

## MMB 12 Faversham 2nds 10

Having made the effort to travel the long distance to Thanet Wanderers the week before, only to be unceremoniously and unsportingly stitched up, the Barbarians were keen to get a fair, friendly and competitive game of social rugby to get 2015 properly underway. And Faversham 2nds gave them exactly that in a fiercely, but absolutely fairly contested game that could have been won by either team. In the end, only the two points from a Simon Seal conversion gave Maidstone the edge. Both teams played a great deal of ambitious, attacking rugby and the combined score would have been a lot higher, if it hadn't been for a combination of attacking handling errors and defensive determination.

Both Faversham tries came from tough scrummaging, building on ground made by a combination of the backs running and the pack rumbling forwards. The Barbarians, though, had scored first. Mike Gillies was on fine barrelling form at scrum half and scored both; the first was set up by fine breakaway running, followed by an interchange of passes between the day's captain Craig Tuffrey and Tom Clarke who gave the ball to Gillies to finish off a move that seemed to have stalled. The second saw Gillies burrow under the defence like a turbo-charged mole or badger, having taken a quick penalty to take the defence by surprise.

Both teams came close to scoring on several other occasions and both defences deserve credit for their hard work in holding up the attackers. Special mentions on the Maidstone side go to Mike Gillies (of course), to Barney, Frank and Ben Foskett, who did sterling service on both teams at different stages in the game, to Jason Hudson for strong defensive work, Tony (?) for strong attacking running and to Ian Ausher and Tom Clarke, who helped to stabilise the scrum by joining the front row.... And to hooker Mark Ingram, of course, for a fine display of kicking... Finally, thanks to Faversham 2nds for such an excellent game, played from start to finish in the true spirit of social rugby. We look forward to a return fixture at the earliest opportunity.