

# Camberley RFC v Hammersmith & Fulham

## Champions



**London Division 1 South**  
Watchetts Recreation Ground, Park  
Road, Camberley, Surrey

# Welcome to Camberley RFC



Welcome Everyone to our match against Hammersmith & Fulham RFC.

The away match was our first match back after Covid and it showed. After scoring a try early on to be ahead in the game, we never really managed to press on and a late first half try against the run of play got Hammersmith & Fulham back in the game. You could say we were rusty and this resulted in a defeat that was unexpected but served as a “kick up the backside”. As a result we never looked back and here we are with one game to go already CHAMPIONS.

The match Pre-Easter at Medway was one that I will never forget. The skill and commitment shown by both teams (I mean our 1st and 2nd XV's) were a great sign for things to come as we progress towards the National Leagues, a goal that all the players whether they be Seniors or upcoming Juniors wish to happen. So we have a very interesting season '22 - '23 to plan for with the likes of Bracknell to compete against.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone - players, coaches, executive, volunteers, staff and supporters - for making my first “active” year as President of this great club a truly memorable one.

Enjoy the match today, Mike Franzkowiak

(Front Cover Photo by Dinger - from away match v Medway)



# Today's Match Sponsor

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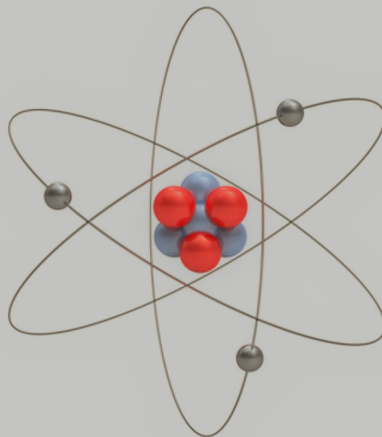
Thank you Chris for sponsoring today's match. Chris is a fellow Scruff, long time Camberley RFC Supporter and has been 2nd XV manager.

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## Roger Berry's Assessment of the 1st XV Squad

To win consistently at this level a team must take control up front as most sides in the league have a good set of forwards and so I believe that our success this time round has been based on having, overall, the best and most consistent front 5 in the league and these guys have provided the platform for the team to have out-scored everyone by almost 150 points, conceding almost 60 points less than anyone else and an unbeaten run stretching to 17 games, every one with a tbp.

So starting with #1 lets take a look at the guys who have played their part in this season's success – please note all of my stats are based on the 23 games played to date.

**Greg Franzel** – aka The Ozzie Mole or Marvin – what a season – Greg has started every game, playing on whichever side he is asked to and this alone is a huge statement regarding his personal fitness and commitment - to start 23 games, dominate your opponent in hundreds of scrums and as a little extra score 19 tries, he has been the ultimate squad man and, if I had a vote, would be my Player of the Year

We then have **Clarkey** at hooker – what a signing he has proved to be bringing his wealth of playing experience and his extraordinarily physical approach to the game has really enhanced the Cam pack.

Then there is **Connor**, also a hooker, who again joined us during the Covid break and he brings physicality and pace to the front row and finally we have Murph another excellent #2 who clearly thinks he is a threequarter at times, making up a trio of hookers any club at this level would die for.

And these guys every Saturday cuddle up to **Bazza** our young, permanentlybronzed, larger than life prop who is so strong at the set piece and who loves to have a dart whenever he gets the ball - understanding that he is still young as far as props go, his progress has been amazing and I look forward to seeing him pushed even harder next season.

We then finish off the front row with a couple of guys who are both working hard to make a first team place their own, **Pickle** and **Ryan** aka The Mullet both at the beginning of their senior playing careers and both with great futures and they have proved much more than simply reliable replacements when called upon to cover injuries etc.

