

Match Report 02/03/2019

Old Shootershillians I & II v Maidstone Vets

'Friendly'

Ref : Magoo

HT 35 – 0

FT 64 – 5

Try scorer Tom Clarke

Squad

01 Martin Maytum replaced in 2nd half by Tom Clarke

02 Stuart Ellesmere 1st half / Mark Ingram 2nd half

03 Pete Gray replaced in 2nd half by Stuart Ellesmere

04 Nigel Maddaford replaced in 2nd half by Karim Neseiyif

05 Karim Neseiyif 1st half / Chris May 2nd half replaced in 2nd half by Martin Maytum

06 Neil Cole (Captain)

07 Nick East

08 Tom Clarke replaced in 2nd half by Chris May

09 Gary Whitehead

10 Matthew Ellesmere

11 Anthony Round

12 Ben Tugwell

13 Brian Costello

14 Marco Trismegisto Bauchiero

15 Paul Hodges

Match Report by Anonymous;

- Almost a year to the day Maidstone Vets dared to return to the frozen wastelands of outer London following promises that the hot water system had been fixed. This promise was needed to ensure Gary (I don't play in the rain) Whitehead would make the long journey to the bright lights.

- Buoyed by recent triumphs skipper Cole felt playing a mainly 1st team was within our capabilities and the omens were set when he lost the toss. Our hosts elected to play up the hill and with the wind confident that they would make the most of it in the 2nd half.

- Skipper Cole's game plan was , as it always is and always will be, play at our pace, keep it tight, don't kick to their fast backs.

- So the game started with much optimism and for a while it looked like the vets were going to rumble it up , however, the game plan went out of the window as OS successfully jackal'd the ball on numerous occasions making full use of the local knowledge they had about the local ref. This combination gave OS time to release their young backs and were then able to keep the scoreboard ticking over throughout the half.

- Maidstone sought to stem the flow as our big ball carriers took them on time and again only to go a step to far (or rather a lack of support) resulting in turnovers by fair means or foul.

- HT – 35 – 0

- After a spirited expletive laden half time talk from Gary , the second half commenced with similar optimism only to be thwarted almost immediately as OS now used the slope and swirling wind in their favour (notwithstanding they had amongst their ranks a back who could kick the length of the pitch without any wind assistance). Safe to say he was one of the many first teamers making up OS backs.

- And so the second half tended to mirror the first except where the Maidstone forwards held on to the ball and gained the hard yards with patience and perseverance, eventually releasing the bullocking Tom Clarke to go over for Maidstone's first (and only) try of the game.

- A comeback of sorts was on as Maidstone looked to repeat the formula only skipper Neil to be held up and then later for Nick East to be stopped short and OS once again utilising the dark arts, the blind side and blind ref to whisk the ball away and moments later score themselves.

- With all hope crushed, OS then made the most of Maidstone's indiscipline, infighting and bounce of the ball to run up a comprehensive score.

- Full time 64-5

- True to their word OS had indeed fixed the hot water issue, but appear to have neglected the delivery system and the rather cosy changing rooms and ever more cosy showering facilities seems to rely on body heat to maintain a certain temperature.(Much to Tom's delight) Gary on the other hand has now black-balled this venue, muttering something along the lines of fool me once.... shame on you....fool me twice....eff off !

- On the upside OS put on a feast to compete with the very best we've had all season (and that is saying something). This went a long way to heal Gary's dark mood regarding the facilities and who knows may even tempt him back (well we did lose count on the number of visits he made to the feast)

- Finally this part of the world have some rather harsh treatment for tw@t of the day, a dirty pint, consisting mainly of what some of their guys can regurgitate! Skipper Cole managed to redeem himself and swerve the offer by nominating one of their boys (who fumbled the ball over the try line

as he tried to pick it up, instead of just touching it down). Tw@t contender Marco had a lucky escape for THAT quick line out on our 5 with OS backs in attendance & our boys on the half way!

Thankfully the man of the match pint was un-doctored and our very own fighting terrier Ben Tugwell struggled to down the pint, no doubt very suspicious as to what he was drinking, well it was lager !

A.