

University of Kent 2nd XV 40-15 Guys Hospital 2nd XV

So on a very wet and windy day a merry band made their way down the a2 through the garden of England to Canterbury. Once there the team discovered that Kent's first team game had been called off and so we faced a very different looking side to the one which we saw at Cobham. The game got off to a good start with some excellent phases of recycled ball and forward running from Guys, with Sean at the forefront. This extended pressure eventually led to Lewis 'no longer a try per game' David going over out wide, with him gassing the desperate attempts from the opposition to keep up with him. With no recognised kicker in the team, and with no tee, Jonny 'donkey' Gabriel attempted the drop kick conversion. It went horribly wrong.

Less than five minutes later it was the end of the game for Jonny as he took a big knock from one of the opposition. This was the start of the shuffling in the team, the team which was now playing with no recognised kicker, scrum half or fly half. Marcus 'the rather rotund ten' Pemberton came into fly half, with Lewis David coming into 12 and Alex Underwood moving out onto the wing. Kent scored two soft tries, giving them the lead. The game changed, however, when Kent could not find their way through a rock solid Guys defence again, with Jack making some big tackles at 13. Guys then found themselves playing the game they wanted to play it, recycling ball well and giving the backs a good platform. Some good work put guys into Kent's 22 and a massive call that could be heard from nearby Calais meant Alex Smith received the ball at 10, confidently drawing his man and giving the pass to Alex 'Steve Mcqueen' Gregory who finished superbly with a burst of pace. Again the conversion went horribly wrong. It was soon to be the end of Alex Gregory's day too and he took a boot to the head and split his eyelid open. Luckily Deirdre's mum was at hand to take him off to Canterbury A and E. This brought Tony Sebastien into the game on the wing, with Kanish going to full back, which ultimately meant Kent were able to use their pace out wide as there were now two back row players on the wing. Kent then scored another quick brace using the wing to their advantage.

In the second half, some good play in the tight from Ferg meant Guys got a scrum and a good pick up from the base of the scrum made a lot of metres, leading to penalty which our rotund ten put into the corner. A good throw and take lead to a driving maul which Kent couldn't pull down. It rolled and went into the goal area, with everyone assuming it would be help and Guys would receive a 5 metre scrum. Then somehow, from the middle of the maul, Canadian george somehow manipulated his way out and got the ball down. A good forwards try. Again, the conversion was missed.

At the end of the game it was made clear that a team missing players in key positions, and a team which hadn't played together manned up and put a performance in. With different circumstances I am sure that this team would have won the game. Ferg had an excellent first full debut with Sean impressing too. In defence it was definitely the hard hitting Jack at 13 that stood out. It should also be mentioned that Ed Hardman had a very good game in what is a new position for him.

Tries: Lewis David, Alex Gregory, Canadian George

Starting XV: Alex Smith, Naveen Palani, Sean, Canadian George, Sam Gillet, Ferg, Deirdre(welsh ryan), Frazer. Ed hardman, jonny Gabriel(alex underwood), Marcus Pemberton, Jack, Lewis David, Kanish, Alex Gregory(tony)

Gin : Jack, Welsh Ryan, Alex Smith, Canadian George, Ed Hardman, Marcus, Sean

Man of the match: Jack