

Vets Match Report

05/10/2019

Tunbridge Wells Vets vs Maidstone Vets

HT 24 - 0

FT 36 - 5

Maidstone Scorers;

Mike Gillies

* In the absence of our regular sports reporter Matt E (tied up with day long commiserating former waterboy Tuggy's upcoming 50th birthday), I'm sorry to say you'll have to make do with just the notes on the game.(Apologies for typos , spelling and poor grammar).

* First game of the season against a vets team proved there is no substitute for experience allied to a well drilled game plan.

* Having left no stone unturned in putting together a team, this game saw a welcome return to rugby for winger Dan Wiles , hoping to play a game without necessitating an A&E visit.

* Also 'shout out' to Hooker Ingram for horse trading work shifts, Prop Hogg going the extra (several) miles sorting out a babysitter (also due head surgery mid-week, good luck from all the vets, fingers crossed) and centre Ruaux answering the call despite being on duty and just making it for kick-off.

* With the only home game on, the hosts had a good squad available and whilst it was their first game this season as a vets unit, many had already had a number of games under their belt and there was no sign of being match rusty.

* Maidstone dominate the initial stages and have good opportunities in the opposition 22. However Maidstone fail to capitalise on the set piece and Wells relieve the pressure.

* Wells backs begin to click and run following a line out the ball is passed through the hands for the first try scored in the opposite corner.

* Blueprint found as Wells run in four tries in the first half.

24-0 half time score.

* Pep talk, drinks taken on – a bit of soul searching , recriminations, Captain Walker delivers a game plan with a few choice words.

* Revitalised Maidstone make a better fist of it, ensuring Wells are aware they are in a game.

* With an increase in intesnisty some niggly incident sets of a chain of events leading to a red (for Wells - punching) and yellow (for Maidstone - special forces May for stopping the punching!).

* Post match analysis would seem to indicate that Flanker Frost may have inadvertently set off the melee by hanging on to the parts of his opposite number that aren't designed to be excessively strained. (Unless you're into that sort of thing, but it's safe to assume the Wells player wasn't)

* Wells backs (all former first team players) continue to move the ball through the hands and are able to score two more tries despite the intense pressure from Maidstone.

* Guest player Richard Leon, a mustang returning from 18 month ley off following serious bone marrow injury, playing at 8 has to take last 10 minutes off, as scrum number 45 in the match was taking its toll on his hamstrings. ("We don't have this many scrum at mustangs! - welcome to vets rugby !)

* Maidstone finally get some reward for their perseverance, a line out , catch and drive with occasional prop Tom Clarke set to score but whilst needing to grab a second wind, scrum half Mike Gillies delivers the coup de grace going over in the corner.

Game finished 36-05.

Man of the Match :

* Richard Cutbill, another class performance, involved in every good aspect of Maidstone play, whilst also fighting a rear guard action against well oiled Wells backs.

* A big thank you to the fifteen for putting themselves out to make sure this game went ahead , those reshuffling their work and home commitments, those tempting fate & having A&E on standby, those playing with niggling injuries. You should be proud of the second half performance.

* Please, if you can, make the training session on Thursday to have a few run throughs and iron out some of the identified glitches that cost us in the first half.

* Thank you

* No player was significantly hurt in the playing of this game requiring the services of A& E.

KN

* (PS. Red card was downgrade to yellow following agreement between the captains and the ref.)

Team;

01 Chris Hogg

02 Mark Ingram

03 Bob Purfit

04 Tom Clarke / Karim Neseiyif

05 Chris May / Tom Clarke

06 Adrian Clark / Chris May

07 Colin Frost

08 Richard Leon / Tom Clarke

09 Mike Gillies

10 Mick Walker (Captain)

11 Paul Hodges

12 Richard Cutbill

13 Adrian Clark / David Ruaux

14 Dan Wiles

15 Stuart Bates

16 Karim Neseiyif (blood replacement/ rolling sub throughout the first and second half)

00 Paul Massey – talent scout & Vets cup game manager.