

LSE 2nd XV vs GKT 2nd XV

Played at Berrylands, Wednesday 20th November 2002,

Kick off: 2:30

Final Score:

LSE II 8 – 29 GKT II

“Half a league, half a league, half a league onwards”

The Charge of the Light Brigade, Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809 – 1892)

And so, at the mid-point of this year’s fixtures, the GKT 2nd Fifteen find themselves favourably disposed in second place on the table. With only one narrow defeat received so far, and some memorable victories, GKT have emerged from an uncertain pre-season situation to become the main challengers to the University of Kent for promotion. The two teams in this fixture had met at the start of the season, in a game that turned out to be a friendly. The score in the previous encounter had been a close win for the Accountants, although the GKT side they now faced had progressed immeasurably since then. GKT arrived at Berrylands in good time, Duncan by now having got to grips with the finer workings of the Connex South Central Time Table. The inexcusable absence of the Herculean Tom Jones led to a spate of accusations and counter accusations, which were still unresolved when Tom Jones arrived shortly before half time. Unperturbed by the absence of their star flanker, GKT took the field in a dashing display of sartorial splendour, Rob “Wifebeater” Hone especially cutting a very dapper edge in his poncho-style jersey. A curious cameo by Duncan Austin at Blindside completed an impressive starting pack, and an equally impressive set of backs contained the turbo-charged twins Brad Tiffin and Tom Bevir, both of whom wore a rather startled look on the odd occasion that the ball eventually reached them on their respective wings. Despite disgracefully under-utilising their speed merchants on either wing, GKT still played hard, fast rugby against the Accountants, beyond the first five minutes never looked like seriously challenging for the game.

The ground staff at Berrylands are to be congratulated for their immaculately maintained pitches, although they did appear to have been economical with the paint when laying out the pitch at the start of the season. The result was a game that could and did rapidly change direction several times in a matter of minutes. After a brief assault by the Accountants, Guy’s broke through with an outstanding effort by Rob Hone. LSE never seemed to recovery from this early shock, and GKT were able to dominate for long periods of the game. Only lack of discipline let down the Medic side, and LSE were granted a penalty in front of the posts to bring the score back to 7 – 3. This was to prove as close as LSE were to come to winning the game. In spite of the greater depth of experience in the hospitals side, scores were relatively sparse, with some occasionally atrocious handling by the backs throwing away hard earned possession and territory. The exception to this was, of course, “Magic” Myron, who appears to be able to exerted mystical powers over even the slipperiest of wet balls, passed down through the generations of his Tamil ancestry (the mystical powers that is, not the wet balls). Another Tamil, Rats Ratnarajah also seemed to be channelling energy from a higher plane, with a series of darting runs at Number Eight resulting in more than a few raised eyebrows when he moved play to tighthead in the second half. First half tries came from Myron in a flash of preternatural speed and agility, and also

in a textbook manoeuvre by Tom Kennedy in a triumph of momentum over the dark forces of gravity.

The first half also saw promising Fresher Pete Gretton open his account with the RFC, scoring a try and two conversions. The second half did not match the promise of the first, and amazingly only five points were added to the half time lead of 24 points to 3, courtesy of newly arrived Tom Jones via the post protector. Both Andy Snedden and the pugnacious Phil Welch and were cruelly denied, and GKT could have hoped to put more tries past the opposition, who scored a weak consolation try in the dying seconds of the game. Nonetheless, a convincing win was achieved, and well earned by the Guy's men. The stage is thus set for a post-Yuletide clash of titans between GKT and Kent at Cobham: "therefore in fierce tempest are we coming, In thunder and in earthquake, like a Jove."

May God have mercy upon them, for we shall have none...

P.S. Get well soon Tim Seng. *DA and the boys.*

Tries:

Rob Hone, Myron Senthilnathan, Pete Gretton, Tom Kennedy, Tom Jones.

Conversions: Pete Gretton x 2

Team:

Gurvir Josan, Jonathon Ho, Ed Sheppard, James Berry, Adam Prewett, Duncan Austin (Capt), Iain Wilson, Rats Ratnarajah, Pete Gretton, Myron Senthilnathan, Rob Hone, Tom Kennedy, Brad Tiffin, Tom Bevir, Spud Blundell, Tom Jones, Phil Welch, Ed Jefferies, Andy Snedden.