

**Guy's 2<sup>nd</sup> XV vs. Blackheath IV**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2004**  
**Lost 17-14**

The world of rugby is filled with many deep rooted and long established rivalries; England versus Scotland, Australia and New Zealand. However, there can be no more ancient or titanic a fixture than Guy's Hospital against Blackheath. The original local derby. The definitive grudge match. The oldest rugby fixture in the world.

This epic battle used to be pitched on Blackheath common with both sides sharing a changing room in the Prince of Wales Hotel. Luckily this most recent match saw Guy's entertain Blackheath at (fortress) Honour Oak Park, and thankfully with separate changing rooms.

This being only the second game of the season for the Guy's two's, the side was composed of a mixture of freshers, students and one or two old hands united by a love for the game and a couple of pre season cobwebs.

The game began well with a lighter and swifter Guy's side dictating an aggressive and quick pace. The dividends were soon reaped with fresher Peter penetrating the faltering Blackheath defence, only to be cruelly denied the line by a matter of centimetres (despite his double movement). Guy's were not to be phased by this disappointment and proceeded to entrench ourselves well and truly into the Blackheath half. Blackheath managed to retain possession for a large proportion of the half, but could only score via a drop goal. Guy's managed to reply with a well worked backs try, with Guy 'Billy Whizz' Cockroft crossing the line. Brigstocke converted with 'Wilkison-esque' efficiency.

The two's entered the second half ahead just, but what is now somewhat of a Guy's tradition conceded a weak try from a culmination of numerous penalties and lost focus and fire from the first half. The home team retaliated well with incessant pressure on the Blackheath scrum-half and back three allowing Guy's to regain possession setting up John Barret to score in the corner from what can only be described as a team try. Blackheath replied with true 'up the jumper Kent rugby' and despite solid defence notably from Billy Chalcombe and Ed 'Troy' Shepherd Blackheath managed to score in the dying minutes.

Heads should not drop after this result as all performed tremendously well particularly the front five, back row and backs. An epic match fit to add to the long legacy of Guy's and Blackheath rivalry. Guy's receive one point in the league for a valiant loss.

**Team:** Fresher Gary, John Ho, E. Shepherd, T. Nelson, Big Si, Fresher Sammy. B. Chalcombe, I Wilson (Capt.), S. Trotter, G. Brigstocke, Peter Fresher, S. Reading, G. Cockroft, J. Barret, G. Kiwi. **Subs:** Jack

**Tries:** Cockroft  
Barrett

**Cons:** Brigstocke 2

**Gins:** gins were rolled