

Medway (Extra Dev) 46 Cranbrook (II) 20 - 26th September 2015

Squad: Deano Morris, Huw Collings, Ross Colley, Jordan Stubbington, Dan Goodall, Dan O'Brien, Ted Grant, Ben Shove, Sam Jenkins, Matt Wadhams, Josh Rann, Sam Sharpe, Tom Bourne, Mark Shepherd, Stan Orris, Des Dickson, Jordan Campbell, Ayob Pangarker.

Tries: Shove, Rann, O'Brien, Sharpe, Stubbington, Grant (2), Dickson

The Extra Development Squad welcomed Cranbrook II to Priestfield keen to register a win against a side that they have found it hard to beat in recent meetings.

Medway started brightly as their powerful forwards won a penalty at the first scrum allowing Matt Wadhams to kick for touch to set up a lineout just outside Cranbrook's twenty-two. The ball was secured and the forwards then began a drive that saw them go from the Cranbrook twenty-two to the try line with some ease. As hooker and player / coach Collings dived over the line Medway celebrated only to see that the ref was of the view that the ball had been held up. Cranbrook's reprieve was short lived however, as from the resulting scrum Medway's forwards drove them back over the line allowing No.8 Ben Shove to score for a 5-0 lead. Medway increased their lead minutes later as they secured the restart and maintained possession through some sensible and patient rugby sending the ball along the backs first one way and then the other until Tom Bourne executed a simple two on one on the left wing to allow Josh Rann to run in unopposed and with Matt Wadhams converting Medway now had a 12-0 lead. They again secured the ball from the restart and when Dan Goodall made an excellent break straight through the Cranbrook midfield defence they were on the front foot again. Once again the ball was sent left and then back right where Dan O'Brien took it and touched down for a well worked try. Matt Wadhams was again on target and Medway had increased their lead to 19-0. Cranbrook finally managed to spend some time in the Medway half and got their first points of the game when a penalty gave them a kick at goal for three points but Medway came straight from the restart earning a penalty which they took quickly. Dan Goodall again took the ball charging straight through the middle before offloading to Sam Sharpe who beat two defenders to score under the posts and extend the lead to 26-3. Cranbrook scored next taking three points on

offer as Medway were caught offside and they closed the gap still further a few minutes later as Medway fell asleep allowing them to take a penalty quickly and make ground into Medway's twenty-two where some quick hands along the backs saw the Cranbrook winger beat two defenders to score under the posts. With the score now at 26-13 Cranbrook grew in confidence and they were next to score. Medway failed to deal with the restart properly and as a Cranbrook second row made his way up the wing unopposed and then kicked through, Medway were on the back foot. They lost the resulting lineout allowing the Cranbrook forwards to settle themselves and then drive over the line to close the score to 26-20. The last ten minutes were scrappy with both sides failing to retain the ball but when a speculative kick from Coach Collings bounced kindly for Jordan Stubbington (all part of the Collings plan apparently) he took it well and ran through unopposed to make the half time score 31-20.

Medway dominated the second half although it took some time for them to increase their lead which they did courtesy of a great run from replacement prop Jordan Campbell who charged up the left wing before timing his offload perfectly to Ted Grant who touched down to make the score 36-20. Cranbrook tried to force things from the restart but a huge clearance kick took Medway back into their twenty-two where they camped for the next ten minutes. Medway's forwards were dominant in the scrum and they were edging their way towards the Cranbrook line until some ill-discipline allowed them to clear. Medway came straight back and yet another scrum saw them push over for what they thought was a try but again the ref was of the view that the ball had been held up. Medway's forwards again pushed their opponents back and were awarded a succession of penalties on each occasion taking yet another scrum until finally their dominance was rewarded as Ted Grant picked up and dived over the line to make the score 41-20. Medway's final try came when a Cranbrook clearing kick failed to reach touch and was collected by Tom Bourne who fed the ball to winger Des Dickson. He showed his potential as pace, quick feet and strength saw him spin out of two tackles before scoring Medway's eighth try. As the final whistle went Medway had secured a well-deserved 46-20 win having played some very good rugby.

This was a good win for the Extras and gives us plenty of encouragement for the rest of the season.

SB