

## **Kent 1 League Fixture at Honor Oak Park 10<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

### **Guy's Hospital RFC 31 - 7 Cranbrook RFC**

Guy's have again begun the season in fine form, with a well-fought victory against a competitive Cranbrook side. Fine kicking from scrum half Peter Gretton - who scored 21 points - combined with robust tackling and clinical finishing from hooker-cum-winger Ben Wheeler saw the Hospitals' side home.

With this being the first game of the season, finding a competitive side was going to be difficult. However, in the event a strong Guy's team took to the field, including former captain David Berry, who played at fly half whilst on leave from the Royal Navy. The boys in Blue and Gold began the fixture in a sprightly fashion putting the away side under pressure. This told with the opposition giving away two penalties in kickable positions. Gretton made no mistake, sending us into a 6-0 lead.

After soaking up much pressure the Guy's defence was able to break out ending up with an attacking lineout 10 metres out. Over the past few years, the lineout has been an invaluable weapon in the armoury, and today was no different regardless of the lack of training time. A catch from Rhys Davies led to a probing drive that culminated with a strong break for the line by Gretton, which he duly touched down. Converting his own score he sent Guy's into a crowd-pleasing 13-0 lead.

The glorious, but humid weather soon told on all the players and the quality of tackling dipped to the extent that Cranbrook scored a converted try. Fortunately, both sides suffered giving Berry space to work, and hooker Wheeler crashed over in the corner. A memorable conversion saw Guy's leading 20-7 at halftime.

In recent years, the one area of Guy's play that has been traditionally weak was the scrummage. No longer, as the addition of Steve Beckett from Bromley and weight gain regimes, particularly from tight head Edward Sheppard, permitted the Guy's pack to steal many against the head. The strong set piece was well used and constant pressure from the Guy's backs, Roy Turner being worthy of mention, soon told. Gretton seeing space on the blind side linked with Davies who taking out the last man sent Wheeler over the line for his second.

Cranbrook suffered heavily at HOP last season and their spirits fell as they saw the game move away from them. Keen to take the advantage, Gretton added two more penalties taking the score to 31-7. The spectators who witnessed the game left much heartened with the performance, commenting on the superb fluency of the Guy's game especially with this being the first fixture of the season. The female official even stated, "the team was probably the most polite and well mannered team she has referred in a while(!) and that the score line by no means reflected how dominating the Guy's team were."

Keep up to date with all GHRFC news and information at [www.guysrugby.com](http://www.guysrugby.com).

Rhys Davies  
Captain

Tries: Wheeler (2), Gretton

Pens: Gretton (4)

Cons: Gretton (2)