

Match Report

17 November 2018

Chiddingstone Badgers vs Maidstone Vets

Half time 33-0

Full Time 38-0

Squad

- 01 [Christopher Hogg](#) (replaced by Stuart Ellesmere for last 10 mins)
- 02 [Stuart Ellesmere](#) 1st half / Mark Ingram 2nd half
- 03 [Bob Purfit](#) replaced by Steve Pooley 1st half
- 04 [Nigel Maddaford](#)
- 05 [Tom Clarke](#) 1st half / [Barney Carpenter](#) 2nd half
- 06 [Mark Ingram](#) replaced by Bob Purfit 1st half
- 07 [Colin Frost](#)
- 08 [Ben Court](#)
- 09 [Gary Whitehead](#) (skipper)
- 10 [Matthew Ellesmere](#) (injured 2nd half replaced by Marco)
- 11 Paul Hodges
- 12 [Richard Cutbill](#) (injured 1st half, replaced by Barney Carpenter)/ 2nd half Pete Grey
- 13 Gary [Griffiths](#)
- 14 [Brian Costello](#) (moved to full back and replaced by [Karim Neseiyif](#))
- 15 [Marco Trismegisto Bauchiero](#) (moved to fly-half and replaced by Brian Costello)

Chief Scout Paul [Massey](#)

Match report by Matt (destroyer of 2nd rows) Ellesmere, making a very welcome return to the field and scribe duties.

Only one place to start this week and that is to mention the beautiful location and fantastic hospitality (and weather) we received on our first ever visit to Chiddingstone for a game of rugby.

If you were to describe a quintessential Kentish village to an alien then you could do a lot worse than selecting this almost 'perfect surviving example of a Tudor village'. National Trust owned, the village even has a brewery half a mile down the road.

It was certainly worth the early pick up and tour of the Kent countryside courtesy of Karim's Funbus and chief navigator Ben Court. Did you know that the well known conurbation of Paddock Wood had a ring road? No, nor did we until Saturday morning, unofficially at least. And we almost inadvertently sabotaged a hunt (after an ageing biddy in her Nissan Micra almost sabotaged us).

What about the rugby I hear you cry? We lost as you can see from the score above. All but one of their scores came in the first half and most of these from silly knock-ons or turnovers on our part.

In retrospect we could have predicted it was going to be a hard day in the office given the opposition's friendly welcome (lulling us into a false sense of security) and the fact there was a fair bit of cast off TJ's kit floating around, including a TJ's Academy kit bag being carried by one of their youngsters.

It also transpired they had recently won an international tournament in Vienna as well.

Furthermore we were deprived of one of our strengths with uncontested scrums (something to do with one of their front row forwards refereeing an over running school game). And a couple of injuries didn't help, particularly centre Richard Cutbill damaging not one but two knees.

We had our fair share of ball but no matter how much we huffed and puffed (or mauled) their defence remained strong. But enough of the excuses. A young club they might be but their personnel were well drilled and experienced with a big enough dollop of young, fast legs. So credit where credit's due.

For us, honourable mentions for the two Gary's - Whitehead and Griffiths, who I think have two half decent knees between them, Pete Grey who found some great angles playing in an

unfamiliar position of centre in the second half and the indefatigable Steve Pooley putting in a 30 minute or so shift while his good lady looked on. Also Brian Costello despite being on the lash the night before and Bob Purfit who carried and tackled all afternoon.

Whenever you play a team way that uses a pub for their de facto clubhouse you are always hopeful that the quality of post match scoff and beer will be top notch. Suffice to say this did not disappoint. After sinking a polypin of Larkins from the local brewery at their (cricket) pavilion we wandered down a footpath, past the Chiding Stone (where nagging wives were once brought to be chided, apparently), to the village and the Castle Inn.

There we were greeted with a choice of five ales from the Larkins, Westerham and Harveys' breweries and an absolutely fantastic spread of Indian cuisine. Needless to say as the food was brought out a lot of our forwards suddenly found a turn of pace that hitherto they had been hiding that afternoon. Even our token veggie, Nigel Maddaford, was catered for. Quite possibly the best post match spread. Ever.

The pub was also showing the England game where a number of our own had decamped to. This included El Capitan [Neil Cole](#) who went to pretty much every club related function this weekend ...other than any function that actually required playing in. TotM candidate? Nailed on. Anyway hope the Twickenham party enjoyed the warm up game before the main feast that was served up in Dublin later.

Finally one more big shout out - to Karim. I think he enjoys organising and cajoling us all on Saturdays such as this but we should never take anything for granted.

TotM - Neil Cole.

MotM - The Castle Inn (or one from those mentioned above).

ME. 19/11/18.

P.S. Neil - for the return fixture in February we should make every effort to reciprocate the hospitality. Another [Anthony Round](#) Hog Roast Spectacular?