

Guy's Hospital 48 – 40 Shooter's Hill 20/09/08

After the longest journey to a home game in Guy's history, a plucky band of brothers triumphed 48-40 against Shooters Hill in the second game of the season to record the first victory of the season at their temporary home at Beccehamians RFC.

Hadlington, appearing uncharacteristically on the flank, opened the scoring within the first five minutes after a Forsythe kick was fielded by the opposition No.8 whose return was charged-down by the former hooker, a lucky bounce enabling him to gather and cross the line, Kendall adding the extras. 7-0 Guy's.

The lumbering Shooters hill replied with two penalties, in spite of their outside centre's bizarre technique.

Guy's continued to disrupt the Hill's lineout ball with Barnes destructive as 2 jumper, and after prolonged pressure, Rehnberg crossed for Guy's second, Kendall metronomic in adding the extras.

The opposition again punished Guy's infringements at the break down adding a further penalty.

Guy's backline were dominant across the entire pitch, blessing Kent 2 with arguably some of the most exciting rugby ever seen. Ably supported by Young, West, and Hadlington in the front row, they took full advantage of the pitch's slope and Guy's could have built a commanding lead but for 2 interceptions 5 metres from the line.

More two-on-one drills in training it is then.

What followed was nothing short of sublime, John "JK" Kendall chipped deftly over a pancake-like defence, re-gathered and set the field alight with a display of disco-dancing rugby rarely seen anywhere. Kendall passed to Harris, who switched with Chetwood, Chetwood returning the ball to Kendall, who essentially moon-walked over the line to add to his tally for the day.

Shooter's Hill may or may not have added to their score before the next Guy's advance.

Steady scrummaging and exuberant kick-off returns from Bruce Young maintained the Guy's advantage. The Guy's backline continued to run the show, carving through the mid field almost at will. This increased pressure paid off as West was able to pile over the line from a quick tap penalty, a moment which may enter his now infamous dream diary, his first five-pointer for the Guy's 1<sup>st</sup> XV.

Moments before half-time, discontent filled the air as Shooter's Hill were awarded a try, the referee ignoring the protestations that the ball was grounded a good 3 yards short.

This only led to firm words from the skipper at half time on the need to turn the screw as Guy's would be playing against the slope.

Rehnberg took note and scored his second, a well worked affair involving many of the Guy's squadron running support lines but rapidly falling away from the speedster much like the defence.

Much good rugby was played in the sweltering heat, before the next Guy's score. The wait was worth it. The effervescent Hadlington broke from a SH maul, ball in hand, and like a true forward headed straight for the opposition outside half. He offloaded from the half-tackle to partner in crime, that tyrannical scamp Charles West. The vicar's son parted the defence in the manner Moses did the Red Sea, and added a number of yards before wisely ignoring the support of his Skipper, and re-fresher Tom Pacey, to send Rehnberg, to the now familiar shouts of "back yourself", in under the posts for his hat-trick.

John "SAQ" Kendall skipped through the 9-10 channel to score his second try, which he again converted.

The Shooters Hill pack inspired by a hooker who thought he was at a brawl, started to close Guy's advantage by blasting penalties into touch and powering over from the resulting line-outs.

The final one of these resulted in Hadlington receiving a yellow card and an early bath after making some choice remarks about the referee's skill base and familiarity with the Laws of the game.

The team retired to Beccehamians very hospitable bar, thrashing the host club in the off-field events, before a select band returned to the Mudlark public House.

Tries: Hadlington, West, Kendall (2), Rehnberg (3)

Conversions: Kendall (5)

Penalties: Kendall (1)

Juniper Awards: Elias, West, Pacey, Kendall

Boat Race Winners: Pacey, Jackson, Harris, Elias