

A Message from 'Headquarters'

I am delighted to wish one of Durham's oldest and yet most vibrant clubs a happy 125th anniversary.

I do hope that everyone involved with Stockton RFC, from the youngest minis to the oldest vets, has a marvellous season.

After 125 years, it's marvellous to have 200 boys and girls out on the pitches on Sunday mornings and to be doing so much for the future of the game.

Keep up the good work and enjoy the rugby.

Peter Trunkfield
RFU President
1998-99

Congratulations from the President of Durham County RFU

The practice of the County President extending his warm congratulations to one of its constituent Clubs, on the occasion of that Club reaching a milestone in its existence (be it 50th, 75th birthday or whatever) is well established throughout the game, and one would expect precisely that in the circumstances.

Methinks, however, we have something of a 'first' occurring here. Not only is it the Stockton Club's birthday to celebrate a magnificent 125 years of existence - something of a special event in its own right - but this particular County President is congratulating *his own club*, and I would think that constitutes something of a rarity.

I was delighted, in 1980, to take up Stockton's representation on the County Committee, albeit on a temporary basis, as we thought at the time.

It was inevitable that, all things being equal, I would eventually be asked to become Stockton's second County President (the well respected Rex Smith in '66, and again in '76, being the first).

That my Presidency, through a combination of events, resignations, early retirements

and, sadly even deaths, amongst them - would coincide with the Club's 125th birthday was a situation that could never possibly have been envisaged.

Certainly it has for me, an extra poignancy. Being one of the original seven signatories to the document that actually brought the Durham Union into existence on the 10th. of October, 1876, Stockton has always enjoyed 'elder statesman' status.

Only two other Durham clubs (Darlington by 10 years and Durham City by 1 year) were formed at an earlier date, and after 125 years of existence, no other County club is more vigorously engaged in Durham's affairs than Stockton.

A record of service and support to the County that Stockton can justifiably be proud of.

The 25 very significant years since the club's Centenary have seen you rise in the Durham pecking order to become second only to West Hartlepool, whose rise during that same period has been meteoric, to say the least.

With the hard work of your senior membership lifting you to Level 5 in the national meritocracy, you've built up a



Junior and Colts section that is the envy of the North-East, and you've picked up 5 County Senior Cups in the outstanding seven seasons from 1990 to 1996.

Your big decision now, in common with many other Clubs, revolves around how to address the new professional age, and I can only appeal to you to keep your feet on the ground and retain enjoyment of the game as the first priority.

Whatever your decision (and I've no doubt I'll be part of it anyway) I offer the Stockton Club the most sincere of Durham County congratulations and our best wishes for your future.

Alan Todd
Durham RFU President
1998-99



It is difficult to imagine how a rugby club was organised 125 years ago.

Without modern communication and transport, how were fixtures arranged, players contacted and how did teams travel to away fixtures?

The founding fathers of our club deserve great credit for their foresight and for the hard work they put into forming and nurturing Stockton Rugby Club in its early years.

Unfortunately, the names of the first members have disappeared into the mists of time.

Obviously, the modern obsession with paper work was not as important 125 years ago as we have, unfortunately, never been able to find any documentation relating to that era. We should also pay tribute to

A Message from the Stockton RFU President

those members who re-formed the club after the First and Second World Wars. We owe them a great deal.

Probably the last 10 years have seen the greatest and the most important change in rugby football since the Rugby Union was formed.

The advent of leagues and professionalism, the great commitment expected from players have changed the game completely.

Some hanker after the game as it was, but there is no way of turning the clock back, so let us make the best of the position we find ourselves in.

Particularly, we must strive not to lose the friendship and camaraderie which is so much part of the game.

Anniversaries are not only a time to look back but also to look forward.

No one can foretell the future. What state Stockton Rugby Club will be in another 25 years is impossible to predict.

One thing is certain. Without the continued support of everyone concerned with Stockton Rugby Club, the club will not survive.

Particularly in today's world, with

so many attractions outside the game, it is vital that everyone works for the benefit of the club.

With that support, the continued healthy state of our Mini and Junior sections and continued success of the Colts, it augers well for the future.

Let us hope Stockton Rugby Club will survive for another 25 years.

The future is in your hands.

I hope you enjoy reading this brochure which highlights some of the more notable episodes in the life of the club since its Centenary Season in 1973.

The humour, the ups and downs, excitements and disappointments which go to make up rugby football will hopefully continue into the future.

Finally, could I say a special thanks to Jeff Costello and Terry Wilson for the hard work they have contributed to ensure the publication of this brochure.

Also to the club statistician, Alan Todd, whose obsession with collecting and recording the club's results over many seasons has born fruit.

Tim McCarthy
President
Stockton RUFC

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the Club's Sponsors, whose invaluable financial assistance is so important;
Bob Deans for the detailed Early Years history and Alan Todd for the playing statistics 1973-1998.

While every attempt has been made to ensure the factual accuracy of the contents, no legal responsibility is accepted for the more bizarre and fantastic stories which border on legend. Of such stuff, Rugby Clubs are made.

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1874-1973

The Early Years 1873-1914

Exactly 50 years had gone by since William Webb Ellis first elected to pick up the ball and run with it at Rugby School in 1823. In 1862, Darlington were the first Durham County club to be formed, with Durham City following ten years later, whilst in Yorkshire, Bradford and Halifax had been founded in

1866, and our near neighbours, Middlesbrough started playing in 1872.

