

**GUYS AND ST THOMAS RFC SUPPORTERS CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

October 2001

By the time you receive this letter the season will be more than a month old. The first fifteen, having been promoted to London League 4 South East, have won the first of their league encounters. The second fifteen were top of the Kent Metropolitan League table in the season 2000 - 01 and are promoted to the Kent Invicta League Division Two. The third fifteen finished fourth out of nine in the Kent League so have not enjoyed promotion. The plethora of leagues and the process of promotion and demotion are beyond my comprehension.

On September 29th there were four teams playing league or friendly fixtures, all of them having a jolly good time which is nearer the point of the exercise. The veterans have a more leisurely approach to the season and will not be hurried into a game before October. They have no intention of joining a league.

Last season was a success for a wide range of reasons. It ended with the tour to Australia and the club is hugely grateful to individuals who contributed a total of £2,000. The supporters clubs of Guys and of St Thomas each gave in addition £2,000 and the Guys supporters subsequently provided a loan of £4,000. The £10,000 subsidy gave student who would have struggled to pay the fare a once in a lifetime opportunity. I enclose a letter of thanks from the Club captain. Other highlights of last season were the winning of the UH Sevens and the Challenge Cups as well as the Medical Schools sevens competition. The past v present games were held in May and were followed by a very successful ball at the Honor Oak Park ground held under canvas. Can the teams emulate last year? We shall see. One putative date for your diary is the UH Challenge Cup Final to be held at the London Welsh Ground on March 13 2002. The pre-match lunch at the last final was predominantly a St Mary's - Imperial College affair so if we are in the final this season Think about coming. The past v present games this season will again be followed by the ball at HOP. This will be on Saturday May 5th, a bank holiday weekend. Your support is welcomed.

The philosophy of the club this year is to entice newcomers and encourage less skilled players. There are two coaches and two training evening and it is intended that the coaches will concentrate on third, fourth fifteen and novice players for some of the time. The students are sometimes dismayed by the relatively large number of young doctors and dentists who continue to play following qualification. This arrangement generates strength in depth, experience and funding. All qualified men have to pay for the privilege of playing and are expected to contribute to the Supporters Club. King's College Students Union is uneasy with the retention of separate medical and dental school sides and the involvement of non-students. The advantages of the current dispensation need to be advertised widely. Uncertainties about the two traditional playing fields at HOP and Cobham persist. Both are going to be played on regularly this season so lack of use will not be used a justification by King's College for disposing of one or the other.

I make reference to men above but that is not to ignore the ladies' sides. The girls have played an increasingly visible role in the Club for several years and you will note that the assistant secretary is one of their number and the ladies are otherwise widely represented at Committee level. They have the best medical school side in London.

Tickets for the home England games against Australia and England v South Africa can be ordered through me. The prices are: £39/£42/£45. If you apply for tickets do not enclose a cheque at this stage because I cannot promise that your request will be met. Student applications take priority and there will be a ballot for the remainder.

The annual supporters club fee is still only £15 where it has stood for 10 years. Supporters who have not amended their subscriptions from £3 (circa 1973) or £5 (circa 1980) will receive a stern note from me one of these days.

Vice presidents who are receiving this newsletter should send me a cheque to cover a bottle of whisky for the raffles held throughout the season or deliver a bottle to my office at Guys or St Thomas'. Cheques should be made out to Guys RFC Supporters Club.

The Club hopes to see you at one of their games during the season. I shall let you know about progress in the UH Cup competition and will remind you of the past present games and the ball an excellent opportunity for reunion.

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