

GKT 20 – 0 RUMS

Monsoon conditions, a drop goal attempt from the half way line, handling errors in triple figures, a vicious (and horribly illegal) spear tackle, and Klinsmann dives through puddles, this game had everything. But the most important event to come out of Guy's trip to Shenley to face medical school rivals RUMS was another win, and a clean sheet coming with it.

Following the humiliation and pain felt following our last second defeat to RUMS earlier in the season and the anger at being sung at through the tunnel following this, Guy's arrived in the wind and rain at Shenley determined to come away with a result. The team was a healthy mix of experience and new blood; a forward pack comprising a back row of Hone, Halls, and Abbott provided power and aggression, and 2nd Rows of Rhys Davies and Rob Ferry make up perhaps the strongest in the league. The front row is starting to pick itself, with Hadlington coming of age at hooker, following a successful first season. Pacey and Elias at props are a match for anyone, and once again showed their dominance against RUMS, the opposition props enduring a miserable afternoon. With the weather conditions as they were, it was always going to be a forward orientated game, but Gary and James Cuthbertson at 9 and 10 respectively were always going to play an important part by pinning the opposition back in their own 22, a job they carried out admirably with pinpoint kicks.

As expected RUMS came flying out of the blocks from the first whistle, but solid defence again from the centres again scuppered any advances into our half. Harris and Malthouse have only played a few games at 12 and 13 but have already proved a revelation, complementing each other perfectly. Having soaked up the initial pressure with fierce tackles, it was Guy's turn to go on the offensive. A penalty from Gary gave us the lead, and with a penalty advantage on the opposition's 5 metre line, Malthouse stood up his opposite man with a quick shimmy, and raced through the gap to give Guy's the 7-pointer. The weather conditions were becoming increasingly difficult and hampering any fluency to the game, but Guy's defence overcame any attempt from RUMS to make any ground, with Abbott, Halls and Hone especially putting in some huge tackles.

A slightly audacious drop goal attempt from Forsythe almost took Cuthbertson's head off, but fortunately did no lasting damage.

With a few minutes remaining in the half, Forsythe stood in at 10 after Cuthbertson was dragged into a ruck, and benefiting from a slip from the opposition number 8, found a gap in the defence and stepped past the winger and full back for another Guy's try.

The second half continued in similar fashion, with neither team able to put together many phases of play, the wind and rain preventing much fluency. However, good pressure on the opposition's winger from Alex Witek and Gary led to a handling error and a 5-metre scrum. With the dominance Guy's were showing in this department there was only ever going to be one result, and sure enough Abbott picked up from the back of a moving scrum and dived over to put the game beyond doubt.

Once again Guy's were able to draw on strong resources from the bench, Phil Elliot coming on in the back row along with Sam Trowbridge, and offering fresh legs and impetus in the loose. Matt Hartley replaced Witek on the wing and although not seeing much of the ball, performed well.

Soon the final whistle came, and despite a few bruises and the odd case of hypothermia, Guy's had come away with a thoroughly satisfactory result, and the knowledge that they'd now beaten the top 3 teams in our division. Long may it continue.

Tries: Malthouse, Forsythe, Abbott

Cons: Gary x1

Pens: Gary x1