So rugby football was well and truly on its way. In **1873**, when the game was celebrating its Golden Jubilee, the Stockton club was founded.

Exactly how this happened and whom the men responsible were is

unknown and will probably remain so because no records have been traced. Indeed, this lack of information shrouds nearly the whole of the club's 1873 to 1914 era and the darkness is only illuminated by county records and old photographs preserved by the descendants of the players of those far-off years.

1873 was also the year in which Durham first fielded a county team and although it is not surprising that the newly formed Stockton Club were not represented, they had no less than five representatives in the two games played against Yorkshire in the following season, **1874-75**.

The Stockton quintet were *W. Hill*,



Stockton RFC 1886 J. Smiles; W.J. Mann; F.H. Cooke; W. Emmerson; W.R. Robner; H.J. Taylor; A.R. Holmes; Rev. J.W. Fellowes (Captain); H.K. Kindler; R. Lewis; J.H. Natrass; E.J. Merryweather; H.S. Cadle; H. Bennington; A. Braithwaite (Stockton RUFC thank Charles Purvis Esq. for his kind donation of this photograph, now in the possession of S.D.M. Ryan)

C. O. Fawcus, R. H. Bicknell, S. Powell and G. M. D. Trotter. These two early encounters with Yorkshire were notable for two curiosities.

In the first game, played at Darlington, Yorkshire turned up a man short and Durham, ever sporting, agreed to a fourteen-a-side team and still won. In the return match at Leeds the old formation of twenty-a-side was reverted to in order to give a game to all who had travelled, but the game was won by Yorkshire.

By **1876** the club were using a ground in the Parkfield area, near the end of Bowesfield Lane and continued on this ground up to the start of the 1914 war.

A curiosity to the modern player is the fact that a century ago, half time and two periods of play were by no means universal and is was not uncommon to play four periods of twenty minutes.

These early years close with the advent of the 1914 18 War.

Rugby kit was put away and with the departure of players to play a grimmer game the club ceased to function.

As with its birth, no evidence is available to record the time and manner of its passing and rugby was not heard of again in Stockton for another ten years.

Revival and Decline 1923-1939

The club was not revived until **1923**. The war had dispersed many of the former members and a depressed economy did little to engender enthusiasm in the immediate post-war years.

However, the start in Billingham in 1922 of a new company called the Synthetic Ammonia and Nitrates

Company (subsequently to become ICI) led to greater prosperity and introduced newcomers to the area. In 1923, chiefly under the guidance of *Dr. John Brydon*, the club was reformed.

So high was the level of enthusiasm that fourteen days later, on New Year's Eve but presumably before the traditional festivities were begun, a further meeting was held to decide club colours.

It was decided that night that the shirts, which were to be provided by the club, would be red with a broad white band across the chest. Other kit was to be supplied by the players and although the hose colours were not specified, it was laid down that the shorts would be coloured navy blue and should be knee length.

Meanwhile John Brydon and his committee had been searching for a ground, probably the most difficult of their decisions and certainly the most important financially.

Four possible pitches were investigated and it was ultimately decided that the most favourable was the Norton Showfield.

This was situated a little to the East of Station Road in Norton on land that is now crossed by the Billingham-Stockton Ring Road. Additionally the ground boasted a timber grandstand which seemed, even in those days, to be a bargain at £6 rental for the remainder of the 1923/24 season and £19 per season thereafter.

It did not, however, have changing or washing facilities, problems that were to bedevil the club for many years to come.

The Royal Hotel in Stockton High



Stockton RFC 1923-24 Back row (l to r) W. Oakley; T. Guthrie; M. Gibbon; Dr. G. Irving; Dr. J. Brydon (President); Dr. Averill; J. Riley; J. Sladden; W. Dent; Front row (l to r) E. Davis (Trainer); S. Bell; W. Wright; W. Ferguson; H. Borrie; W. Hodgson; v. Williams; A. Sladden

Street was adopted as the club's headquarters and if was here that future committee meetings were held.

The Royal also volunteered the use of relatively primitive changing and washing facilities and the "Boots" was paid a token guinea per annum for cleaning up after the players had departed.

A coach was arranged to transport the players to and from the ground in Norton but this must have been rather a tedious arrangement and it was not long before those living near to the ground began to change at home and return there afterwards before moving on to the Royal Hotel to share the post-match drinks and chat.

Shortly after this, in order to strengthen the club, offers were sent to the newly formed Furness and Billingham Synthonia clubs suggesting a merger. This was subsequently declined, but

meanwhile a further 21 players had joined the club so it became necessary to form a second XV.

All of these events occurred very rapidly and the second XV played its first game in February **1924**, only two months after the re-founding of the club.

Meanwhile fixtures for the senior side had been obtained with Low Fell, Redcar, Hartlepool Rovers II, Throston Wanderers, Bede College, Darlington, Hartlepool Old Boys and the Durham Light Infantry, who were then stationed at York.

In those formative years *Stan Bell* and *Vivian Williams* won reputations as a fast and elusive pair of wing three-quarters and *Dr. Averill*, a New Zealander, was responsible for instructing the pack in the fundamentals of the game

Subscriptions in this, first season of reformation, were 7/6d for non-playing members. 5/-d for playing

members and 2/6d for lady members.

To gain more financial support, a letter was compiled and sent to the most likely Patrons.

