



## Match Report

Maidstone Mustangs XV 22 v Thanet Wanderers 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 11

Home, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013, Kick-off 2:15pm

First of all, a big thank you to everybody who cleared the lines on the pitches, to make both home games playable.

The Mustangs, without a game for a number of weeks, were eager to make amends for defeat by the visitors earlier in the season. On a snow covered pitch both teams started strongly and with the Mustangs conceding far too many penalties in the first 15 minutes, Thanet duly kicked two of the opportunities presented to them to take 0-6 lead.

A period of pressure from a Mustangs attack saw the Thanet defence infringe with Jason Smith taking the points on offer to bring the home side back to within 3 points at the interval.

A half time talking to, by skipper Andy Bacon saw the Stones tighten up their game and reduce the penalty count in the second half. Although it was Thanet opened their scoring with a try to extend the lead to 3 -11. However, this spurred on the home team into action and they began to up the tempo of the match. Jason Smith was on the end of a move that saw him burst through the defence to cross the line, following some hard graft by the whole team, he was able to convert his own score to reduce the deficit to a single point.

As the third quarter was coming to a close and with the score 11-10 to the visitors, great play by the Mustangs back division saw Ally Moss on the receiving end of a fantastic one handed offload from Alex Goodhew to touch down for the lead with Jason Smith predictably adding the extras.

As the clock began to run down the home side were looking to put the game out of Thanet's reach, and some great surging runs from the Maidstone pack drove the ball forward, some quick hands from the Mustangs backline saw Josh Mckenzie take the final pass to cross and secure the win for the home side.

In summary, this was an important win for a Mustangs side that has had few opportunities to play in recent weeks due to postponements or opposition withdrawals and they showed a determined attitude to come from behind to secure the victory.