

Pre-Season Friendly, Boulger Cup Match: 6th September 2003

Old Reigations RFC 30 – 22 Guys Hospital RFC

On a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon, Guys made the trip down to Reigate for the first game of what promises to be a good season for the oldest rugby club in the world. With a wisp of anticipation in the air, Guys made a strong start with some solid tackling in the midfield and a few turnovers which allowed Griffiths to put his boot to effective use. 10 minutes in though, Guys opened the scoring when quick ball from the forwards gave Carbasse some ball who in turn fed Namdi who ran in from the 22 to side step the full back and score under posts. Griffiths added the extra two points. Soon after Guys were under pressure, after OR came back strongly. An unconverted try left the scores at 7-5 before Berry picked up from the back of the scrum, boshed the fly half and White-Peart picked up the loose ball to score. In what was to become a see saw match, OR immediately responded with a try of their own, to level the scores at 12-12 at the interval.

Guys seemed to dominate the game in patches and often carved OR to pieces on occasions. Turner often found the gap and OR found him hard to contain. In an open game Carbasse and Hone both had space to run, and Berry was loving it in the mincer. A lack of concentration, and taking the foot off the gas was what lost the game for Guys, as the more deliberate, but solid OR build ups pegged Guys back. A try and a couple of penalties saw them leap into the lead, but the more exuberant and open play of Guys saw White-Peart score a break away try from 50 yards and Carbasse go over after chasing an Garry Owen from Eggleton. It looked as though the game might be won in the last play of the game when 23-20 down, Berry made a 50-yard break down the wing. Just caught by the OR full back as he tried to step inside, Hone and Turner sprinted to support, but somehow the ball was lost and in the melee that followed OR broke away and scored from their own 22 despite the heroic last stand from Agunwa. It was an unfortunate end to a game, which Guys should have won. By far the better rugby team, and with heart like that will cause many teams great problems this season. Perhaps the lack of a place kicker for this game cost the game, as well as their lack of continued concentration but Guys can be very proud of their performance.

TEAM: John Agunwa, Ben Wheeler, Tom Jackson, Matt Blundell, Kit Rowland, Percy Brunton, Martin White-Peart, David Berry (c), Sam Rigg, Jamie Griffiths, Roy Turner, Mike Collier, Marc Carbasse, Rob Hone, Namdi Chinye

SUBS: Chris Eggleton (65), John Mendonca (70)

TRIES: Chinye, White-Peart (2), Carbasse

CONS: Griffiths