That letter brought 79 replies and £38.22.6d in cash, quite an amount in those days. A very successful start had thus been made and the healthy situation of the club at the end of that season was reflected in the treasurer's report which announced a balance of £47.7.2d.

This stability continued during the next two seasons. New members were added to a steadily growing list of patrons and the playing strength was also increasing. There was not much luck forthcoming in the draw for the Durham Senior Cup competition.

On its first entry into the contest Stockton drew the holders, Hartlepool Rovers, who at that time were in the midst of a five year domination of the competition. Even in those days

Hartlepool Rovers could supply the county with the bulk of their playing strength. Stockton's administrators were still concerned about the lack of basic amenities at the Norton ground. Initially a bell tent was used as a changing room but this was only a temporary measure. More adequate facilities came in the **1925/26** season when a hut was purchased, erected and duly painted in the club's colours. But the players still had to use the Royal Hotel for bathing purposes. It was during this season that serious thought was given to purchasing the Norton ground. After the reforming of the club in 1923, the committee considered but shelved the idea of purchasing the field as the price of £1299 was

out of the question at that time. Subsequently, when the club's financial position improved, Dr. Brydon negotiated with Lloyds Bank and secured a loan to purchase the ground. It was realised that it was essential for every endeavour to be made to reduce the loan and organised social functions and fund raising schemes were soon in operation. Amongst the most successful were a club dance, bazaar and prize draw, and all became annual events. From outside the rugby club more financial support was forthcoming. Stockton Rangers Football Club hired the ground each Thursday for a rental of £10 per annum and during the summer Stockton Y.M.C.A. and the

Norton Bible Class had access to the pitch for the playing of cricket at £6 for the season. The only condition was that the practice pitch had to be kept away from the main field.

Season **1927-28** brought changes in the club's higher administrators.

Dr. Brydon stepped down from the president's duties, but automatically became a Vice President and took up a position on the selection committee.

Mr. S. P. Bowen became the new President. The end of that term was an important one for the club. The Rugby Football Union was asked if they would be prepared to take over the mortgage on the Norton ground. The reply came with the offer of a loan of up to £850.00, two thirds the market

value.

This required the club to find the balance of £750, which was obtained via a bank loan guaranteed by six of the club's senior members.

With this transaction now completed, continued progress was made in improving the condition of the ground.

Six foot high fencing was erected around the perimeter and ashes were laid for spectators who wished to stand rather than occupy a seat in the grandstand. The club's hopes of the county using the Norton ground for one of their championship games was very high. So much so that even the L.N.E.R. were persuaded to support the proposal by giving the assurance that every train passing through Norton station would be stopped for the convenience of the spectators, if the County decided on Norton as a venue.

This never came about as the county continued to use the grounds of Darlington, Blaydon, Hartlepool and on occasions, Sunderland. Nevertheless, the ground was lured for other sports, such as pony racing, dirt track racing, cricket in the summer and foot racing on Fridays between April and August.

With the object of encouraging school rugby. the club allowed the Stockton Secondary school to play on the ground on Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. An increased playing strength led to the formation of a third XV and its first fixture was against the Secondary School, The following season a Stockton Public School XV had the use of the ground.

During this period the club

captaincy continually changed hands. *W. Dent* took over from *Norman Bowen* for season **1928/29**. *F. Cooper* was in charge in the term **1929/30** and then *John Sladden* had his second spell of leadership in season **1930/31**.

Season 1930/31 began as a memorable one for the club. *Dr. Maurice Klar*, who was later to render outstanding service, arrived in the area and was quickly co-opted onto the Committee. Shortly afterwards the Norton ground at last saw its first representative game. Edinburgh Institution Club had asked to be supplied with opposition in the area and this was accepted by the Stockton club. They selected a Stockton and District side to take on the Scots and the match was arranged for January 2.

However, the Scottish side later cancelled the game. On hearing of this unfortunate news, Durham County offered to send a representative XV and with help from the County President, George Carter, the game took place as scheduled and a successful day was celebrated with a dance in the evening.

The social side of the club continued to flourish. The annual ball was, as ever, a great success and around 150 members attended at a cost per head of 7/6d.

This event was later changed to a carnival dance where the price of entry was 3/6d. The players assembled for social and supper evenings and the monthly dance became very popular. The music for these dances was provided by the locally famous Jack Marwood, with the occasional attraction of a beauty competition with the lucky



Stockton RFC 1935-36 Back row (l to r) A.D. Fairless; J.A. Hill; W.Tate; J.W. Byers; C. Kendall Middle row (l to r) N.Shutt; B.Race; P.Coates (Captain); R. Ireland; R. Carling Front row (l to r) M.Dixon; J.A. Nicholson; H.Rutledge; H.D.Race; E.A. Barber

winner receiving £5.

Whilst the social life of the club was undoubtedly successful it seems surprising that morale on the field in the season 1930-31 was rather at a low ebb. The continued failure of the first XV to raise their standard of play, led to the season ending with a very poor record.

Many different ideas were tried out to raise the team spirit but it was obvious that winning rugby was the only tonic.

The only high note in that season was the favourable results of the second team.

Of interest that year was the proposed formation of a local seven-a-side tournament. The short game, although well established in the borders of Scotland, had only reached England in 1926 with the beginning of the now famous Middlesex tournament.

It was the Cleveland branch of the Referees' Society who proposed the tournament and although the Stockton committee supported the proposal it did not find sufficient favour and was shelved. The administrative records are slender in this period and there are no records of match results. Most significant and unfortunate was the sale of the ground in the **1933/34** season to Moorhouse and Barker the builders, the reasons for the sale being not recorded.

