

## Medway Extra 62 Beckenham II 14 (Invicta 1) 12th January 2019

Medway welcomed Beckenham to Priestfields keen to erase the last play of the game loss the weekend before and in doing so played some of their best rugby of the season running in ten tries to secure an emphatic win. Medway started brightly securing the ball and making their way upfield nearly scoring as early as the third minute as flanker Malcolm Cameron carried well through three tackles and almost making the line before being tackled but as he popped the ball up the supporting player couldn't take it and the ball went forward. Beckenham cleared from the scrum with a long kick downfield which was gathered by winger Conor Chalmers who ran it back onto their five metre line before offloading to centre James Bullock (JB) who touched down for the first converted try of the game. Beckenham restarted at 7-0 down but went further behind as No. 8 Adam Dady burst clear from a ruck and found prop Darren Jalink in close support. He made more ground before finally being tackled but Medway quickly recycled spotting the huge gap in the Beckenham defence and sending the ball out to the left where centre Kaine Dimech ran in unopposed for another converted try and a 14-0 lead. Medway secured the restart and tore straight back into the Beckenham half with forwards and backs combining well and at pace giving Beckenham no chance to settle. A penalty in front of the posts gave fly half Max Bullock (MB) an easy kick at goal to extend Medway's lead to 17-0. Beckenham restarted but once again Cameron took it well and crashed through the first line of defence making halfway before once more finding Jalink in support. Quick ball from the ruck along the backs found Chalmers at full speed and he ran in Medway's third converted try for a 24-0 lead. Beckenham were finding it difficult to cope with Medway's pace and accuracy in the offload and gaps were already appearing in their defence which Medway used to the full as another break from the forwards gave MB a simple score and a 29-0 lead. Medway's next try came direct from the restart as Dady took it and set off at pace from his twenty-two crashing through three tackles and running the length of the pitch to score another converted try. Beckenham now 36-0 down needed to reorganise but as half time approached they went further behind as Medway had a line out on the Beckenham five metre line which they secured setting up a driving maul from which hooker Billy Humphrey took control crashing over the line for a half time score of 41-0.

The second half couldn't have started worse for Beckenham as they took the restart and kicked to clear right up the middle of the pitch. The ball was fielded by full back Rhys Burns who found MB in space with a disorganised defence in front of him and he made the most of the gaps running in under the posts and converting his try for a 48-0 lead. In fairness to Beckenham they continued to work hard and when they forced a knock on their centre picked up the loose ball and set off down the right beating two Medway defenders to score under the posts. They then secured the restart and had their best period of possession and territory which saw Medway lose a player to a yellow card as they defended on their five metre line. Beckenham pressed hard but Medway defended well finally relieving the pressure when Beckenham were penalised for collapsing a scrum. Having cleared their lines Medway scored again as yet more hard running and accurate passing saw JB receive the ball out wide from a ruck scoring under the posts to make it 55-7. With the game obviously won Medway relaxed and were punished when they carried the ball back over their try line and touched down giving Beckenham a five metre scrum from which their No.8 picked up and scored. With five minutes left Medway were awarded a penalty but when a Beckenham player tried to kick a Medway player tempers flared. When the dust settled Medway lost a player to a yellow card and Beckenham lost three players to red cards which meant that Medway's final score from a scrum was a simple walk through as the ball travelled down the back line against a three man defence allowing Sean Crittenden an easy touch down for a final score of 62-14.

This was an excellent performance from the Extras who played some fantastic rugby against a Beckenham side who are always tough opponents and never give up. The pace and accuracy of their game drew admiring remarks from the substantial number of supporters that watched the game. Our thanks to referee Mr Alexander who had a good game keeping up with play and being consistent in his decision making.

**Medway Squad:** Darren Jalink, Billy Humphrey, Jack Nickalls, Johnny Smith, Dan Goodall, Tom Huntley, Malcolm Cameron, Adam Dady, Tom Miles, Max Bullock, Conor Chalmers, James Bullock, Kaine Dimech, Sean Crittenden, Rhys Burns, Matt Brightman, Dan O'Brien, Rhys Gue, Al Waterman