

Medway (Extra Dev) 47 v Dover III 0 - 03rd October 2015

A sunny afternoon saw Dover III visit Priestfield and whilst both teams didn't fully play to their potential there were moments to admire and sights rarely, if ever, seen !

Medway started brightly enjoying most of the early possession without threatening the Dover line but with the forwards working well particularly at scrum time it was only a matter of time before their dominance told. The first try of Medway's seven came after some good work at a ruck saw Jamie Settle turn the ball over and set off straight through the Dover defence before offloading to Lewis Marriott who was in close support. He broke two tackles and touched down under the posts and with a successful conversion from Mark Shepherd Medway had an early 7 – 0 lead. The next fifteen minutes were scrappy as both teams were guilty of wasting possession and making unforced errors and a number of Medway penalties allowed Dover to make their way into Medway territory. A Dover lineout in the Medway twenty-two was lost however, and a huge clearance from full back Stan Orris saw Medway clear their lines for another Dover lineout which they again lost allowing PG Smith to gather the ball and sidestep (one of the sights rarely seen) the Dover flanker before crashing through the winger and offloading to Mark Shepherd who beat the full back with a much quicker sidestep before scoring under the posts. Having converted his own try Medway now had a more comfortable 14 – 0 lead and with the first half coming to a close they increased their lead to 21 – 0 when another break from Shepherd saw him pass to Dan O'Brien who offloaded well in contact to winger Matt Brightman who beat the fullback to touch down for Medway's third try.

Coach Kempt's half time team talk centred on playing quick, simple rugby and trusting in the teams fitness levels to wear the Dover defence down. The lads took him at his word for once and started the second half with more pace and intensity which saw them camped in the Dover twenty-two. They got close to increasing the score when some good backs play saw them get close to the line and with the forwards upping their work rate at the breakdown they recycled the ball from the left wing back into the centre where Coach Kempt (on for the injured Bourne) rolled back the years to when he was in his pomp (the 1960-61 season) beating three defenders through a combination of pace and excellent footwork to touch down via the post. With Shepherd on target again Medway now had a 28 – 0 lead. Dover refused to give up however and they mounted a number of attacks into the Medway half but without success. The game was pretty much over half way through the

second half when another excellent break from Kempt saw a perfectly timed pass to the supporting Orris who sprinted through the Dover defence to score under the posts which, with the conversion, extended Medway's lead to 35 – 0. This increased a few minutes later when the forwards secured the restart and set about moving into the Dover half from where Dan O'Brien took the ball running it straight through a now tired defence to score for a 40 – 0 lead. The final try came from the always hard working prop Jamie Settle (another rarely seen event) who finished off a good backs move when he mysteriously appeared out on the wing to show the youngsters how it's done and with Shepherds kicking radar back on track the final whistle went with the score at 47 – 0.

This was another good win for the Extras who showed that once they calm down, concentrate on doing the basics well and execute what they have been learning in training, they are more than capable of playing some high quality rugby. Our thanks go to Dover who never gave up, wore their shirts with pride and were excellent company in the club house afterwards.

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