

Maidstone 3<sup>rd</sup> XV 31 – 10 TJ 4th XV

SHEPHERD NEAME INVICTA LEAGUES PREMIER DIVISION 2 EAST,

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013, The Mote

Following the two recent disappointing and frustrating results against Aylesford and Snowdown, Maidstone got back to winning ways in emphatic fashion.

Maidstone dominated the match from the off and in another display of forward supremacy, it was a surprise that it took the home team nearly 20 minutes to register – Mike Hill touching down following excellent work from the scrum. Maidstone had already had tries disallowed for a foot in touch and a ball held up over the line.

Maidstone's second try came from one of the few offensive flurries by TJs. With Maidstone back in their own defensive third, the ball was turned over and cleared downfield by Callum Smith, with the TJ's full back failing to gather it was an ease pick up for the Maidstone 10 to run in under the posts. Maidstone leading 12-0 at half time.

TJ's started the second half strongly and tested Maidstone's defensive resolve, but Maidstone's pack were just too strong and provided a solid platform for the backs to play. Maidstone had another try disallowed for a foot in touch before Dave Tugwell scored a brace – taking his tally to four in two games.

TJ's did hit back with two tries of their own and it did become clear that Maidstone had not put this game away – however Maidstone fifth try followed quickly with David Ruaux crossing after excellent creative work for Callum Smith.

With Maidstone 31-10 up the referee called the game fifteen minutes early due to a, thankfully not serious, injury to the TJ's full back. This was undoubtedly Maidstone's best performance of the season, and with several players still to come back into the squad, there is now a great platform to push on towards the holiday period. The squad is building a strong sense of unity, and although the backs scored four of the five tries today, it was the forwards that gave them the base.

MOTM: Callum Smith – ever growing in his role at number 10, his vision, work rate and tactical play provided devastating partnerships with Dave Tugwell at 9 and Mike Laurenson at 12.

Tries: Mike Hill, Callum Smith, Dave Tugwell x 2, David Ruaux

Cons: Callum Smith x 3

Squad:

Martin Maytum, Steve Quinn, Bob Parfitt, Matt Cooper, Kenny Murray, Ben Weston, Mike Hill, Damian Grabb, Dave Tugwell, Callum Smith, Kevin Ruaux, Mike Laurenson, Craig Fawcett, David Baker, David Ruaux (c), Zack Murphy