Now, imagine two massive Shire horses harnessed together, quiet, majestic, immensely strong, determined and fearing nothing – then you have **Big Dom** and **Voighty** our indomitable locks – powerful at the scrum, imperious in the lineout and hugely physical in attack and defence and above all consistent, with both of them barely missing a game all season a combination which must be the envy of every DoR in the league.

Moving on to the back row, we have had the luxury of 6 quality players who, each in their own way, has played a big part in the success of the team this year.

Starting with 'The Young Ones' we have **BLS**, **Shawa** and **Ed** who at some stage in their relatively short past actually played together in the Academy team – and how they surprised everyone when they appeared together in the 1s this season.

We had seen Shawa play in the 1s before, I particularly remember the game at Dover in our 2018 Cup run when his chop tackling was an absolute joy to watch. Ed has, in recent seasons, had the occasional run out in the 1s and this season he has certainly worked extremely hard to ensure his name is on the teamsheet every Thursday while BLS came into the side when we had a bit of an injury crisis and was a revelation, playing 10 games on the bounce until the dreaded Covid struck and brought his 1st team season to a premature close - I do expect to see a lot more of all three off them next season.

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We then have the 'Not quite so Young Ones' **Hughsey Josh Watson** aka The Warrior and skipper **Birdy**. Unfortunately each of them early in the season had injury issues but in the last few weeks we have seen The Warrior returning to something like his old self while Hughsey as always is simply quality and a huge asset to any team.

Much earlier in the Risey journey a much slighter version of Birdy played for the 1s in a number of positions including lock and wing would you believe and it was good to see him return this season this time settled in the back row and he has also been a great asset this season. Like any good flanker he simply grafts, and is very good at it and like any good skipper, no fuss, he just leads from the front.

**Tom Chennell** at 9 has been another with 20+ games and he also made the Army squad, running out at Castle Grim against the RAF – a well deserved honour, (hopefully he will be included in the squad for the Navy game) and he has been so important to the black and ambers in managing both the game and the match officials as he stood in for Birdy when the skipper was sidelined – so a really good season all round for Tom, richly deserved.

The season started, as they had done for some years now with **Smarty** at 10 but work and responsibilities come to us all at some time and he was eventually posted to Catterick – but not before putting in some stellar performances earlier in the season – thanks for everything Smarty and good luck in your new career.

And so along came **Liam** who joined us from Irish and immediately slotted in as if he had been playing with us for ever and even showed his versatility by covering the 9 position when Tom was off with

# Fixtures & Results to Date

Camberley RFC Fixtures & Results 2021 - 22 Season						Match Sponsor
04/09/2021	Hammersmith & Fulham	19 - 8	Camberley	L	League	
11/09/2021	Camberley	36 - 15	Farnham	W	League	Shaun Bradbery (President's Lunch)
18/09/2021	Guildford	15 - 42	Camberley	W	League	
25/09/2021	Camberley	52 - 0	Chichester	W	League	SCRUFFS
02/10/2021	Battersea Ironsides	13 - 20	Camberley	W	League	
		-				(Memorial to those who have died)
16/10/2021	Camberley	19 - 27	London Welsh	L	League	Morgan Danaher: The life of Ron Danaher
23/10/2021	London Cornish	11 - 41	Camberley	W	League	
30/10/2021	Camberley	63 - 14	Horsham	W	League	Derek and Simon Olsen
06/11/2021	Cobham	30 - 39	Camberley	W	League	
13/11/2021	London Irish	0 - 89	Camberley	W	League	
20/11/2021		-				
27/11/2021	Camberley	32 - 7	KCS Old Boys	W	League	Roscan Electronics Ltd
11/12/2021	Camberley	41 - 31	Medway	W	League	John Carpenter/Mike Franzkowiak
18/12/2021	Farnham	P - P	Camberley		League	
08/01/2022	Camberley	41 - 7	Guildford	W	League	Harry & Chris Gibson
15/01/2022	Chichester	7 - 55	Camberley	W	League	
22/01/2022	Camberley	32 - 17	Battersea Ironsides	W	League	Declan Pettit & Steve O'Meara
29/01/2022	London Welsh	17 - 26	Camberley	W	League	
05/02/2022	Farnham	19 - 40	Camberley	W	League	
12/02/2022	Camberley	52 - 16	London Cornish	W	League	Hotel Anacapi Falmouth Cornwall
19/02/2022	Horsham	19 - 26	Camberley	W	League	
26/02/2022		-				
05/03/2022	Camberley	33 - 11	Cobham	W	League	Howard Ford & Gus Bartlett
12/03/2022	Camberley	74 - 11	London Irish	W	League	Stewart Davies & Dave Scott
19/03/2022		-				
26/03/2022	KCS Old Boys	10 - 60	Camberley	W	League	
09/04/2022	Medway	24 - 32	Camberley	W	League	
16/04/2022		-				
23/04/2022	Camberley	-	Hammersmith & Fulham		League	Smart Cyber Security Ltd.



