

# Guys Kings St Thomas Hospitals RFC Supporters Club

Newsletter

October 2003

The season began in such sunny weather I almost forgot it was autumn and time to get on with this message. For those of you who have the time and inclination to log onto our website, you will have been kept abreast because the minutes of committee meetings, results, match reports and gossip are all there on [www.guysrugby.com](http://www.guysrugby.com). The first fifteen were demoted to Kent 1 League but have won their first few games. The seconds and thirds have also started well in their respective leagues. The fourth fifteen may take time to wind up since available players are propping up an ailing Penguins side, whose ageing players are preoccupied with grandchildren, child rearing, recalcitrant spouses and a miscellany of muscle, joint and bone disorders.

Last season ended brilliantly for the club with a victory for the present first fifteen over the past side and a narrow score in favour of the Penguins for the Scanlan Memorial Trophy. This was followed by the ball under canvas at Honor Oak Park largely organised by members of the ladies' team. There was a tour to Ireland during which the side won a handsome trophy and an accolade for best behaviour. This improbable award was either an indictment of the other teams or a welcome trend amongst our students.

It is 18 months since the tragic death of Paul Scanlan and the memorial fund in his name has reached almost £14,000. The fund is still open for donations. The generosity of the rugby supporters' club has enable us to offer an annual bursary of £1,000 to rugby playing male or female students at the end of their second year and who can demonstrate a case for need.

So the season progresses. Despite the fun of student rugby, there has been an unavoidable undertow of frustration and anger against Kings College Students' Union

which has contrived an argument for not supporting the Saturday sides. Teas for opponents and payment of insurance to the RFU are being met by the Supporters' Club. The argument runs thus; since some qualified people play in the first three sides, no union funds can be legitimately used on Saturdays. Wednesday rugby has always been a small side show for the Club but is now the only activity which has union support. The argument is legally unsustainable because multiple sporting and other leisure activities at Kings College involve staff and other students. We have a barrister looking at the options.

A few dates for your diary. The United Hospitals second and third fifteen cup finals will be played at St Georges' ground Cobham on Wednesday March 10 2004. The first fifteen Cup and the Plate for the semi-finalists will be at the London Welsh ground Richmond on Sunday March 14. The change of day to a Sunday is an experiment intended to swell the number of people attending the pre-match lunch and the game itself. Of course there is no guarantee that GKT will feature in the cup final. St George's Hospital in particular look threatening this season. The past v present games will be held on Saturday May 1 2004, bank holiday weekend. The ball will follow at Honor Oak Park.

Applications for home international games, England v Ireland on March 6 and v Wales on March 20 can be made to me at the address below. I enclose a fixture card and hope that you will be able to support the club in the course of the season. Please use the website to confirm details and catch up with the news.

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