

Avid sports enthusiasts, I bring you news of tremendous happenings in the realm of GKT (Guys) rugby. This student team in the gold and blue hoops deriving from what is officially recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest established rugby club in the world (1843), continues to impress all. Indeed the BUSA title is within our sights now as this prodigious rugby machine sweeps into full motion. The last two weeks have seen both fierce rivals Kings College and Imperial College humbled by two professional performances from Tim Wright's well-drilled team. The season has also seen an outstanding performance against the 'Aldwych Poly', LSE.

Undeniably, the victory against Kings College is particularly important in the light of the furious debate between KCLSU and Guys Hospital RFC. KCLSU have despotically reduced funds to this historic rugby club and plunged its finances and thus its future into life threatening doubt. After the 36–0 defeat imposed on the KCL XV, the students union can have no doubt as to the quality of the rugby players being produced in this club and the talent that is at present in danger of being compromised and stifled if this financial dilemma continues. The performances have surely lifted KCLSU's ignorance of GKT's value.

In fact, the result last week was the second defeat imposed on KCL after GKT produced a strong performance to win 31-0 in KCL's own backyard in the first game of the season. For Guys' though, the backbone of their success has been their pack. In particular Rob Whyte has been outstanding, scoring try after try, including four against LSE and a hat trick against Imperial. Matt Morgan too, has been an immovable rock in the line out, and John Agunwa likewise in the scrum. Yet against Kings it was the back line's turn to dominate proceedings. Mike Collier set the ball rolling with a field long chase for the ball, Dave Berry disheartened Kings further with a cheeky chip and run later on and Chris Raynor ran in from 40 yards to finish Kings off completely. Only the lack of an adequate kicker prevented the disparity being even greater.

Against Imperial College, a team vying with Guys' for the league, it was a superb first half performance that wrapped the game up. Guys ran Imperial off the park, with Andrew Vaughton and Mike Collier showing off their silky running. The boot of Berry was effective, as was his distribution. The result was that guys had run in four tries in the first half, three converted by Carlon Fitzpatrick. The second half followed much the same pattern, Berry added another try as did Whyte and the game was won. The result was a comfortable 34 – 17 victory.

The Christmas break now interrupts the season, but Guys will be primed for the next round of matches where GKT hope to finish at the top of the table, and make a strong challenge for the Gutteridge Cup, which Guys have not entered for a number of seasons.

GKT SQUAD:

Tim Wright (c), John Agunwa, Oliver Laird, Tom Jackson, Aaron Smedley, Joe Hamilton, Rats Ratnarajah, Matt Morgan, Kit Rowland, Rhys Davies, Rob Whyte, Jamie Jackson, Ed Jack, Martin Fresher, Sam Rigg, Gavin Brigstocke, Pete Gretton, Dave Berry, Chris Raynor, Mike Collier, Andy Vaughton, Tim Price, Stacked Victor, Percy Brunton, Carlon Fitzpatrick. Chris Eggleton. Apologies to anyone I've forgotten.

DAVID BERRY