

**WHAT A SHITTY SATURDAY - FOUR STRAIGHT DEFEATS SHOCK!!**

What's the difference between shit and diarrhoea? You can't gargle shit. This is in very poor taste. As is the joke!

What's the difference between a vitamin and a hormone? You can make a vitamin.

The high powered consultant surgeon's in his office when the phone rings. It's a troubled patient at the other end of the line. "You've got to help me doc.," says the anguished voice, "it's that prostrate job you did on me last week, it's gone horribly wrong...." "Calm down," says the consultant, "now where are you ringing from?" The reply comes in the form of a wail, "From about the fucking waist down...."

**TEAMS FOR SAT. 21st/SUN. 22nd Jan. v Hoylake (2nd XV Homebased Cup)**

<i>1<sup>st</sup> XV</i> <i>v Hoylake</i> <i>Home 1.00pm</i>	<i>2nd XV</i> <i>Sunday, Cup</i> <i>Old Parks 1.00pm</i> <i>Shirt &amp; Tie please</i>	<i>3rd XV</i> <i>v Hoylake</i> <i>Home 1.00pm</i>	<i>4th XV</i> <i>v Hoylake</i> <i>Away 1.00pm</i>	<i>RESERVES</i>
P.THOMPSON	C.AINSLIE	J.WARD	M.DALTON	P.BENNETT
M.FEATHERSTONE	B.ROWLANDS	K.ELKERTON	R.HARRISON	J.SPENCE
P.COTGRAVE	D.BALDWIN	B.DAVIES	G.PANDIT (C)	J.BOLTON
C.ELKERTON	A.T.H.	JED	J.DAVIES	M.COFFIN
A.GAYLE	C.SMITH	W.LEE	P.GRAVES	P.REEVES
				D.JONES
				J.DADE
D.THOMAS	M.COTGRAVE	M.HOUSTON	P.SHERIDAN	K.DEVANNEY
C.SALISBURY	M.ASTBURY	W.PRESCOT	T.TRIGGS	A.WHITELEY
				G.MURRAY
M.CAVANAGH	T.BAKER	A.VICKERS (C)	G.FORRESTER	
G.FISHER	K.JONES	M.GAUNT	G.WILLIAMS	
C.McHUGH	S.MURRAY	D.McCLUSKEY	W.BOWKER	
P.WALLACE	M.TYLER	J.LYONS	C.ROBERTS	
S.CROMPTON	J.TYLER (C)	K.COLLIER	C.CHEARY	
M.LEET	C.HOLLAND	R.TRIGGS	B.SHAW	
M.PENNY	I.McLEAN	J.JOHNS	G.COLQUHAN	
S.WALLACE (C)	J.TUOHY	G.LEWIS	D.WALKER	

Res. T.BAKER, B.ELKERTON, I.McLEAN

**ALL CRY OFFS BY FRIDAY AT THE LATEST TO: (Late cry offs on Saturday to Golf Shop 609 0669)**

Steve Wallace  
606 0956

John Tyler  
606 8808

Alan Roberts  
512 1323

Greg Pandit  
625 6601

Please note that the 3rd and 4th Xvs are now squad based; it is envisaged that everyone will get at least half a game. It is hoped that all the reserves will get some sort of a game as well.

**PRENTON RUFC ANNUAL DINNER ....** in the Clubhouse, Friday 28th February. Guest Speaker, Mark Ring of Cardiff and Wales. Black tie, full multi course dinner. Tickets, £20 each from Brian Elkerton, Toby Tyler or Andy Tyler Holland. Tickets are strictly restricted to maximum 80 and there are now 60 left. Several non members have expressed interest and they will allowed to buy tickets after next weekend! Get your order, with a £10 deposit in asap.

**SAD NEWS AT THE CLUB .....** The club sends commiserations to **Will Thornber** on the recent sad death of his dad. We also send our thoughts and best wishes to **Derek Gilbert** who suffered a stroke last week and is currently in hospital and to **Lee Roberts** who ended up in Arrowe Parke last Saturday after chipping a bone in his neck while playing for the firsts against Rhyl. Our best hopes for speedy recoveries go to these two lads.

**ON A HAPPIER NOTE**, congratulations to Lesley (our erstwhile bar person) on the birth last week of a baby girl. Good to see Lesley thinking ahead, producing staff for the Prenton club of the future!

**CLUB TOUR TO SWANSEA ...** Friday 4 - Sunday 6 April. Deposits of £20 each to Chris Holland or Arthur Howarth as soon as possible to secure your spot on this unmissable event.

**TRAINING:** Wednesday nights at the club and Monday nights, Aerobox at Chris Holland's dad's gym opposite the Carlton in Borough Road. This latter session is fitness orientated and is subsidised by the club. It's a 7pm start and the evening comprises a circuit of 14 exercises which work on all the main muscle groups. Quite a few of the lads are now going down. It's a good and useful session. Why don't you give it a try?

