

## **Kent 1 League Fixture at Ashford 4<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

### **Guy's Hospital RFC 34 - 7 Ashford RFC**

A strong Guy's side travelled down to promotion contenders Ashford on the back of two impressive victories in the Hospitals' Cup. Despite this, a difficult game was in the offing, due to Ashford's formidable league position and their muscular performance at HOP back in October. In the end, Guy's were comfortable winners following a superlative effort in both the forwards and the backs.

The team in blue and gold took to the field with the most sizeable pack of the season, boosted with the availability of Number 8, Rob Whyte. In the early set pieces, Guy's showed their control with efficient lineouts and penetrating drives. The scrummage was also improved and any untidy ball was pounced upon by Whyte. The first score came after an Ashford infringement. These needless penalties would hinder them all day, and they certainly did themselves no favours in terms of playing the referee. A kick into the corner and subsequent lineout allowed Guy's to score the first of two catch and drive tries of the afternoon. A strong first half headwind prevented Brigstocke from making the conversion. The second try arose from a fine break in the centres by Simon Ringshaw who passed the ball to winger Adam Staten. He was felled just short of the line but fullback Sho Minamitani was on hand to touch the ball down. Halftime came with the score being 10-0. This was not a large enough cushion, as a goal from Ashford would bring them within three.

Fortunately, Guy's began second half proceeding in impeccable fashion. Another clean take in the lineout by Davies 30 yards from the opposition set in motion a superb rolling maul. The ball was kept alive at the back so second row partner Kit Rowland could touch down a wonderful score. The remainder of the second half passed in a flurry of tries. Blundell, this week playing on the wing took the outside line and shrugged off three would-be tacklers to score in the corner. Forsyth utilised his trademark sidestep to pierce the Ashford defences to score beneath the posts and finally, Rob Whyte secured his brace by driving athletically just inside the corner flag to round off the Guy's effort. The only breach of the Guy's defence came after the second half introduction of a rather weighty prop who took pleasure in running at the fringes. A penalty at the ruck gave an opportunity for their somewhat 'angry' outside centre to score under the posts.

Overall, a superb performance that sets us up nicely for next week's journey to Cranbrook.

Rhys Davies

Tries: Whyte (2), Forsyth, Staten, Blundell, Rowland  
Cons: Brigstocke (3)

Team: Bartosiak-Jentys, Laird, Josan, Davies, Rowland, Wright, Wilson  
(Challacombe 60), Whyte, Brigstocke, Forsyth, Hone, Ringshaw, Staten,  
Minamitani, Blundell