Matches continued to be played there up to the **1936/37** season. The club then moved to a rented pitch at Potato Hall at Eaglescliffe for the following season, subsequently moving to Preston Cricket Ground the following year, in the season before the outbreak of the 1939/45 war.

Notable in those pre-war years

were *George Bell*, the Stockton tobacconist who worked wholeheartedly for the club, *Jack Nicholson*, the trainer, *Tom Guthrie*, *Joe Flynn*, *Jerry Fleish*, *Ron Wynzar*, *Tom Hargreaves* and *Hugh Burns*, who were successive captains of the first XV between 1932 and 1939.

For the second time in its short but chequered history, war was to curtail the activities of the club and without any assets such as a ground, a club house or even a bank balance it was inevitable that the club was disbanded when its players departed to the war.

Nevertheless the seeds of Post-war recovery, although not evident then, were already there in the persons of *Ivor Dixon*, *Hugh Blenkinsop* and particularly *Dr. Klar* and *Arthur Rudd*.

These pre-war players were to form the nucleus of the group that would resurrect the club after the war and the latter two in particular Dr Klar and Arthur Rudd were later to render long and outstanding service.

Second Revival and Progress 1946-1959

As the war veterans started to return home in 1945 those who were interested in rugby began to meet and it was not long before discussion centred around ways of reviving the Stockton RUFC which had been disbanded in 1939. The difficulties must have seemed immense, as they had no ground, no club house, rugby reputation or money. Nevertheless a meeting was called to assess the extent of support for revival of the club. The result was encouraging and tribute must be paid to those who were present at this second revival



Stockton RFC 1936-37 Back row (l to r) E. Perry; B. Stones; A.D.Fairless; H.Leng; A. Rudd; L. Pope; Dr. Feldman; E. Lloyd; N. Cohen; S. Mellow
Front row (l to r) F.W. Harvey; H.D. Race; R.L. Coulson; R. Bell

of the club, led by the energetic *Sid Dumble*. It is thanks to his enthusiasm that the new start was made.

Many of the players he mustered together had been first introduced to the game by Sid in his capacity of games master at Stockton Secondary School and his obvious dedication to rugby had made a lasting impression on many of his pupils.

Mention should also be made of *Arthur Blenkinsop*, *Ivor Dixon*, who was later to become president of the club, and *Dennis Orriss* who became first post war captain.

Without their efforts the club may not have been reformed. The start was a faltering one, as would be expected without a ground. Despite this handicap a reasonably full fixture list was arranged and the opponents, to their eternal

credit, honoured their commitments and thus enabled the club to plan the future. The playing strength - the term is used loosely - was rarely high enough to field two complete sides and invariably our various opponents had to supply spare players to make up the second team to the required number! Lack of a permanent ground remained the greatest problem but out of the blue in the February of **1947** a tentative offer was made by the Norton Cricket Club.

In April the offer was set out more formally by *Mr. D. C. H. Townsend*. to play on until the 1948-49 season.

It was agreed to proceed with the proposals but meanwhile to continue to play on a ground in Eaglescliffe. In the season **1947-48**, despite the fact that only three out of the twenty five games were

won, there was a happy spirit amongst the players who were captained that season by *Alec Massie*, a Scot of pleasant personality and a gifted player.

Before moving to the new ground it was decided to formalise the rules of the club and to improve the administration.

The representation on both the General and Selection Committees was increased and *Rex Smith* who was later to become president of Durham County R.F.U., drafted new club rules. Coincident with this Dr. Maurice Klar and Arthur Rudd had renewed their interest in the club and both were to begin periods of long and outstanding service.

At the annual meeting, held in May, **1948** at the Vane Arms Hotel, Dr Klar was elected President, *Herbert Whitley* a former Northern player, English



Stockton RFC 1950-51 Back row (l to r) J. Nicholson; J. Robertson; R.A. Branson; D. Fawcett; A. Rudd; J.I. Dixon Middle row (l to r) S. Llewellyn; A. Brown; J.P. Whinham; H. Brain; L. Haynes; J. Lancaster; P. McClaren; R.V. Smith Seated (l to r) J. Tarren; D.C. Orriss; R.L. Coulson; C.H. Tealey; K.A. Marsh; A. Ayre; A. Snowdon

international and British Lion was appointed treasurer, Sid Dumble was made the first Life Member, Dennis Orriss was re-elected First Team Captain and *Gerry Connolly* took over the post of Secretary, in addition to captaining the Second Team.

The club owes a significant debt to all of these men for efforts in reviving rugby in Stockton in the face of the many large difficulties that they encountered during those early years.

The **1948-49** season opened with a move to a temporary pitch located in Hartburn for which the club was indebted to *Mr. J. Smith*, upon whose land the club had to

prepare and mark out a pitch. The move to the new pitch at Norton Cricket Club was completed towards the end of 1948 and those who played there in the remainder of the season will never forget the experience.

A great deal of ash had been laid too close to the surface with the result that anyone who hit the surface was immediately grazed or cut. "Volunteers" were promptly pressganged into picking up the ash by hand. Many sessions were required to accomplish this and in the intervening games there were many players and opponents who removed the ash the hard way and have scarred knees and elbows to

prove it.

