

4 October 2003

Gillingham 12 – 21 Guy's Hospital RFC

The scoreline does not adequately reflect the dominance of Guys in this game. A win is a win, however, a lack of clinical finishing and using the ball well in good positions kept the game tighter than it should have been. Again, the pack as in recent games was the foundation upon which victory was built. The scrum was solid and the lineout was efficient. Smith, Whyte and Blundell were strong runners and broke the gain line time after time. Ball was won back, yet not used to maximum effect. Despite being against a massive opposition pack, Guys scored their first try of the game after a solid scrum allowed Whyte to pick up from the base judo throw his flanker off and squash the full back to score the five points. Gretton converted. Two more penalties from the boot of Gretton gave Guys a bigger lead.

The second half saw the introduction of Rhys Davies, which ensured a lot of the opposition's lineout, but Guys still couldn't use the ball to full effect. Collier was released on one occasion but the five points could not be taken. Turner too made breaks. On one occasion made a good 50 yard break, ran over the full back only to be tackled short by the covering winger. The ball was popped to skipper Berry who goosestepped the tackle to go over the try line, but in what can only be described as one of the biggest clangs in rugby history, dropped the ball as he was about to put the ball down when under no pressure whatsoever. Needless to say, he received his penalty in the bar afterwards. The victory though was secured when the forwards drove over from a lineout and the final points scored in the last kick of the game when Gretton added another three pointer.

Verdict: Good victory away from home, now a good winning run is needed to maintain our charge to the top of the table.

Congratulations and well done to all

TEAM: Gurv Singh, Ben Wheeler (Joe Hamilton), Tom Jackson, Kit Rowland, Matt Blundell, Pete Davis (Rhys Davies), Christian Smith, Rob Whyte, Sam Rigg, Pete Gretton, David Berry (c), Roy Turner, Mike Collier, Marc Carbasse, Tim Price

TRIES: Whyte 2

CONS: Gretton

PENS: Gretton 3