

Old Colfeians (II) 7 Medway (Extra 1st) 74 - 12th March 2016

After seven weeks without a game the Extra 1st XV arrived at a warm and sunny Old Colfeians desperate to get back into the swing of things and the first half display showed how keen they were. With a number of experienced players coming back from injury mixed with this season's Extra 1st XV stalwarts plus some exciting talent from the Development Squad, this was a team full of attacking potential which dominated the game in all departments. The pattern of the game was set straight from the kick off as Meto secured the ball and made ten metres before offloading in the tackle which allowed quick ball along the backs. Winger Conor Chalmers took it at pace and beat two defenders before offloading to Sam Pearson who touched down for the first try and a 0 - 5 lead. Medway doubled their lead from the restart with a carbon copy second try which saw Mo Pangarker score for a 0 -10 lead. Old Colfs seemed shocked by the speed of it all as a knock on by them saw Medway awarded the scrum which they secured and quick ball again out wide to the left saw Rhys Burns run in under the post for a converted try and a 0 - 17 lead, all within eight minutes. Old Colfs were powerless to stop the rampant Medway side from taking complete control and the score kept building as forwards and backs combined well with devastating effect to score tries out wide as well as through the middle. First Chalmers (0 - 24) and then Gerdes-Hansen (0 - 31) scored followed by Burns (0 - 38), Coveney (0 - 45), Orris (0 - 50) and finally Pearson (0 - 57) which saw the first half come to an end. Medway had played some simple but clinical rugby with Tom Beaumont, coming back from a serious hamstring injury, leading by example.

The half-time team talk centred on continuing to be focussed and composed and doing the simple things well with Coaches Essenhigh and Tasker pointing out that, with the game won, the lads had the opportunity to practice the playing structures and moves that have been agreed on. The second half started in the same vein as the first as Medway increased their lead firstly through another well executed backs move that saw Orris score his second and then an interception from Pearson that saw him run in from the Medway ten metre line also for his second. With twenty minutes left Sam Sharpe scored through the middle following a good catch and drive by the forwards from a line-out which took the score to 0 - 74. The last fifteen minutes however saw Medway relax and lose their focus with some poor decision making giving away possession and allowing Old Colfs to spend some time in their twenty- two. A number of Medway penalties saw Old Colfs gaining ground and they finally scored under the posts in the last move of the game to end on 7 - 74.

This was an impressive performance from Medway who showed what they are capable of if they stay calm and focussed. Another positive was the fact that the lads brought up from the Development Squad didn't look out of place. Our thanks must go to Old Colfs who were excellent hosts and never gave up despite the mounting score. A mention also for the referee, Mr Besim, who contributed hugely to the game by being consistent in his decision making and ensuring that everyone understood what was expected of them. Thank you Sir.

Squad: Meto Meta'afa, Mark Coveney, Ross Cooley, Luke Osborne, Dan Goodall, Mo Pangarker, Tom Beaumont, Toby Gerdes-Hansen, George Simpson, Alfie Orris, Connor Chalmers, Sam Sharpe, Sam Pearson, Matt Brightman, Rhys Burns, Al Waterman, Bobby Ellis, Dan O'Brien