

Guy's Hospital RFC 1st XV 41-20 Old Williamsons RFC

The build up to Guy's hosting of undefeated Williamsons was reminiscent of the bad old days of last season and the author was left cursing the various gods on Saturday morning as he arrived at Boland House with 14 players confirmed. A chance encounter with the 3rd team added one to the backrow, and off we jolly well went. Upon arrival at Old Colfeians' ground, various players' late arrival ensured that Guy's build-up was the most Jedi seen for many a year, and with a new hooker, no time to run-through the lineout and a prop short, Guy's kicked off.

The result of such a shoddy build-up resulted in a poorly fielded kick-off and some loose play with Old Williamsons scampering in under the sticks for the first score of the game, the extras were added and Guy's were 7 down.

The restart was again fielded poorly and the oppo capitalised with another score, the conversion going awry to put guys 0-12 down in the first 5 minutes. Firm words from Chetwood and the resolve to put up a good show were further hardened with the arrival of Sheppard.

The next Kick off was well fielded by West, and the ball quickly recycled to the backs who began to show the form they have had in previous games. Hadlington, normally to be found in the front row stepped up superbly at 9 releasing Steele to orchestrate things at 10 in the absence of JK who picked up 2 injuries and a mugging in the midweek game.

The back line started to carve through at will, and only the occasional lateral pass or good tackle stopped them scoring with impunity. As it was it did not take Rehnberg long to add to his tally for the season. Steele easily adding the extras to give Guy's a bit of wind in their sails 7-12.

The forwards, not to be outdone upped their performance in the scrummage and started to compete in the rucks, the backrow of West, Jephcote and Diggins disrupting and snaffling ball in a manner which would continue for the rest of the game.

Williamsons were not to be held back though and a penalty for not rolling away by Elias was punished with 3 points 7-15

Guy's capitalised on some fine lineout work from the skipper jumping at 4 to send Chetwood through the gap and add to the total with Steele again converting. 14-15.

Williamsons then struck, punishing the stretched Guy's defence to score wide in the corner despite the desperate attentions of the back three. 14-20.

A penalty close in to the sticks saw Elias opt for 3-points with Steele easily obliging, 17-20.

The loss of the opposition 10 to injury allowed Guy's to further punish the opposition. With Steele playing flat on the gain line, he was able to put the loping Harris through under the sticks and add the extras 24-20.

The halftime talk was short and sweet and Guy's went into the second half confident of adding to their total.

Rehnberg soon obliged, raw pace undoing the opposition 29-20. The running rugby style started to pay dividends, but also saw a casualty when John Chetwood's burst through the midfield saw him clean through only for his hamstring to give up the ghost. A speedy recovery is hoped for by all. "Coachy" Steve Beckett was brought into the backrow with Ben Diggins moving to Wing.

This interruption was followed by Forsythe, all dancing feet and shrugged off tackles in his progress over the line for a converted try. 36-20.

The skipper urged Guy's to concentrate, and this attitude prevailed with some glorious interplay between forwards and backs allowing Staten to cross the line and rediscover his mojo. 41-20. A slight lapse in concentration followed and the author cannot accurately describe the game as he spent most of his time with his head stuck inside the numerous scrums. Guy's however held on to record a most satisfying victory.

Tries: Rehnberg (2), Chetwood, Harris, Forsythe, Staten
Conversions: Steele (4)
Penalty: Steele

Koffman MoM: Andrew Jephcote