

**University of Essex 2<sup>nd</sup> XV v. GKT 2<sup>nd</sup> XV**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2002**

**Played at University Fields, Colchester, Essex**

**Final Score: Essex 27 – 31 GKT**

The first game of the season saw the long-suffering second team captain travelling with his 14 itinerant bastards back to the town of his birth, Colchester. High winds and a long train journey could not dampen the enthusiasm of these wandering rogues, who were out to prove a point after the disappointing set of results of recent years. Administrative errors had caused the previous week's game against LSE to be postponed, and so this was essentially the start of the season: and what a start it was. Guy's switched on the aggression and an early try from the supersonic Tom Bevir dampened the oppositions enthusiasm, who could not consistently match the hospital sides strength in the pack. A second Bevir try followed after a concerted effort in the Essex half, and Guy's looked set for a comfortable win. Guy's proved to be vulnerable on the wing, especially to the tactic used by the Essex backs of being almost entirely fat and slow, and then suddenly producing a ringer when nobody was quite expecting it. Guys changed ends at half time with a narrow four-point lead. The Guy's forwards continued to dominate in the rucks and mauls, although they were unable to consolidate this superiority in to any spoils in the scrummage. Line-outs too took on a somewhat random element, as the strong winds reduced even the peerless throwing of Jonathon Ho to an ataxic wobble, with frequent turn-overs due to the throw being deemed not straight. No doubt distracted by the sight of the Guy's Hospital Dublin Tourists XV playing on the next pitch, GKT went to sleep and let in a couple of soft tries, giving the East Anglians a small, and fortunately ephemeral lead. Shocked in to action by the prospect of losing a game that they should have had in their pockets by this stage,. Fired up by the sight of the Essex in-zone tantalisingly close, and no doubt also by the sight of their captain limping from the field, Guy's once more turned on the fire, and the last fifteen minutes became a relentless camping holiday to the Essex 22. The breakthrough surely had to come, and Tom Bevir showed his genius once again by scoring his fourth try from an intercepted pass to put the Hospital back in the game. The Guy's forwards never let up, and after being twice held up, Tom Jones grounded the ball to give the London team a four point lead. Last gasp tackling from GKT kept the score line unchanged, and the referee's whistle came at last, granting GKT the victory they had fought so hard for. After a brief and utterly disastrous excursion to the Essex Bar and a bus top tour of Colchester (which, may I remind you, is the Oldest Town in Britain), the Guy's men returned to Liverpool Street via the Associated Dairies Juniper Warehouse, and thence to St Thomas's, where "there ne'er returned from Colchester more happy men".  
(P.S. If anybody was in Tommy's on Wednesday can you please let me know what happened – DA)

Tries: Tom Bevir x 4, Tom Jones  
Conversions: Spud x 3

Team:

Gurvir Josan, Jon Who?, Ed Sheppard, Duncan Austin (Cap), Adam Prewett, Tom "Neil Armstrong" Jones, Iain Wilson, Toby "Horatio" Nelson, Tim Seng, Myron "Magic Hands" Senthilnathan, Jeremy "Juniper" Nettleton, Rob Hone, Ed Jefferies, Tom Bevir, Spud Blundell, Andrew Snedden, Graham "Henry" Wheeler