

Match Report 24/02/2019

Thanet Wanderers v Maidstone Spitfire Gold Occasionals

(Spitfires semi-final cup game)

Ref : Frodo

HT 14 - 00

FT 40 - 19

Tries

TW try - 7- 0

TW try - 14 - 0

Half time

TW try 19 - 0

TW try 26 - 0

TW try 33 - 0

TW try 40 - 0

Maidstone try(Ian Lee) 40 - 5

Maidstone try (Dane Smith) (con DC) 40 - 12

Maidstone try (Dane Smith) (con DC) 40 - 19

Full time.

Squad

01 Matt Cooper replaced by Jason Hudson in 2nd half

02 Mark Ingram 1st half Pete Gray 2nd half

03 Richard Gray replaced in 1st half by Martin Maytum

04 Mick Duggan 1st half Richard Ewence 2nd half

05 Tom Clarke replaced in 1st half by Nigel Maddaford

06 Richard Parker

07 Ian Lee injured 2nd half replaced by Tom Clarke.
08 Ben Court
09 Sean Charlton
10 Gary Whitehead (Captain)
11 Stuart Bates 1st half David Ruaux 2nd half
12 David Charlton replaced by Dane Smith in 1st half
13 Duncan McLintock 1st half / Dave Charlton 2nd half
14 Simon Seal
15 Chris Leggat
00 Paul Massey (Manager)
16 Karim Neseiyif (sub not used)
99 Ollie Court – Waterboy

Match Report by Paul Massey/Karim Neseiyif

Some have commented on the length of report, so here is a precise (shortened version Jim) of the game

* Semi-finals matches re-jigged to regional basis to help with travel distances. It's a long haul for Maidstone, even more so for the south London clubs still in the tournament.

* Unseasonably hot day, game played on 1st team pitch , very wide.

* TW score with first possession in the game space created by reverse pass freeing the backs leaving a three on one overlap with was converted.

* Maidstone rumble the ball up to TW 22 and despite dominating territory and possession Maidstone unable to convert into points.

* TW score again with only 2nd incursion into Maidstone half, again backs released as a clever kick over bounces Thanet's way for a try.

*Half time 14-0 not reflecting the territory and possession Maidstone dominated.

*2nd half kicks off with both sides making changes, TW are quicker into the rhythm of the game and cut lose time and again scoring four unanswered tries to take a commanding and ultimately definitive lead.

* Maidstone continue to keep knocking on the door and following a line out break by Ian Lee , he cuts through from the edge of the TW 22 to touch down in the corner.

* Buoyed up by finally breaking through Maidstone started to dominate all aspects and following good work by Gary Whitehead Mayhem broke though a number of tackles followed by an outrageous flip pass to Dane Smith to charge over and score.

* With Dane causing havock the Maidstone backs worked the ball from side to side with Gary Whitehead and Dave Charlton pulling the strings and finally working an opening for Dane Smith to break through and score again with Mayhem once again showing he has fancy hands as well as go forward rampaging bulk.

* With time running out TW attempted to keep possession to stem the flow and successfully see out the remaining time kicking the ball in to touch.

* Credit to TW for taking the game away in a decisive period in the 2nd half and we wish them all the best in the final. Credit to our "very own" 1st team regular Ben Massey who turned out for his home club and showed them what they have been missing. And fair dues to Ben as he got up eventually and kept going after being 'Courtney Law'd' by the Richard Parker ! What a hit !

* Inevitable with any loss, fingers are pointed as to who and why we lost (aside from giving deserved credit to the opposition) so here goes ;

1. Charlton brothers on the lash the day before - took until the 2nd half to burn the alcohol out of their systems. Note the manager was complicit in this activity and indeed helped facilitate it !

2. John O'Brien not turning up, presumed lost in a cabbage field.

3. Nick East going on a skiing holiday !!

4. Jim Walker claiming he has gout...whilst chowing down on a chunk of wensleydale whilst supping on a pint of vino.

5. Richard Ewence for changing the rules to a regional format to suit the London clubs as they didn't want to travel.

6. Global warming , creating an unseasonably warm day playing in an oversized pitch with an unusual dip at one end.

6a. Sunstoke/lack of sunscreen

7. Lack of physio

8. England scale arrogance by not taking into account the significant home advantage TW had with their pitch along with the vocal support creating a great atmosphere!

9. Chris Leggat for opting for moulded studs- he fell over 3 times in what were normally try scoring positions, so the 21 points we lost by could have meant a draw and we would have gone through as the away team. Nice one Chris.

10. Thanet being quite useful

Whilst Richard E looks to rewrite the rule book once again to get us a bye to the final, we hope to see you all at the finals in Horse's inflatable pub for a drink or two.

Many thanks to all players who contributed to the competition this year. A valiant effort. Thanks too to all the physios who patched us up and especially to the delightful bar staff who provided us with sustenance after a hard game. Big thanks to Richard for his fine organisation and overall enthusiasm. Plenty to work on before next year's competition.

PM/KN