The results in 1948-49 season were a marked improvement on the previous seasons and 10 of the 24 games were won by the First Team whilst a Second Team was fielded regularly and won seven of their 23 games. That season also saw the advent of *Charles Tealey* and **Pat Whinham** to the club, two more men who were to continue their association after their playing days were over.

In the season **1949-50**, *Rex Smith* took over as Secretary, an office he was to conduct with his unfailing quiet efficiency for the next six seasons and *Charles Tealey* was elected captain of the first team,

bringing to that post an enormous amount of enthusiasm and detailed planning. Sixteen wins were recorded that season, perhaps the most significant being our first win over our neighbours Middlesbrough by 9 points to 8.

The club was still a long way from being a power in local rugby circles but it had shed its old image of a nomadic club with inadequate facilities.

Moreover a well organised social committee had begun to function under the forceful leadership of Dr. Klar and the annual ball that year was a great success. Morale was high, several new players had been attracted to the club and a general air of optimism and confidence in the future was discernable.

Into the Fifties

The Fifties again saw a steady improvement in the playing record

and the fixture list. The level of enthusiasm was high and a third team formed.

Perhaps the most important event, although its significance was not widely appreciated at the time, was the formation of a Ladies Committee. Its aim was principally to provide teas for the players, but in their first year the ladies raised over £100 which contributed largely to the cost of a covered stand for spectators.

1950 also saw the selection of the Club Captain, *Charles Tealey*, a wing three quarter, in all of Durham County's games that season. Charles was the first Stockton player to play for the county for 25 years, *John Sladden* preceding him in 1925. Charles was one of the hardest tacklers the club has yet seen and a very determined runner with the ball.

The year was not without misfortune, however. The club



Stockton RFC 2nd XV 1950-51 Back row (l to r) L. Haynes; A. Walker; K. Craggs Second row (l to r) A. Brown; A. Ayre; H.P.B. Fawcett; J. Hayden; Anon Third row (l to r) J.Y. Glover; G. Connolly; R. Billsborrow; I. Brown; J. Casey Front row (l to r) G. Moss; K. Sawyer



Stockton RFC at Houghton, 1956-57 Back row (l to r) H. Whitley; G. Gillespie; M. Allon; H. Robinson; J. Tarren (Snr); G. Shaw; D. Newton; A. Rudd; G. Brunt; N. Fernie; J. Hamilton; S.C. Jones Seated (l to r) D. Chisholm; R.L. Coulson; S. West; D. Richardson; (Captain); G. Lowes; N. Wilkinson; N. Cross; Ridley Scott (of Hollywood fame).

learned with great regret of the death of its President, *Dr. John Brydon*, who was principally responsible for its reformation in the 20's and who guided its affairs until the outbreak of war in 1939. The **1951/52** season brought further county honours, *Charles Tealey* being selected for three County games, *Ken Williamson*, a centre three quarter playing three games and *Bob Coulson* at left wing three quarter playing once.

It was a rare event for any club to provide three of the county three-quarter line but the club lacked forwards and, despite the strength of the back division, the results for the season were disappointing.

Ken Williamson was a most gifted ball player as at that time he was also a County cricketer, County squash player and an F.A. Amateur Cup finalist.

That season, the club rented a field on the North side of the railway at Stockton, in order to provide a pitch for the Third Team. Marked out and cut by the players themselves, several games were

played there. But the distance from the changing rooms and the unevenness of the surface resulted in its abandonment at the end of the season.

The following year, **1952/53**, proved to be a very good season. It opened with the visit of a team from Northumberland captained by *George Gibbs*, with whom the Club President *Herbert Whitley* had a long association.

The visiting team contained several County and International players and the result, which was a draw, proved a true pointer to the remainder of the season, in which the First Team, captained by *Bob Coulson*, established records which were not surpassed for a decade.

Derek Richardson was selected for the English Police XV and *Eric Goddard* established a club record by scoring 77 points. Other notable players were *Charles Tealey*, *Brian* and *John Bulmer*, *Jeff Tarren* and *Ron Parry*. One selection "error" of that era is worth recording. An apparently "bona fide" letter was received

stating that a Scottish International player wished to join the club and the Committee promptly selected him for the First Team but he failed to turn up. This was repeated the following week and it was only then that inquiries revealed that the club had been duped.

The **1953/54** season marked a decline in the playing results but was notable for a 3-9 victory over Gosforth, who have never played us since. The game was broadcast live by BBC radio.

The year also saw the official opening by the Mayor, of the Hall which forms the annexe to the Social Club and permission was given by Stockton County Borough to use the town's coat of arms as its blazer badge.

The **1954/55** season was again a moderate year as far as playing results were concerned. But it was significant as it marked the purchase for £3,000 by Norton Cricket Club Trust under the guidance of *Mr. D. C. H. Townsend*, of an additional nine acres of land

adjoining the first team pitch.

One epic kick during that season is worthy of record. In the opening game of the season against the Gibbs XV the first team captain, *E. S. B. Goddard*, put over a penalty from within his own 25.

The wind direction and speed are of course forgotten, but witnesses claim the conversion distance was certainly over 85 yards.

Moderate results again characterised the **1955/56** season but that year saw the completion of preparations for the two new playing pitches which had for so long restricted development of the club. Although invidious to single out any era or name individuals, this was a year of notable characters and mention may perhaps be made of a few, such as *Dick Lovelace*, *Jim Hamilton*, *Alan Todd*, *Bob Billsborrow*, *Bill Wilson*, *Norman Fernie*, *John Brunt*, *George Lowes*, *Ian Grant*, *Ian Brown*, *Alan Ayre*, *Dennis Fawcett*. *George Shaw* *Steve West*, *Brian Brand*, *Ridley Scott* (the Hollywood film director) and *Derek Richardson*.

