

Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Hospitals RFC vs Sittingbourne RFC

1st November 2003 @ Sittingbourne RFC

28-25

The first day of November MMIII saw a weary Guy's team travel to the Northern Kentish town of Sittingbourne on the luxurious team train via Peckham Rye and Bromley South. The team sheet for the day had many rearrangements; Captain David Berry started the game at prop, a position he has been studying through thorough revision of Jason Leonard's autobiography. Nevertheless Guy's started the game with direct forward play. The rucking was dynamic and the lineout functioned well. This resulted in an early-unconverted try through Christian Smith after a clean catch and drive from 10 meters out.

Sittingbourne replied shortly with two well-struck penalties and a forward mauling try. This seriously put Guy's under the cosh and needed the stern words from the Captain under the posts to stop the onslaught of Sittingbourne possession. After numerous phases of interplay, Turner broke through the centres only to fall short of the line. However the consequential phases of play that followed enabled scum half Rigg to dummy the blind side fringe defence and scamper to the line. The conversion was unsuccessful.

From the kick off Guy's started where they left off, penetrating the defence with numerous breaks from Hone, Smith and Price. This enabled large amounts of territorial advantage for Guy's and subsequently enabled Rigg to score his "Gin avoidance" try in a similar fashion to the first. Using his newfound muscle mass he dummed the fringe defence and handed off the covering blindside defence to score right of the up-rights. The conversion was unsuccessful. This allowed Guy's to go into the break 15-13 up.

From the restart Sittingbourne ran strong and direct. The tactic of scoring first from the restart favoured Sittingbourne and only 2 minutes into the half a series of blindside breaks saw Guy's under their posts again facing a score line of 20-15. General Berry rallied his troops with words of passion and honour and shortly into the restart Guy's had the forward momentum. Solid defence from the front five, surging runs from Smith at the base of the scrum and stolen ball from the lineout by Davies allowed Guy's to up the pace of play and prevented Sittingbourne from any possession. This allowed the score a well-worked team try with Hone finishing off in the left hand corner, dislocating a Sittingbourne player's shoulder in the process and put Guy's level. However, as per usual Guy's let their foot off the gas and soon Sittingbourne were back in the lead with a scrappy break away try. With time slowly running out a break from Hone at the base of the scrum well within the Guy's half allowed Turner to score left of the posts. Sadly the conversion was again unconverted. With the scores level at 25-25 Guy's surged for the winning points. Numerous chances were created but it was left to a Price penalty in the last few seconds to win the game 28-25.

Juniper: Rigg-Gin avoidance and his father was watching the game.

Berry-Train journey from hell and for the sheer fun of it.

Wheeler, Papanikitas, Berry (Capt), Davies, Rowland, Jackson, Brunton, Smith; Rigg, Price, Hone, Turner, Brigstocke, Carbasse, Eggleton.