

GKT RFC 2nd XV v. LSE RFC 2nd XV

Played at St Thomas' Hospital Sports Ground, Cobham, Surrey on Wednesday 15th October 2003: kick off 2:30pm

Final Score: GKT 29 - 5 LSE

“All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible.”

—T. E. Lawrence, (1888 – 1935), *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*

This Wednesday saw the inauguration of the 2003-2004 BUSA season, with the GKT IIs playing host to the London School of Economics at Cobham. To this fixture a certain poignancy was added by the uncertain future of Guy's Rugby at the much-loved home-from-home that is the Cobham Sports Ground, with the College making no secret of their desire to sell the ground to Chelsea FC and the Student's Union curiously silent on the issue. Despite this shaky future, the sea of faces old and new that assembled at Waterloo at 12:30pm, bright-eyed and bushy tailed, was surely an encouraging sign. Old habits die hard, especially amongst tradition loving Guy's rugby players, and Ed Sheppard turned up a comfortable twenty-minutes late. “What time's the train?” As the squad settled down on the familiar trek to the Surrey ground, a shattering thought shot through their collected minds: where was Butch? Skipper would have some explaining to do in the bar after the game, and so it was. Other notable absences included the loss of Big G Josan and Spud Blundell to the 1st XV, Fighting Jonny Ho, James Berry and Matt Reeves to the yoke of wage slavery and Magic Myron Senthilnathan, who has found himself cruelly chained to his dentist chair: can the team survive without the Tamil influence? Another sad omission was that of that prince among men Thomas H Jones, affectionately known as “Sex Bomb”, “Delilah” “Pussy Cat” et c, last seen inventively clearing his lines with a spectacular Pele-style bicycle kick in the final fixture of last season, and now confined by illness to his home in Wales. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

The holes left by these legendary players will take some filling, and the current in-take of keen-eyed gin-swiggling freshers seem more than up to the task. The warm up went well, and despite the captain's misgivings the set pieces were performed with military precision, the Guy's forwards able to consistently dominate in both scrummage and line-out. The LSE put on an excellent display of how to ruck the ball, getting in early and low and often stealing what should have been a straightforward GKT ball. After an early and slightly shell-shocked defence, GKT were able to crawl back in to the opposition's half and score off a line-out drive, Duncan Austin grounding the ball and opening his account for his Wednesday side. Whilst LSE had looked threatening in the opening minutes, they never seemed to recover from this early blow, and GKT were able to dominate territorially for most of the game. The GKT backs produced some excellent darting runs, with Tim Seng and Jimbo both proving to be particularly slippery headaches for the opposition. Whilst running well, handling Could Be Better (and that's all I'm going to say on the matter – skip): fortunately the series of knock-ons conceded were reworked to our considerable advantage by the awesome GKT scrum, inspired by Fresher Rory's war-cry of “Low, Low, Low!”, and it is only by the occasional piece of pure luck that LSE were ever able to win the ball on their own put-in. Two more first half tries followed from Phil Welch and Brad Tiffin, both the result of impressive team efforts, and at the whistle GKT had a comfortable 17 point lead (happily, LSE's penalty kicking, whilst ambitious, was never a real threat). LSE came back at the start of the second half, slipping through after some stalwart defence by the men in

Blue and Gold, but any hope of a revival was soon quashed by a majestic try from super-nippy fresher Sho Minamitani. Several substitutions during the second half had no effect on the efficacy of the Guy's outfit, indicating an encouraging level of strength in depth for the GKT squad. A final try from man-mountain Oliver Blocker secured the victory, a very pleasing result of 29 – 5, adding a further three points to our defeat of LSE mid-season last year, and a harbinger of a very successful season ahead of us. For the newcomers, a proper Cobham induction was doled out, with the juniper freely flowing and Das Boot making another outing. Let's hope the IIs can keep the ball (and gin) rolling with their trip to the Essex seaside next Wednesday, and that this season we can finally clench the Dream, promotion to South East Division One.

Squad: Rory "Low, low, low" Gleadhill, Iain Wilson, Edward Sheppard, Duncan Austin (capt.) Dharmesh Barot, William Natrass, Sho "Nippy" Minamitani, Oliver Blocker, Simon "Ben Diggins" Trotter, Timothy "Barry John" Seng, Bradley Tiffin, James B "Fresher" Powell, Togay Koc, Thomas Bevir, Phillip Welch, Benjeev Dhillon, Edward Jefferies, Sancos Boland, Jeremy Nettleton, Ben "Simon Trotter" Diggins

Tries: 5 Duncan Austin, Phil Welch, Brad Tiffin, Sho M, Oli Blocker

Conv: 2 James B "Fresher" Powell, Phillip Welch

Pen: 0

Gin: Duncan Austin (here we go again), James B "Fresher" Powell, Simon "Delboy" Trotter
Anyone else?