

MATCH REPORT

29 September 2018

Bexley II vs Maidstone Vets

29 - 34 FT

Try Scorers; Ben Court (3), Stuart Bates (1), Nick East (1), Stephen Noble (1)

Conversion (2) Mick Walker

Team

1 Christopher Hogg (injured 2nd half, separated collarbone from joint, but stayed on!)

2 Nick East

3 Martin Maytum (yellow card x 2)

4 Nigel Maddaford (injured 1st half replaced by Chris May)

5 Karim Neseiyif (injured 1st half replaced by Neil Cole)

6 Chris May (position replaced by Liam May in 1st half)

7 Neil Cole (Captain) (position replaced by Danny Mcleash)

8 Ben Court

9 Ben Tugwell (replaced by Mick Walker in 2nd half)

10 Gary Whitehead (Azog)

11 Marco Trismegisto Bauchiero (position replaced by Stephen Noble 2nd half)

12 Matthew Ellesmere

13 Danny McLeish (position replaced by Marco)

14 Mick Walker (position replaced by Blake Morris in 2nd half)

15 Stuart Bates

00 David Tugwell - Water boy, Coach, Motivator

Match report by Matt (Tintin) Ellesmere:

I'm not quite sure of the exact sequence of scoring or who scored what, when but I'm reasonably certain we scored the first and last tries in a game where it is safe to say defences were not on top.

Also not on top of things was the Bexley groundsman (an early contender for TotM?) who left us with a fully marked out football pitch within the boundaries of a not particularly well marked out rugby pitch. Surely a job for Mayhem you might say? Not so - his pre-match priorities centered around finding a workable karzi instead of popping down to B&Q for some green paint!

Despite the briefing from the ref (a doctor/ surgeon no less from Maidstone hospital) that the football goal lines would act as the 5 metre line and the penalty area line would roughly constitute the 22, you would have put money on this confusing someone.

Step (or stretch) forward Vets debutant (at least for the Saturday side), hooker Nick East who mistook the goal line for the try line. Still he'd already scored our opening try by then (a lung busting run down the touchline I think) so no one could accuse him of being greedy. Unlike a couple of our other players.

Firstly full-back Stuart Bates who, despite the covering defence in front, refused the 3 man overlap outside him to prove that he is deadly from 4 yards.

Secondly No. 8 Ben 'safe hands' Court who scored not one, or two but 3 tries to give himself already a potentially unassailable lead in the Vets' try-scoring charts after only one game of the season.

If Stuart was deadly from 4 yards then Ben was masterful from two and a half (with thanks in part to scrum-half Ben Tugwell for at least one assist). A sure fire contender for MotM? Almost certainly. But as events were to prove he also became a contender for TotM.

An earlier Bexley re-start had led to them scoring when half our team fell asleep and let the ball bounce straight into their hands. When this potential scenario was reprised later in the game we collectively breathed a sigh of relief, put our feet up and lit the proverbial cigar when we saw that the ball was heading into Mr Court's safe mitts. Or maybe not so safe as it turned out. But what really elevated (or depending on your point of view, demoted) him into a TotM contender was his choice of re-hydration for the journey home. A can of Fosters. Seriously.

Back to the rugby. Arguably our best try of the game was the final one, minutes from time, which clinched victory. Good ball secured by the forwards quickly went through the hands of Messrs Walker, Whitehead and Bauchiero before ending up in the arms of winger Stephen Noble who strode in from 30 yards. Not a bad way to start your Maidstone rugby career. The burning question was this a direct result of the coaching masterclasses of Tuggy?

It would be remiss of me not to mention the yellow cards and the confusion this brought to scrum time when it happens to involve a prop. (Where's Simon Wright to quote the law book when you need him?)

I think we ended up with two and there was one (yellow) for Bexley. Our main culprit being Martin Maytum with Danny 'Galah' McLeish (yet another Vets' debutant) taking one for the team to sub for Mayhem when otherwise there would have been uncontested scrums.

Galah had already volunteered to swap his regular posting as a back to join the forwards following injuries to lock forwards Nigel Maddaford and Karim Neseiyif.

And if getting yellow carded (twice?) wasn't enough to get on the TotM contender list then Mayhem's choice of a post match tipple surely was. No, not prosecco but some fruit flavoured can of drink with Carling plastered all over it.

To be fair to Martin and Ben (his partner in crimes against taste) they partially redeemed themselves by buying a couple of team jugs of ale as well.

Finally a BIG shout out for prop Chris Hogg who carried on playing despite his collarbone separating from the joint. If we did MTFU awards then he would surely get one.

MotM contenders: Nick East (see above), Ben Court (see above), Chris Hogg (see above).

Winner: Ben Court

TotM contenders: Mick Walker for initially going to the wrong venue; Bexley Groundsman (see above), Neil Cole for not scoring when over the line because he wasn't sure he was over the line, Nick East (see above), Mayhem (multiple - see above), Ben Court (multiple - see above).

Winner: Mayhem

PS. Anyone not familiar with the various acronyms used above then please use your imagination.

ME

1/10/18