



Match Report



London Division 2 (South East)

Maidstone FC 106 v Aylesford Bulls 3

Played at The Mote, Maidstone, Saturday 21st Mar, 2015



With local derbies the form book is not always a good guide and after the visiting Aylesford side were first on the scoreboard against a Maidstone side that took a few minutes to find its feet, one could have been forgiven for assuming that this match may have been destined for a closer scoreline than the 0-62 defeat that Aylesford had suffered earlier in the season.

However the successful Ryan Fuller penalty early in the match was probably the only gloss the visitors could have put on the outcome of this local derby, as the home side comprehensively exposed the weaknesses in the visitor's defences with this 17 try mauling to run out 106-3 winners.

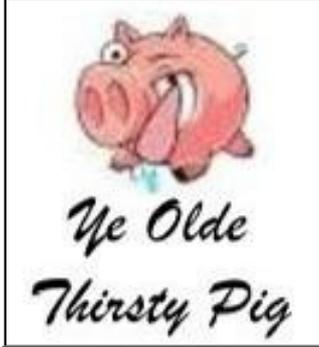


The home side had rung the changes in for this game, with Josh McKenzie the only survivor on the front row from last week's fixture. The Iles brother continued their partnership in the second row whilst Jack O'Connell, in need of a full eighty minutes at this level joined Eddie Cranston and Mike Werahiko on the back row. The back division saw a reshuffle



with Lucien Morosan at scrum half for the unavailable Ben Pitkin and Euan Caborn starting at fly half with a centre pairing of Jamie Perigo and Jono Skelton. Jason Smith came in to fill the left wing berth whilst the bench saw Will Fox and Alex Clark alongside the experienced Josh Pankhurst.

G CHARLTON & SONS
RUMWOOD GREEN FARM



The match was played in dry but over-cast conditions with a chilling northerly wind with the visitors taking the advantage of the slope and starting the brighter of the two sides, having reclaimed the kick off and exerted the initial pressure on the home 22m. A penalty infringement centrally located and just outside the 22m gave Fuller the opportunity to open the scoring and Bulls supporters who were fearing a drubbing were heartened by the start there side had made. This was as good as it got for the visitors as Maidstone drew level in the eighth minute



after Webdale was penalised for slowing the ball and then a further ten metres for a petulant offence which was to be a feature of his game throughout. With Caborn converting the penalty in the first of 10 successful place kicks, seven first half tries saw them turn round at the interval

with a 42-3 deficit. What must have been particularly disheartening was that towards the end of the first quarter and on the only real occasion they really put pressure on the home try line, Maidstone turned the ball over and broke out of defence with full back James Douglas the recipient of the final pass to touch down close to the posts. After Douglas had opened the scoring with what was the pick of the first half tries, further tries from Werahiko, Cranston, Smith, Debnam, Skelton and Jame Iles followed at regular intervals although the home side had secured the bonus point and the match by the half-hour point.



With the benefit of the slope in the second half and Fox now on in the front row stabilising the scrum, the only area where the Bulls had held some ascendancy, Maidstone took just two minutes into the second period to continue the scoring, with Pankhurst, who had replaced the injured O'Connell, the first to cross the white-wash, with further scores coming a regular intervals throughout the half against a disheartened visiting team. Yet again, at the one point when



Aylesford had been able to work themselves into the Maidstone 22m and exert a period of concerted pressure on the home try line, Maidstone's defence stood firm and in almost a carbon copy of the first half, Werahiko ripped the ball clear to feed Douglas who was able to outstrip

what cover defence there was to cross under the Aylesford posts from 90m out. Throughout the match Maidstone had just too much power and pace for the visitors, and played at such a tempo that the unfortunate Bulls just could not live with. Second half scoring saw Cranston complete a hat-trick with a Smith, Perigo and Bunyan all posting scores to register a brace of tries alongside that of Douglas, with McKenzie the other name on the scoresheet.



In summary, this triple figure scoreline was the visitors heaviest defeat in what has been an unpleasant season, but a timely boost for the home side, who despite their advantage over second placed Medway, were keen to put in a dominant and ruthless performance as well as a significant result, as a measure of reassurance, not that it was particularly required, in their own ability as the season enters its final throes.

Maidstone: Bunyan, Mc Kenzie, Debnam, Iles J, Iles M, O'Connell, Cranston, Werahiko, Moran, Caborn, Smith Perigo, Skelton, Eastwood, Douglas. **Replacements:** (All Used) Fox, Pankhurst, Clark

