

UH VIIs Competition – UCL Sports Ground, Shenly. Sunday 6th October 2002.

Not since the combination of Jo, Bradley, Rachel, Tina, Jon, Hannah and Paul, aka “S-Club 7”, have seven people captivated a crowd as well as the VIIs teams from Guy’s. Buoyed with victories in the National Medical School and RSM VIIs competitions the team, although considerably changed from last season, had high expectations and was full of promise. Just as Paul left “S-Club” so the Guy’s dream came to an end. There was to be no addition of the UH VIIs cup to the cabinet at HOP.

Guy’s were able to field 2 teams in the tournament and on paper both were a force to be reckoned with. The festival atmosphere of UH sevens this year made the long journey North to the UCL ground at Shenly and the players made this trek at a ridiculously early hour of a Sunday morning. The journey was used by many as a chance to catch up on sleep from the night before were the Guy’s tacticians had applied a similar tactic to that of last year with the vast majority of players over indulging in the delights of post Saturday match tomfoolery. There were many bleary eyes and cloudy heads as the Guy’s faithful made the journey. During the warm up the second team, under the watchful eye of skipper Griffiths, talked the better game and Berry’s warm up forced the relocation of “Camp Guy’s” upwind every few minutes.

2nd VII

Group: *Imperial 2nd, St Georges 1st, and RUMS 1st*

The Guy’s 2nd team were to play all their games was enormous and when the groups were announced it was harder to imagine a tougher group. Guy’s started the group games in a ferocious manner with monster tackling from Griffiths and the hardness of the games and ground led to a dislocated AC joint for Boland and a dislocated shoulder for Koc. The presence of St Georges, last years champions, a strong RUMS 1st VII and a well drilled Imperial 2nd VII unfortunately led to the 2nd team not winning a match but there were some good sevens tries scored by the team whose campaign was hampered very early on by the injury to their main “gas man” Spanky Boland and further injuries to Koc and Griffiths. With fitness work and specialist VIIs training the 2nd VII will be a force to reckon with in future competitions. They may have exited the tournament physically bruised and battered but their dedication and commitment for the full duration of each match was exemplary. A fine display of Guy’s spirit.

1st VII

Group: *Imperial 1st, Barts and The London 1st, Georges 2nd, RUMS 2nd*

The day saw a team performance on the pitch with all the whole squad getting on the score sheet and some beautiful running rugby of which Waisale Serevi would be proud. Berry, Wright and Morgan developed a cunning and lethal set of line out throws using Brigstocke as the Guy’s “leaping salmon” and the gas men in the backs limbered up for some devastating moves. The

campaign got off to a poor start with a loss to Imperial, due to a slow start from the blue and gold clad players. Guy's found their feet in the second half and began to display their skills but alas it was too late to save the opening game. The remaining three group games were all won very comfortably with Vlls Fijian in nature and scores akin to cricket matches. The freshers Tom "twinkle toes" Kennedy and Carlon "Its all about the stash" Fitzpatrick made a great start to their Guy's Vlls careers. Morgan, Wright and Berry made a fearsome pack with great vision, running and try scoring. Brigstocke, Eggleton, Price and Bevir all showed the opposition a clean pair of heels and all boosted the Guy's try tally. After playing the last two group games back to back the Guy's warriors were all feeling the strain but the spirit was still there and as the semi-final started they had just about caught back their breath. RUMS with a lengthy rest and one less team in their group were firing on all cylinders. Was the dream on? It was not to be as RUMS showed speed and strength which the Guy's team mopped up until aided with some lucky breaks RUMS cracked the defence and ran in a couple of tries in quick succession. The dream was over. The final whistle went and the tired Guy's heroes trudged from the pitch with their bodies tired but with their heads held high from a display of Vlls rugby to be proud of.

1st VII

Wright, Berry, Morgan, Brigstocke, Price, Fitzpatrick, Bevir, Kennedy, Eggleton.

2nd VII

Spud, Neumand, Billy, Koc, Hone, Griffiths, Boland, Wilson, Seng

TB