

NEWSLETTER 1 4th September 1995

**TOP TEAMS START WELL WITH GOOD WINS NEW CLUB OFFICERS SETTLE IN
SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE AND ARE SEVERELY NEEDED E.G.M. CALLED FOR MID
SEPTEMBER CLUB CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE FOR THE SEASON**

Did you hear about the bloke who went into the pub carrying a bucket of tar. "A pint for me, he said to the bartender, "and one for the road."
What did mother buffalo say to young buffalo who was about to leave home? "Bye son."
Did you hear about the hyena who fell into a pot of boiling water? He made a laughing stock of himself.
What's the difference between Beaujolais and Alan Sugar? You only get one decent w(h)ine a year out of Beaujolais.

TEAMS FOR SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER v Douglas Isle of Man & Ormskirk

1st XV v Douglas IOM, Provincial Cup, Home, Meet 1.15pm. Number Ones please.

Squad: J.POLLOCK, C.ELKERTON, A.TYLER-HOLLAND, P.COTGRAVE, A.GAYLE, P.STEEN, A.WHITEHEAD, C.SALISBURY, M.CAVANAGH, J.MASON, D.McCLUSKEY, S.CROMPTON, J.TYLER, *S.WALLACE (C), C.HOLLAND, G.LEWIS, P.LEWIS, T.BRADFORD.

Cry Offs to: Chris McHugh 678 5148

2nd XV v Ormskirk, Home, Meet 1.30pm

G.MURRAY; M.FEATHERSTONE, R.HOCKING, A.ROBERTS, P.THOMPSON; M.HOUSTON, M.EVANS; FM. K.JONES, W.THORNER, G.CHEARY, P.REEVES, I.McLEAN(C), *P.WALLACE, M.LEET.

Cry Offs to: Ian McLean 652 6180

* Denotes pitch markers for home teams. If you can't do your pitch marking duty, please arrange for a substitute.

3rd XV v Ormskirk, Away, Meet 12.30pm

M.DALTON; B.ILES, B.BURNS, J.DAVIES, R.HARRISON; P.SHERIDAN, M.ASTBURY; P.YARLETT, P.STOKES, M.COFFIN (C), C.CHEARY, C.ROBERTS, K.DEVANNEY, A.ROBERTS, D.WALKER.

Cry Offs to: Mick Coffin: 645 3740

4th XV v Ormskirk, Away, Meet 12.30

Team to be notified by Nigel Simms 01270650953

ANYONE NOT LISTED ABOVE WHO WANTS A GAME, PHONE ONE OF THE CAPTAINS.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Arthur Howarth

Chairman: Paul Foster; **Vice Chairman:** Maurice Malone

Treasurer: Alan (Scrones) Jones

Secretary: Position vacant at this time. Any volunteers?

Bar Chair: Mark - the new Full Time Club Steward. His duties involve running the bar and keeping the club house in order.

1st XV Captain: Chris McHugh; **2nd XV Captain:** Ian 'Macca' McLean

3rd XV Captain: Mick Coffin; **4th XV Captain:** Nigel Simms; **5th XV ?**

The Wing Commander will no doubt continue to cast his eminence grise over the latter two sides.....

EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM) - Friday 16 September 1995 at 7.30pm.

The purpose of this important meeting is to discuss the current state of the club and

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Prenton RUFC

the directions and ambitions it wishes to realise over the new season. There will also be discussion on the creation of Honourary Life Members of Prenton RUFC.

CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

You will probably be aware of the parlous financial state of the club at the moment. It is therefore imperative that Club Membership Subscriptions are paid as soon as possible. Playing membership is £40 for the season. Payment, or commitment to pay, will be enforced this season. See Mick Coffin to pay subs, or instalments thereof.

THE CLUB KITCHEN

To add to our woes, the Health and Safety Authorities inspected our kitchen during the summer and the rotten swines condemned it as unfit for its purpose! Naturally, the club is anxious to provide a kitchen facility as a service, in true rugby traditions, to visitors and club members alike. The Committee is therefore looking to refit the kitchen - has anyone got a cooker, fridge and/or freezer they can donate? Furthermore, if any club member is prepared to take out a franchise on providing food on Saturdays for their own profit, the Committee will be very keen to negotiate a deal.

CLUB BLAZER BADGES

Message from the Fat Controller (Mick Coffin): "Anyone wanting a club blazer badge, give £12 to Coff next Saturday or miss out forever."

