



Match Report



London 2 (South East)

Maidstone FC 20 v Thanet Wanderers RFC 10

Played at The Mote Saturday 15th December 2018

Maidstone finished their final league game of 2018 with a victory against Thanet Wanderers. Cheered on by a number of former players who had congregated for an excellent pre match Festive lunch.

On a cold wet December afternoon Maidstone kicked off attacking the park end. Conditions dictated the type of game both sides were to play and it was the 9th minute before either side was able to enter into their opposition 22. Maidstone had the better of the early exchanges choosing to play a tighter game, Tom Chandler almost crossed the line following a good blindside move but was 1 meter short. Thanet tried in vain to clear their lines but it was sustained Maidstone pressure which gave another try scoring opportunity fly half Clark chipped through but the ball was grounded by the Thanet defence for a clearing 22 drop out.

George Perry kicked a penalty just wide in the 16th minute following a breakdown infringement. Maidstone having the upper hand working well from a solid set piece.

The game continued, the referee at times seemed over zealous with his whistle not allowing either side much of an advantage.

Maidstone finally crossed the whitewash after 4 phases in the Thanet 22, Perry cutting a good line to scored under the posts and then adding the extras 7-0.

Thanet attacked making good ground and from quick ball attacked down their left, a try saving tackle by the impressive Amos about 5 metres from the Maidstone line led to Number 8 Sam Weston, who looked like he was attempting to slow the ball down getting penalised and was sent to the sin bin.

The last play of the half was a 5 metre Thanet scrum, 2 quick phases and Thanet crosses the line under the posts to make the half time score 7-7.

Josh Smith replace Scott DeZoeton in the back line as conditions worsened. Soon after the restart George Perry slotted a penalty giving the home side a 10-7 lead.

The penalty count was rising for both sides, from yet another penalty in the 47th minute, Maidstone kicked to the corner, as he had done all afternoon Varker found Amos at the front of the lineout, as the forwards edged the ball forward the backs joined the maul, somewhat reminiscent of the Irish National side! it was the skipper Lucian Morosan who got the try in the corner at a canter. The extras missed 15-7.

Will Lane replaced Sam Weston in the back row on 58 minutes and Murphy replaced Gilligan in the front row.

Thanet missed a kickable penalty as Maidstone had hands in the ruck. But converted their next opportunity to pull the score back to 15-10.

The highlight of the game was a break by Jordan Amos who made 50 metres outpacing the Thanet backline before finally being tackled by the full-back. Quick ball back inside to Perry who went over for his brace in the 78th minute. Final Score 20-10.

Maidstone should be happy with a dominant scrum and a solid line out





which gave the platform for this victory, the back row worked well together in both defence and attack. Clark at flyhalf was able to get the backline moving with Newton and Perry in the midfield making inroads into the Thanet backline unfortunately the final pass didn't always go to hand.



Maidstone: Will Fox, Tom Varker, Ashleigh Gilligan, Tom Chandler, Charlie Williams, Jamie Marzetti, Jordon Amos, Sam Weston, Lucian Morrison, Alex Clark, Miley Grice, Ollie Newton, George Perry, Vaki Antoniou, Scott de Zoeton.



Replacements: Ryan Murphy, Will Lane and Josh Smith (all used).

