



Match Report 2

15/12/18

Faversham II v Maidstone Vets

HT 05 - 14

FT 20 – 40

Tries

Ben Court x 3 (con Pete Gray x 3)

Pete Grey x 2 (con Pete Gray x 1)

Richard Cutbill (con Pete Gray)

Squad

01 [Andrew Ribbans](#)

02 [Mark Ingram](#)

03 Pete Grey

04 [Nigel Maddaford](#) (injured 2nd half replaced by Stuart Bates

05 [Karim Neseiyf](#) 1st half (Capt) / Mick Duggan 2nd half

06 [Anthony Round](#) 1st half / Neil Cole (Capt) 2nd half

07 [Chris May](#)

08 [Ben Court](#)

09 [Ben Tugwell](#) (injured cramp 2nd half replaced by Andrew Bell)

10 [Richard Cutbill](#)

11 Chris Howson [Eva Howson](#) 1st half / Nathan Drury 2nd half

12 [Brian Costello](#)

13 [Marco Trismegisto Bauchiero](#)

14 Andrew Bell 1st half / [Seb Newman](#) 2nd half

15 [Stuart Bates](#) 1st half / Andrew Bell 2nd half and then Chris Howson

00 [David Tugwell](#) (Waterboy & Tee carrier)

99 Roy Tugwell (Tea / Coffee Wallah)

101 Nick [Nic Cracknell](#) (post match pub crawl coordinator & local tour guide)

[Neil Cole](#) Captain / Manager & Match Reporter;

Having hired a mini bus for the trip to the Faversham game and the following pub crawl with our hosts for the afternoon, we waited and waited and waited for Richard Cutbill to arrive at the club house, He only lives a 5min walk away, but was somehow stuck behind an accident on the M26. Being a team man I made a decision and we left without him. 10min later and he was on his way and after several attempts to meet on route we finally left his car in a ditch somewhere near the M2 and the party bus was off again.

A quick 10min warm up, which was nowhere near enough on what was the coldest day of the season so far. Still it could have been worse, It could have been raining as well (just like it did all afternoon in Maidstone).

Neil won toss, Although he still didn't manage to catch the coin! (Karim's input)

I elected to play against the conditions in the 1st half with a big wind blowing diagonally down the slope into the left hand corner, the freezing conditions even I could do nothing about. This was a tactical decision as I was on the bench for the first half and fancied the easier down hill with force 5 tail wind. Hard luck Karim.

The 1st half was captained by Karim, with debuts from Prop forward Andrew Ribbans and back Chris Howson following in his father's illustrious crazylegs reputation.

It took a while for the pack to find its MoJo after the short warm up but they finally started to dominate both the scrums and the lineouts. Finally Maidstone open the scoring after the forwards got a great nudge in the scrum Ben Court broke off at 8 with a Stirling blast of pace to go over for our first points. Our conversion kicker for the afternoon was Pete Gray again who calmly slotted the ball between the posts for the extra points despite Tugwell D failing his tee delivering duties. (Distracted by the appearance of Chris Howson's mother on the side lines).

Faversham played a tactical game using the conditions of favourable wind and slop to gain territory and then fooled the ref by not engaging in the scrum to gain a free kick, A quick tap penalty saw them spinning the ball out wide with long passes to go over in the corner. As this was a friendly and in true Christmas spirit I had agreed that Faversham could bring on their 1st team kicker for any conversions, this was a club punishment after they lost to Sittingbourne by one point the week before due to him missing a conversion to win the game. He missed. (Pete would have got it).

Maidstone replied, as the new look line out begun to function and a well coordinated catch from Chris May in the 2nd pod saw a fantastic drive by the forwards, driving from the edge of the 22 to the 5meter line at which point Faversham managed to slow the forwards down to almost a stop. This was until Brian Costello charged in from the inside centre position, hitting the back of the maul like a steam train, he was shortly followed by winger and new lad Chris Howson and the Maul was in full motion again. With the ball in the safe hands of Pete Grey in the middle of the maul it was just a matter of seconds before he dived over for the coup de grace. Pete then kicked for the extra 2 points.

This was by far my favourite if not the best Team try of the season so far, and we have had some great try's.

Half time saw Maidstone lead by 14 to 5 against the conditions, so confidence was high for the 2nd half.

Half time changes, debut for winger Seb Newman a new 23 year old, & guest appearance by youngster Nathan Drury on for Chris Howson and Stuart Bates, Mick Duggan on for 1st half skipper Karim With Neil Cole tearing himself away from Mrs Howson (Karim again) to take over the captaincy replacing Tinder at open side flanker. Faversham made changes as well, bringing on their three 1st team players who had been waiting patiently on the side line.

