

GKT For The UH Cup!

For the 8th year running Guy's King's and St Thomas' Hospitals Rugby Football Club (GKTHRFC) have made it into the final of the oldest rugby knockout cup competition in the world, namely the United Hospitals (UH) Cup. Once again they shall face St Mary's Hospital (now known as ICSM) in what shall no doubt be another closely fought battle at Old Deer Park, Richmond. Here, the difference between winning and losing is often the raw passion injected by each team.

Last year GKTHRFC fielded a dynamic and some would say more talented side but were turned over by a more organised and well drilled St Mary's outfit. This year following large 'boschs' from pack members such as 'Wheels' and 'Ginger Matt' in the semi-final the GKTHRFC pack can be expected to put the pressure on St Mary's.

Last season over 300 supporters from GKT Travelled to Old Deer Park (the home of London Welsh) to support the team - a picture of the event featured in 'ROAR' February 23rd 2004 incorrectly being associated with King's College RFC, who were relegated from the GKTHRFC's league last season. The match last year received coverage from the national press, illustrating well the importance place upon the competition by the rugby world at large.

GKTHRFC made it to the final this year following a 31 Vs. 11 win over a well drilled and persistent, if a little small, RUMS side, which was totally and comprehensively destroyed by the GKT pack. RUMS went ahead early on against the run of play with an unconverted try and penalty; however the dominance of GKT at the set pieces soon took its toll. RUMS became increasingly lacklustre and Matt Blundell scored following an ambitious dummy after an impromptu move, initiated deep within the GKT half. The move involving both the second row players earlier on was the best try of the game. Total rugby! Rob Whyte scored twice following immense pressure put on the RUMS pack from the GKT tight five at the scrum. 'Johnny *et al*' literally eating out at the expense of their opposing front three. RUMS were beginning to wish they had not turned up and lost some of their former discipline. Gretton added the final nails to the RUMS coffin by converting 3 penalties and as the light began to fade Rigg torpedoed the ball to Tim Price who 'slotted' an audacious 'Wilkinonesque' drop goal from the opposition 10 meter line. Job done. Throughout the match Turner and Hone in the centres made numerous powerful runs up the middle of the pitch often with several RUMS players hanging off, or on for dear life. With the amount of good clean ball the forwards won, there was only ever going to be one result. GKTHRFC now face ICSM on Sunday 14th of this month at Old Deer Park, Richmond. Coach D Berry expressed his 'absolute delight that the boys will be getting another crack at the cup, and that the Trophy shall soon no doubt return to its rightful place at Guy s'.

A bus shall be leaving Boland House on the 14th of March for Old Deer Park at 12.30am. On arrival, tourists will have the opportunity to see RUMS compete against St. George's in the Plate Final, or just head straight to the bar to 'prepare' for the big one. Then at 3pm the final will commence. GUY'S FOR THE CUP!! For those wanting a more up market day out, for £50 a ticket can be purchased which includes entrance to the ground, pre-lunch drinks including fine fare, with wines and port to follow. Tea will be provided following the mighty show down. E mail james.b.powell@kcl.ac.uk if you are interested.

So hoist up the sloop John B, bring out father Abraham, get ready to play the wild rover and support GKTHRFC on the 14th against ICSM!

Jimbo Powell
Hon Sec GKTHRFC