

GKT RFC 160th Comedy 7s Tournament

02 May 2004 at HOP

GKT beat St. Edwards Old Boys 27 – 26 in thrilling final

Our 160th anniversary celebrations concluded with an invitational rugby 7s tournament at HOP on a scorching day post annual rugby ball. Due to over exuberance the prior evening, many of our own decided to decline the kind invitation from Pat Gush and instead nursed their hangovers at home. We ended up with 6 teams (Guys 1s, Guys 2s, United Hospitals, PG's Old Gits, Rob Whyte's secret seven and St. Edwards School Old Boys) playing in 2 leagues, with the top 2 teams from each going through to the knockout stages.

The group stages saw United Hospitals record resounding victories over Guys 2s and the secret 7, with Rob Whyte's team taking 2nd place in their league with a win over Guys 2s. St. Edward's convincingly beat Guys 1s and Gushy's Old Gits to take top spot in the second league, whilst Guys 1s narrowly beat the Old Gits to book a fixture against favourites United Hospitals in the semi finals.

St. Edwards progressed to the final with victory over the secret 7.

What happened to the Guy's team between the group stages and the semi final will remain shrouded in mystery, but the team suddenly galvanised and played some really good rugby. The team snuffed out the threatening UH attack with some great defensive play, holding up men in the tackle to force turnovers. The resulting scrum ball provided by the front three of Davies, Turner and Brunton was always clean and we managed to spoil the opposing scrum on a number of occasions, winning all important possession. In attack Hone was a constant thorn in the UH side, scoring 2 great tries from inside the Guys half. Guys started to recycle ball well making gaps for the pace men Turner and Bevir out wide. Davis and Blundell made a valued contribution after half time with strong charges and some great hand-offs by Davis allowing him to offload in the tackle.

Further tries from Turner and Bevir allowed Guys to emerge narrow victors and face St. Edwards in the final.

St. Edwards, featuring Guy's players Tim Price and Nmandi Chinye, had already beaten the Guy's 1s by a fair margin. They had showed us the run around by their man with the dirty side step and some pace men out wide, but Guys were feeling quite confident after a good display against UH.

The first half was all Guys for the large part. The first score resulting from a scrum close to the St. Edwards line, with scrum half Wheels sniping from the base to the blindside, beating Pricey for the touch-down. Our own side-step

machine Max showed his pace to produce blistering runs at the Teddy's defence. One such attack created a huge overlap for Percy to score out on the right with men still to spare outside him.

Guys were able to continually retain possession of the ball following scores with perfectly weighted drop outs finding Hightower Davies who worked hard all day long at the restart. It was Davies who won the ball to eventually find Beaumont Hone to bosh his way over for our 3rd unanswered and unconverted try of the half.

Just as Guy's should have closed ranks for the remaining couple of minutes of the first half, they allowed the Teddy's boys to twice break free from inside their own half to score under the posts, allowing easy conversions. Guy's went into the break 15-14 in front.

The 2nd half was quite closely fought but it was Teddy's that scored first, another unconverted try created by breaking tackles on the half way line. Guys rallied round and managed to surge up field with some powerful runs from the piton-wielding Turner in our own 22 and a great break by Rhys Davies with support from substitute Spud Blundell. However, just as Guy's looked to be within touching distance of the try line, a pass from Davies was intercepted by a Teddy's boy and he went the length of the field to score a converted try under the posts. Guys were now 26-15 down with only a minute of time left on the clock. Turner, who after some strong work now looked a broken man, was exchanged on the side line for old 7s favourite Andy Vaughton.

Teddy's kicked off back to the Guy's right hand side and some good interplay between our players the ball was moved out to the far left to find Vaughts. Andy showed he still has some pace to beat several players with a blistering run back inside before offloading to Wheels to score a converted try under the posts. With 35 seconds left on the clock Guys had to kick back to Teddy's, but Wheels' drop out was met by Davies on its way back to earth and Guys were once more in possession inside the Teddy's half. The ball was spun right where Spud and Bevir interlinked to suck in some of the Teddy's defence before the ball was spun back left to Statto with a massive overlap. Before nearly dying from heart failure, Statto managed to find Max outside of him who raced home in the left hand corner for the try and the final whistle!

Despite some confusion by referee Dirk, Guys were pronounced victors of the 160th 7s contest. A barbecue overseen by Relli and the butcher Troy plus a few beers saw off a resounding success of a day. Many thanks to Gushy for his work.

One thing remains to be seen: will Rob Hone ever be able to live down the fact that he was chopped down by a ferocious ankle-biting tackle from the future Mrs Price in the group match against the Old Gits? – a classic.

Team: R. Turner, R. Davies, P. Brunton, B. Wheeler (c), T. Bevir, Max, R. Hone, M. Blundell, T. Wright, P. Davis, A. Vaughton.