## RECENT MATCH REPORTS

That missing result from last week, **3rd XV v Port Sunlight, Home, Won 23-8**. A dazzling display with those doughty campaigners the Peters Lewis and Collins in the centre. What with them and Mr Reynolds from Park at open side, Alan Roberts played the stand off role in the veritable armchair! Tries came from Lewie, Alan Roberts and Wilf Lee with Colin Ainslie kicking two penalties and a conversion.

### 1st XV v Rhyl, Home, Lost 7-12 NOT A LOT GOING RIGHT

Clearly the early kick off didn't suit here, in the first half we threatened quite a lot without ever really looking like scoring. Our old refereeing chum Frank Williams arrived late, and for once at Prenton, sober! Well soberish anyway! It was 0-0 at half time, DT having missed as Wally put it, "A penaltitude of kicks." So scathing was he of some of the misses that he was heard to intone words to the effect that even hefty second fucking rowers could have kicked some of them! Easy indeed! Soon after the restart the visitors scored after a well worked penalty move. Half way through the half we lost easy ball and they capitalised to score. This at last awakened the latent Celtophobia which lurks in every true Birkenheadian. "At this point," said the suave Wally, "we decided a simple fact. We're English, we've got to kick ass here." Normally your editor can have no part of such bonebrained numuskuiled jingoism, but in the case of the Welsh, he is prepared to make an exception. It might upset their sheepfolk back home, but these Celtic fringes must know their place in the order of things. We forced a scrum near their line. Skipper Wallace attempted to drive over but fucked up. All was not lost however, the ball was dragged on and a try was claimed by Compo, Carl Solly and Peter Wallace, all of whom were highly adjacent to the touchdown situation. The matter of who actually scored was later settled as Compo got to the phone first to make the result report to the paper. DT converted with the game's last kick.

### 2nd XV v Caldy, Away, Lost 20-22 LAST KICK OF THE GAME AGAIN, DRAMA

As with the Bobbies game some weeks ago, here was another with a dramatic finish, with us again coming off the wrong end. It hadn't started all that auspiciously either, the early kick off threw several people and the side had to 'borrow' Messrs Pandit and Dalton from the 4ths. The former was able to return to his origins after ten minutes but the latter was obliged to play the whole game! In fact, it was a good game, 80 minutes of solid rugby. They started solidly and after ten minutes were 12-0 in front. We were looking at a good towelling. Dogged forward play dragged us back however and just before the break, Macca came up with the ball from the bottom of a forward drive that powered over their line. Soon after the break, Barry Rowlands scored and soon after that Mick Dalton added another, Colin Ainslie converted and we were 17-12 up and coasting. Easing the pressure was disastrous, the home side pinching the lead again with a converted try. Nothing daunted, we came back and pressure yielded a penalty which Colin slotted to put us 20-19 in front. All it required now was to sit tight and wait for the whistle. Sadly we were unable to do this.

### 3rd XV v Caldy, Home, Lost 17-29 WRONG OPTIONS COST US DEAR

This game was all about a young, enthusiastic but naive home side losing out to a well drilled and experienced set of visitors. This was coupled with the fact that Caldy had 4 giants in the lineout to guarantee them a steady supply of ball. And they cruised with alarming rapidity into a 19-0 lead. It could well have been a severe whacking which would have been hard to bear from the Class Enemy, but we showed spunk. Not literally you understand, metaphorically. "We were doing really well," burred the newly 18 Mush Cotgrave to the grizzled old Bongo in the showers later. The gray-haired flat top had played half a game as sub for the firsts and the old frame was creaking somewhat, but he let the young ebullient have his say, "we were 0-19 down and we fought back to 7-19." Wow, thought Bongo, that's one hell of a fight back! But his old sagacity prevailed, "Well done son," he agreed, "well done indeed." In fact the daft sod probably misheard as we actually fought back to 17-19! Tries came from Andy Vickers (a superb game noted from him), Hatchet Rowlands (brother of Axe) and Wilf Lee, with Mush converting one. However at this juncture, instead of hoofing the ball down the pitch and playing some rugby in their half, we tried fancy dan stuff in our own 22, making heroic but futile attempts to run the ball. This leaked further points. Excellent games noted from Golf Shop John (sometimes known as John the Golf) and from Wayne Prescott, who snarled his way through yet another 80 minutes!

### 4th XV v Caldy, Away, Lost 7-14 HOWEVER DID WE LOSE THIS ONE?

To round off a thoroughly bad day against the Class Enemy, this was another game where we played rugby a bit like Liverpool have recently been playing football - with languor and torpor. The Caldy Dream Team huffed and puffed and eventually found a way through our defense at the mid point of the first half. On the stroke of half time however, we hit back. Gorgeous Gordon picked up from the base of the scrum, clinically drew their cover and slipped a pass for Kyle Elkerton to skip round the blind side for a very neat score. Shezza improved. Turning round at 7-7 with a strong wind in our favour, it seemed inevitable that we would win. The scores to facilitate that however steadfastly refused to roll in and on one of the home side's occasional forays into our 22, they chipped through and gathered to score. We contrived to kick long balls dead, thus falling foul of the new scrum back rule. We could have and should have won. But we fucking well didn't. It was however, a game played in good spirit all round.