

Medway Extra 1st 60 Old Colfeians II 5 (Invicta1) - 9th Sept 2017

A strong Extra's squad welcomed Old Colfs back to Medway and Invicta 1 for their first game of the new season. Things didn't start well for the visitors when one of their props was taken ill before the game resulting in a trip to hospital. We hope that he is well and recovering and we send him our best wishes.

This unfortunate start resulted in the game going quickly to uncontested scrums which, whilst frustrating, was the correct decision taken on safety grounds by referee Mr Weller. Medway took a while to get into their stride but they grew in confidence as their share of possession increased. Their first try came following a line break by scrum half Ben Wellard which got them deep into the Colfs twenty-two. Medway won the subsequent line-out and a well executed catch and drive saw Ben Dance score and with Brad Ford converting Medway were off and running at 7 - 0. Their lead was increased soon after to 10 - 0 with a successful Ford penalty kick but from then on it was all tries. Dance was again instrumental in Medway's second as he stole an Old Colfs line-out and quick ball saw Alfie Orris come off his wing and race through the Colfs defence beating three defenders with real pace before scoring for a 15 - 0 lead. This soon became 20 - 0 as Dance once again stole a Colfs line-out and charged through a disorganised defence before off loading to second row Ben Shove who fought off the Colfs full back to touch down in the corner. Colfs were finding it difficult to get their hands on the ball and with the stiff wind in their faces, kicks to touch weren't finding any distance. Medway made the most of having the wind at their backs as good tactical kicking from Ford kept Colfs pinned back. Medway's next try came following a sustained attack that saw the forwards working hard in possession and when an Al Waterman's attempted off load didn't go to hand but was judged to have gone backwards, Orris scooped up the loose ball and ran in for his second try and a 27 - 0 lead. Medway's line-out was working well with Dan O'Brien taking the ball with ease on their throw and Ben Dance stealing ball after ball on the Colfs throw and it was Dance who scored again following yet another well controlled catch and drive to extend Medway's lead to 34 - 0. The final try of the half came from centre Sam Sharpe who combined well with Orris to outpace the Colfs defence and score for a halftime lead of 41 - 0.

With the game won the Extras started the second half with the intention of playing more to their structures and they quickly increased their lead with yet another well line-out catch and drive which saw Josh Hawkins control things well before scoring for a 48 - 0 lead. Old Colfs continued to work hard and they were rewarded with their only score of the game as Medway switched off in defence, lost their shape and organisation and allowed Colfs big second row to run through them and crash over. Medway came straight back with Orris scoring his third for a 53 - 5 lead before Dan O'Brien finished things off with a try under the posts following a great offload by prop Jack Nickalls who was making his debut in 2nd XV rugby.

This was a convincing win for the Extra's who know that there are still things to work on but they looked keen and played with some real pace at times. Our thanks to Old Colfs who were obviously concerned about their team mate but they never gave up. Thanks also to referee Mr Weller who had a good game and made some sensible decisions with player safety in mind.

Squad: Andy Connell, Mark Coveney, Al Waterman, Dan Goodall, Ben Shove, Richie Desmond, Dan O'Brien, Ben Dance, Ben Wellard, Brad Ford, Alfie Orris, Rhys Townsend, Sam Sharpe, Matt Brightman, Rhys Burns, Tom Sandison, Josh Hawkins, Andy Boye, Jack Nickalls