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 Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 9am - 11am  
 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 9am - 11am

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# The Backs

**Tom Chennell** at 9 has been another with 20+ games and he also made the Army squad, running out at Castle Grim against the RAF – a well deserved honour, (hopefully he will be included in the squad for the Navy game) and he has been so important to the black and ambers in managing both the game and the match officials as he stood in for Birdy when the skipper was sidelined – so a really good season all round for Tom, richly deserved.

The season started, as they had done for some years now with **Smarty** at 10 but work and responsibilities come to us all at some time and he was eventually posted to Catterick – but not before putting in some stellar performances earlier in the season – thanks for everything Smarty and good luck in your new career.

And so along came **Liam** who joined us from Irish and immediately slotted in as if he had been playing with us for ever and even showed his versatility by covering the 9 position when Tom was off with the Army – much more difficult than it seems I can assure you – so well done Liam.

Probably the area of the side where we have had most fluidity during the season are the centres where **Brizzle** aka Jaid, **Ash**, brother **Josh** and The Flying Fijian aka **Jos** Lewanituva have been the main starters.

Brizzle has been outstanding this season, a real step up from previous years until a damaged finger kept him out of final few games while Big Jos had a lot of injury issues early on and was unable to get a good run of games until the latter part of the season but quickly reminded us all how valuable he is to the side as he acts like a magnet for the opposition defences always attracting 2 or three defenders and creating space for his team mates.

Wright the younger was a true stalwart this season and put in some really solid performances, good enough for him to join Tom in the Army squad while Wright the Elder found himself moving frequently in from his normal position on the wing to play some really good rugby at 12/13 - his try at KCS from a standing start on halfway was stunning.

Moving back we have reached the back three where we find **Oyoni**, **The Fireman** aka George and **young H** aka Harry Faulkner.

Oyoni has been an ever present at Watchetts certainly from the start of this journey, always playing with a smile and although he has had a quieter season than usual he is still an outstanding try scoring machine.

On the other side we welcomed the fiery Fireman to Watchetts this season and what an impact he has made – pacey, strong and with loads of experience George put all of these assets to good use by scoring some spectacular tries and ending up topping the try scoring list with 24 with 1 game to go.

Finally we come to the 15 slot where early on we saw **TommyA** return for what was rumoured to be his final season but work and fitness challenges early on finally proved to much for the veteran who I first remember watching playing for the 1s when he was still a teenager with lots more hair and what a star he has been for the club on and off for 20 years– never a full back given to kick the ball if he could run it back, immensely talented and although a bit of a maverick on occasions he was always a great clubman.

And so, almost like history repeating itself, along came Young H, still only 19, for his first season of senior rugby. After a couple of starts at 10 he moved back to 15 and in no time made the jersey his own. With great skills and his electric pace, would you believe that he is also a 15 who prefers to back himself by running almost everything back and he has thrilled the crowd on numerous occasions this season when he has switched on the after burners. What a first season in senior rugby for the young man- hopefully the first of many in black and amber.

