

## LEADERS INFLICT ANOTHER HOME LOSS ON GUY'S

**London 4 South East:** 7 December 2002

Guy's Hospital RFC 0 – 31 Chichester

For those players who couldn't be bothered to play in this fixture, don't worry. Those who did represented the club with passion and defiance, honesty and integrity, so at the very least the club saved its reputation (in the short term) in the face of its difficulties. Again, it was the usual suspects putting the club and their team mates before themselves, in their understanding of what it means to be part of a team and a close knit club. Everyone has nothing but praise for these people. It was always going to be a tough game playing against the league leaders. Nevertheless, the commitment of a hardened few allowed the game to be a contest, not a rout and the people that played can be proud of their contribution in that they did their bit. It was more than disappointing to hear of a number of reluctant non-participants and the result was that Gavin Brigstocke's committed 2<sup>nd</sup> XV had to have their game forfeited so he and others could fill in the vacancies. The UH Cup is not yet on the horizon.

Despite this unfortunate state of affairs, Guys made Chichester work hard for their two points, a defiant defence only allowing Chichester to score their first points after thirty minutes. Brigstocke himself, in the unaccustomed position of openside flanker played brilliantly, always keen to get stuck in and get round the park. The pack indeed fought for the ball well, and the scrum was sometimes surprisingly solid. The lineouts too were proficient even in the dreadful weather. Nevertheless, the scratch side was no match for the well-drilled Chichester men, and the result reflected the truth of the situation.

Nevertheless, the people who played did very well, some big hits were made, in the midfield by Lambert and Turner and Rich Clinton too was his usual immovable self.

Five wins kept Guys safe from relegation last year. To date, Guys have won two in an even closer league. There is a must win game against fellow strugglers Heathfield on Saturday followed by some crucial home games in the New Year. It is these next few games that are going to decide whether GHRFC, the oldest Rugby Club in the world is to stay at this level. Failure to string some absolutely imperative wins together will result in relegation. Guys are in a scrap and they must realise this fact without the arrogant complacency of the season to date if Guy's want to avoid dropping down into the Kent Leagues.

Norm also was highly disappointed and very upset in the lack of drinking after the game. Although, HOP's financial situation was not helped by the offering of free Jamaican rum to the few who remained, saturday is rugby day. God created Sunday, the Sabbath, the day of rest for the nursing of injuries and the recovery from hangovers.

**TEAM:** 1 Clinton 2. Mendonca 3. Wheeler 4. Davies 5. Jackson 6. Percy 7. Brigstocke 8. Berry (Axton) 9. Rigg (Gretton) 10. Pynn 11. Henderson 12. Turner 13. Lambert 14. Powell 15 Gush

**TRIES:** None