

**Bank of England vs Guy's Vets Score: 17 – 20**  
**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2002**

This was the fourth match of the season for Guy's Vets against Bank of England away. Their ground is even more beautiful than ours at Cobham – if that is possible. In the dressing room, things felt and looked better than earlier matches- Challacombe, Clinton Smith, Cook and the return of Bolas boosted us. In lovely autumn sunshine we started with a pretend ref and clashing jerseys. This made the former's task slightly more difficult and led to a build up of nerves, which exploded eventually.

With a strong pack we took the match to them and got our first try through some very nifty footwork by 'step in scrumhalf' Norris with a 30 metre break on the blind side. The scrum held up strong against a good pack and some excellent back row interchanges saw Cook go over 5 metre left of the post. They broke back and scored a nice try, which was converted. At the start of the second half we were grateful for Big Richard's unstoppable surge to put the ball down 5 yard right of the post. Thereafter, tension increased with both captain's receiving a telling off by the ref (!)

Small scuffles broke out in various parts of the pitch - we were grateful for Christian's calmness under pressure. Play went back and forward between the 25 m lines until Guy's pressure paid off with some well worked link play between the backs and forwards saw Cook over for his second try. Uncharacteristically Ross who took all our conversions missed them all - he is normally so reliable! There was strong running from Down, D Perry and Rickett (an old returning member of the Vets) before the end of the match. Jimmy Allan, recovering from hand surgery, provided typically robust verbal support from the sidelines. His exaltations included advise to the ref who eventually cracked and walked off in a fit of pique thus securing our victory! An excellent match won with fighting spirit - we left the pitch happy.

**Team:** C Howell, T Gibson, R Clinton, A Bolas, D Gibson, J Kaminski, M Cook, B Challacombe, A Norris, R Perry, C Smith, D Perry, C Harris, M Kinirons, Subs: C Rickett, M Blunden.

**Mark Kinirons**