

Match Report - Saturday 5/9/15

Medway Extra 1st XV – 0 v Canterbury II - 50

Squad: Peter Deacon, Paul Morant, Lyam Johnson, Luke Osborne, Liam Weobley, Richie Desmond, Dean Avery, Huw Collings, Sean Marriott, John Rumsey, Matt Brightman, Bobby Ellis, Conor Chalmers, Tom Bourne, Rhys Burns, Tom Sandison, Toby Gerdes-Hansen, Marc Capper.

This was always going to be a very tough opener for Medway's Extra 1st XV and it was made even more difficult by the fact that early unavailability's meant that a number of the side had not trained together during pre-season. Still they stuck at it during a very hard eighty minutes that showed the difference between a side that had played four friendlies in the preceding weeks and one that hadn't.

Canterbury should have been on the scoreboard as early as the second minute as their winger exploited an overlap out wide but Medway were saved when the referee decided that he had dropped the ball prior to grounding. The respite was short lived however as Canterbury, aided by some poor tackling and a lack of defensive organisation worked their way into the Medway twenty-two releasing their centre who ran in unopposed under the posts for an easy conversion and a 0 – 7 lead. Medway restarted but were soon under pressure again as their woeful tackling allowed Canterbury to make inroads into their half resulting in another simple try and conversion. Canterbury added to their score a few minutes later when a series of penalties allowed them to work their way back into the Medway twenty-two where a simple lineout and yet more missed tackles gave them another try and a 0 – 19 lead. Medway finally began to get back into the game putting a few phases of their own together but they couldn't make their possession count and when another Medway penalty handed Canterbury the chance to clear their lines they took it, secured the lineout and again ran unopposed through a non-existent Medway defence to make the score 0 – 26 at half time.

Medway started much brighter in the second half with the forwards working really hard and gaining the upper hand at every scrum but when Canterbury lost their hooker and the ref decided that the replacement prop (who was completely new to the game) was not up to the task, the game went to uncontested scrums and that saw the end of Medway's only real attacking threat. From the very next scrum they secured the ball and some quick hands from their backs saw them score to increase the lead to 0 – 33. Medway refused to give up and worked their way into the Canterbury twenty-two being awarded a penalty as the Canterbury backs strayed offside. Medway were again unable to complete the basics as they missed touch which allowed Canterbury to kick for touch where they won the lineout and again set their backs free for yet another try and a 0 – 38 lead. Canterbury were to score two more tries as the game came to an end both as a result of poor ball retention, poor tackling and poor defensive organisation. When the final whistle blew Canterbury had secured a 0 – 50 win and given Medway a lesson in doing the basics well.