

**United Hospitals Round Robin at Cobham
22nd February 2006**

Guy's Hospital RFC 44 - 0 St. George's Hospital RFC

The UH season began in victorious fashion amongst gale force and freezing conditions. With everyone making themselves available for selection, a formidable squad of 20 travelled to the St. George's section of Cobham.

Guy's attacked into the wind in the first period but found life difficult. Despite being on average two stone heavier per man, the pack were penalised for all manner of offences. Similarly, the lineout was misfiring as the wind played havoc. The early exchanges were scoreless, as Guy's spun the ball from flank to flank searching for weaknesses in the home side's defence. It became apparent that this was not the correct tactic, as a more direct approach was required until the game had found it feet. The first score came as Rhys Davies took an inside pass 10 metres out from fly-half Mike Forsyth, who then converted. Matt Morgan was responsible for the second try with a fine solo break on the right. The final 10 minutes of the half were spent on the Guy's line as constant infringement gave the home side opportunity to kick deep into our 22. St. George's threw everything but the kitchen sink at the Guy's line but it held firm. Not content with stopping the opposition in their tracks, they were driven back at every contact as no one wished to let down their teammates and surrender a clean sheet. Half time soon came as I believe the referee did not stop his watch at any point.

In the second half, Guy's enjoyed more possession and with the wind at our backs soon found scoring not being particularly difficult. Forsyth was the first to capitalise as he cunningly used his four-man overlap as a decoy and took on the lone defender single-handedly. Luckily for his liver, he was successful. The forwards did their utmost to score some tries of their own, but punitive referring and resolute George's defence repelled all push over attempts. Morgan did manage to score when lineout ball was recycled out wide and he was well positioned to place the ball on the whitewash. Staggered substitutions allowed some continuity and the bench soon proved their worth. Industrious ground work and strong running by replacement Mark Halls broke the gold and green line and he then passed to Davies who notched up his brace. Second half centre partners Robinson and Turner did not want to be left out as they used their speed and weight to shrug off the opposition.

In the end, it was an impressive and gratifying victory, both in terms of our dogged and aggressive goal line defence and the clinical nature of our finishing in the second half. A tougher test will follow next week as RUMS visit Honor Oak Park.

Rhys Davies

Tries: Davies (2), Turner (2), Morgan (2), Robinson, Forsyth
Cons: Forsyth (2)

Team: Bartosiak-Jentys, Laird (Josan 40), Wheeler, Davies, Wright, Wilson (Halls 60), Blundell, Morgan (Rowland 50), Rigg (Trotter 60), Forsyth, Hone (Robinson 55), Turner, Minamitani, Staten, Lucas (Diggans 70)