The second half started with a difference to the first. Their new players started to run at us at every opportunity. We, unfortunately got carried away and started trying to play their game, trying to run the ball out of our 22, often getting isolated, Faversham were quick to jackal and turned over ball, they were quick to react and seeing Nathan Drury isolated on the wing scored two try's within 5 minutes with a two against one and a three against one move as we got sucked in at the breakdown.

We regrouped behind the post whilst the conversions were taken and missed. And I re-iterated the game plan (No running the ball from our half, Kick to the corner flag using the slop and wind,

we were winning 90% of the lineout, play in their 22 with the forwards building a platform for the backs and what do you know we scored 2 tries in the next 15 minutes, one more from Ben Court and one more from Pete Gray who also showed the Faversham 1st team kicker how it was done by converting both.

Faversham scored another unconverted try, but we stuck to our game plan and kept the pressure on, keeping the opposition pinned in their own 22, Suddenly there was a loud scream as Youngster Ben Tugwell got tackled, as he rolled around on the ground like a big girls blouse, holding his leg, I feared the worst, a broken leg perhaps? NO it was a little bit of cramp! , clearly he didn't take on enough fluids at the Flowerpot the night before, being three times his age I was very surprised at his lack of fitness (none of the true vets got cramp. Tuggy can you get him some "man up pills" for Christmas please and as coach can you set him a fitness program for Christmas day, (something that does not involve his girlfriend). Fortunately play continued and Ben Court Crashed through just left of the posts to score his third try of the game.

With only 5 minutes to go one of the cylinders in our scrumaging engine, 2nd row Nigel Maddaford went off with an injured back and full back Stuart Bates came on to play second row, and whilst the scrum went uncontested, we continued to dominate in the lineouts. Stuart was lifted in the line out (1st pod) just inside the Faversham 22, he catches and sets up the drive that saw replacement scrum half Andy Bell pass the ball out to fly half Richard Cutbill who broke two tackles with a strong burst for the line , scoring our sixth and final try of the game. A special mention to debut prop Andrew Ribbans showing his worth in the set piece and in open play.

Man of the Match: Contenders:

Ben Court, 3 tries (jug bought and paid for post match) another all-round great ball carrying game.

Pete Gray, 2 tries, near perfect line throwing, 100% kicking conversion, this unit will be missed as he bows out for the rest of the season, good luck with the op Pete.

Chris May, unsung hero, dominant in the line out in the first half, unselfish work, Fijian passes, ball stripping, making the hard yards.

Nigel Maddaford I've never been in a scrum that's pushed the opposition back 10 to 15 meters at such a fast pace repeatedly. What an engine!!

Winner : Pete & Chris

Tw@t of the Match: Contenders:

Neil Cole, almost wrecking the mini bus.

David Tugwell, for once again being distracted and failing with his tee duties.

Richard Cutbill, late getting to the club house, in fact gave up and had to be picked up from an industrial estate.

Winner : Richard Cutbill (you snooze...you lose.)

Back to the warmth of the clubhouse and Jugs of "Larger" awaited, but the large bowl of chilli and large piece of bread almost made up for it. An hour or so later and we were off to the first pub. Faversham had set the target at 12 pubs with 20 minutes in each pub so in true vets style we elected for 6 pubs with 40 minutes in each and trust me if you saw the state of us you would know it was the right decision, we made sure we meet up in the middle pub where Faversham were staging a court session, rules for court were much the same, No phones, No swearing. 5 minutes in and Crackers phone went off "nice one Tuggy" I quickly turned mine to vibrate and 2 seconds later he phoned me, no chance!

So I phoned Richard Cutbill. The drink of the evening was shots of Pimms. Then Tuggy got caught trying to call someone else, he swore and then quickly blamed his son for phoning him (which he didn't) Three shot penalty!

We were doing really well. So I gave a hat call and Tuggy got done again, by the end of the session Tuggy was half a pint of pimms in and not looking too clever, He then came back from the toilet brandishing a selfie of himself throwing up. NICE!!

And so the evening continued, finishing at the Elephant where we were greeted by some old dear doing a DISCO and it really was Discs ONLY. Old school, but she played great music. By the end of the evening there were only about 8 Faversham members left from a starting 30ish the

rest had fallen away throughout the evening. A Kabab to finish the night and a safe journey home.

A very successful day!

Thank you to Faversham for great hospitality, Neil for driving minibus, Tuggy for demonstrating the tactical chugging (not), thankfully all on the bus got safely home. Merry Christmas all if not seeing you for the memorial game and curry on the 22nd.

NC 20/12/18