Just a final note - watch out next season for another youngster, **Ben Stevens** who has already had a couple of starts and is quality and also has gas to spare.

## Medway Photos (by Dinger)







# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

## An overview of the season by Roger Berry

At the start of the 2014/15 season Cam found themselves at the lowest level the club had played at since the advent of Leagues, Surrey 1 (level 9), with a very keen and driven new Head Coach/DoR, Gareth Rise aka Risey, who most of us already knew well as he had played for the club at many levels over the years. For those in the club, players and supporters alike, who had experienced National level rugby in previous years, level 9 was a bit of a shock to say the least but the young coach made no secret of his intention to take 'his' club back to the National Leagues and at Medway last weekend he achieved his vision when his squad again proved just too good for the Men of Kent and in doing so claimed the League title and with it promotion to Level 5 which, in earlier seasons, was the level at which the National Leagues started.

So firstly what does winning the League title mean to us next season - unless there is a complete turn around by the RFU, we will be playing in a league which will apparently bring sides together based more on their geography than in previous years - an early view indicates that potential opponents could include, London Welsh, Sutton, Wimbledon, Brighton, Havant, Maidenhead, Bracknell, Oxford, Havant, Banbury and Wootton Bassett although as we must appreciate this may all change between now and September.

So although the future may not be as certain as usual let us look back at 2021/22 and I will begin with a fairly obvious statement, that this year's squad is, if not the best, certainly one of the very best that the club has seen for decades. It is such a balanced group of players who have worked so hard for the entire season to achieve this outstanding result and this applies not just to the match day squad of 18 but at least 25 of the senior squad who have become pretty interchangeable during the season.

Lets just say that the season did not get off to the best of starts with a dire performance at newcomers Hammersmith and I know that the squad, particularly the guys who actually played that day are all pumped for the return fixture on the 23rd when they plan to redeem themselves. Fortunately things improved a tad and we then managed to claim a couple of maximums against local rivals Farnham and Guildford (always very good for the soul) before nilling Chichester at Watchetts, apparently the first time it had happened to the South Coast side for several years. A foolhardy few of us then almost drowned watching a tight W up at Battersea, played in the most severe rain many of us had experienced, before the long awaited game against the Welsh at Watchetts in October. That game got off to a great start and things were going really well for Cam until an unlucky/careless knee by Cam turned what should have been a 19-0 lead into 60 mins of playing with 14, which was just too big an ask against a top side resulting in defeat #2 - definitely not part of the Grand Plan. However this setback proved to be the team's Eureka moment, as from that day in October they set off on what was to prove to be an epic run which has seen them string together 17 wins on the bounce and in addition claiming the tbp every time. This saw the team build through November and by the time we reached December the League already was looking like a 3 horse race with Welsh out in front and Cam and Medway chasing. So when the Kent side visited Watchetts on a dark December Saturday a hard fought win for the black and ambers provided just the confidence they needed with their return trip to ODP due in January. And what a great day that proved to be - Welsh are a super club, we saw a fabulous game and for Cam to pinch their unbeaten home record after 5 years of their Project Return was very special.

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## Coaching Staff

Dir of Rugby - Gareth Rise  
1st XV Coach - Ash Wright  
Forwards Coach - Alex  
Hughes, Sam Voight  
Backs Coach - Mal Roberts  
Fitness Coach - Tom King  
Physio - Connor Bradnam  
Manager - Ant Bentham

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Gwynne Evans  
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Derek Olsen  
Bill Murray  
Roger Berry  
Rusty Smith  
Billy White

## SCRUFFS

## No.

## Name

1	Greg Franzel
2	Michael Clarke
3	Nicholas Barry
4	Sam Voight
5	Dom Sammut
6	Ed Grosvenor
7	Chris Bird
8	Alex Hughes
9	Tom Chennell
10	Liam Prescott
11	George Owen
12	Ash Wright
13	Jaid Wiltshire
14	Joshua Lewanituva
15	Harry Faulkner
16	Adam Picket
17	Joshua Watson
18	Oyon Gbla
19	Ryan Eastley
20	Sam Hadlington

