

Beckenham II 15 Medway Extra 38 (Invicta 1) - 24th November 2018

This was the re-arrangement of the postponed game from earlier in the season when the Extra's made the trip only to find that Beckenham had failed to secure a ref. There were no such problems this time as Medway soon discovered being quickly penalised for going offside at a ruck and finding themselves 3-0 down within the first few minutes. They reclaimed the restart and started making their way upfield with some good controlled phases before losing the ball in contact allowing Beckenham to clear. Medway won their line out with the ball coming quickly off the top and being sent out to flanker Malcolm Cameron who crashed over at pace for Medway's first converted try and a 3-7 lead. They again dealt with the restart well but for the next 5 minutes play centred on half way as Beckenham defended well turning the ball over before losing it forward. Medway had the scrum which held firm releasing the backs to find full back Max Bullock in some space which he made the most of it setting off up the field at pace before executing a perfect two on one to release winger Stan Orris who finished off the move for a 3-12 lead. Beckenham responded well getting quickly upfield making Medway defend which they did well winning a turnover and clearing to touch. Medway seemed to think that their work was done but Beckenham won their line out sending the ball along the back line to their centre who found space out wide on his left to score and narrow Medway's lead to 10-12. The next fifteen minutes saw the game played between the twenty-two's as both teams looked to exert some dominance and it was Medway who extended their lead as they missed a penalty kick to touch, Beckenham in turn failed to find touch with their clearance giving full back Bullock another chance to run the ball back into Beckenham territory. Good hands along the backs found Cameron in the right place at the right time once again and he finished off a good passage of play with his second try and a halftime 10-17 lead to Medway.

As with the previous week, Medway seemed to step things up in the second half and they increased their lead to 10-24 with some controlled and prolonged possession aided by a number of penalties which allowed them to move deep into Beckenham territory. A resulting line out saw the backline move the ball at pace out to winger Rhys Burns who finished off the move well and settled Medway down. They came straight back after the restart where another string string of penalties allowed Medway to mix it up with line outs and scrums and it was from one of the latter where the forwards exerted some dominance pushing Beckenham back towards the try line causing them to collapse it and giving the ref no option but to award a penalty try which increased the lead to 10-31. Medway's final try came from another penalty where they elected to take the scrum pushing Beckenham back yet again before finally releasing the ball to the backs with centre Bobby Ellis taking the final pass and scoring for a converted try and a 10-38 lead. In fairness to Beckenham they didn't give up and it was they who scored with the final play of the game as their winger found some space out wide to touch down for a final score of 15-38. This was another good performance by the Extra's who once again played with control, tempo and organisation and they were good value for their win. Our thanks to Beckenham who as always proved to be tough opponents and excellent hosts. Thanks also to referee Mr Evans who was instrumental in making this an enjoyable game for all. His control, decision making and communication with the players was first class - well done Sir.

Medway Squad:

Darren Jalink, Gary Beck, Jack Nickalls, Johnny Smith, Tom Huntley, Tom Sandison, Malcolm Cameron, Joe Fernyhough, Rob O'Brien, James Bullock, Rhys Burns, Sean Crittenden, Bobby Ellis, Stan Orris, Max Bullock, Dan Goodall