



## Match Report



### Shepherd Neame Kent Cup

Maidstone FC 77 v Old Dunstonians RFC 7

Played at Park Langley, Beckenham, Sunday 7th Sept, 2014



A converted try conceded late in the second half was probably the only blemish on Maidstone's first competitive outing of the season as they demolished O Dunstonians 77-7 in a Kent Cup first round tie, that now sees them pitched against the winners of Seven-oaks and Westcombe Pk in the next round.



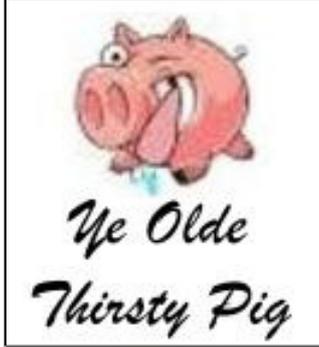
In bright autumn sunshine Maidstone travelled to face Old Dunstonians for this first round Kent Cup tie with a side much changed from the team that narrowly lost out on promotion at the conclusion of last season.

Whilst this eleven try demolition of the opposition was convincing, Head Coach Paul Hathaway was pleased with the way the side gelled given that it was the first time as the side prepares for the coming season's league campaign, that he was able to field a strong line-up, despite some unavailability's. The side included eight players making their 1<sup>st</sup> XV debuts, amongst them Ben Pitkin at scrum half who had a prodigious afternoon from the kicking tee, and a new centre pairing of Jamie Perigo and Jono Skelton, with Perigo picking up the Man of the Match award for his all-round performance



The opening encounters were somewhat frantic but it was Maidstone that settled into their stride quickest, opening the

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scoring mid-way through the first quarter when solid defence deep in their own 22m saw them turn defence into attack with Perigo intercepting to break 70m downfield, Alex Eastwood was on hand for the pass but was hauled down just short of the line, quick recycled ball saw Skelton on hand to touchdown under the posts, Pitkin added the extras with the first of his nine conversions.



The end of the first quarter saw Maidstone again on the scoreboard when following a solid scrum Perigo again made the break in midfield, with Morosan on hand to take the final pass.

Maidstone's dominance continued and from turnover ball at the breakdown from



the impressive Eddie Cranston, good interplay between forwards and backs resulted in skipper Ben Williams being released to outpace the Dunstonians' defence to score in the corner, Pitkin added the extras from a difficult conversion. The last of the first half scores came from lock Alex Hadi after good work from Cranston breached the Dunstonian defence to release Hadi to outpace

the fullback to score a under the posts.

With a half time score at 28-0 to the visitors, coach Paul Hathaway replaced the injured Eastwood with James Douglas and introduced Prop Cezar Ionica for Joel Byford. The second half was only 3 minutes old when Maidstone were reduced to 14 men with Ionica yellow carded for an offence at the breakdown in the Maidstone 22m. Despite being down to 14 men it was Maidstone that maintained the ascendancy as James Douglas completed another slick move in the backs to show good pace and score in the right corner, again Pitkin was successful with the conversion. Maidstone still a man light stepped up the pace and intensity especially around the breakdown area with quick ball resulting in a second try for skipper Williams, who ran in from 30m out.



With the result secure at 42-0 Coach Hathaway introduced Aaron Bishop replace Cranston who promptly scored from 5 metres out with his first touch of the ball following an excellent break from fly half Sam Mann, this time Skelton added the extras.

Blindside flanker Laurence Brown picked up and injury and Cranston returned to the fray and promptly scored and added the conversion himself.



Dunstonians had to wait until the 68<sup>th</sup> minute before they received any reward from their afternoon's efforts, following a kick ahead the Maidstone defence did not deal with the bouncing ball and the winger scored in the corner with the conversion reducing the deficit to 7-56.

As the Dunstonian defence tired winger Douglas added 2 more tries to complete his hat-trick, and hooker Josh Pankhurst concluded the scoring with Pitkin completing an excellent afternoon with the boot.

Next week Maidstone start their league campaign and Head Coach Paul Hathaway still sees areas to work on and will be expecting a tougher test at Sussex club Crowborough, than this spirited Dunstonians side was able to give.

Maidstone were able to keep things tight and won good quality set piece ball both from scrum and lineout where Ben Brill had an excellent afternoon. The side's new look back line looked dynamic with the ball in



hand and attacked with pace and precision

**Maidstone:** Williams, Pankhurst, Byford, Mann, Morosan, Perigo, Skelton, Owen, Przemski, Douglas



whilst remaining solid in defence.

Hadi, Iles J, Brown, Cranston, Brill, Pitkin,  
**Replacements (all used):** Ionica, Bishop,