

East Peckham (I) 3 Medway (Dev) 39

10th October 2015

Even at this early stage it looks as if these two sides will be at the top end of the table this season and so Medway made the trip to the Putlands Leisure Centre knowing that they would have to be at their best to come away with the win.

Medway opened the scoring even before Manager Brighters had got the top off his pen. The first scrum showed that their forwards were in no mood to be bullied, shoving East Peckham backwards and allowing scrum half Sean Marriott to feed fly half Alfie Orris who set off at pace through an East Peckham defence that hadn't got itself organised. As he touched down in the corner for a 0 – 5 lead the clock showed that ninety seconds had gone – not a bad start. Medway secured the restart and were immediately back into East Peckham territory as Jordan Campbell smashed his way up the middle giving a target for the forwards. The ball was secured and sent quickly along the backs ending up with winger Des Dickson who set off at pace only to be called back as he stepped in touch. Medway won the subsequent lineout and went through the phases before a penalty allowed them to kick for points and increase their lead to 0 – 8. East Peckham came back and for the next ten minutes the game was played between the twenty-two's as both sides kicked aimlessly instead of keeping the ball in hand and when Medway strayed offside at a ruck East Peckham took their chance for points and closed the gap to 3 – 8. Medway restarted and were soon back in the East Peckham half but instead of going through the phases and recycling the ball to increase the pressure they tried to over-complicate things with some miss-moves and chip kicks that didn't work. With Coach Collings screaming at them to keep things simple some quick hands saw the ball reach Mitch Dent out on the wing but as he burst through on his way to the line he was called back for a forward pass earlier in the move. The 'do the simple things well' message had finally got through however and as the forwards secured another lineout the backs ran straight and passed well allowing Alfie Orris to crash through the two man defence to score in the corner as the two-man overlap outside him looked on. East Peckham restarted 3 – 13 down but Medway again secured the restart and set about moving back up field with the forwards working hard and the backs running straight. East Peckham were having to defend well to keep Medway out but as the last ten minutes of the half saw them unable to clear their lines it was only a matter of time before Medway scored again. When it came it was again as a result of forward dominance as a scrum saw East Peckham being pushed back ten yards with the ball

at the feet of No.8 Adam Barnett who controlled well before diving on the ball to score. With a successful conversion Medway turned round leading 3 – 20.

The second half was all Medway as their confidence rose and their levels of execution improved. Their next score came straight from the restart as Campbell, continuing an impressive game, secured a turnover which saw quick ball set the backs away to the right wing and then back into the centre where Mitch Dent took it on through the East Peckham defence to score under the posts and increase the lead to 3 – 27. The next thirty minutes saw Medway play some excellent rugby but without finding the killer final pass until another scrum wide on the right gave Medway possession. This time the execution was perfect as the ball went wide left and then from the ruck back right where Dent once again took the ball, beat the fullback and touched down for a 3 – 32 lead. In fairness to East Peckham they rallied and enjoyed their best spell of the game as they pressed forward getting to Medway's five metre before some excellent Medway defence saw them force a knock on. The resulting scrum had the same outcome as the previous ones and Medway cleared their lines with a simple exit that had been practised on the training ground the week before. The final score came as Barnett again picked up from the base of a scrum and set off up field through the gaps in a now tired East Peckham defence before offloading to Jordan Stubbington who rounded off his 'Man of the Match' performance by scoring under the posts. With a successful conversion the final whistle went with Medway running out deserved 3 - 39 winners.

This was a very good performance from the Dev Squad with everyone contributing to some good quality rugby. Our thanks to East Peckham who stuck at it, played the game in the right spirit and, as always, were excellent hosts afterwards. We wish them well for the rest of the season.

Squad: Greg Woodward, Mark Coveney, Ross Cooley, Dan Goodall, Jordan Campbell, Jordan Stubbington, Ted Grant, Adam Barnett, Sean Marriott, Alfie Orris, Adam Dady, Mitch Dent, Sean Crittenden, Des Dickson, Matt Cross

Tries: Orris (2), Barnett, Dent (2), Stubbington

SB

