

Guys hospital 2nd XV 8-17 University of Kent 2nd XV

So without 'fortress HOP' the second team made the long journey into leafy Surrey to Cobham. With the warm up emphasis being on line defence after last week's shabby defence. With Justin pulling out just before kick off with a twinge, a debut was handed to fresher Jed at outside centre.

The start of the game saw Will Ball loft the kick up nice and high in the wind, and underneath it was a man of Kent, the first hit of the game was huge, with fresher Justin (seng II) at prop hammering into the catcher, which inevitably led to a knock on and a Guys scrum. The guys packed 'owned' the scrum throughout the first half thanks to a powerful tight five. The first scrum released the Guys backline who went through the hands, and after a few phases of play, Kent conceded a penalty in front of the posts. The captain opted for points, and Ed Marshall slotted home. Kent came straight back at Guys with a period of play, and plenty of phases in the Guys half, the line defence, however, was much better this week and guys were holding firm. This was, until, after many warnings to the Guys forwards, Phil went in from the side, the ref had had enough and Phil was sent to the bin for ten minutes. This allowed Kent some extra pressure in the forwards and generally an overlap on the outside, which eventually led to a Kent try, which was not converted. It must be added that after seeing us concede, fresher Justin must have had 'the rage'. Again Will Ball lofted the kick off nice and high, it hung in the air, and before the opposition had caught it Justin had tackled one of them from the air, 'NFL' style. His innocent look meant he escaped a yellow, or even red card.

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The second half could not have got off to a more disastrous start, with Kent running over a try, with some powerful forward running, again the fringe defence letting Guys down. Kent converted and so led by 9 points. A quick team talk about defence, and about turning our pressure into points meant Guys quickly got back into Kent territory. Some good phases of recycled ball eventually meant the backs could swing the ball out wide to Lewis 'lightening feet' David, who went over to score. There were claims from Tom 'I'm faster than Usain Bolt' Goddard that Lewis should have passed inside to send the prop, turned winger over the whitewash. The conversion was missed and so Guys still needed a try to get into the lead. This happened with some good set piece play, again the Guys back spread out wide and a great inside ball from Marcus 'the rage' Pemberton to debutant Jed, who cut a great line, meant Jed crossed the whitewash. Cue some celebrations from the Guys boys on the sideline, only for the referee to call play back for a 'forward' pass. Unfortunately the Guys boys were disheartened and Kent took full advantage by running in another try, with again, some missed tackles in midfield. The try was not converted and so Kent led 17-8. Guys, however, woke up again and went straight back on the attack, following some great turnover work in the tight from Phil Hakim. More phases of play, and a fired up pack meant the ball got swung out wide to Ashley 'I'm in the gym' Yuen, who crossed the whitewash. There was a problem again, however, the ref could not see whether he had gone into touch or not, and so had to give Guys a 5 metre scrum. The desire appeared to have gone, and Guys lost the scrum, which meant Kent could get the ball out and win the game.

Again, I will try to write about some positives from the game. The debuts of Justin at prop and Jed at outside centre were very good, Jed is definitely a club player of the future. Phil's return from injury was also a good one, and all these players are providing a selection dilemma, which is only a good thing for the club.

With no bar at Cobham, the boys retired to Waterloo to crawl their way through 9 establishments on a mini pub golf tour to Guys bar. It must be added that Fresher John surely earned himself some juniper, by being the fresher that won with every hole being sunk in one.

Starting XV: Justin fresh(Naveen), Tim D, Tom G(sean fresh), Frazer, Sam G, Alex U fresh(John fresh), Ben D, Phil H, Will Ball, Ed M, Marcus, Jed fresh, Harry G(Ashley Y), Lewis(Kanish), Alex Gregory(Ed H).

Tries: Lewis D

Pens: Ed M