

United Hospitals VIIs 2008:

All in all a reasonably successful day for Guy's 7s squad, despite only finishing in the top 4. From around 70 players invited, 14 committed boys turned up for two 7s teams to compete in a revamped UH competition, featuring 2 groups of 6 teams at Bart's ground in Chiselhurst. You know the situation is desperate when you're scrolling through your phonebook trying to find iain wilson's number on a saturday evening, but sadly that eventuality materialised. The squad included club captain J. Elias who would go on to play every minute of every game, having been drafted in to fill in for certain unnamed players who considered Sunday morning an acceptable time to call off, or in some cases just not show up.

Harry Gasper led the 2nd 7 admirably throughout the day, and indeed at one point the 2s sat pretty at the top of their group following victory over George's II in their opening game. Things got a bit harder from their on, but full marks to everyone for battling hard all day and ensuring we were able to field two teams. Kanish deserves special mention for flattening a certain Mary's no.8, whose name i shall omit in order to avoid horrible flashbacks of a couple of years ago.

Despite the absence of so many players the 1st 7 still looked like a classy outfit and hopes were high we might be able to snatch an unlikely victory. Things didn't start well though as we produced a performance that king's would have been ashamed of against Bart's 1s and lost. Badly. Dr Gibson looked less than impressed from the touchline to say the least.

Full marks to the way we came back from that however, winning our next four games conclusively. Special mention to freshers Alex Gregory and Hugh Roberts who were excellent throughout, and the lesser-spotted Adam Staten managed to combine the sublime and the ridiculous as regularly as ever. Rauri Hadlington had clearly forgotten his shorts and was sporting what could only be described as a pair of hotpants but was nevertheless excellent all day, pressurising the opposition attack at any opportunity.

So there was to be no repeat of the UH victory in 06, but a competent showing nonetheless, and full credit to everyone who was committed enough to turn up. It was just a shame it was such a minority.

1st 7 - Mike Forsythe, Adam Staten, Mark Halls, Rauri Hadlington, Charlie West, Alex Gregory, Hugh Roberts

2nd 7 - Harry Gasper, Jonny Elias, Kanish Amin, Will Ball, Simon Garrard, Simon Fresher, Anthony O'Rourke