

## **‘Winning streak comes to abrupt halt.’**

**London 4 South East: 2 November 2002**

Beccehamians RFC 6 – 0 Guys Hospital RFC

The tide of woe found itself returning to the shores of Guys RFC this last Saturday. After an amazing performance against the league leaders the previous week, Guys were strong favourites to lift themselves of the bottom of the table with a solid victory away to Beccehamians. Instead, despite dominating the game from start to finish, Guys simply couldn't score, a fundamental necessity in winning any game!

On a desperately cold, windy and sodden afternoon, Guys were unable to play the type of running that had seen them blitzkrieg Bromley. Rather, with the return of Pete Davis from the shackles of the proverbial marital thumb, of Billy Chalacombe to the back row and with the indomitable Christian Smith moved to inside centre, it was going to be a close fought forward battle with the inevitable hefty blows following. Unsurprisingly, Smith was the instigator, receiving ten in the bin for a cheeky slap to his opposite number's face.

Despite the loss of a man, Guys remained solid and determined, the left boot of Berry constantly pegging the opposition back. With Thorpe and Morgan dominant in the line out, it was mostly Guys who looked like scoring. Handling errors were inevitable given the weather, but the pack were solid gaining ten yards in the drive in the mauls all game. Only the devious tactics by Beccehamians, pulling the mauls down short of their line prevented the forwards making their dominance count. How the referee failed to award penalty tries after these constant infringements was beyond even those the most ignorant of the rules of the game. Half time came, it was unbelievably 0-0.

The same pattern followed in the next half. Guys were pretty much completely dominant. Berry kicking for the corners well, the lineout winning everything, but Guys were powerless to change the score of the game. Rarely, did we see Beccehamians in the Guys half. It was the excellent long range boot of their kicker which secured their win for them in the second half, despite the endeavours of the Guys XV.

It was such a shame that the victory from the following week could not be followed up. Guys will be looking forward to the return match at HOP in the new year to exact revenge over their weaker rivals. But first, Guys face Heathfield & Wald'n at home on 16<sup>th</sup> November. A victory would see Guys elevated from the bottom of the table. In actuality, a good run would see Guys climb substantially as the league is very tight. This run must start on the 16<sup>th</sup>. All support would be welcome, appreciated and needed.

TEAM: R. Clinton, B. Wheeler, J. Mendonca, B. Thorpe, M. Morgan, P. Davis, B. Chalacombe, L. Brunton, P. Morgan, D. Berry, C. Smith, R. Turner, J. Powell, E. Behn  
(Subs not used: S. Rigg)

**DB**