

Powergen Vase: Round One

20 – 9 – 03

Guys Hospital 79 – 8 Foots Cray

This was an RFU Junior Vase Cup match. It was another of those hot end of summer days and I was glad I was not one of those playing on such a hard pitch. There was a festive atmosphere at the ground. The second fifteen were playing on the other pitch where they were losing narrowly, a barbecue was in preparation and a bouncy castle was inflated in front of the clubhouse.

As so often, the opposition were burlier and looked as though they might roll over the Guys side. Most of the team has gained experience at various levels in the club but unlike recent seasons, the most senior members of the first fifteen were students. The pattern of the game was quickly established. Following an early penalty to Guys kicked by Pete Gretton, there was an almost immediate opportunity as Mark Carbasse received the ball wide and scored an excellent try which Pete Gretton converted from the touchline. Footscray were not what they seemed and initial impressions faded. They tried to imitate Guys and run the ball down their line but they had few ideas and their repetitive feints were soon anticipated. Some good tackling by Guys made sure that the opposition were constantly frustrated. There was one critical moment in the first half when the hospital defence lapsed and Footscray took advantage of a great gap on the right wing to score their only try. Although not quite a rout, the Guys students made repeated forays for the remainder of the game despite struggling in the scrum. The lineouts however were exemplary and provided at least one set play where the forwards had parity. Footscray, largely in despair, decided to retain the ball amongst the forwards and use their superior bulk, charging repeatedly, but without effect. Further hospital tries came from Roy Turner (three), Dave Berry (two), Tim Wright (one), Namdi Chinye (two) and Jonny Agnwa (two). Pete Gretton converted seven of these. The opposition scored a solitary drop goal in the second half.

Terry Gibson

TEAM: John Agunwa, Ben Wheeler, Gurv Singh, Kit Rowland (Oliver Laird), Rhys Davies, David Berry (c), Tim Wright, Matt Blundell, Sam Rigg, Pete Gretton, Roy Turner, Namdi Chinye, Marc Carbasse, James Powell (Chris Rayniers), Chris Eggleton

SUBS: Rayniers (50), Laird (60)

TRIES: Turner 3
Berry 2
Chinye 2
Agunwa 2
Rayniers
Carbasse
Wright

CONS: Gretton 8

PENS: Gretton