

OLD PAULINES VS. GUY'S VETS SCORE: 19 - 19

This was the first (played) league match of the Surrey Vets League for Guys Vets against Old Paulines at Thames Ditton. Last year it was flowing rugby all day. Guy's were able to field 16 players and one 3yr old supporter - but not without special thanks again to the students - D Poulter, J O'Shea, D Manson-Burr, R Lee and A Sneed. This was a hard fought match with OP's piling on early pressure in which Guy's defended stoutly until near the end of the first half when OP's went over under the posts (the vets Capt. missing an easy saving tackle!). Nonetheless it was fantastic to have B Challacombe playing in his own 110% committed style. An improving R Jones supported him. It was also good to see S Hughes back from Blunden's wedding! Billy drove Guy's forward and got his won reward with the first of our 3 tries. M Henderson was a pleasure to see running like in his student days and scoring from 2 conversions (after A Jones kicked a Yorker!). Our second try came for excellent 2nd and 3rd phase back play with R Lee going over following a world cup style running line which saw him break throu 3 tackles. M Henderson converted this try for just inside the touchline. They came back almost immediately with a blind side try. But Guy's kept at it and another passing phase saw M Kinirons over. Throu all of this J Down was mesmerizing twisting and turning every which way. Just when we thought we could relax they pushed over in the forwards. We had a penalty just before the end but this went wide. The day was dark and cold but we all left the pitch happy and content. We now need to continue to recruit some of our resting stars back on to the pitch - Big Richard, Breezy, Phil Cunningham, Gushy, Martin Cook, - we need you!

Team: C Howell A Mistlin T Gibson D Poulter R Jones J O'Shea S Hughes B Challacombe H Jones A Jones, R Lee, J Down, M Henderson, D Manson-Burr, M Kinirons, A Sneed.

Mark Kinirons