CLUB TIES

Greg Pandit has the new Club tie available at a very reasonable £7.50 each.

TRAINING

Every Wednesday at 7.00pm at the club. Forwards will be coached by the Peters Collins and Lewis and the Backs will come under the instruction of Brian Elkerton and Alan Roberts. All these lads have played at Senior level and are deserving of respect. Overall coaching will be directed by Dennis Park. From 11 September, extra coaching/training sessions will happen on Monday evenings.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE - from Chris McHugh

This season we have a fine crop of young players coming to the fore and we have retained a group of experienced players who still have much to offer. Our main objective for the season is to win our League - we have a very good chance of doing this. Naturally we would like some good cup runs as well. 'Friendly' fixtures will be used to 'blood' new players and this may mean some older, more experienced players standing down in these fixtures.

The whole club must understand that winning the league is the season's clear target. I must have the full commitment of every club member towards that objective.

THE LEAGUE CAMPAIGN.....

16/9/95 Whitehouse (A); 30/9/95 Helsby (A); 14/10/95 Shell (H)
21/10/95 Hoylake (A); 11/11/95 Moore (H); 6/1/96 Bowden (A);
13/1/96 Homes Chapel (H); 10/2/96 Wallasey (A); 17/2/96 Anselmians (H)

SOCIAL EVENTS

This Saturday 10th September, we play host to Douglas, Isle of Man, in the National Provincial Cup. Naturally we will give them a good time on and off the pitch. A Disco has been arranged for the evening at the club. Please support this.....£2 entry on the door

MATCH REPORTS FOR LAST SATURDAY'S OPENING GAMES

1st XV v New Brighton, Home, Won 36-6. YOUNG BACKS RUN RIOT

This opener was played on the top pitch, the only one playable at the club due to the

fact that we had 'mole drains' put in the main pitch during summer and the drought has caused large cracks to open! This situation will be put right for next Saturday. Skipper Magoo issued a game plan - keep moving the ball back to the pack as they were not quite match fit yet so it was pointless tiring them out. It was a game plan that worked so well that towards the end, we won ball with ease and were able to shovel it out to the backs where the youthful running of Jamie Pollock, Craig Elkerton and Andy Tyler Holland among others was effective. The skipper himself was forced out of the action midway through the game with a cut lip which required six stitches and Carl Salisbury also came off with concussion. More than adequate substitutes were found however, Nicky Leeds coming into scrum half and whipping the ball away with familiar precision. Tries came from Jamie Pollock, Craig Elkerton, Steve Wallace (acting skipper) and the Fat Ox, Mick Cavanagh who said afterwards that in all honesty he couldn't remember what the try was like but he thought he did a couple of pirouettes on the way to the line. Seasons may come and seasons may go but the IQ of prop forwards remains the same. Marginally above zero. Andy Whitehead converted two and hit four penalties. Toby Tyler, coming into the side late says he is now available for "The firsts, weddings and funerals." Good games noted from everyone, especially Chris Holland.

2nd XV v New Brighton, Away, Won 10-7 HANGING IN THERE AT THE END.

This was a really splendid win in rather unusual circumstances. Due to us only having one pitch available at Prenton, New Brighton agreed to play two games on the same pitch at their place. Thus our 3rds kicked off at 2.00pm (report next), the seconds playing on completion of this game at 3.45. This meant that half time came in the game at 4.30, the same time that New Brighton first XV finished against Northwich. At which point, an interesting double event took place. The home side's best player by far, the scrum half, was taken off. It turned out that he is the New Brighton bar steward and was required to work in the bar which was busy with First XV spectators. As sub, on came the New Brighton coach, ex Waterloo and Lancashire, Laurie Connor who had just played for the senior team. Mind you, we had had top substitute Chas who came off with a bad back midway through the first half to be replaced by Andres Roberts who had played a whole game for the thirds. Fuck me, thought your reporter, who watched the game having played for the thirds, roll on simultaneous kick offs! We played with the wind in the first half and opened at a storm. Matt Houston kicked an early penalty, then Peter Thompson, a welcome returnee on the wing, snurdled over after some well won ball by the pack. Matt improved. With Marty Evans prompting well from scrum half and strong running from Alan Roberts in the centre, we were good value for the 10-0 lead. However, there was always the threat of the home number 9, and it was only thanks to some excellent defensive work by Gary Murray at full back that he was denied. On the stroke of half time, the home side did manage to bundle over for their score. The second half was one of dour defense for us and though we played most of the half pinned back in our 22, the home side rarely looked like scoring. All in all, an eventful and splendid opening win.