# Hammersmith & Fulham RFC



**GREENE KING**  
BURY ST EDMUNDS

(Likely team)

1. Andrew Rogan
2. Angus Brown
3. Jacob Poulton
4. Josh Smith
5. Alex Hart
6. Zander Stephen
7. Sean McMahon
8. Harry Scarr
9. Ross Anderson
10. Pete Morris
11. James Lo
12. Joe Carolan
13. Pete Bicknell
14. Tim Russell
15. Mitch Lewis
16. Ed Wynne
17. Rory Cardwell
18. Mitch Lewis

## Position

Loose Head Prop  
Hooker  
Tight Head Prop  
Lock  
Lock  
Blind Side Flanker  
Open Side Flanker  
No. 8

Scrum Half  
Fly Half

Wing  
Centre  
Centre  
Wing  
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Substitute

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## Coaching Staff

Head Coach - Mark Jackson  
Assistant Coach - Ed Clark  
Assistant Coach - Alan Jones

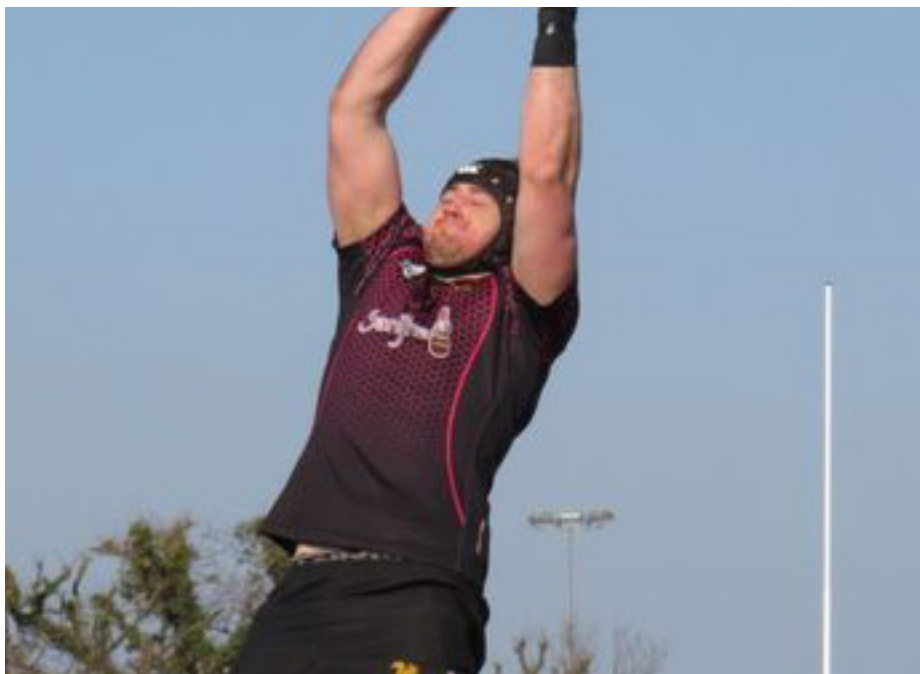


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## KCS Old Boys (Photos by Dinger)





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“He who has not seen Punjab has not lived at all”

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# League Tables

## London Division 1 South League Table

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Camberley	23	21	0	2	953	340	613	20	0	104
2	London Welsh	23	19	0	4	807	405	402	19	2	97
3	Medway	23	19	0	4	740	424	316	14	0	90
4	Hammersmith & Fulham	23	14	0	9	633	535	98	15	5	76
5	Guildford	23	12	1	10	579	617	-38	13	3	66
6	Horsham	22	10	1	11	539	487	52	10	4	56
7	Cobham	23	9	1	13	592	698	-106	10	2	50
8	Battersea Ironsides	23	9	0	14	611	590	21	10	4	50
9	KCS Old Boys	22	9	1	12	453	536	-83	8	2	48
10	Chichester	23	9	1	13	550	717	-167	9	1	48
11	Farnham	23	8	1	14	478	598	-120	7	2	44
12	London Irish Wild Geese	24	5	0	19	406	829	-423	4	4	28
13	London Cornish	23	2	0	21	313	878	-565	1	3	12

