

Tribute Devon League 1

Plymouth Argaum



Welcome to Bickleigh Down

Welcome to Bickleigh Down for our first home match of the 2021-22 season and our first home league match since we hosted Buckfastleigh 554 days ago on 7th March 2020! Today, we extend a warm welcome to our old friends OPM RFC, whom we saw quite a bit of in the 18 months prior to the pandemic, after avoiding each other in the league for the best part of 25 years!

The two clubs have had a long relationship dating back to 1926-27 when seven Argaum players left the club to form the new OPM side including one George Wakeham, later to become President of both Plymouth Albion and Devon RFU. The annual Boxing Day Match has been in place since 1935. OPM are of course very familiar with our clubhouse having utilised the facilities in the late 1980s and early 1990s before relaunching themselves at the King George V playing fields.

One person who was synonymous with both clubs was Howell Phillips, who sadly passed away last Autumn, we pay tribute to him elsewhere in this programme.

Finally, a big thankyou to all the volunteers for their invaluable work behind the scenes in helping to stage today's fixture and to our generous sponsors, without whom we couldn't function as we do. Please respect today's officials and enjoy the match!

Club Sponsors





Plymouth Argaum RFC 2021/22

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Today's Teams

Plymouth Argaum		ОРМ
Chiefs		
Ali Joines	15	Fred Smale
Cheyenne Edwards	14	Lewis King
Arthur Black	13	Sammy Matts
Toby Colyer	12	Pete Regan
Kai Humphries	11	Alex Jewell
Tom Shepherd	10	Harry Kandampully
Billy Stockwell	9	James Robinson
Tommy Holliday	8	Billy Garratt [C]
Karl Sullivan	7	Pete Marr
Jasper Stevens	6	Shaun Grundy
Adam Griffiths	5	Isaac Money
Dan Smith [C]	4	Josh Stevenson
John Paul Browning	3	Simon Bray
Tom Mann	2	Lewis Harmer
Nick Hancock	1	Mylo Connell
Ollie Rosewell	16	Paul Roberts
Josh Tart	17	Nath Gray
Mitch Coles	18	Jamie Brown
Harrison Truswell	19	
Gideon Berend-Sherrif	20	

Match official(s): Simon Davies (PRRS)

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Other Fixtures Today in Devon 1

Buckfastleigh Ramblers v Dartmouth Salcombe v New Cross Tamar Saracens v Exeter Saracens Torrington v Exeter Athletic Totnes v Old Technicians

Head to Head

04/01/20 OPM 41 Chiefs 17 21/09/19 Chiefs 15 OPM 15

Past Matches

Honours Even at Bickleigh Down 21st September 2019 - Argaum 15 OPM 15 - Devon 1

PLYMOUTH Argaum and OPMs were both relatively satisfied with a 15-15 draw at Bickleigh Down in their first competitive meeting for years. It means both clubs remain unbeaten after two games in Devon One. Argaum weathered some early pressure from OPMs before taking a 10-0 lead courtesy of tries from Ben Baggott and Seb Thomas. But 14 minutes into the second period, Matt Thompson got OPMs back in the game with a try, which Sammie Matts converted. Argaum went 15-7 ahead on 65 minutes with a try by Karl Sullivan, but Matts pulled OPMs to within five points with a penalty and five minutes from time Chris Harmer scored in the corner to level the contest. The last couple of minutes were frantic but neither side could find a winning score.

Report by Sara Raine of Plymouth Sports Gazette

Tribute Devon 1 League Table – Round 1

Whilst the Chiefs went down to New Cross last Saturday, today's opposition overcame Old Techs in a typically competitive derby encounter at Elburton. Note: Ilfracombe have withdrawn from the league.

#	Team	P	W	D	Ļ	PF	PA	<u>+/-</u>	TB	LB	Pts
1	New Cross	1	1	0	0	29	5	24	1	0	5
2	Old Plymothian & Mannamedian	1	1	0	0	33	10	23	1	0	5
3	Totnes	1	1	0	0	24	12	12	1	0	5
4	South Molton	1	1	0	0	28	27	1	1	0	5
5	Exeter Athletic	1	1	0	0	22	10	12	0	0	4
6	Ilfracombe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Exeter Saracens	1	0	0	1	27	28	-1	1	1	2
8	Dartmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Salcombe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Torrington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Buckfastleigh Ramblers	1	0	0	1	12	24	-12	0	0	0
12	Tamar Saracens	1	0	0	1	10	22	-12	0	0	0
13	Old Technicians	1	0	0	1	10	33	-23	0	0	0
14	Plymouth Argaum	1	0	0	1	5	29	-24	0	0	0

Howell Phillips

We couldn't let our first meeting with without mentioning **OPM** go someone who was somewhat of a legend at both clubs. Howell, who passed away last October after a long battle with cancer, was an influential player for Argaum in the 1970s and 80s having joined from Marjons. He had a season captain before later going on to coach the club. His role as PE teacher at St Boniface's College allowed him to develop countless players and his influence was felt throughout the Combination.



Befitting someone brought up in the

Rhondda Valley, Howell was a rugged, no-nonsense prop forward who could also be found in the second and back row. However his handling skills honed on a background in basketball meant that he was equally comfortable when operating outside the 'boiler room' in loose play. A larger-than-life character, he came into his own during the 'Third Half', where he was a brilliant choirmaster.



In 2017 when former pupils realised that Howell was suffering from bone cancer they got together to organise a hugely successful Charity Match at Plymouth Albion featuring St Boniface Old Boys XV v Howell's Select XV. The previous month they arranged a VIP day at The Principality Stadium for Howell to meet the Welsh International stars, including captain Sam Warburton.

Between spells at Argaum, he had a good stint at OPM as coach, where his son Rhys still plays. Due to Covid restrictions, his friends, family and the rugby community were unable to give him a proper send-off so Rhys has organised an event at Plymouth Albion RFC on Friday 1st October at 6pm, the anniversary of his passing. You can find

more details of the event from Rhys, the event is also displayed on our <u>PAPPA</u> <u>Facebook page</u>.

Meet The Chairman

This summer's AGM saw the final act of Nick Hancock's long tenure as Club Chairman when he handed over the reins to Peter Kelly. A former Royal Marine and CEO Recruitment Business Imployable, Peter provides the club with exactly the right drive and business acumen to build on solid foundations and push the club on to the next level. Speaking at Weston Mill, where Brett Stroud's Chiefs came away with a 15-10 win in a highly competitive pre-season friendly. "I'm very excited about



the next chapter of this fantastic club. As Brett [Stroud] delivers on the field, myself and my team will be working hard to deliver off it. We are committed to setting the standard in rugby, from junior development to senior success, building the infrastructure and community engagement. The future is going to be very exciting. Old values, New vision!"

Highly experienced rugby administrator Stuart Quarterman moves into the Vice Chairman role after a year in semi-sabbatical from committee work. The 'break' has obviously been beneficial as Stuart says, "I'm feeling recharged and ready to get back involved. In Pete I believe we have the right person to take over from Nick [Hancock], push us forward and progress as a club."









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Forthcoming Matches

Saturday 18th September 2021 Old Technicians (A) Devon 1

Saturday 25th September 2021 **Totnes (A) Devon 1**

Saturday 2nd October 2021
Salcombe (H) Devon 1

Saturday 9th October 2021 South Molton (A) Devon 1 Club Sponsor

