

## Dartfordians II 28 Medway Extra 1st 58 - 29th October 2016

The Extra's made the trip to Dartfordians keen to build momentum on the back of last weeks cup win and ran out worthy winners scoring ten tries in the process.

Medway raced in to an early lead as a string of three penalties allowed them to make their way into the Dartfordians half. The forwards took control with a succession of line-out wins the last of which saw them drive Dartfordians back from their twenty-two and over the line giving hooker Mark Coveney the easy task of falling on the ball to score. With a successful Rumsey conversion Medway were off and running at 0 - 7 and they built on this quickly after the restart as yet more excellent line-out work gave the forwards momentum. After a few pick and goes from the base of rucks the ball was sent out to the backs where centre Bobby Ellis took the crash ball, diving over for a 0 - 12 lead. Dartfordians restarted but when Tom Brown caught the kick off under pressure he made it back to the halfway line before offloading to scrum half Sam Garofalo who was quick to see the gap in the Dartfordians defence out wide. Quick ball found Doug Ebanks on the left wing who beat two defenders finishing at pace to run in the third try in fifteen minutes and increase the lead to 0 - 17. Dartfordians came back strongly and when a cross field kick found their right winger he set off for the line only being stopped from scoring by an excellent covering tackle from Rumsey. Dartfordians efforts were soon rewarded however when a Medway knock on finally gave them some decent field position and with two quick phases, first left and then right, they managed to find a gap in the Medway defence to score their first try narrowing the lead to 7 - 17. If Dartfordians thought that the momentum was now with them Medway quickly disavowed them of this view as yet another catch and drive from a lineout saw Coveney score his second of the game to continue with his impressive scoring run. At 7 - 22 Medway began playing with more confidence and they increased their lead as half time approached as yet another penalty gave them an attacking line-out just inside the Dartfordians half. This time the ball was quickly sent out to the backs where replacement centre Mitch Dent beat two defenders before offloading to full back Steve Stuart who was rewarded for his excellent first half display with a well deserved try.

Restarting at 7 - 29 Medway promptly fell asleep and were then undone by the very tactic that had seen them score freely in the first half - a Dartfordians catch and drive line-out. With the ball secured Medway were forced back ten yards before the Dartfordians backs were brought into the move releasing their centre who broke through a disorganised defence to score under the posts. Medway restarted at 14 - 29 but any thoughts of a Dartfordians fight back were soon squashed as two quick tries firstly from Dent, following a great counter attack run from Stuart and then Sam Sharpe, following a patient build up and great hands from the entire back line, saw the lead extended to 14 - 43. The game was effectively over from the restart as Tom Sandison took the ball on his ten metre line and then proceeded to charge through the Dartfordians defence to cap his Man of the Match display with a great individual try and a 14 - 48 scoreline. Medway were still not done however and tries from Ben Wellard, after yet more excellent handling from the backs, and a well deserved try for prop Andy Connell who saw a gap out wide and crashed over from five yards (although it was fifteen yards by the time we got into the clubhouse) saw the lead increased to 14 - 58. In fairness to Dartfordians they kept going and were rewarded with two more tries which, whilst they had no impact on the final result, annoyed Coach Essenhigh and showed the lads what happens when you start relaxing. So at the final whistle Medway ran out winners 28 - 58.

This was another strong performance from an Extra's team that are capable of playing some very good rugby. If they can keep up the intensity and cut out some of the basic errors that they have a habit of making at the start of both halves more wins should be on the way. Our thanks to Dartfordians who played with pride and commitment and kept going to the final whistle. They were also excellent hosts making us feel very welcome. A big thank you also to referee Mr Farmer who we all agreed had an excellent game, missed very little and refereed with an authority and calmness that positively influenced the game. Well done Sir.

SB

**Medway Squad:** Andy Connell, Mark Coveney, Richard Petch, Dan Goodall, Luke Osborne, Paul Morant, Tom Sandison, Tom Brown, Sam Garofalo, Si Rumsey, Doug Ebanks, Bobby Ellis, Sam Sharpe, Matt Brightman, Steve Stuart, Ben Wellard, Mitch Dent, Paul Volavola