## Surrey Premier League

#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	+/-	TB	LB	Pts
1	Worthing Raiders A (2nd XV)	18	15	0	3	662	249	413	14	3	80
2	Dorking A XV	19	13	1	5	495	422	73	12	0	71
3	Battersea Ironsides 2nd XV	18	9	3	6	464	315	149	10	1	59
4	Horsham II	17	9	3	5	422	390	32	8	2	57
5	Esher Abbots (3rd XV)	19	7	0	12	462	516	-54	11	6	57
6	Richmond Jutes (5th XV)	18	7	1	10	418	456	-38	6	2	48
7	Brighton II	18	7	2	9	377	500	-123	8	0	48
8	Sutton & Epsom 2nd XV	18	5	3	10	395	371	24	7	4	47
9	Camberley 2nd XV	18	6	0	12	356	578	-222	8	2	46
10	Farnham 2nd XV	17	5	1	11	294	548	-254	8	1	42

## Today's Opposition

# Hammersmith & Fulham RFC

The Club was the brainchild of a group of teachers from Henry Compton School, who identified that there was a need for a club to cater for the rugby needs of the local residents and school children. During a trip to Lancashire in 1977, the teachers decided to make their idea a reality. Shortly after, the seed that was to become the Hammersmith Rugby Football Club was planted at the Park Hotel (now demolished) Wigan over the Easter weekend of that year. During that trip a temporary management committee was appointed. On their return to London, the Committee approached the London Borough of Hammersmith (as it was then) about the use of a local rugby pitch. In March 1978 the Leisure & Recreation Committee of the London Borough of Hammersmith granted the Club the use of the central pitch at Hurlingham Park. Preparations then started for the 1978/79 season. As the West London Observer reported on 20th April 1978 A Rugby Club is Born. Arrangements were made to use The Peterborough Arms, opposite Eel Brooke Common on the New Kings Road, as the Club's first social base. On 12th July 1978 the Club held its first training session at Hurlingham Park in preparation for the trials match which took place against Old Wimbledonians on Saturday 2nd September 1978. Such was the success of the trial that two sides were fielded away against UCS Old Boys on Saturday September 1978. Cliff Morgan (Wales, Barbarians & British Lions) became the Club's first President in 1978 and remained in that position until his death in August 2013. As our first President, his endorsement of the Club (and the occasional donation) was key to our early success. The first home game at Hurlingham Park was against Wasps on Sunday 24th September 1978. The formation of the club became complete when on 20th April 1979, the Club was elected as a member of the Rugby Football Union. Such was the growth of the club that at the end of its first season a successful application was to the Council for a second pitch at Hurlingham. The use of a second pitch enabled the club to form a Colts XV in its second season and this was quickly followed by a Fourth XV under the Captaincy of Martin 'Masher' Mowforth. The London Borough of Hammersmith was formed in 1965 by the merger of the Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith and the Metropolitan Borough of Fulham. The loss of the Fulham name was not popular locally (especially in Fulham) and on 1st January 1979 the Borough changed its name to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, the club declared at its Annual General Meeting in April 1979 to change its name to Hammersmith & Fulham Rugby Football Club.