Needless to say, with such men under the guidance of *Dr. Klar*, the social efforts were improved, to such an extent that in the following season the club had a record balance of £279.

1956/57 season is remembered as one of improved results under the guidance of a new Chairman *Rex Smith*, *Dr. Klar* having resigned the post due to the pressures of business.

The season also saw the introduction of *Gerry Moss*, *Les Thorton*, *George Gillespie*, *David Newton*, *George Carter*, *Brian*

Peacock, *John Fellowes*, *Derek* and *Ray Walford*, *Malcolm Stayman*, *Joe Williamson*, *Tony Frosdick*, *John Pacey*, *Alan Wiles* and *Ron Hoare*.

In the following season the cyclical decline returned with a vengeance and unaccountably the results were the worst for several years, but nevertheless **1958** saw the formation for the first time of a Fourth Team.

In **1958/59** playing results were much improved but it was in the following season, which, despite moderate results, one was able to detect signs that the club was about to lift itself above the mediocrity which had characterised the playing results over the preceding seven years.

The **1959/60** season was significant for the introduction to the club of *Peter Hudson* who had come to Stockton as games master at Grangefield Grammar School. This forceful and enthusiastic man was to have a profound effect on the club in the 60's.

It was also the year in which the upsurge in the quality of rugby played at Grangefield began to have a galvanic effect on the club's style, especially late in the season when *Bob Johnson*, *Colin Sinclair* and *Arthur Chapman* played their first rugby for the club.

Expansion and Improvement 1960-1973

The 60's were to be a most eventful decade for the club; a decade when the familiar cyclical pattern was to repeat itself, with great achievement at the beginning, a sad decline towards the end of the decade, followed

by a strong resurgence in the early 70's.

The dominant factor of the 60's was the grossly inadequate changing facilities which prevented the club from attracting new players and made it difficult to improve the fixture list.

Preliminary plans were made for a large multi-sports complex by our parent body, the Norton Cricket Club Trust, under the guidance of *Mr. D. C. H. Townsend*. But the project seemed to be bedevilled by setbacks and this inexorably drained club morale as the decade progressed and no changing rooms appeared.

The club's record on the field fluctuated over the first few years but generally improved. At the beginning of the **1962-1963** season the first team went undefeated in their first nine matches and were the north's only undefeated side until November. History was to be made in the December of this season for the club fielded six teams for the first time four senior sides and two Colts XV's.

The strength of the Colts at this time can be underlined by the fact that they provided four members for the Durham County Colts XV that season - *Ian Fox, Andy Collins, Gary Winn and Richard Clegg*, the latter captaining the side.

The **1963-64** season was to provide the best results since 1952-1953. Each side in the club won more matches than they lost but the highlight came when the first team defeated Hartlepool Rovers in the semi-final of the Durham Senior Cup and thus reached the final for the first time in our history.

In the final against Durham City,

Stockton threatened to cause a great upset for they had a well deserved 6-5 lead at half time. But alas it was not to be for both *Jack Glattbach* and *Ken Hodgson* were injured and had to leave the field. The 13 men left were worn down by the foot of the incomparable *Mike Weston* in the second half and finally went down by 20-6. The Cup final side was: *R. Howat; A. Collins, C. Sinclair, O. Turnbull, B. Lambert; G. Lake, M. Boyes; A. Walker, D. Angel, A. Todd, B. Leak, K. Hodgson, J. Watson, J. Glattbach, D. Newton*.

One sad note was the death on March 27 of *Dr. Maurice Klar*, our president that season. 'Doc' Klar, as he was affectionately known, played for Stockton for about eight years in the 1930's and was known as one of the hardest forwards in North East rugby.

When his playing days were over he continued to serve the club as a

Committee man, eventually becoming its Chairman, then its President. It was a great pity that he did not live to see the Final against Durham City.

Before leaving the 1963-64 season, it is perhaps worth noting that the first team held our old rivals Middlesbrough to a 0-0 draw. We were not to be so close to beating them for another 10 years.

The beginning of the **1964-65** season saw the inauguration of the first Dr. Klar Memorial match. Our first XV played a Representative XV which contained many county players. In subsequent seasons Hartlepool Rovers have provided the opposition for this fixture. On all these occasions Mrs. Klar was most generous in providing excellent refreshments after the match.

Midway through this season Stockton gained the services of *Colin Bacon*, who turned out on

several occasions for Notts, Lincs and Derby. Colin became a great asset to the club both as a player and as a captain.

The season provided the best results ever by a Stockton side, the first team winning 22 of their 31 fixtures. In all, 536 points were scored of which winger *Brian Lambert* contributed 108. This was a remarkable feat for nearly all these points came from tries. It is a pity that the club had his services for only a couple of seasons. It was this season that Stockton also began to gain a reputation for seven-a-side rugby.

After twenty years of competition, the club won the Durham County Sevens at Billingham for the first time.

It was done with greater ease than any other club had done since the competition was inaugurated in 1945. We scored 84 points in four ties and conceded only eight. Colin

Bacon was the outstanding scorer, converting twelve tries and scoring one himself. Both *Arthur Chapman* and *Colin Sinclair* scored seven tries each.

