

Lordswood 5 – 14 Maidstone Vets

At Lordswood Sat 25th Nov. 2012

15 (8), 12 (5), 13(6), 11 (4), 14 (5), 10 (15), 9 (10), 8 (6) – not some form of Enigma Code simply the positions occupied by players out of the norm (bracketed). A further figure – 2.5 (not 25) – the distance in metres covered by Bobby Keynes in scoring the Vets winning try to ensure a return to winning ways following two recent defeats. Given the number of players playing out of position and the fact Lords posted an early try it was thought a long and difficult afternoon might be in store for the Vets. However, with 100% commitment from all, the Vets were able to leave Lordswood with a thoroughly deserved victory.

In particular plaudits should go to scrum half Matt Ellesmere, fly half Alex Clark and back rower Bob Purfitt. In not easy conditions both sides endeavoured to play open rugby and from such open play Clark Jnr. responded to Lordswoods opener with a try from 25m (not 2.5) that was converted by prop Pete Gray. At 5-10 at half time and with extra effort requested the Vets were able to contain Lordswood within their half, very rarely allowing the home side to come close to adding to their score. This was mainly due to excellent defensive tackling and Lordswood continuing to run laterally or putting boot to ball. With Gray also converting the Keynes try midway through the second half such defence was key to the Vets victory.

Both sides should be commended for actually playing a match as ten minutes prior to kick off Lordswood had 12 players with Maidstone offering to even up numbers from their 16. However by kick off the numbers were 14 Lords and 15 Maids (plus one sub) and perhaps the Vets benefited slightly from having the additional player. Nevertheless, an enjoyable was game played out and well refereed before all repaired to the bar for post-match beverages.

Maidstone welcomed debutant Mile Tempan into the side, who, playing his first ever game, did nothing to let the side down and contributed well to the defensive efforts. For this weekend's upcoming fixture perhaps it will be possible to select players in their preferred positions, although given the performance at Lordswood maybe the ad-hoc arrangements should continue.

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