

Penguins v Wimbledon Lost 41 - 0

Cobham was at its best in the warm autumn sunshine. We wonder how long students will be able to enjoy the tall poplars in the distance and the rustic quality of the old St Thomas Hospital Medical School playing fields. Back to the rugby. Once more the Penguins struggled to recruit older players. Wimbledon whom the veterans have beaten in several earlier sessions were stronger in every sense. They were much bigger too. Amongst the Penguins were nine true veterans and eleven students. The game was played in good spirit although the referee made heavy weather of controlling the front rows where he suspected but could not identify some skulduggery. It was an even contest in the first half with the hospital forwards coping as best they could with the large Wimbledon pack. From the scrums which hurtled backward and from the straggly lineouts, the lack of good possession deprived the Penguins of the only prospect they had of scoring, namely running with the ball. Whenever an opportunity did arise the younger backs showed pace and guile but somehow failed to score. At half time, Wimbledon were marginally ahead. The second half was more one sided as the opposition placed some of their forwards in the line and using their bulk and the overlap created repeated scoring opportunities. Ironically the scrum settled down. Fergus Chedgy held his own against a prop twice his age and size. Duncan Austin and his student colleagues rose to the occasion and Ed Jefferies at scrum half performed outstandingly under pressure. There were no grumbles and although the Penguins were doomed by the disparity of size amongst the forwards, all played with spirit. The cheerfulness of the match was tainted by news from the groundsman that Kings College intend selling the ground to Chelsea Football Club which has already acquired the surrounding sports facilities. The students knew nothing of this and one wonders and regrets. The outrageous behaviour of Kings College Student Union toward GKT Rugby and the urge to drive GKT sport toward merger with Kings College may be accelerated by a diminution in the number of playing fields.

Team - Fergus Chedgy, Terry Gibson, Chris Howell, Duncan Austin, Richard Jones, Dan Poulter, Andy Skeddon, David Gibson, Ben Challacombe, Jamie Barwell, Ed Jefferies, Alan Jones, Ross Perry, Ben Diggins, James O'Shea, Ben Preston, Jeremy Nettledon, John O'Callaghan, Tim Seng

T. Gibson