

# FIRST LEAGUE GAME POSTPONED BUT NO FUNEREAL ATMOSPHERE AT PRENTON FOR THIS NEW SEASON!!!

When does Micheal Jackson know it's time for bed? When the big hand touches the little hand. Why are fat women like mopeds? Because they can be a great ride but you wouldn't want your mates to see you. There was much mourning in Knotty Ash last week - the Diddymen misread the news and thought it was Doddy that had died.

## TEAMS FOR SATURDAY 13th September 1997 v

1st XV v Marple, Cup Home 1.30pm	2nd XV v New Brighton Away, 1.15	3rd XV v Moore Home, 1.30	4th XV v TBA Away 1.30	RESERVES
L.ROBERTS	P.THOMPSON	J.WARD	M.NEISH	A.HOWARTH
C.ELKERTON	P.GRAVES	G.DAVIES	B.WILLIAMS	M.COFFIN
M.PEERS	G.KNAPMANN	S.ROBERTS	L.GORDON	J.GAUNT
D.BALDWIN	B.DAVIES	P.COLLINS	J.BECALL	J.LYONS
A.GAYLE	C.AINSLIE	B.ROWLANDS	C.DAVIES	C.NEIL
				G.HALL
				M.HENSHAW
D.THOMAS (C)	G.FURLONG	M.HOUSTON (C)	V.WILSON	ET AL
M.ASTBURY	J.BURGESS	M.COTGRAVE	B.ILES	
M.CAVANAGH	S.MURRAY	T.BAKER	P.YARLETT	
G.FISHER	R.DODD (C)	K.JONES	M.GAUNT	
C.McHUGH	D.McCLUSKEY	A.VICKERS	F.M.	
P.WALLACE	M.TYLER	J.HOLLAND	D.WALKER	
S.CROMPTON	G.CLARKE	K.GATHERCOLE	J.TUOHY	
S.COPPLE	A.ROBERTS	K.DEVANNEY	O.ROBERTS	
C.HOLLAND	M.PENNY	W.LEE	N.WATTS	
P.LEWIS	I.McLEAN	G.LEWIS	M.LEET	

Reserves: S.WALLACE. C.SALISBURY. W.THORNER

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

Dave Thomas 608 0423	Russell Dodd 01706822202	Matt Houston 653 3920	Alan Roberts 512 1323
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## PRENTON NEWS

It is hoped to run four teams each week plus a Veterans team (nominally over 35 year olds) on a fairly regular basis.

**Team Captains are:** 1st XV - Dave Thomas 608 0423; 2nd XV - Russell Dodd 01706822202; 3rd - XV Matt Houston 653 3920; 4th XV - Paul Bennett 644 9775; Veterans XV - Greg Pandit 625 6601.

**Fixture Secretary:** Paul Bennett 644 9775.

**Training/Coaching.** with an emphasis on ball work as much as possible is on Monday and Wednesday evenings. at the club. 7.00pm prompt on the pitch. We are developing a strong coaching system, with 'guest' sessions from experienced persons to supplement the official Club Coach, Brian Elkerton. We are developing a grand playing style. Comment was made last season that although we just missed out on league promotion, the 1st XV played the most consistently watchable rugby seen at Prenton Dell for some years. This attractive playing style is to be built on this season and the club is confident that it will soon pay dividends in terms of winning matches. Clearly, if you want to play 1st or 2nd XV rugby, you must train at least once per week to familiarise yourself with the techniques the team is collectively striving to achieve. However, training sessions are carefully designed to be enjoyable as well and ALL players, no matter how old or young, experienced or new to the game are actively encouraged to come along.

**MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS - AT THE CLUB - 7-00pm ON THE PITCH.**

**GIVE IT A TRY. WE GUARANTEE YOU'LL ENJOY IT!!**

**1st XV League 1997/98 - South East Cheshire 2** (there is a S.E.Cheshire 3!)

6/9/97 v Collegiate (H) to be rearranged; 20/9/97 v Halton (A); 27/9/97 v Helsby (H); 11/10/97 v Shell (H); 25/10/97 v Port Sunlight (H); 18/10/97 v Hoylake (A); 8/11/97 v Douglas (A); 15/11/97 v Collegiate (A); 3/1/97 v Halton (H);

14/2/97 v Helsby (H); 14/3/97 v Shell (A); 28/3/97 v Hoylake (H); 11/4/97 v Port Sunlight (A); 25/4/97 v Douglas (H). There is some suggestion that Douglas have requested that we swap their fixture round and so make an end of season 'mini-tour' as we did last season. This will be confirmed later.

**Peter 'Swish' Wallace** sends his thanks to everyone at the club for their coming along and helping to make his and Linda's recent wedding a stunning success. This thanks is even extended to Andy Gayle and his wrecking crew - the giant size model flowers at the evening do will never be the same again. Peter and Linda are now happily installed in their new home where Peter has already put much of his experience into the selection and operation of the curtains!

