

‘SUMMERTIME BLUES’

7th September 2002:

Boulger Cup: Old Reigations 47 – 14 Guys Hospital RFC

For the first game of what could promise to be a challenging but exciting season for GHRFC, Guys traveled to Reigate for the annual Boulger Cup in memory of James Boulger, former player of both participating clubs. For many, the memory of James is still close at heart and with poignancy in the air, it was that Guy's 159th season got under way.

The performance though seemed to suggest that the summer had certainly taken its toll on many of the players. After the disappointment of last season's campaign, it was an unsatisfactory performance in which to start the new one. Guys did field an inexperienced team, with one or two new faces in the side, and with some players in rather more unaccustomed roles, it would be somewhat of an understatement to suggest that the team didn't quite gel. Communication among the ranks was poor as Guys leaked four tries straight from interceptions. Matters weren't helped when Wayne Llewelyn, who enjoyed somewhat of a renaissance last season with his partner in crime Greg Ryan, limped off in the pre match warm up with a spot of arthritis.

With the minutes silence impeccably observed, Old Reigations could be seen to be chomping at the bit for the referee's whistle like greyhounds in the slips, and they flew out of the starting blocks with a bang. Hitting the rucks and mauls harder than the men in Black and Gold hoops, Guy's were on the back foot from the start and in a whirlwind first half performance epitomized by a woeful lack of tackling, the team from the Surrey Leagues knocked up a healthy lead.

The second half too started with a bang, literally as Oliver Quinn, Guys' fearless lock forward tackled his man the wrong way and managed to knock himself out cold. Despite the break in play, as both teams awaited the arrival of the paramedics, you did not need a degree in medicine to realize that there was nothing wrong with the 'Mighty Quinn'. His skull still rattled as usual. After realizing who and where he was, Quinn departed the field to be replaced by the majestic Duncan, whose appearance at Boland House four three hours earlier armed with his plastic Tesco's pro-rugby sports bag filled us all with confidence.

Guy's did however give a better account of themselves in the second half. Despite conceding further tries, some big hits from Richard Clinton, marauding runs by Kit Rowland, an impressive debut from Tom Jones and a couple of breaks from the Skipper himself gave the hospital side an extra lift. With the game opened up Berry initiated a couple of quick tap penalties which allowed Price to put the uncontrollable Roy Turner over for two tries at the closing stages of the contest. Price converted both, but they were consolatory, handing Old Reigations a well deserved victory.

TEAM: R.Clinton, B. Wheeler, C. Smith, O. Quinn (Duncan), K. Rowland, R. Andom, T.Jones, G. Ryan, D. Berry, T. Price (c), H. Pynn, R. Turner, N. Chanye, E. Chanye, P. Gush

TRIES: Turner (2)

CONS: Price (2)