

CHAMPAGNE RUGBY RUNS HEATHFIELD OFF THE PARK

London 4 South East: 16th November 2002

Guys Hospital RFC 28 – 8 Heathfield and Wald'n RFC

Guys rampaged through this fixture in no uncertain manner. For the first time this season, Guys played their flamboyant, eclectic mode of rugger and blew the opposition off the park. The score should have been doubled but some over excessive play, borne out of the delight of the performance prohibited Guys finishing off some of the best phases of play. HOP really is the place to be. The three home performances this season have been excellent this year, but Guys need to improve on their away form if they are to continue moving up the table.

Guys did though come out of the blocks rather sluggish, and it was the away team that obtained the first three points of the afternoon with an easy penalty in front of the posts. Harsh words from stand in skipper Clinton were dished out and Guys came back strongly. Davis made some strong runs as did Thorpe, and Rigg controlled the distribution. After intense pressure, the overwhelming superiority up front eventually took its toll as Brunton pushed over for a converted try from an attacking line out.

The lead didn't last long though, Heathfield responded immediately with a try of their own from a line out as Berry tried to tickle the opposition flanker rather than tackle him and allowed him to bundle over from short range. Words of disgust again emanated from Clinton, and the boys took heed, by playing some great running rugby. First Turner went over from long distance after a sleek back line move, which had wisely missed out Pynn, and then Berrandt, having a barnstormer of a match at full back, powered over after Guys had permanently parked in the Heathfield 22. Both tries were converted before half time.

The second half resumed much the same pattern, Guys were rampant, ball was won quickly by the pack and the ball went wide. It was total Rugby in the Woodwardian sense. Both forwards and backs made runs, Lewis in particular made a good 30 yards on one occasion, and both were rucking like mad. It wasn't long before another try was scored, and is surely a contender for try of the season. After going through several phases and many pairs of hands the ball found its way to Thorpe who used those long legs of his to good effect to gander away and score under the posts.

It was a great performance and more tries weren't scored only due to the fact that everyone wanted to get on the score sheet. Powell went close, getting bundled into touch as he dived for the corner and Rigg too, after having the ball knocked out of his hands as he sniped round the fringes.

It was a good win, and Guys are finally off the bottom of the table. Confidence is back and you can be sure of a good performance away to Folkstone in a fortnights time as Guys seek to improve on their abysmal away record.

TEAM, Richard Clinton, Benjamin Wheeler, Gerraint Lewis, Matthew Morgan, Benjamin Thorpe, Peter Davis, Christian Smith (James Jackson), Luke Percy Brunton, Samuel Rigg, David Berry, Harvey Pynn, Roy Maxwell Turner, James Powell, Andrew Vaughton, Richard Berrandt

TRIES: Brunton, Berrandt, Turner, Thorpe

CONS Berry 4