# Camberley 1st XV Squad



3. Nick Barry



2. John Murphy



15. Harry Faulkner



13 Ash Wright



11 Josh Lewanitupa



6 Josh Watson



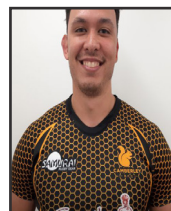
9 Tom Chennell



12. Josh Wright



15. George Owen



7. Chris Bird



10. Liam Prescott



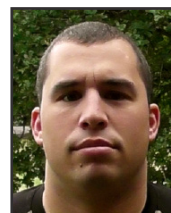
4 Dom Sammut



14. Jaid Wiltshire



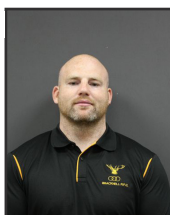
5 Sam Voight



3 Greg Franzel



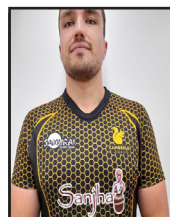
11. Oyoni Gbla



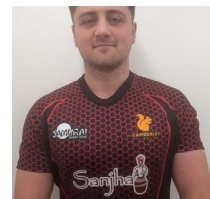
2. Michael Clarke



8. Alex Hughes



2. Connor Diplock



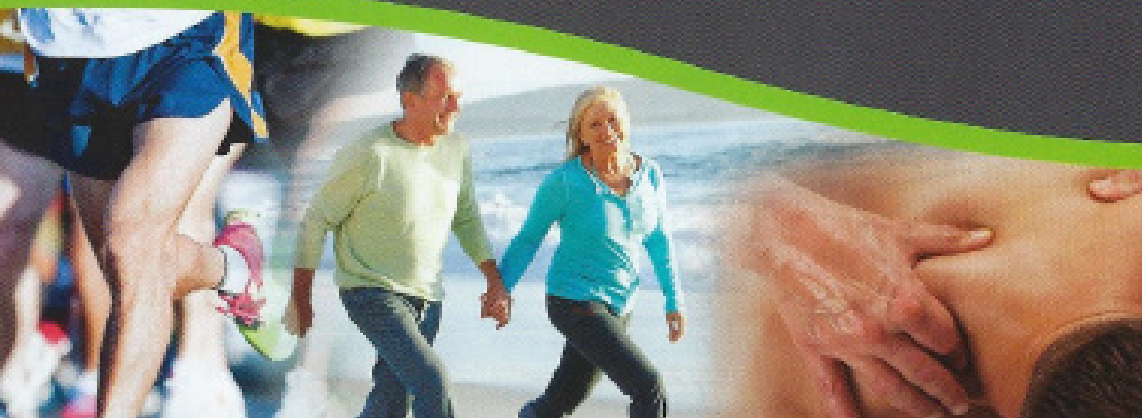
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# CAM TAKE MEDWAY'S HOME RECORD TO WIN LEAGUE TITLE

## by Roger Berry

The visit to Medway on the last away game for the black and ambers was always going to be very significant with Cam needing 4 points to confirm the league title and Medway, with no chance of the title, defending their unbeaten home record which had now extended to 11 games.

In the event, on a very breezy afternoon the black and ambers, having been pretty dominant in the first 40 mins in the end just had enough left in their tank after a tough season to claim the 5 points, extend their current unbeaten run to 17 and in doing so claim the league title.

With Cam getting proceedings going they soon regained possession and a good scrum saw Cam's strength win a penalty at the first scrum with Liam putting the ball into the Medway 22. Cam won their throw and after several darts the ball was swung out wide with Ash cutting through and dotting down in the corner and with an excellent kick by Liam saw Cam take the lead with 5 mins played.

We then saw Medway's excellent winger respond almost immediately when an excellent break saw him win the foot race for an excellent try which was converted so that the score was all square after 10 mins.

Cam managed the restart well and soon were back in the Medway half and following a penalty from the scrum Liam put the ball into the Medway red zone and from the resulting line out we saw for the 19th time of the season our Ozzie Mole cross for a try and another excellent kick by Liam moved the score to 7-14 after 15 mins.

