

## Guy's King's and St Thomas's 2nd XV versus University of Kent 2nd XV

Kick Off: 2:20pm, Wednesday 29th January 2003  
St Thomas's Hospital Sports Ground, Cobham, Surrey.

*“We are but warriors for the working-day;  
Our gayness and our gilt are all besmirch'd  
With rainy marching in the painful field...  
But, by the mass, our hearts are in the trim;”*

*Henry V, Act 4 Scene 3* William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

Final Score: GKT 25 - 17 UKC

Adversity comes in many guises. Through the season, various traps and pitfalls have prevented GKT from achieving their best: despite some excellent results against weak teams, it is the author's belief that the 2nd team have never really reached their full potential. There are several reasons for this, but no excuses. With this in mind, the home game against UKC must represent a pinnacle of performance for the season thus far. A strong and well-drilled Kent team, clearly expecting another win to add to their undefeated season, were comprehensively outplayed by a vivacious and doughty GKT. The game open dreadfully following a rather hasty warm up, and an unprepared GKT conceded the first points to a furious Kent assault. As is so often the case, this proved to be the clarion call that was all GKT needed to establish their firm dominance over the game. Trailing 5 - 0, GKT hit back with some excellent forward play, creating space for the Guy's three quarters to run amok. The first try was soon forthcoming, brought about by the familiar sight of a Tom Bevir-shaped blur running down the right wing, a performance that was to make him a marked man for much of the game. A second try followed from the gargantuan Spud just to the left of the posts to put Guy's in the lead. Rob Hone then spooned the conversion, a feat to be emulated by several of his team-mates throughout the game. Rob's right foot seem to be having a bad afternoon, as he announced proudly after a separate incident "that was the worst kick I have ever done in my whole life", a disarmingly honest *mea culpa*. Ed Sheppard on the other hand, or rather on the other foot, was finding a new lease of life, as well as finding touch. "I've never done that before. Can I do it again?" Sheppard's pedal exploits were typical of an almost invulnerable GKT defence, led by example by full back Phil Welch, which denied Kent time after time to maintain our hard earned lead. A third try came from a half-way line scrummage, adroitly coordinated after a high-octane break by the indispensable Tamil Number 10, Myron. It fell to Spud to ground the ball after a well-executed switch manoeuvre with Tom Bevir. It was Phil Welch's turn to miss the conversion this time and to bring an end to the first half of the contest. The half time mood was buoyant, and the Guy's men were confident that they could carry their advantage into the second half. An unchanged line up restarted the game, and had to work hard to wrench the situation from near-disaster. Soon after the kick-off Spud was seen to be having a word with the grass at the bottom of a crowded ruck. Upon returning to an

orthostatic posture, a clearly disorientated Spud asked “why are we having the art lesson out here?” - a good question. On further questioning, Blundell did not know where he was or what day it was: not an uncommon occurrence *per se*, but an unusually early manifestation of what is normally a late-evening phenomenon. Tom Kennedy was brought on to replace the side-lined Spud, and GKT once again looked threatening. A frankly outrageous tackle on Tom Bevir whilst he was attempting a chip through reduced Kent to 14 men for the next ten minutes, a disparity on which Guy’s were not able to capitalise. Despite lacking in numbers, Kent were able to pull a try back, and briefly GKT’s lead appeared precarious. French locomotive Sancos Boland joined Spud on the injury-list, fortunately replaced by the equally nimble-footed Bradley Tiffin. Brad soon made his presence felt, overtaking several defenders in his rush to ground the ball behind the try-line. Martin Hill and Iain Wilson replaced Tim Seng and Oli Blocker for the final twenty minutes of the game, adding fresh vigour to the GKT attack that allowed Tom Bevir, unwittingly carrying a fracture to his distal left radius, to score his second try and open himself up to accusations of gin avoidance. The final word fell to Kent to score with the last move of the game, after a excellent period of defence by Guy’s finally came undone when they responded too late to a large overlap on the right wing. Kent can claim the honour of being the hardest opponents yet faced by GKT IIs, whilst Guy’s pick up the accolade of being the only team to have defeated the Kent side this season. The hospital team played well with true spirit for 80 minutes, and matched the expertly drilled plays of the Kentish players with sheer determination and team work. The UKC team were clearly rather shell-shocked, but courteous, after their first defeat, leaving Fortress Cobham and the earliest opportunity and leaving the Two’s to drain the bar dry and add Tom Bevir’s incisor, Ed Jefferies’ face and Duncan Austin’s shirt to an already extensive casualty list. The team were reunited with a familiar elderly Jewish patriarch on the train back to Waterloo, and the raucous celebrations continued on to the Elusive Camel and St Thomas’s Bar, and finally to Belushi’s for the brave or foolhardy.

A result then, of which the Guy’s men can be duly proud, and which leaves them in a strong position for promotion, trailing Kent by three points, with a game in hand and a sizeable points difference. An exciting end to the season is guaranteed.

Team:

Gurvir Josan, Jonathon Ho, Edward Sheppard, Duncan Austin (Capt.), Adam Prewett, Tom Jones, Toby Nelson, Oliver Blocker, Tim Seng, Myron Senthilnathan, Sancos Boland, Rob Hone, Spud Blundell, Tom Bevir, Philip Welch, Tom Kennedy, Bradley Tiffin, Martin Hill, Iain Wilson, Dharmas Barot, Edward Jefferies, Andrew Snedden

Tries:

Matthew Blundell x 2, Tom Bevir x 2, Bradley Tiffin.

Conv.: nil (!)

Gin:

Tom Bevir, Rob Hone, Martin Hill, Duncan Austin (again)