

Guy's King's & St Thomas's 2nd XV vs University of Essex 2nd XV

Wednesday 27th November 2002

Kick Off 2:30 at St Thomas's Hospital Sports Ground, Cobham, Surrey.

Final Score GKT II 29 – 0 Essex II

“From the sublime to the ridiculous is one small step.”

Napoleon Bonaparte 1769 - 1821

Once again, the GKT Twos have maintained their unbeaten record at fortress Cobham with a resounding victory over rivals the University of Essex. The previous fixture had been a close run affair, and Guy's could not afford to be complacent in spite their string of positive results in recent weeks. A few changes in the line up had not effected the efficacy of the unit, and those players absent from this week's fixture will have to make a strong case to be included in the squad to play Kent after Christmas. The welcome return of Tom Bevir completed a star studded line up in the backs, with Spud making an excursion from the position of full back which he had made his own into the three-quarters. From this vantage point he was able to get a better view of the pack, and he didn't like what he saw. Will it be long before he returns to his beloved number eight jersey, to show us all how it's done?

The late arrival of the entire Guy's back row five minutes before kick-off precluded much practice amongst the forwards, and they were unable to dominate the opposition pack as much as they perhaps should have given their clear size advantage. The physical superiority of the GKT squad extended to the backs, whose stalwart tackling got the team out of a number of threatening defensive situations, and may have left the Essex boys feeling rather battered and traumatised at the end of their eighty minute ordeal. The forward also put in some big hits, with Rats and Gurv both delivering hard blows in both offence and defence. The game had a rather ambivalent progress, with spells of excellent, flowing rugby disrupted by occasional egregious handling by GKT. Rats was clearly suffering from diplopia at one point, and his otherwise excellent short pop outside was lacking only in someone to catch it. Rob Hone bounced the ball off his chest only centimetres from the try line, Spud spooned a couple of sitters in front of the posts, and even normally reliable Duncan Austin managed to ground the ball on the five metres, the thrill of holding the ball evidently having gone to his head. Despite of these and other shocking errors, GKT were able to capitalise on their strengths, and in the end were winners by a margin at 29 points to nil. Mercifully, the series of emphatic victories achieved by the Twos over the past month have exhausted the author's supply of superlatives, and so the description of these scores will be kept brief. Rob Hone opened the scoring with a typical forceful break, and Tom Bevir followed it up with another trademark high-velocity run. Rats scored a long overdue debut try for the Twos, in a real team effort in which the ball was handled by no fewer than four players on its way to the try-line. Second half tries came from Rob Hone and Bradley Tiffin, both of whom could have easily added several more to their name. Despite the determined attacks from Essex, Guy's' defence remained utterly impregnable throughout the game. Although well drilled in the lineout and scrummage, Essex lacked the strength and speed of GKT, and it was only indiscipline and the pedantry of the referee that ever put them in a dangerous position. GKT cannot expect Kent to put up such a lacklustre performance, and

several flaws need to be ironed out before the scheduled showdown in January. But for at least a week or so, we can revel in another victory.

PS Get well soon Toby Nelson – DA and the team.

Tries:

Rob Hone x 2, Bradley Tiffin, Rats Ratnarajah, Tom Bevir

Conversions:

Spud Blundell x 2

Penalties: 0

Ginnings:

Dharm Barot, Duncan Austin, Spud Blundell

Squad:

Gurvir Josan, Jonathon Ho, Ed Sheppard, Duncan Austin (Capt.), Adam Prewett, Tom Jones, Iain Wilson, Rats Ratnarajah, Timothy Singh, Myron Senthilnathan, Bradley Tiffin, Rob Hone, Spud Blundell, Tom Bevir, Phil Welch, Dharm Barot, Jeremy Nettleton, Ed Jefferies.