At this stage Cam were clearly dominant at scrum time and also the lineout and on 20 mins some exquisite training field rugby saw some excellent work by the backs before the Fireman took the final pass to dot down for an unconverted score. The second quarter saw Cam still in the ascendancy but unable to add to their score before the break despite a couple of penalty attempts by the home side.

The second half start was very positive for Cam when a great kick pass by Liam to winger George saw the Fireman almost free and immediately we saw Josh Wright try the same move for The Flying Fijian and although the centre was unable to collect it skipper Birdy was first to react and touch down for the tpb moving the score to 7-26 on 44 mins.

With many of the visiting supporters feeling that it was all over we then saw Cam slip off the pace and they were further hampered by a failed HIA by Bazza and all of a sudden the Cam pack looked second best at scrum time and a series of poor decisions saw the home side score an unconverted try on 56 mins and when they added a converted try by their excellent winger the score of 19-26 became to close for comfort, however from the restart Cam recovered the ball and immediately were awarded a penalty on the home 22 and ever reliable Liam extended the black and ambers lead to 19-29.

Medway however were not prepared to give up their home record without a fight and things got very tight again when the home side managed an unconverted try in the corner with just injury time to play.

However Cam decided that things were just a tad too close and again won the restart following a superb hanging kick by Liam and deep into injury time Cam again won a penalty which Liam converted to put the game out of the home side's reach and the League title secured and with the final whistle sounded almost immediately after the restart to signal the start of great celebrations by players and supporters alike.

This was never going to be a classic with so much pride/records at stake but as with a number of games this season Cam just had enough to squeeze the opposition and they always managed to keep the game just out of reach for the home side. Today saw the culmination of a season's hard work by the coaches and squad and with their current unbeaten run of 17 game – all of which have also all been worth 5 points – truly remarkable in my opinion.



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# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS (continued)

Clearly at that point the drive for the league title certainly went up another notch, and while teams around us were talking promotion, the black and ambers were now only focussed on winning the league and their determination showed as they claimed the double over Guildford and Farnham and then they also overturned, what to most of the spectators, seemed to be an unbeatable half time lead for Cobham to snatch the win and another 5 points and similarly, on another plastic pitch at Horsham the fight was evident again as they squeezed another W and slowly this Cam pressure began to tell on the title challengers and by March the black and ambers had just nudged ahead of Welsh and Medway and claimed the top spot.

And then the week before the Medway return game, Cam had a bye giving the others chance to narrow the gap but when all three of the chasing pack surprising lost, the maths was clear – and true to their squad ethos the boys came to Medway with only one result in mind and against very tough opposition, unbeaten on their patch all season, the black and ambers again did just enough – so job done with a game to spare - what a season.

## The Review of The Season - And Finally ....

I cannot produce this squad overview without mentioning the tremendous team which has built up by Risey over the last 6/7 years – these are the guys who turn up every damp and cold Tuesday and Thursday in the depths of winter to support the players in all sorts of ways.

For Risey and his coaching team, I am sure that this is probably only the first key milestone in the overall plan but still a great achievement and from day 1 he has been supported by Ash, Sam and Hughsey and latterly we have also enjoyed the experience of Mal, who happens to also be the Army coach, bringing a new energy and ideas to the table as it is so important to keep the players engaged through a long season.

Then we have the physios – always the most popular location for players on a Tuesday or Thursday (particularly if it is cold and wet!!) - Connor and Sophie have been tremendous using inordinate amounts of tape each week and providing brilliant support for everyone.

We then have Tweedledum and Tweedledee aka Dave and Benny plus their mate Jim, who, as the team managers, look after everything 1s and 2s - kit, tackle bags, pitch protection, gazebos (sometime) etc, etc and even including providing Haribos and Brownies on match days – and what a fantastic job they do.

Finally let us remember that this sort of success is simply not possible without lots of support from the club and it is clear that, despite the challenges of the last few years, the stewardship of the Club by the Exec under Paddy and Graeme has been outstanding and the club would appear to be in a much better place than for many a year.

Roger Berry



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