The **1964-65** season was made more significant by the third XV who, on the same day as our victory in the Billingham 7's, won the final of the Durham County 3rd XV's Cup by defeating Westoe 11-0. It is normal practice to give credit to the players and this is their due as the road to the final was long and hard but credit for the achievement must go principally to *Bill Wilson*, a unique Captain and a master tactician.

Bill's tactical skill was not confined to the playing field, and the basis of his victories on the field was a most persuasive manner in the selection committee where he was able to regularly convince the committee that his key players were, "not quite ready for promotion to the second XV".

The third XV results that year showed 23 wins out of 28 games with 408 points against 132. Despite his apparent galaxy of backs, Bill's tactics (proved by success) were to keep the ball "tight and close" but he admits to "opening it up a bit" in the last quarter of the Final when he had a fairly commanding lead.

At this stage it is worth mentioning one or two personalities who played for the club in the first half of this decade. By far the most outstanding player was *Arthur Chapman*, who made his debut against Middlesbrough in 1959 whilst still a schoolboy at Grangefield Grammar School. Stockton won this fixture 8-6, Arthur kicking one penalty and one conversion.



Stockton RFC 1961-62 Back row (l to r) *D. Bell; J. Fraser-Smith; B. Leak; K. Hodgson; D. Welford; O. Turnbull; D. Newton (Captain)*
B. Howat Front row (l to r) *C. Sinclair; C. Gillett; M. Boyes; M. Turner; D. Angel; A. Mason; P.E. Hudson*



Stockton RFC v Redcar, 1962-63 Back row (l to r) B. Lambert; R. Moore; A. Wiles; K. Hodgson; A. Collins; D. Newton; B. Leak; D. Welford (Captain) Front row (l to r) B. Howat; R. Clegg; A. Callender; D. Angel; A. Walker; P. Coxon; A. Todd

A Press report of the time said: "Chapman, their schoolboy fly-half, showed some nice touches". It was not long before other people were noticing these nice touches and Arthur made his full County debut at centre-three-quarter against Cumberland and Westmorland in October 1961. He thus became the first Stockton player to represent the county for six years, D. Richardson having played against Lancashire in 1955. Arthur Chapman became a regular member of the County side and captained the County Under-21 side in 1962-63. In this same season he was further honoured when he was chosen to captain the English Universities XV. Although by this time he attended Loughborough College, he continued to play for Stockton in his vacations. When he left college, like many of

our student players, he left the area and Rosslyn Park gained his services.

Another player who deserved to play for the County side at the same time as Chapman was Brian

Leak, Club Captain between 1963 and 1965. This tough second row was a real lineout specialist but he was unfortunate to play at a time when the County were well off in this department. Nevertheless, he did represent the County President's XV and was picked as travelling reserve for the county against Yorkshire in 1964. The **1965-66** season proved to be a little disappointing as the first XV did not live up to the promise that they had shown in the previous two seasons.

Despite this, Owen Turnbull, who had developed a great understanding with Colin Bacon in the centre, was selected for the county against Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire. He was joined by his team mate Colin Sinclair for the County fixture against the Scottish Borders XV.

In addition, two of our Colts that season, John Moore and John Raybould, played for the County

Colts. John Moore was later selected to play for the North of England Colts.

The **1966-67** season saw a playing record that equalled the one of 1964-65, previously the most successful on record. The first XV lost only seven of 32 fixtures. Owen Turnbull and Colin Sinclair again represented the County side, and Phil Trotter and Clive Skillbeck were selected for the County Under-21 'S.

But it was in Sevens the club really excelled that season. They won the Furness 7's at Barrow, were defeated in the final of the Newark 7's and won the Durham County 7's for the second time in three years.

In the latter tournament we fielded what was perhaps the youngest team in the tournament and this paid dividends on a very hot afternoon. One of the stars was Colin Calvert who tore into his task with an energy which inspired



The old green hut-Stockton's 'home' until Christmas 1971



Stockton RUFC 1963-64 Durham Senior Cup Finalists Back row (l to r) B. Lambert; A. Callender; T. Walker; G. Good; C. Sinclair; J. Glattbach; A. Collins; O. Turnbull; D. Newton; J. Watson; A. Todd; M. Boyes Front row (l to r) C. Robinson; D. Angel; G. Lake; B. Leak; K. Hodgson; R. Howat

the whole team.

It was a great pity that by the end of the 1966-67 season almost all of the first XV had moved out of the area for one reason or another. In addition, the club was savaged by internal rows which resulted in a complete change in the Committee. The immediate effect was that club morale hit an all time low. The following three years the club suffered, both on and off the field, but fortunately maintained sufficient spirit and determination to build up again. This was achieved in various ways but one of the most significant factors was the advent of a new Chairman, *Frank Trotter*.

His contribution cannot be over-valued and it is true to say that had he not been there at that time, the club would be in a much different position today.

Again, through the Committee which contained such other stalwarts as *Sam Ryan*, *Len Frank*, *Joe Glover*, *Arthur Fairless* and *Peter Hudson* to name but a few—a new spirit of determination spread

through the club.

It must be remembered that the club still had to put up with unbelievably poor facilities but at last in **1970** it looked as if the long awaited changing accommodation would be provided in the very near future.

