

Guy's Hospital 2nd XV 19-46 King's College London 1st XV

So Guy's went into this game with what looked a strong team, especially in the backline. It was always going to be a tough encounter for the Guy's team, facing a King's College team recently relegated and having an unbeaten record, added into the mix was the fact that Guy's lacked a recognised number 8 and Marcus 'wannabe forward' Pemberton stepped up to the mark, with Rhys Harris taking his spot at inside centre. What Guy's also lacked was a regular line out thrower and it must be said that Alex 'sick note' Smith did the job admirably until his injury.

So the game started, and the early exchanges were ferociously defended by both teams. Some Kent style tactics from King's were being deployed, sending the big hooker at 8 man up off the fly half. Guy's defended well and were always a counter attacking threat with a back three of Alex Gregory, Lucas 'DC' Rehnburg and Harry Gasper. Some good, powerful running from the likes of Harris and Chandler in the centres put Guy's into a good position, only for the covered 'knock on' to happen in the King's 22. King's won the ensuing scrum and kicked for touch, however, the kick missed and a good catch from Gregory left him in some space to run at the King's wing. He got round and backed himself all the way to line. 5-0 to Guy's. The conversion was slotted by Ball. 7-0.

King's quickly got back into the game with some good set piece play and many a phase drawing the Guy's forwards in. Out wide they went and scored. The conversion was slotted from a very tight angle, a theme which seemed to set the tone for the King's kickers afternoon. Again, some pressure in the Guy's 22 led to a King's penalty which was slotted again. Five minutes later and the same culprit(not naming and shaming) conceded another penalty, which was slotted. So Guy's were quickly 6 points down. 7-13. The captain urged his team to keep their discipline after seeing that any penalty conceded in Guy's territory would result in 3 points for the opposition. Guy's then conceded another try, which was duly converted by Kings' very own 'Patterson'. It was during the build up to this try that Alex Smith was injured and Chin came on to replace him as loosehead and makeshift line out thrower.

This did not dampen the Guy's spirits who were quickly straight back at King's. Some powerful forward running from Goddard and O Rourke gave Guy's good field position. Quick ball was also seen as the pack were working extremely well together for once. A well earned penalty meant Guy's could get good field position. It was forgotten, however, that Guy's had lost their part time line out thrower and had gained a part-part time thrower. Chin's efforts were also admirable after being asked to do the job with no notice. It meant King's could disrupt the usually reliable Guy's line out. Another good catch from Gregory and a good pass to Rehnburg meant that Rehnburg could do what he does best and 'back himself'. Try scored and converted. 14-20.

H/T Guy's hospital 2nd XV 14-20 KCL 1st XV

The second half could not have got off to a better start. Guy's were dominating every aspect of the game. O'Rourke's work in the tight was exemplary, and he was turning a lot of ball over in this fashion. It was one of these turnovers in our half that meant Jed could swing a pass out to Chandler, who broke several tackles and rampaged towards the try line. He was eventually stopped but found a fantastic offload to send Jed over for his first try for the club. A chance to take the lead was missed and so the scoreline read 19-20.

The rest of the second half was spent in Guy's territory. The whole team defended like their lives depended on it, but alas, the pressure told and King's went over. They scored more tries, each of which was converted. The final score does not reflect the game, as most of King's' tries came in the last ten minutes. It was a scoreline which looks horrible but everyone that represented Guy's on that day gave 110% and played with a lot of heart. There were a lot of battered, bruised and extremely fatigued bodies at the end of the game. If we could play like that every game, we would not be having problems.

The post match frivolities ensued with Guy's showing King's how things are done in the bar, winning the boat race by more than a pint. Everyone seemed to enjoy the preparation for the Christmas show, but alas, seeing Marcus dance around on stage naked was not the highlight of their evening.

Tries : Alex Gregory, Lucas Rehnburg, Jed Wingrove
Conversions: Will Ball (2)

Starting XV: Alex Smith(Justin Chin), Naveen Palani, Tom Goddard(Sean), Frazer Barnes, Anthony O'Rourke(Tony Sebastien), John Wright(Alex Brazier), Ben Diggins, Marcus Pemberton, Will Ball, Jed Wingrove, Harry Gasper, Rhys Harris, Justin Chandler, Alex Gregory, Lucas Rehnburg.

Boat Race Winners: Tom Goddard, Harry Gasper, Frazer Barnes, Ben Diggins.

Man of the Match: Alex Gregory