

## **Erith 12-19 Guy's Hospital RFC**

With the English summer time drifting on the pitch at Erith resembled something from the Oval. What made it worse was the appearance of several peoples shiny new boots fitted with nice big studs to tear into the soft soles of the Guy's team. However with grit determination and a whole lot of perseverance they managed to pull through for a season opening win.

With seemingly the whole of Guy's Hospital away for the weeks preceding the game the team was somewhat naive to the contact situation and the new 'interpretation' of the breakdown. Fluidity was something that lacked from both teams games with numerous knock-ons, fumbles and miss placed passes. Like many of the other results in the Kent 1 league the sides struggling to pull free from one another, meaning the score line was considerably lower than what the Guy's team was used to in 2008-09.

Several half breaks and missed opportunities filled the game but with plenty of speed in the opposition back three, Guy's failed to capitalise. It would be fair to say that the opening score was much contested by the Erith team, a close touchline decision as Matt Morgan was thrust into touch, being able to hurl the ball back into play just before he went over the white wash.

Some slack unorganised defence let Erith back in shortly after but with no conversions being scored it was all equal. An opportune break from a turnover finished powerfully by the Guy's inside centre was a brief flash of what the backline had to offer. In contrast to last season with the likes of Luke and Mike scoring from the back three in seemingly every match this game was won in the forwards. With very little training it was amazing to see our line out functioning almost perfectly with the scrum never taking a step back.

Some interesting decisions by both the referee and the Guy's number 10 let Erith back into the game and with several players feet looking as though they had just run the London marathon bare foot, the score line was locked at 12 all with around 20 minutes left. An eternity passed before very much of note happened apart from some 'tough play' by the home side. It has to be mentioned how cool the heads were in the light of such things, especially as players used to catching uncatchable passes were dropping the simplest of ones. With the wind behind Guy's were able to park in the opposition 22 for several minutes but, like so much of the game, when the time came to scoring the opportunity was quite literally thrown away.

The visitors defence was to be the difference in the game, again turning defence into attack with a quick turnover it was left to the new (and very rusty) captain collect the ball and flop over the line to clinch the win. 2 minutes on the clock 7 points up turned into 10 minutes left, but fortunately still 7 points up.

A very relieved victorious side were left to rest their feet until next weekend (19th) where they are to face the challenge of HSBC, the side to whom Guy's lost at the start of the last season. They are looking forward to returning home to Honor Oak Park, hoping to polish off some of the rust that marred this game.