

Guy's Hospital 2nd XV vs. Old Dartfordians 2nd XV
Saturday 23rd November
Won 23-17

Well readers, it happened, it has finally happened. Following six consecutive close losses, the proud 2nd XV broke their duck and secured their first win of the season.

Saturday 23rd November will go down in history as the day when the Second XV Class of 2002/3 came of age and beat a previously undefeated Old Dartfordians side at Fortress HOP. The most pleasing aspect of this result was that it was achieved by the same regular players, who have represented the club over the previous months.

Dartfordians came to HOP the only undefeated side in the league and weighed in an impressive 9.3+ on the pie-o-meter scale. The highest recorded thus far. The pitch was soft under foot, skies overcast and the crowd salivating at the prospect of a feast of fast flowing rucker from the Blue and Gold Army. Norm returned from the sun-drenched beaches of Barbados especially for the occasion.

From the outset Dartfordians displayed their full range of pie-munching rugby skills, stating their clear intentions to play a ten-man game and batter the younger Guy's side up front leaving their backs sipping tea and nibbling at scones on the side line. Guy's soaked up the initial onslaught lead by Dartfordians very own Barny-Rubble at Fly-half, who marshalled their hoards of crash-runners, with never moving an inch himself. Wave after wave of forwards were cut down as the Guy's midfield defence remained firm. On the occasions Guy's were blessed with the ball in hand, the medics backs repeatedly ran rings around their opposition. Captain Brigadon opened the scoring with an early long-range penalty as Guy's set the early pace. Before the boys from Dartford rallied and their Goliath of a Number Eight soon crashed after a series of scrums on the Guy's line. However, let me tell you know readers, these Guy's boys are made of strong stuff and what they lack in pies they sure make up for with heart. From the restart, MenWonca stole the ball, as he did repeatedly all afternoon, and Gush sent the opposition back-line one way before releasing Wiggans with a deft inside pass. Wiggans gassed the Dartfordians back row, and released Big Rob Hone to score under the posts. 10-5 Guys. Dartfordians, who clearly were expecting an easy game were stunned by the spirit of the Guy's men, who began to dominate in both tight and loose play. It was not long before Rhys Davis, fresh from the subs bench, controlled a line-out drive before popping over himself for his first try for the club. A further penalty from Brigstocke's boot added to the half time lead of 18-5.

Half time saw a reshuffle of the back row, with Jamie Jackson and Matt Blundell entering the fray. However, Dartfordians came out the stronger determined to utilise their bigger boys up front. On several occasions they attempted to maul the Guy's boys the length of the pitch. A tactic which worked as Dartfordian piepower lead to a further two close range scores for the visitors. As the visitors began to dominate and looked like snatching another win from the grasps of these valiant Guy's soldiers, the resolve of Brigadon's Blue and Gold warriors stiffened. As the clock ticked away and the crowd became restless, Wheeladon put the game beyond the visitors with a close range effort, securing the win.

The rest is a mere blur. We drank, watched the game, drank some more, compared scars and then drank a few more. For weeks we have been dreaming the dream. This week we lived it.

Team: G.Josam, J. DeMendonca, B.Wheeler, K.Rowland (R.Davis 32), T.Wright, G.Bevan (J.Jackson 40), S.Cartwright, C.Smith (M.Blundell 40), G.Brigstocke, P.Gush, M.Carbasse, R.Hone, J.Powell, M.Wiggans, M.Henderson

Subs Not Used: I.Wilson, C.Eggleton, B.Mason

Tries: R.Hone, R.Davis, B.Wheeler

Conversion: Brigstocke

Penalty: Brigstocke 2