

Medway Dev 34 East Peckham 10 - 23rd January 2016

Medway welcomed East Peckham to a busy Priestfields with Medway 1's and 4's also hosting opposition. Unfortunately one of the East Peckham cars had a puncture on the way to the ground so despite a delayed kick off they had to start the game with only 13 players. The visitors started the brighter and it was clear from the early exchanges that they could pose a threat if the home side were not focused on the task in hand. Medway's set piece was strong and enabled them to launch a number of attacks only to be stopped by a mixture of poor decision making, poor execution and an enthusiastic defence. The first score of the game came against the run of play with Barnett stealing the ball at a breakdown and feeding Pangarker who made good yards up the middle before being stopped just outside the visitors 22. East Peckham were penalised at the breakdown and Cross stepped up to convert the penalty for a 3 - 0 lead on the 12 min mark. Medway made good yards from the restart and Callow found Shove on a great running line, he burst through the first line of defence and made good yards before being brought to ground. Over exuberance by the Medway forwards resulted in a penalty being awarded to the visitors for going over the top. The kick did not find touch and a quick counter attack by Dady and Cross enabled Callow to make a break but the support was slow arriving and East Peckham managed to hold the ball up and win the scrum. Despite only having 6 forwards and going back at a rate of knots the visitors managed to pick the ball up and their powerful no 6, who caused Medway problems all afternoon, made good yards before being brought down by Crittenden and Barnett. Coveney was in over the ball and a quick turn over was fed into the midfield and found Pangarker who ran in for the first try of the game. 8 - 0 on the 20 min mark.

A lapse of concentration at the restart by Medway resulted in a knock on and the resultant scrum enabled East Peckham to pick and go from the base. With the line under threat the hosts were over eager and gave away a penalty under the posts which the visitors attempted to convert. Despite the kick being mis-kicked the ref decided that the Medway players were not 10 metres away and allowed the visitors to take the kick again. The second attempt was also mis-kicked and this enabled Medway to run the ball out of their 22, but yet again their execution let them down with a knock on bringing the opportunity to a shuddering halt. A strong scrum against the head enabled Medway to turn the ball over but a poor exit brought the pressure back on and hands in the ruck by the hosts enabled the visitors to step up for 3 points on the 20 min mark. A good kick chase from the restart put pressure on the visitors and the hard work was rewarded with a penalty which Callow kicked to the corner. A good catch and drive brought Dady in off his wing and he fed inside to Callow who went over for a

training ground move try. Cross stepped up and nailed the conversion from the touchline for a 15 - 3 lead. Another poor restart brought the pressure back on and East Peckham made a number of powerful runs, assisted by some poor tackling, only Frodo Smith stood between the visitors huge antipodean loose head, but as is his way, Frodo was up to the task and brought the move to a halt with a fine tackle. Medway were starting to creak and eventually were penalised for being offside.

The visitors tapped quickly and with a number of defenders turning their backs on the ball, (how many times do we talk about this?) the visitors were in for their first try of the game this was converted for a 15 - 10 score line at halftime some home truths and a stern re direction of the minds took place at half time and despite misfiring on a number of occasions the second half performance was far better from the home side with simple but effective passages of play resulting in good yards being made and a number of well worked try's scored. The first of which followed a good catch from the restart and the resultant ball was fed back to Duggan who showed his range of skills by punting the ball 60 meters down the field which was well chased by Dickson and Cross. The visitor's full back was caught in possession and the ball was turned over and worked one way and then back the other to find PG Smith in space who ran it in from 30 meters to score the first try of the second half. 20 - 10 The second followed soon afterwards after good work by Barnet at the breakdown, who ripped the ball off the opposition, and this was fed quickly into the midfield to Shove who threw an outrageous dummy and broke through to score under the posts. Cross converted for a 27 - 10 score line on the 55 min mark. Medway were now controlling the game and despite misfiring at times they looked in control for the remainder of the half with the final try of the game coming on the 70 min mark following good yardage by Barnet and a great burst by Edgar who made good ground before finally feeding to Pangarker who ran in for his second of the day. Cross converted for a 34.10 lead. They say that good sides are capable of winning despite playing badly. The term "win ugly" springs to mind, and this was very UGLY!!!!. Credit to East Peckham who contested to the final whistle but things need to improve if the Dev Squad want to maintain their top of the table position.

JJ

Squad: John Dugan, Mark Coveney, Mark Krasij, Matt Kennedy, Ryan Carroll, Ben Shove, Mo Pangarker, Adam Barnet, Matt Mundy, Matt Callow, Adam Dady, Sean Crittenden, Ben Edgar, Frodo Smith, Matt Cross, PG Smith, Des Dickson