt by Folkestone to get back to the game.

The Vets went on to score a further 27 unanswered points with tries from Peter Jones, Pete Gray and 3 from Jason Bishop who looked ecstatic unless reminded that this would cost him a jug. It has to be said that the tactical kicking from hand throughout the games was top draw however can we ask that whoever has Mick's kicking boots please return them because he could not hit a barn door from 10 feet away when it came to conversions despite useful advice from his prop to "put it between the uprights", not a 100% record.

The game was more than over when Folkestone final managed to shake off the shackles for a consolation try, after which the kicker demonstrated that his kicking boots had likewise gone missing. Final score 35-26.

Editorial note - I am required to report that Cole Senior scored one of the six tries but since he was out of position and clearly glory hunting this should be discounted for the record. Anyway my grandmother could have score from there and she had two false hips.