

Guy's 2nd XV vs. Old Alleynians 2nd XV
23rd October 2004
Lost 34-5

Saturday 23rd October saw the Guy's 2nd XV playing away to Old Alleynians in North Dulwich, a short hop, skip and a jump away from London Bridge. This weekend skipper Iain Wilson decided to throw out the traditional 22 man squad system, in favour of the '15 man and any house mates, neighbours, friends, friends of friends or randoms who you can persuade into playing on the journey there squad'. Sadly this radical tactic met its first hurdle at McDonalds when fresher James failed to turn up. Not to be disheartened by this early set back, Guy's began their odyssey into zone three.

Despite the early morning drama the two's arrived at Old Alleynians along with the South London monsoon season, an indication the imminent rugby would be riddled with drop balls, knock-on's and handling errors.

The game began with a Guy's kick off. As usual Guy's were aggressive and fierce from the start, chasing down the ball catcher well and managing to turn over possession immediately. Not to be outdone by the forwards, Peter and Harvey in the centres ran good solid line managing to break several tackles. Possession however was lost at the next breakdown, but a weak kick to touch from Old Alleynians gave Guy's the lineout still in the opposition half. Delivery from the lineout was sloppy, leaving Simon at scrum half to scrap for the ball on the deck with several of the Alleynian forwards. This pattern of play was to be repeated continuously throughout the first half with Guy's playing some excellent phases but only to lose the ball from poor rucking or careless errors. To Guy's favour though, we managed to pin the opposition in there 22 for most of the half due to incessant pressure on their scrum and fly halves. The two's came close to scoring on several occasions but were denied either by the touch line or by the greasy ball.

Unfortunately it was not to be the side who had most possession who would be leading at half time. Old Alleynians managed to play some excellent rugby through numerous phases scattering the Guy's defence to touch down in the corner. Twice!

The second half began with renewed emphasis on better rucking. Some improvement were seen, but more often than not Harvey could be found at the bottom of most rucks and mauls. Guy's played a more defensive second half, but constant tackling is a tiring thing to do and Old Alleynians managed to run in a few more tries. As a consolation Guy's scored the final try of the game from a catch and drive at the lineout, with fresher Gary claiming the points.

Although Guy's underperformed it's not all bad news. The front five again held firm and refused to be 'out pied' by the opposing scrum, the back row gave the Alleynian ten a hard game, and there were numerous tackle breaking runs from Peter and John Barret in the backs. We have a the foundations for a good team we just need to find the magic ingredient (training and rucking) to bring it all together.

Thanks must go to Sho for playing despite a nasty bout of pneumonia and to the random at the club house who we roped into playing.

Team: W Aspinall, E. Shepherd, Fresher Gary, R. Gleadhill, D. Austin, Fresher Sami, Fresher Mark, I Wilson (capt.), S. Trotter, G. Brigstocke, H.Pynn, Fresher Peter, J Barret, S. Ho, R. Andom

Tries: Gary