

Guys vs Old Elthamians

13/03/04

venue: Old Elthamians ground

score: ~30-7

The intrepid Guys team turned up at the ground at various times, some only a few seconds before kick-off, however the Guys love was spread prematch by Riggles and Weeman joining in with their V.P.'s for a light lunch and heavy liquid intake. For some reason the opposition VP's all seemed to be ex-medics that had played in a UH cup final or two themselves, so the wine and banter flowed and love was seen all around.

This was always going to be a struggle, with the UH cup final being played the next day, the entire starting 1stXV was rested. Elthamians were also lying just one position below Guys in the league therefore were not going to be a pushover. However as shown earlier in the season Guys love adversity and are always up for a challenge. The conditions seemed idyllic until seconds into the game the heavens opened and all supporters retreated to the stadium. Again the Guys support was massive with 4 in the stand and not a dog in sight.

The match started at its usual feverish pace and it was easy to see that this was going to be a forwards game in the conditions. This was to be Guys downfall as more so than usual the Guys team hoped to run the "fatties" off the park with a performance of champagne handling skills and sublime footwork. The opening exchanges were brutal with Luke Brunton putting in a fantastic display off tackling and thievery at the breakdown. Gushy playing in the slightly strange environment of a home away fixture, was the first to fall as he went for a huge tackle, he was caught on the neck by a trailing heel and there was great worry as his throat swelled up quickly. With Percy and Thorpey on site though all was fine and Gushy was rushed to the local A+E for immediate attention. Thank goodness little Gushy junior was not there to see everybody obviously worried. However Gushy was to return before the afternoon was over in fine form and a nice big gobstopper from the nasty doctors for being so brave!

One of the supporters actually asked why we did not have a physio or medic for the players, indeed the sight of the oppositions female physio rubbing the back of one of the forwards was most tempting, however Stato was kind enough to point out that, as this was a hospital side we had a handful of qualified doctors and physio's playing each week. Gushy was replaced by Riggles on the bench, much to the delight of the oppo supporters who had plied him with "3 bottles of the finest vino" but little did they know that this was our gas man as was to be proved later, JUST.

What followed is the usual story, Elthamians scored 3 pushover tries in the first half as they used their added bulk and the half ended 21-0, with their kicker showing a Wilkinson like eye for the posts.

At half time captain Relly said a few harsh words and reminded the team about the following day and Guys seemed to come out a different team. With constant pressure being exerted and at last some decent possession, Guys started to pressure the opposition, with Jamie Jackson ferreting around the rucks and mauls and Relli providing the bosh Guys found themselves in the oppo 22. A delightful cross field kick followed straight into the arms of Riggles who had about 10yards (or was it 50?) to go before crossing the line. He dodged one, then another, then dived for the line

and scored a fantastic try. Much as Guys tried though this was to be the only score and the opposition continued to use the fatties, scoring 2 more tries, one from poor communication between the Guys backs and one with pure brute force.

Guys eventually lost about 30-7 but can be pleased with the display considering the conditions and circumstances. Pleasantries were exchanged with the other supporters, before Guys and Gushy headed home. With dreams of the cup still in their sights.

Stato's prematch prediction:

This is probably one bridge too far.

Stato's bend:

To the right (4/5, 80%)

Ref.'s man of the match:

Captain marvellous Relli (or as the supporters called him, the most skilful prop they had ever seen).

Stato's man of the match:

It was a close run thing between Percy and Jamie J., however although Percy had the better first half Jamie J. had the better all round match, therefore this weeks winner is Jamie Jackson

Moment of the match:

Riggles try, awesome. Even the supporters loved it.