

Guy's, King's and St Thomas's 2nd XV 102 – 0 University of Kent 3rd XV

Wednesday 6th November, 2002, St Thomas's Sports Ground, Cobham.

And so A Dream is born...

The cruel denial of a win in the previous week's fixture against the Kent Second team had played heavily on the Guy's men's psyche. Revenge was clearly in the offing: Kent had sown the wind, and so they would reap the whirlwind. Nonetheless, the day got off to an inauspicious start, with players pulling out on the morning of the fixture, boots going missing and trains being missed. The core of the team met at Waterloo between 12:30 and 1 o'clock, unaware at the time that they were still two hours away from arriving at Cobham. Loosing yet more players en route, but picking others up courtesy of the soccer team, the Great Trek began, finally leaving Waterloo just before half past one. By the time we reached Vauxhall we actually had fifteen players – the match was on. But would we ever get there? The slings and arrows of rotten weather, emergency alarms and the general incompetence of Connex South Central were evidently conspiring together to try and deprive GKT of the victory for which they were so desperately hungry. Arriving at Cobham in time for a re-scheduled 3:00pm kick-off, GKT quickly showed that they had weathered the storms of Fate: our heads were bloody, but unbowed. Into the game after yet another rushed warm up, Guy's took the field with a fire in their hearts and quickly established their dominance on the game. The first try came courtesy of Matt Reeves, and soon after the flood gates opened. Despite what must have been a clear weight advantage, the Kentish forwards lacked the determination of GKT, and were unable to co-ordinate their play to any successful degree, leaving gaps through which the thundering juggernauts of Spud and Rob Hone burst with a whelp of glee. On the left wing, Bradley Tiffin scored in a blur of brilliance, whilst Tom Kennedy broke through tackle after tackle in a one-man exhibition of agility and attacking flair. An impressive and long-awaited debut was had by Pete Gretton, with a great little chip and chase, and also a cheeky cameo by John O'Talliban. The forwards were not to be out-done, despite the rather parsimonious tactics of the Guy's three quarters, and in rucks, mulls and scrummages driving relentlessly towards the opposition try-line. Tom Jones put in an outstanding display, scoring two tries, catching the ball on his own 22 from a kick-off and then heading off on an outrageous run down the left flank to ground under the posts, to earn him the unfortunate title of man in the match (*Sorry Tom – Skipper*). Jon Ho also went on many a darting run, taking on players twice his size and unbelievably failing to get his name on the scorecard. Rucks were such a rare event inside the Kent half that the Guy's forwards were reduced to picking up the crumbs for the backs' table, and their four tries does not represent the tremendous effort put in by the front eight for the full eighty minutes. With just ten minute left on the clock, as the golden orb of the sun started to sink beneath the horizon and dispel any hopes of a prolonged injury time, Guy's found themselves leading by seventy-eight points to nil. The dream was tangibly close: four tries in ten minutes? It could be done, and so it was. Tom Jones incredible solo excursion, mentioned earlier, brought the score to 95, and GKT would no longer stop at anything to reach triple figures. A fifteen-man onslaught brought the final try, through the experienced hands of Matt Reeves. Rob Hone took the final conversion to end the game, bringing the score to a respectable 102, and surely those gentlemen in England now a bed must have thought themselves accurs'd they were not there. A nineteen-man mud dive was merely the start of extensive celebrations

that may last well into the weekend, and The Dream was well and truly alive. GKT were clearly on a winning streak, beating the Kent IIIs at a boat race and also at a bizarre drinking game of their own invention, taken in his stride by the GKT contestant and all round Welsh legend, Tom Jones. Is this sort of all-conquering performance to be a regular occurrence for the GKT 2s? Well... it's not unusual.

P.S. Tom Bevir get well soon – *DA and the team*.

Tries: Tom Kennedy x 4, Spud Blundell x 3, Tim Seng x 3, Rob Hone x 2, Matt Reeves x 2, Tom Jones x 2, Martin Hill x 1, Bradley Tiffin x 1 (Total 18)

Conversions: Rob Hone x 3, Spud x 3

Ginnings: Pete Gretton, Spud, John O'Callaghan, Duncan Austin

Team: Matt "Superman" Reeves, Jon "Westward" Ho!, Ed "Outside Centre" Sheppard, Duncan "Cobby" Austin (Capt.), James "Colossus" Berry, Jeremy "Fresher" Nettleton, Andy "Metoclopramide" Snedden, Tom "Sexbomb" Jones, Tim "Granddad" Seng, Ed "Dancing Boy" Jefferies, Rob "Tighthead" Hone, Tom "President" Kennedy, Bradley "Turbo" Tiffin, James "Billy" Hunter Spud Blundell, Iain "Hydrophobia" Wilson, Martin "Anadin" Hill, Pete "Watch him go" Gretton, John "Callaghan" O'Talliban. Jenny Merrick RIP