

## 2ndXV UH Cup Final

Guys 2<sup>nd</sup> XV vs. Mary's 2ndXV

Won 17-14

We won lads. A great match. A cock up with the grounds meant that we didn't get the best preparation, but it meant that we played at our home ground at Cobham, rather than Georges. The mood in the changing room was mixed, with a few players recognising some of their old players, like old 1stXV captains and other ringers in the Mary's side.

The game kicked off and Mary's got the better of the opening exchanges, but the Guy's defence was just superb and their coach said that we would win the game because of it. We were pressurising their line but we couldn't convert this early pressure into points. Eventually after about 15mins, Mary's scored on the blindside after a lot of pressure. The try was converted making the score 7-0. However, a chat under the posts put the fire back in the lads and we camped in their half for the next 10mins. A penalty in front of the post was converted, and then from almost the resulting kick off James Kennedy broke through their line and went half the pitch to side step the full back and go over to the left of the posts. Gavin once again converted (if unconventionally on his second attempt). We took the lead for the first time in the match. We released the pressure a bit and their fly half missed a penalty from in front of the posts. However the Mary's pressure paid off and they hit back just before half time with another try again on the blindside letting them lead 14-10 at the break.

Their outside centre who had last year almost single handily won them the game last year was kept quiet by the our superb defence, and his frustration began to show. From the second half kick off their touch clearance didn't make touch and the returning chip from Chris Eggleton bounced up and straight back into his arms behind all but one of their defensive players. He passed the ball to Jimbo, who passed to me (just before getting tackled) and I scored to the right of the posts. The tackle on Jimbo was to prove crucial. Biggie was yellow carded (luckily for him as it could have been red). It was late, was with a swinging arm and he made no attempt to hold the man. Jimbo had to go off with a damaged shoulder, so Matt Wiggins then came on on the wing and Andy Vaughton moved to outside centre. The game then opened up and further breaks from myself, Percy and Tom Kennedy were unconverted, but the pressure was certainly on Mary's. We had the slope and wind and it showed. The game was played in their half almost all the time. Their kicker had one chance to bring it back but he sent it over the post and not between.

The ending point was a 5m scrum on their line. We put real pressure on it and the ball popped out and their player was tackled before he could cross the line again. Full time. The Cup was ours. Well done to everyone concerned (forwards and backs). Guys For The Cup!

Team: G. Josan, J. Mendonca, R. Gleadhill, B. Thorpe, Percy, I. Wilson, J. Jackson, M. White-Peart, G. Brigstocke, J. Kennedy, R. Hone(c), J. Powel, A. Vaughton, T. Kennedy, C. Eggleton, M. Wiggins, B. Tiffin, J. Birri, Sho.

Tries: J. Kennedy, R. Hone

Cons: G. Brigstocke x2

Pens: G. Brigstocke