Match Report 14/04/2018

Maidstone Vets / Barbarians 34 : Gillingham Ancorians 38

Ref : Simon Wright

1  min Try : 7 Ancorians
6  min Try : 5 Maidstone ( Tom Clarke)
11 min Try : 5 Maidstone ( Joe Berry)
24 min Try : 7 Maidstone ( Joe Berry) (Conversion Simon Seal)
29 min Try : 7 Ancorians
33 min Try : 7 Maidstone (David Ruaux) ( Conversion Simon Seal)

HALF TIME 24 – 14

4  min Try : 7 Ancorians
7  min Try : 5 Maidstone (Ben Court)
12 min Try : 5 Ancorians
15 min Try : 5 Maidstone (Luke Debnam)
27 min Try : 5 Ancorians
33 min Try : 7 Ancorians

FULL TIME 34 – 38

Squad

01 Christopher Hogg
02 Pete Gray 1st half replaced by Mark Ingram 2nd half
03 Jason Hudson 1st half replaced by Wayne Banks 2nd half
04 Tom Clarke 1st half replaced by Nigel Maddaford 2nd half
05 Karim Neseyif (Vice Capt) 1st half replaced by Neil Cole (Capt) 2nd half
06 Luke Debnam
07 Joseph Berry
08 Ben Court retired injured in 2nd half (Tom Clarke)
09 Richard Cutbill
10 Simon BoomTime Seal
11 Nathan Davis 1st half replaced by Lee Morrison 2nd half
12 Rhy Rhys Williams 1st half retired injured 2nd half (Danny Mcleash)
13 Chris Leggat
14 Josh Greenslade 1st half replaced by Pete Jones 2nd half replaced by Pete Peter Bulford (10 mins)
15 David Ruaux 1st half replaced by Cam Mac 2nd half.
16 Richard Ewence touch judge 1st half, awol 2nd half !

As the season draws to a close another combined Vets & Barbarians team served up glorious game that ebbed and flowed and was always in the balance until the final minute.

This game saw the welcome return from injury of Ben Court, a continuation of another masterful display by young Joe Berry culminating in scoring his first senior tries (x 2) and then doing his best to avoid having to cough up for a jug.

The game also saw vets regular centre Richard Cutbill put in a magical display at scrum half and lastly but by no means least the rampaging return of Luke Debnam.

The score timings listed above show how even the game was and how keenly it was contested. The game was played in great spirit, a credit to all the players taking part.

Whilst the Ancorian's winning try came about as a result of an unfortunate error on our try line the game was ultimately lost at the beginning of each half as yet another new combination of Maidstone players got to know each other in the heat of battle.

Maidstone were caught cold in the 1st minute of the game and then again at the beginning of the 2nd half after a raft of half time changes took time to bed in.

Maidstone fought back each time with the pack dominating the scrum and the back row of Court, Berry and Debnam linking up well, cutting through time and again. This back row combination were responsible for four of the six tries scored and it may well have been the loss of Ben Court in the 2nd half that was the ultimate turning point of the match

Although....... it has been pointed out that not for the first time (or second for that matter) Maidstone having led at half time contrived to lose at full time whenever the on field captain (KN) has been replaced by vets skipper Neil Cole at half time ! Coincidence ? You decide (Neil is more than happy to hear your thoughts!)

As previous match reports from this conscripted reporter were deemed too long here is the slightly abridged version;

Tom Clarke scored a try following forward domination in the pack taking several against the head and great interplay by the back row.

Joe Berry playing his second senior game scored 2 tries

Ben Court playing his nth senoir game scored a try as did Luke Debnam!

David Raoux enured the backs got in on the action despite having their hands full trying to contain the fast and hard running Ancorians backs.

There were cameo appearances from Cam Mac (Laurence) showing that student life has not dulled his silky moves and Barbarians old boy ( and youth coach) Danny Mcleash showed he could still cut the mustard!

Man of the match

Contenders ;

Richard Cutbill, pressed ganged into playing scrum half, he has surely staked a claim for making it a permanent move.

Ben Court, pretty much a contender in every match he plays in, never less than an 8 out of 10. The forced substitution surely helped turn the tide in favour of Ancorians.

Joe Berry, two tries in his 2nd senior game, dominant in the line out and full of running in open play. A seasoned observer on the sidelines commented that this young man would be a first team player were he not going to University.

Luke Debnam, in only his 2nd game back following long term injury, showed that he has lost none of his skill nor appetite for the game. A great all round game capped off with a try.

A difficult choice this week given the outstanding game each of the above had, vets skipper had the casting vote and chose Luke Debnam.

Tw@t of the match;

Only one contender! Having not advised the skip of his availability, turned up, ran the line in the first half and when called upon to take to field in the 2nd half went missing only to be subsequently found watching the mustangs.

Take a bow Richard Ewence.

Thanks to Simon Wright who gave up his usual Saturday visit to the tip to answer the emergency call to ref the game.

Congratulations to the Mustangs on winning their league following a fabulous season, a big shout out to all those Vets and Barbarians who stepped up to help out the Mustangs throughout the season.

Finally a big thank you to all the youngsters who played for us this season with distinction, Ben Tugwell, Lex Ayling, Sam Cowdry, Joe Berry, Liam May ( and others).  Best of luck in your forthcoming exams and wherever you may be next season and in years to come  you'll always be welcome in our ranks, we'd be honoured to have you.