

Guy's Hospital 1st XV 45-0 King's College Hospital RFC

The Guy's team arrived at Beccehamians having not played for a number of weeks since the fight club encountered at Brockleians.

The team turned up in dubs and drabs and heading out to the paddock, the Jedi warm up and strong words about concentration set the scene for a much anticipated clash with the landlords.

With Guy's winning the toss, the skipper opted to play up the hill in the first half relying on the speed and fitness of his team to turn the slope into points.

With King's opting to receive the kick, Guy's were treated to an early exposure of the opposition's somewhat one-dimensional gameplan. The route one tactic was to provide Guy's with an opportunity to display their defensive prowess...for ages.

Some good work in the tackle from the returning Hadlington saw Guy's regain possession and immediately Joughin released the backline, Steele and Harris breaking through the King's midfield with little difficulty. Quick hands and even quicker feet saw Staten send Rehnberg through for a try.

The restart was well fielded by Morgan and Guy's attacked the slope with vigour, and some good rucking from Guy's saw yet more quick ball find the backs and with Hartley coming into the line, Rehnberg found himself breaking two tackles and going in under the posts to allow Steele to coolly slot the extras 14-0.

Frequent handling errors saw Guy's scrummaging time and again, and once the front row of Josan, Hadlington, and Jackson started finding their feet, Guy's had a solid platform, and had the referee been more vigilant with the put in might have achieved more than the one against the head. Unfortunately, scrum-half Joughin had to come off having injured his knee in a tackle many thought came from an offside position. He was replaced by Gretton. More hard work from the forwards saw the backs unleashed for one of the finest tries seen at any level of rugby for many a year.

Rehnberg in possession, chipping forward, gathering, offloading to Staten, receiving the ball again and grubbering through leaving the defence for dead before picking up the ball and diving over the line to rapturous praise from team-mates and supporters alike. Steele once more firing over the two-pointer 21-0.

King's fought back hard, but the defence, superbly marshalled by Wilson and Harris held firm despite repeated fringe crashes. The level of tackling from the entire team was superb with opposition players tackled back irregardless of size or speed of impact.

The team talk at half time emphasised the need for concentration and commitment to add to the half time 21-0 scoreline. The view from the touchline, ably communicated by supporting President Geoff Koffman, was that Guy's needed to continue with the hard defence and cut good lines in support.

Guy's kicked off, and good pressure ensured a number of scrums with Guy's turning the screw. The legitimate turning of the scrum was deemed illegal by the referee

whose long use of advantage saw 20 metres being gained and then the penalty given to the bafflement of all.

Great lines from the backs saw Hartley fire through the beleaguered King's defence and in for the try with Steele once more coolly converting 28-0.

Guy's lack of concentration saw them once more on their own line, but great defence around the fringes kept out the tiring King's forwards. Good kicking from the ensuing penalties saw Guy's returning to the opposition half and winning opposition lineout ball. Davies was in imperious form at the front of the lineout, disrupting and stealing all day. Another win at the lineout allowed Gretton to put Morgan through a hole, before expertly offloading to allow Steele over for the try, unfortunately the extras were elusive on this occasion 33-0.

A loose ball from lineout was dived on by Elias, offloading from the floor to Gretton, passing to Steele, delivered Staten on a cut line to sprint through under the posts with Steele able to add the simple conversion 40-0

The restart was fielded by Davies and taken down the wing with support arriving quickly and the ball taken forward, Gretton hitting Hartley who ran into defence offloading to Jephcote who with his first touch of the ball realised he didn't have the pace for the line, passed one handed behind his back to allow Hadlington to fizz in over the line. With the last act of the game, Steele was unable to add the extras leaving the final score 45-0. This result maintained Guy's 2nd place in the league.

Tries: Rehnberg (3), Hartley, Staten, Steele, Hadlington
Conversions: Steele (5)

Koffman MoM: Gurvir Josan
Juniper Awards: Elias, Davies, Josan