

Guy's Hospital RFC 19 – 21 HSBC RFC

The start of the season for Guy's was overshadowed by the search at short notice for a temporary home for the season as the Bulldozers descended onto the hallowed turf at Honor Oak Park. The lack of facilities for training meant that Guy's went into the game cold.

A good side was assembled from those who were available, and the Guy's men who travelled by train arrived at the sumptuous facilities of HSBC in good time.

Noting the opposition's enthusiastic warm up in the blazing sun, Guy's declined to follow suit believing that the style of rugby which has become known as Jedi would serve them well. The team run through and set piece drills were looking slick and Guy's had few worries leading up to kick off.

Guy's won the toss and chose to receive. The kick-off was fumbled and following some rapid interchanges HSBC were over the line and 7-0 up. The play continued to ebb back and forth with Guy's applying sustained pressure to the HSBC line following numerous penalties at the breakdown as a result of the ELVs. After being held up over the line, the creaking Guy's scrum failed to retain possession, and HSBC hoisted the ball clear. An exchange of kicks resulted in the ball landing in Rehnberg's arms and to a chorus of "back yourself" the speedy Swede, evaded most of HSBC and his support runner's attentions to cross the line for a well deserved try. Gretton, as in seasons past, slotted the conversion, 7-7.

HSBC came back immediately from the kick-off, and some sloppy play let down the sterling work of the Guy's defence resulting in an HSBC try in the corner which was unconverted, 12-7.

Guy's were roused by the touchline support, and some fine rugby ensued, but the lack of training showed as moves broke down in midfield. More lazy play by Guy's was punished by an HSBC penalty, 15-7. Thus the score line remained until half time.

The team talk at half-time was positive and Guy's clearly felt that their long periods of pressure in the first half could be converted into points in the second.

A flashing break by Bruce Young through the midfield allowed him to give a deft inside pass to Iain Wilson who got his head down and dived to the line. Gretton notching the extras.

Some blatant cheating by West led to HSBC notching another penalty to take the scoreline to 18-14. Guy's felt back in the game with little time to go and a rejuvenated backline saw Forsythe at 13 hold onto the pill at last to dive over in the corner, Gretton unable to add the conversion as the ball bounced off the uprights. Some quick consultation with the referee led Guy's to believe the sole arbiters word that they were in fact behind with only a few plays remaining, in true Guy's manner they battled on, flashing the ball left and right to try to get the points they believed they needed. Alas, a turnover occurred and the HSBC 10 struck a drop-goal which sailed over for the last play of the game. Guy's trudged off the pitch dejected and only then did the truth come out that the hapless (or hopeless) referee had given the wrong scoreline and the Hospital men were up by a point until that final play. Frustration ensued needless to say.

The Traditional post match frivolities ensued, with the team returning to the Mudlark and then St. Christopher's Inns. The author would appreciate information as to how/why he ended up getting a taxi home from Catford

Tries: Rehnberg, Wilson, Forsythe
Conversions: Gretton (2)

Juniper Awards: Elias, Wilson, West, Forsythe