**Message from Badger Davies**, requesting as much support from the lads as possible! Badger's pub, The Bedford near Rock Ferry station is much in need of our custom. The Badge has worked hard to clear the riff raff out of the pub and would much appreciate the custom a thirsty rugby team or two returning from an away fixture would bring. Why not call in for an odd pint on the way back to Prenton? And help out a much liked club member.

**Club Subscriptions** are now due. There's a special reduced rate if you pay during September - £30 full playing; £12 student/unemployed; £17.50 non playing. Please see Micky Cavanagh to arrange the payment of your subs as soon as possible. Quite apart from other club privileges (we'll have thought up what these are by next week), your membership guarantees your receipt of this scurrilous and occasionally scatological broadsheet!

### **1st XV v Wallasey Home Lost 10-14 CUTTING EDGE NOT QUITE THERE**

Whilst there was much to be positive about and much to be encouraged by in this performance, a defeat was not what the territorial advantage we had throughout the match merited. Luck was hardly on our side however. With a strong wind in the first half, we took an early lead through a Dave Thomas penalty and were just establishing a rhythm when the game had to be halted for a lengthy spell as an ambulance was called to remove an unfortunate Wally who sustained a very nasty leg injury. Fortunately he departed laughing, though this was due to the administration of nitrous oxide rather than his listening to one of Lewie's jokes. We wish him well, whatever his affliction. Half time came and went and we played some impressive rugby, facing the elements. Searing breaks from Dave Thomas and some bullocking runs by Lewie and especially Peter Wallace saw us establish lots of territorial advantage. However, the Wallies tackled like demons and defended with intensity. The inevitable came as the game entered its final quarter, an interception try to the visitors, closely followed by another try. Prenton rallied and Peter Wallace crowned a good game forcing himself over from close range. Dave Thomas improved with the last kick of the game. We'll play worse than this and win. The Wallies certainly knew they'd been in a match they were really quite fortunate to win.

### **2nd XV v Wallasey Away Lost 12-30 LOST BY US RATHER THAN WON BY THEM**

Well there's cryptic for you! Russell Dodd on fine reporting form, though disappointed in a rather jaded display wherein teamwork did not figure high on our agenda. Losing 0-6, we had a little purple patch immediately after the break and led 12-11, tries from John Burgess after a whiskey line out move ("It actually didn't work but we still scored," - Russell) and Mike Penny after good second phase possession. Colin Ainslie converted one. Then the good spell waned and the home side ran in tries to win with comfort. Let's build on that good bit!

### **3rd XV v Wallasey, Home Won 40-10 JUGS ABOUND IN SOLE TRIUMPH OF WEEKEND!**

This was truly Prenton going for the jugular! Paul Moran got his first try for the club. Jug. ATH grabbed a greedy hat trick of scores. Jug And the team won by that 30 point margin. Captain's jug. Matt was pretty coolly sagacious after, "It was all pretty uneventful huh?" he offered your eager newshound who was left to ponder how in fuck the laconic 3rd XV skipper will describe a 3-0 win ground out at a muddy Port Sunlight in pissing rain in mid December? The visitors took a lead with a try but Prenton were not to be denied. Roaring back, the backs produced some marvelous running rugby resulting in some splendid tries, ATH notching three from full back, one a real gem, the ball sweeping back and forth across the line before Chris Smith popped a delightful inside pass from the wing. Paul Moran got his debut score and Peter Evans got the only forward's try with a typical powerful thrust. Matt Houston kicked three conversions and three penalties. Substitutes were allowed and there was a proper 3rd XV moment soon after the restart when skipper Matt decided it was time to introduce Keith Gathercole to the fray. There was some consternation on the line. "Fucking hell," moans Keith, "you want me to go on right now? I've only just lit up a bloody ciggie...." Clearly this side have little conception of the concept of white lines. Steve Roberts seemed sure to score but proceeded to run over the dead ball line. Then Dave Ball capped another moment of confusion picking up a loose ball and diving over the dead ball line! Perhaps these guys recognise some rather different white lines!!

### **The Things They Say - already a rich crop developing here!**

Mush Cotgrave was with the lads in downtown Birkenhead the other week, "Look at that dog," he said pointing to a mangy but ferocious looking cur, "it's a fucking animal." Well that rules it out of being vegetable or mineral!

Bob Rogers was describing a particularly big handed ex player he once knew, "He had fingers like bananas, he'd wrap them round you and give you a dead leg of the arm." This makes marginally more sense than a dead arm of the leg!

The firsts in a pre season friendly against Merseyside Police last week and Peter Lewis was giving the team talk. Firing up the boys. Lifting the atmosphere. "We're up against it today lads," he says with passion, "you know that these fellers take no prisoners." A quick response came from Steve Copple, "Actually, they do Lewie," he said, a statement of such simplistic accuracy (so it is alleged) that it was tough to deny. But The Big Man was still in motivate mood. "No they don't," he expostulated from among the red mists, then, "oh, yes, I suppose they do....oh fuck."