

Goldsmiths 1st XV 19-31 Guys Hospital 2nd XV

So, a plucky band of Guys men (or boys, or lads) made their short journey into Kent to Albany Park, with a nice long cross country walk to the ground. It was a quick warm up as kick off arrived faster than expected. Guys received the kick off, kept hold of the ball and kicked into touch. A Goldsmith's line out led to a penalty, which was quickly tapped and Goldsmith's resident 'Georgia international' evaded Pemberton's tackle and ran over. A very poor start for Guys which meant they were quickly 7-0 down and on the back foot. The Guys team, however, did quickly learn that the Goldsmith's scrum was not up to much and sent them back on every single scrum, winning almost every scrum against the head too. This meant that the backs had a great platform on which to do 'their thing'. This meant that Lewis grabbed the first of his hat trick of tries, as he broke through the defensive line of Goldsmiths, out paced their full back and went under the posts. The try was duly converted by Ed Marshall, the ever reliable number 10.

Again, with some sustained pressure in the Goldsmith's 22, the Guys pack earned themselves a penalty. The skipper opted for the scrum as confidence in the pack was high. The familiar 'eagle ball' was called for and the scrum got moving, it was only an 'eager beaver' Andy the nurse at 8 who picked up too early and was stopped just short of the white wash, which stopped the pushover try. Goldsmith's, obviously realising their plight in the scrums, then had a prop 'injured' and as their huge bench had no replacement front row, the scrums had to go uncontested, giving them and their 'one man team' an advantage on their own scrums. This, however, did not stop Guys from attacking and some good controlled phases meant that Alex 'Steve McQueen' Gregory cut a great line through Goldsmith's, and after literally running around the whole of the Goldsmith's team, he went over, and under the posts. Again the try was converted. Just before half time, Guys were coasting, and a quick tap penalty from Goldsmiths, and some very poor attempted tackles meant that Goldsmiths got back into the game just before half time.

The half time team talk consisted of geeing up the team and emphasising the need to recycle ball quickly so that the backs could get their hands on it.

Quickly after the interval, some good recycling meant that Ed 'Abercrombie' Marshall could put Lewis 'the juggler' David through. Lewis scored but only after trying to knock the ball on at least three times. After scoring, Guys quickly went back on the attack, and earned themselves a penalty. Ed Marshall dispatched the ball to the corner. The ensuing line out, taken really well by Imraan 'pain train' Khan, was eventually driven over the whitewash after a few rolls. Try scored by Tom Pacy.

After a lot of substitutions, the team was looking slightly different, with Pacy debuting at 8, freshers Sean and Justin at prop, and Anthony 'paraletic' O'rourke in the 2nd row. Goldsmiths were applying some pressure before a good turnover meant that Kanish could pick the ball up, jink round the whole Goldsmith's pack and offload to Pemberton, who then gave a big wide pass out to Lewis 'back yourself' David, who inevitably out paced the Goldsmiths full back and completed his hat trick.

This, for some reason, meant that Guys opted to sit back and absorb all of Goldsmith's pressure for the last ten minutes. The opposition's tactics were obvious, get the ball to the mammoth number 8. Pacy, at 8, in defence was actually a good move as it meant he could break quickly from the scrum and support Alex 'Deirdre' fresh in bringing the man down. Guys did not concede in the last ten, and the defence was certainly a revelation here compared to previous weeks efforts. The final whistle

blew and Guys 2nd XV had earned their first win of the season, which will hopefully lead to many more.

The standard post match frivolities ensued, with a lot of juniper awards and plenty of games in Guys bar. The early start obviously took its toll, however, as there were only 6 remaining players in the bar at around ten pm. The alcohol obviously then took its toll on the skipper whose memory is hazy from that point.

Tries: Lewis (3), Alex G, Tom Pacy

Conversions: Ed M (3)

Starting XV: Jonny E(sean), Tim D(naveen), Tom P, Frazer, Imraan(justin), John(Deirdre), Charlie W, Andy Murse(Anthony), Will Ball(alex U), Ed M, Ed H(kanish), Marcus, Hugh(jack), Lewis, Alex G(freddy).

Port Squad: Alex Smith, Sam Gillet

Juniper Awards: Frazer, Lewis, Justin, John, Charlie W, Tim D, Hugh, Sean, Alex U, Sam G, Marcus, Kanish, Andy Murse, Alex Smith. (Naveen...GFJ)