3rd XV v New Brighton, Away, Lost 18-19 SLEEPY PERIOD COSTS US GAME

Micky Coffin led the side, Russell deciding that financial pressures and much travelling precluded him from the job he did so successfully last term. There was a vivid discussion in the changing room before the game, some of it actually about rugby and Coff made great emphasis on the six jumpers in the line. Throughout the game the six jumpers shuffled about the line with regularity. The end result was absolutely fuck all clean won line out ball. Mind you, the home side won nothing either! Despite the utterly miserable line out, we started the game rather well, albeit playing with the wind. Neither side could win a steady supply of clean ball, so all the backs had to feed off scraps. We did this rather better than the home side and midway through the half, Bernie Burns carved through for a good try, fashioned neatly between Shezza Sheridan's two

penalty goals. Bernie was at pains later to comment that he was wearing brand new boots and that they actually did two snappy sidesteps for him! At half time, we were nicely in control and 10-0 up. For fifteen minutes or so after the break, we held firm, then proceeded to toss the game away in a lackadaisical spell wherein we gifted three tries. It was a period where it looked much as though the home team very much wanted to win and we weren't all that bothered. Too late, we redeemed some character and spent the final ten minutes camped on their line. Eventually Bernie crashed over on a short penalty and Shezza improved to put us a point behind. The ref said there was time to kick off and that would be that. So we contrived to keep the ball alive, setting up a remarkable attack that swept well into their 22 and only foundered feet short of the line. It would have been a remarkable climax!

4th XV v Caldy, Away, Lost 12-41 A STUFFING? NO, WORSE THAN THAT!!!

There were mitigating circumstances however - this was after all, Caldy's 'Dream Team', a powerful mixture of experience and youth who usually win 99% of their games. And they were somewhat 'reinforced' - the Caldy third XV opposition failed to turn up so there were a number of rather handy players suddenly available for the home side! We had a strong back division out - Hensh, Robbie Harrison, Mick Penny, Greg Pandit, recent first teamers all. There was a sweep as to how long Pandit would last before succumbing to some obscure old campaign wound. In fact our youthful entrepreneurial hypochondriac lasted the full game! Shock Horror! Contrary to prior prediction, the sweep continues over to next week! The problem was that despite having these denizens in the backs, the pack simply couldn't get ball to them. Arthur, hooking, managed to get his foot to the ball on occasions but was then promptly rolled off it by the home side's powerful surge. Our tries came from Martin Henshaw and from Robbie Harrison, who dribbled the ball fully fifty yards soccer style before picking up and touching down. Skipper Nigel Simms improved one. Despite the result, the consensus was that it was not a wholly unpleasant experience - we were hopelessly outplayed up front but we stuck at it and never gave up!

RECENT QUOTES.....

Macca, after his debut as second XV skipper at New Brighton, "I'm fucking glad you were watching the game Dick, 'cos I was so fucking wound up during the game I can't remember a thing that happened in it..."

Andy Tyler Holland was waxing on about persuading the Douglas lads to stay on at the club after the game next weekend. "Fucking hell," muttered Cav, with perspicacious practicality, "who the fuck's going to take them home if they do?"

At the end of last season, people were questioning George Pollock's insistence on having Father Christmases in his teams "Ye've got to have two santas (sic) in your backs," rasped our resident Jock.

And George again last Saturday, observing the particularly inept performance of the referee of the seconds at New Brighton, "The only thing that he had going for him was that he was a Scotsman," he snarled. Fuck us thought the assembled audience, if that's the case there's absolutely nothing down for the poor sod.

EARLY SEASON STRIKE BY THE HOF.....

Graham 'Sleb' Selby rolled out of the clubhouse at around 7 o'clock Saturday evening and fell into the taxi he had managed to call to take him home. Arriving Chez Sleb, our erstwhile bar person, now having relinquished that post thus enabling him to muster full concentration on the grape, staggered into the Slebnest to be greeted by partner Sue. "Oh, you're back," says Sue, "where's Adam?" (Adam being the eight year old Slebling). "Adam?" intones Sleb frowningly, then with realisation, "oh fuck, all the way home I've been thinking I've left something at the clubhouse, couldn't fucking well think what it was....."