

Guy's Hospital RFC 1st XV 11-30 New Ash Green

Guy's travelled into rural Kent to face undefeated New Ash Green missing three members of the much vaunted backline, however those drafted in to replace them were of equal quality and hopes were high for the victory.

The first half was initially dominated by Guy's who pressurised the NAG line with numerous penalties to the corner. However, the weakness of the Guy's lineout left the skipper rueing the decision not to take 3 points more regularly. The strong running of the NAG centres and the fine support play, saw Guy's increasingly on the back foot and with the absence of Sheppard in the front row, the scrummage was looking increasingly shaky. Eventually after a number of phases NAG were able to put their winger over in the corner leaving the Guy's defence trailing. Staten's slip in his charge-down caused the kicker to miss leaving the score 5-0.

The next passage of scoring saw Gretton add 3 which was swiftly cancelled out as the captain was penalised for hands in the ruck 8-3 and so it remained into half-time.

The analysis was that Guy's were not completing enough phases and needed to add more effort in, with Waldren suffering from shin-splints, fresher Alex "Steve McQueen" Gregory entered the fray.

The Home side took good advantage of the slope, trailing wind and heavy clay pitch to deprive the Guy's men of field position and attacking opportunity. Their local knowledge saw a number of chips expose the Guy's line to allow their winger to notch a couple of tries. Guy's moved up the pitch and after a few more attacks bore no fruition, skips opted to kick for goal on the inevitable penalty. Two more tries followed with only one converted to take NAG to 30-6, and Guy's went on the attack determined to reduce the deficit even though the game was probably beyond reach. A tap and go penalty by Johnny Gabriel went through hands to put (namename) over the line to leave Guy's at 30-11 the final score.

A bad day at the office compounded by a hungry opposition ending Guy's run of victories to the disappointment of those who had journeyed to support and leaving them to return to the Grapes to lick their wounds over an extended game of Three-man and prepare for the game against bottom of the league Foot's Cray.

Try: Cuthbertson

Penalties: Gretton

Port Squad: Pemberton