

Saturday 18th January
Sidcup RFC 34 –7 Guy's Hospital 2nd XV

Tries – Gush
Conversions – Eggleton
Gin – Eggleton, Gretton

After a refreshing Christmas break, the Guy's 2nd XV, looking lean and mean due to some strict festive fitness regimes, took the train a few stops down the line to Sidcup, hoping for a late present...a win. But without Captain Brigstocke, and a number of players being called up to the 1's, it was going to be a difficult job. Chris Eggleton was given the reins and we set out to get a good start to the new year.

Sidcup made their size advantage up front tell from the off, with some 1980s style stick it up yer jumper 'runs' making dents in the Guy's pack. A mid-field battle ensued with set piece a plenty, until the Sidcup went over the line with an overlap try in the corner. This was shortly followed by a pushover try from the forwards. Half time 12-0.

With the wind in our faces and the sun in our eyes, the second half continued in much the same vein as the first: Sidcup keeping the ball well in the forwards. But as their pack started to tire and their backs took over, Guy's started to see a bit more of the ball. Solid tackling and speedy rucking saw the ball turned over in our favour. Four or five times we stormed up the middle of the park from our own 22. Some champagne team play with seemingly everyone getting hands on the ball saw Sidcup put on the back foot by quick phase after quick phase. But we couldn't take advantage of our free flowing rugby thanks to some try saving decisions from the referee. Sidcup capitalised by using the wind and pinning us back with the ensuing penalties, scoring three more pushover tries late on, finishing off the fight. Sidcup's final score came from their Jonah Lomu-modelled winger, kept silent for most of the game by Guy's organised sliding defence, who crashed over the line from short range.

Guy's had the final say with a moment of magic from Pat Gush who quick-tapped a penalty 20 yards from the line, chipping over the Sidcup defence and diving over to finish off.

With many good performances throughout the side, but little luck going our way, the final score was 34-7. The game was much closer than the score line suggests. A solid debut at scrum half for fresher Pete Gretton and some well deserved gin. Avoidance of the season goes to the day's gin committee- a pair of birthday boys going by the names of Reading and Gush.

Next week a hard task against league leaders Sevenoaks.