Vets Match Report

28/09/2019

Canterbury V vs Maidstone Vets ( 3rd team league fixture)

HT 24 - 19

FT  38 - 19

Match report by Matt;

When a team has an estimated 60% of territory and about half of the possession you would expect them to win more often than not wouldn't you? Well not when the oppo have a young player from a higher level (maybe 1st team - and Canterbury play in the third tier of national rugby (£12.50 admission!)) and can run like a gazelle.  It may be churlish to say that without him the game could have gone either way - but feel free to call me churlish because he was the difference.

Enough of the excuses/ bona fide reasons. Except to say we had a fairly scratch team to begin with - stand in props, stand in flankers, a second row with one working foot, an 18 year old (Dan Midwinter) playing his first senior game (he needs to persuade his older brother and old man to lace up the boots back up), someone a little more senior (Rob) playing his first game for 15 years and a scrum half off his death-bed courtesy of some mysterious disease picked up from 01634 land.

On to the actual game - finally - I hear you say. They scored. We scored (typical Tom Clarke effort). They scored. We scored (flanker Adrian Clarke following some forward pressure). They scored. We scored (our best try - a weaving blind side run break from scrum half Ben Tugwell, stopped short but finding Adrian, like any good no.7, in close support to dot down). They scored. They scored. At half time there was only five points in it at 24-19 including fly half Mick Walker's two conversions.

Second half and Canterbury scored two more tries - both starting from deep inside their own half. When I say 'they' I mean the aforementioned outside back who can run like the wind.( He scored 4 tries in total) The oppo captain said he would take him off if the score became too one-sided. I guess it was to our credit and respect that he stayed on.

Shout-outs to prop Bob "tis but a scratch" Purfit who in true Monty Pythonesque fashion soldiered on despite a dodgy back, a dislocated finger. a bad knee and delicate unmentionables elsewhere; our pack in general, held together by 'Special Forces' Chris May; Ben Tugwell finally having to succomb to a whack in the face and young Dan Midwinter who impressed in his first senior game.

MotM: Adrian Clarke - not least for buying a jug to avoid any allegations of hat-trick avoidance. Contenders included props Bob and Tom & No 8 Chris.

TotW: Shared by Richard Cutbill and Paul Hodges who forgot to tell us (while we were waiting for Bob at the club pre-match) that he was, in fact, meeting us in Canterbury via a touch of karate en route.

ME.

Match stats:

Maidstone Scorers;

Tom Clarke  - 1 try, con missed

Adrian Clark - 2 tries, both converted by Mick Walker

Team;

01 Tom Clarke

02 Mark Ingram

03 Bob Purfitt

04 Gary Griffiths

05 Karim Neseyif (Captain)

06 Liam May

07 Adrian Clark

08 Chris May

09 Ben (Lazarus) Tugwell injured 2nd half replaced by Mick Walker

10 Mick Walker replaced in 2nd half by Matt Ellesmere

11 Paul Hodges 1st half  / Rob O’Hanlon 2nd Half

12 Richard Cutbill

13 Matthew Ellesmere replaced by Danny Mcleish in 2nd half

14 Daniel Midwinter (1st Snr game)

15 Danny Mcleish replaced by Paul Hodges in 2nd half

16 Sam Purfitt - Waterboy

00 Brian McKeon - critic