

The Season so Far

The season didn't start as well as it could have, we came up against a very organised Imperial side at cobham. The kick off was delayed from 2.30 to 3.15 as the opposition turned up to play on the hallowed turf at HOP rather than at cobham. This led to all sorts of rumours spread round the guys camp that the game was postponed and then it was on again, then off, and finally it was then played. We were very under prepared when kick off came around and took while to get started, however, it was Guys who took first blood through the 'trusty boot' of Chris Eggleton 3-0. This caused Imperial to buck their ideas up and they then used their very talented backs that used the Guys midfield defence as a sieve to give themselves a commanding lead with a number of tries. Guys did get on the score sheet when a tap penalty was taken quickly and Matt Morgan dived over in the corner, final score 8-32.

(Juniper – Morgan, Eggleton)

The next two games were played at cobham and were against Kent and Bucks. Both games were fiercely fought but both proved good wins for Guys, who were at this stage of the season struggling quite badly with injuries and unavailabilities. There were a number of noted first 1st team caps awarded to players who have since held their place in the squad, most notably Rob Hone and Tom Kennedy, both of whom have had massive games for Guys in the backs division. The Kent game was a close one with Guys building a healthy lead only for Kent to work themselves back into the game as Guys fell asleep for a bit leaving the final score 22-17. The final 5 minutes left all the sidelined players on the edge of their seats as wave after wave of Kent attacks were kept out by the watertight barrier that was the 'Guys defence'.

(Juniper – Kennedy, Hone)

The following game against Bucks was more open at the start. Both teams looked as though they could pull off a victory and it wasn't until the second half that Guys started to exert their power around the park. Although for the first time the Guys scrum was a little weaker than the opponents, the forwards were fitter than their counterparts

and won all the loose ball, plus with the 'eel' at the lineout cleaning up. This gave the platform to launch our back division at their weaker backs, and from this guys secured victory 25-6, job done.

(Juniper – Gury, unknown)

The next game was our first away game of the season and the boys traveled all the way down to Chichester, this was our most injury ravaged side Guys had fielded all season with 2 players pulling out at the 11th hour and with only 30 mins till the coach left! Preparation was again poor as skips forgot to check the different kick off time which was at 2:00, and not the usual time of 2:30, gin followed for his mistake. This error of judgement left the Guys boys only 15 mins to get warmed up and raring to go at a seemingly strong Chichester side. Through some poor GKT defending it was Chichester who scored the first 2 tries of the game, this lead was reduced as Guys got their first real possession of the game and went over in the corner. The game continued to be a very loose game but Chichester had the better of the loose exchanges and proved victorious, winning 27-10.

(Juniper– Morgan, Nettleton)

The game against Essex marked the half way point in the season and we had to do well as 4 out of the 5 games thus far had been at cobham meaning a number of long away trips were coming up in the near future! The game as it turned out was fairly one sided, however, it did stay close for a while with the sides turning around at half time with Guys only 10-7 in front. The second half was a different story, a rampant GKT side ran in four marvelous unanswered tries only 2 of which were converted to leave the final score at 34-7 to GKT. The midpoint in the season was reached and GKT lay 3rd in the table behind the 2 sides that had beaten us so far.

(Juniper – Morgan, Gretton)

The first game of the season was home against a well organised Imperial side, now was our turn to travel down to Heathrow to try and topple the league leaders. Unfortunately unlike last year when we produced the game of the season to beat Imperial, an injury ravaged side struggled against a very well drilled back division. As in previous

matches, GKT kept their forward dominance but the leak in the backs had failed to be blocked from the previous encounter. GKT consequently deprived of and 2nd phase possession lost the game 38-10, not a game to dwell on in the future!

(Juniper – Morgan, Davis, Agunwa)

The final game of 2003 was played on a very wet day all the way down in Canterbury against a Kent side looking for their first win, this didn't mean victory was on the cards from the start however. GKT started the game very brightly, playing with the elements in the first half they got the first points on the score board. It can be said though that GKT didn't play to their full potential in this half with a number of tries going begging mainly caused by the "white line fever" many a Guys player has caught over the years. The first half ended with GKT only 17-7 to the good, was this to be enough to hold off a spirited Kent side with touchline support growing with every mud soaked minute that passed. Fortunately for Guys it was, having held off many a Kent attack and even managing to score the try of the game in to a strong breeze GKT held out for a 22-19 point victory.

(Juniper – Morgan, Buxton, Rory)

The season so far has seen many ups and downs and it hasn't been helped with the injury list growing by the week, not once was the same team able to be fielded all season. The determination and willingness of those fit enough to play showed through in the end especially in the backs where the injury crisis was at its maximum with most of the players not playing in their favoured position. Here's looking forward to the second half of the season and with Imperial appearing to be title favourites at this stage GKT must push for at least a top half finish.

The squad – Aaron Smedley, Jon Agunwa, Joe Hamilton, Gurv, Ian Wilson, Rory, Rhys Davis, Kit Rowlands, Will Buxton, Matt Morgan (capt), Tim Wright, Matt Blundel, Martin White-Peart, Rob White, Jeremy Nettleton, Jamie Jackson, Sam Rigg, Gavin Brigstock, Pete Gretton, Martin Hill, Tim Price, Rob Hone, Chris Reyniers, Mike Collier, Chris Eggleton, Carlon Fitzpatrick, Ieuan, Tom Kennedy, Brad Tiffin, Jamie Griffiths