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| MATCH REPORT13 October 2018Maidstone Vets vs Lille - Old Briscards00-05 - Half time score00-1005-10 (Nigel Maddaford)05-1510-15 (Richard Cutbill)10-2015-20 (Phil White)20-20 (Ben Court)20 - 20 Full Time scoreSquad :[Martin Maytum](https://www.facebook.com/martin.maytum)Pete Grey / [Keith Newman](https://www.facebook.com/keith.newman.37) (2nd half)Jim Walker / [Stuart Ellesmere](https://www.facebook.com/stuart.ellesmere) (2nd half)[Chris May](https://www.facebook.com/cmaycarpentry)[Richard Ewence](https://www.facebook.com/richard.ewence)/ [Nigel Maddaford](https://www.facebook.com/nigel.maddaford) (2nd half)[Nick East](https://www.facebook.com/nick.east.752)[Anthony Round](https://www.facebook.com/anthony.round.969)/ [Adrian Clark](https://www.facebook.com/adrian.clark.9847) (2nd half)[Ben Court](https://www.facebook.com/ben.court.988)[Gary Whitehead](https://www.facebook.com/gary.whitehead.1675) (Captain)[Mick Walker](https://www.facebook.com/mick.walker.902)[Richard Cutbill](https://www.facebook.com/richard.cutbill.10)[Brian Costello](https://www.facebook.com/brian.costello.7355)[Marco Trismegisto Bauchiero](https://www.facebook.com/marco.bauchiero.boom) / [Philip Trevor White](https://www.facebook.com/philip.t.white)(2nd half)[Matthew Ellesmere](https://www.facebook.com/matthew.ellesmere)/ Blake Morris (2nd half)[Stuart Bates](https://www.facebook.com/stu.bates)Ollie Court ( Water boy)Paul Massey ([Tina-Paul Massey](https://www.facebook.com/tina.massey.96343405)) Coach[Karim Neseyif](https://www.facebook.com/karim.neseyif) - Manager[Bob Hayton](https://www.facebook.com/bob.hayton.3) (Photographer)([Charlotte Walker](https://www.facebook.com/charlotte.walker.3766))Match report by Matt (Sport Billy) Ellesmere:To kick or not to kick, to push in the scrum or not to push in the scrum, to hand off or not to hand off, to play 3 x 20 min, 2 x 30 min, 2 x 35 min or 2 x 40 min - who knows? These were a few of the questions facing us as we sent Richard Ewence, Maidstone's Chief Rugby On-field Negotiator (lets title him MaCRON for short...geddit??) into the pre-match cauldron to hammer out a deal satisfactory to all. Or not. What about a ref who spoke English then? Non.The first quarter of the game - which saw a welcome return to action of the Jim Walker hand-off (alas another ploy not successfully negotiated by MaCRON) - saw Lille dominate possession as the Vets struggled to adapt to the fast free-flowing game our visitors brought to these shores. We gradually grew into the game but it was no surprise that half time came with us one try down following a break in midfield.Regular readers may remember a description of an Andy Bell/ William Wallace call to arms during last season's tour match. On this occasion the hair-dryer treatment came from on-field skipper and scrum-half Gary Whitehead and was maybe more akin to Alex Ferguson. Safe to say Gary was not a happy bunny.Not that this worked straight away as Lille added another try after a break down our right wing. We hit back soon after following a Nick East & G Whitehead break which led to Nigel Maddaford using his long levers to touch down.In an end to end period of the game one of our players who shall remain nameless but was recently the Vets skipper found himself outpaced by their 57 year old speedster, this time down our left wing for their third try. Yet again the deficit was reduced when centre Richard Cutbill (despite suffering from a groin strain) fleet-footed his way over the try line. Unperturbed Lille scored again to go 20-10 up with 10 minutes to play.With the hot weather beginning to take its toll the Vets' superior fitness came into its own. Well, OK, maybe it had something to do with the fact that Lille had started their drinking early that day. Anyway the final two tries belonged to us. Firstly the ball found its way into the hands of Phil White on the left wing ( via Whitehead & East) who danced his way inside and down the touchline for a score behind the posts. Then, following some cheap shots from the opposition which led to a number of penalties, we inched our way forward. This eventually led to No 8 Ben Court tapping and showing and going his way through the heart of their defence for the equalising score. The referee, knowing a good thing when he sees one, then ensured the immediate future of the entente cordial by blowing up for full time.On to what some may describe as the major attraction of the day. Pig. Or more precisely pulled pork, BBQ jerk pulled spicy pork, hog roast sausage, pork & sage sausage and crackling. Plus some slow roasted lamb, spicy potato wedges, stuffing and cheesecake. Salivating yet? A big thank you to Anthony Round & team. Surely worth a MotM nomination? All this topped off with the usual club house banter, a tie for Chris May for demonstrating Canadian subterfuge out in the field (otherwise known as breaking a nose or two), one half of Chas & Dave in the form of Mr Ewence ... and a bottle of wine for each of the Vets' players thanks to the generosity of Lille Briscards. Shout outs too for Karim Neseyif for his customary efficiency in organising events (except where was the changing room post match jug of ale??!!) and Ben Court's son (Ollie) stepping in to act as water boy (now Tuggy has entered his 50th (or is it 60th) year he may need an apprentice). MotM contenders: Nick East - despite a first half knock, soldiering on with some storming runs and keeping out of trouble (despite one or two clear-outs from the side after the ball had gone); Ben Court - ball carrying, off-loads, scoring; Gary Whitehead - constantly driving his team on, physically and verbally, Anthony Round - Pig supplier. Winner: Gary (who was also successful in the beer race).TotM contenders: Richard Ewence - for not getting an English ref; Richard Ewence for not successfully negotiating ...anything.Winner: El Capitan [Neil Cole](https://www.facebook.com/neil.cole.397) for going AWOL in the face of the enemy (After all if Mayhem can make it back from the same p1ss up in Planet Thanet...???) ME15/10/18 |

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