

# GKT Mens Rugby Christmas Special

## "Santas Fell Wise Men"

GKT 1<sup>st</sup> XV 36-22 UCL 1<sup>st</sup> XV

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

By Garry Owen

In his Christmas Special, *Garry Owen*, picks up his quill for to bring you the news from the GKT rugby scene. Over the last month the Medics fortunes have varied, with difficult fixtures against Imperial and Kent. However, the boys were determined to end on a high note and so they did, as they gave UCL a festive spanking in a thrilling contest at Cobham.

The weather was fine, the pitch perfect and the boys fired up to produce a Christmas Special. The team had a familiar look, and several young players, including Matt Morgan, Tim Wright and Chris Eggleton, have become regulars. Rob Whyte, recovering from his inoperable 'Gay Leg' returned to captain the side.

The opening encounters were fierce, and the boys from UCL came out of the blocks like chocolate from a vending machine. Immediately the GKT scrum was under pressure and driven off the ball, gifting UCL an early try. 0-7 UCL, ohh bugger. The restart saw the Medics retain possession and punish the smaller UCL pack with a series of forward runners around the fringes. Uncle Bob and his back-line threatened, before an interception and break away try gifted UCL a second try. 0-14 UCL, was the dream over? The flood gates did not open, and GKT resorted to tight, forward-orientated rugby, putting UCL on the back-foot through a series of tactical kicks. The Medics varied the line-out well, and a series of catch and drives took the boys close, before Rob Whyte scored from a short penalty. 7-14 UCL, BOSCH. As the tension rose, both on and off the pitch, tempers frayed and some unsavoury chap was even heard to shout: "*Stamp on him!*". Uncle Bob received a yellow card, for hugging his opposite man rather aggressively, resulting in a UCL penalty. Down to fourteen men, the Medics rallied, once again pressurising the UCL pack. Young whiper-snapper Chris Eggleton stepped in at fly half to control the game. With half-time approaching Andy Vaughton took a short blind-side ball and chipped the UCL defence bouncing kindly into the hands of the Flying Frenchman, Marc Carbass, who scampered over in the corner. 14-17 UCL, yeeeeee-ha.

The second half saw the introduction of some older wise heads, with Ben Thorpe and Tom Jackson taking the Field of Dreams. A few words of wisdom from Rob Whyte and a bit of ranting by young Garry, rallied the troops. Following a period of intense forward pressure, Uncle Bob took the ball deep of a ruck, crashing over and giving the Medics the lead, 19-17 GKT, the dream. The GKT defence, so often our weakness, remained solid. A fortunate chip and chase against the run of play, unlocked the GKT defence as the game took another twist. The excited crowd could barely contain themselves as this feast of rugby was played out before them. Sam 'Angry-Man' Cartwright was introduced to the fray and like a 'whippet on speed' began poaching ball left, right and centre, before darting over for a try, setting up a nail biting final ten, 29-22 GKT, Come-on! As the clock ticked away and the boys held on, Percy almost finished a sublime move initiated by a break down the line from Vaughton. In the dying seconds, Percy ghosted through the UCL defence finishing off a highly satisfactory performance. 36-22 GKT, BEAUUUTIFUL.

The Medics, pride restored and full of festive cheer, took to the bar with outstanding enthusiasm. Three Wise-Men came carrying gifts, three Santas arrived promising to fill some stockings, the odd shepherd turned-up and even Angel Gabriel, minus her brown-wings, graced the festivities. The Gin began to flow, and in true 'Cobham style' the drinking games began as the scared footballers headed for cover. The night was a cracker, but I'm sorry readers I really can't remember what happened.

The day was a fitting end to the term. The young GKT side has improved steadily throughout the season and is starting to show considerable promise. With King's also flying high in their (Vauxhall Conference) League and looking like promotion-contenders, the mighty GKT-KCL clash is impending. Ohhh Boy.