It was due to the persistent efforts of Bob Coulson that the Norton Cricket Club Trust took the decision to build the rugby changing rooms in advance of the main sports complex, plans for which were still a long way from being finalised. This decision gave a much needed fillip to the club, and at about the same time a significant improvement in attitude and morale was discernable both among the players and administrators.

The average age of the playing members and the first XV in particular had dropped dramatically and their new outlook was stimulating.

Furthermore, under the guidance of Frank Trotter, a flourishing social section arranged many

exciting events which were always well supported. The club had always had the reputation of being one of the most socially minded in the area, but the success of the social committee extended this even further.

During the **1970-71** and **71-72** seasons, work began on the new changing accommodation and it was with slight regret that our "old green hut" was vacated at Christmas 1971. It would be fair to say that the hut held some fond memories for the older players, particularly on a cold winter's afternoon! However, progress had to be made, and it is reasonable to say that the new changing accommodation helped the club to have its most successful season ever, winning 24 games and recording over 600 points for the first time in its history.

Another factor which contributed largely in the revival was the leadership by first XV Captain, *John Moore*. Although very young when he took on this duty at the end of the 60's, his leadership

matured enormously.

During the **1971-72** season, a club record for wins and points was achieved and the Scottish tour was arranged. This was so successful that it was soon repeated. Once more five teams plus a Colts XV were regularly fielded but perhaps the most rewarding feature of the club affairs was in the social sphere where great enthusiasm was evident. Worthy of mention is winning for the second time in three years the Redcar Song Festival. The song which was written and performed by club members was such a success that it is now regarded as a club hymn.

The **1972-73** season began rather badly with defeat for the First Team in seven of the first ten matches and a mixture of results for the Junior Teams.

It was at this stage that *Mike Scott* was appointed coach and in mid October it was decided that the club should hold Sunday morning practice sessions and the First Team would muster at the ground earlier than usual to practice and hold tactical talks before matches. Slowly it began to pay off. Despite a lack of real weight and height in the forwards the First team pack were able to obtain sufficient good possession for the back row of skipper *John Moore*, *David Humphreys* and *Derek Muirhead* to capitalise on the effective running of a back division who were drilled to make maximum use of *Colin Robinson's* running into the line from full-back and the speed of *Chris Gibbons* and *Tony Makin* on the wings.

The revival came too late to keep us in the Durham Senior Cup where we just failed to beat Ryton, but then began a run of

fifteen matches with only one defeat by Redcar and that after we had led 16-6 at one stage.

The highlights in this period were the defeats of Durham City and Blaydon and doubles over Mowden Park and Darlington.

The Klar Memorial Match against Hartlepool Rovers was an anticlimax when Stockton disappointed a large crowd by failing to play as well as they might have done. Nevertheless, despite the moderate start, the season was an auspicious prelude to the Centenary Season and was memorable for great achievement and enthusiasm. Many records were broken, especially by the first team and this was in no small measure due to Mike Scott and John Moore, an exemplary Captain.

No less than 120 tries were scored by the first team, easily a record for the club and this is even more creditable when set against the fact that our two star wingers, *Chris Gibbons* and *Tony Makin* were each absent for about half the season.

The points scored by the First XV totalled 726, easily surpassing the record established in the previous season and of this staggering total no less than 284 were personally scored by *John Humphreys*, another club record! Twenty three games were won, notable results being a convincing win over Durham City and a well deserved draw with Middlesbrough.

The season was crowned by the winning of the Newark Sevens. In the Durham County Sevens at Billingham, after decisively eliminating the favourites West Hartlepool, in the Semi Final, hopes of another cup were high,

but it was not to be and we had to be content with second best in the Final to Middlesbrough.

The results of the First Team were echoed by the Second, Third, Fourth, Stocktonians and both Colts XV's and of particular significance was the scoring of 840 points by the Thirds, this performance being due to

excellent leadership by the late *Ron Kell*. The Colts team also had a good season which culminated in a narrow defeat in the final of the Lormer Cup and credit for this must go to the Colts' manager, *Roger Atkinson* for his skill and guidance.

These excellent results could not have been achieved without first

class administration and for this the club were principally indebted to Frank Trotter who had been able, over the years, to create a high level of enthusiasm. Thus the curtain came down on a "best ever" season, both on the field and in the management of the club.

However, for Stockton, the

greatest period of success was about to arrive.

This article is taken from the 1973 Centenary Brochure, which was compiled by Bob Deans.

The club is grateful to Bob for his efforts and research, which ensure that at least a representation of past players, stalwarts and

memories are in print for future generations



The 1973 Centenary Squad

Back row (left to right) Mike Scott; Derek Horner; Geoff Preston; Arthur Fairless; Paul Veitch; Peter Hudson; Joe Rayner; Tony Makin; John Moore; Brendan Thornton; Dave Grange; John Still; Mike Garlick; John Maloney; Sam Ryan; Bernie Beattie; Joe Glover; Jim Fox. Middle row (left to right) John Raybold; Colin Robinson; Dave Humphreys; Billy Webster; John Humphreys Front row (left to right) Alan Roberts; Derek Muirhead; Arthur Dodgson; Terry Wilson; Chris Gibbons

SEASON

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Elsewhere...

1973

Princess Anne marries Captain Mark Phillips at Westminster Abbey;
Middle East hikes oil prices by 70% in protest at America's support of Israel in the Yom Kippur war; Britain goes on to a three-day week because of industrial action in the pits, railways and power stations; Second Division Sunderland win FA Cup;
VAT introduced at 10 per cent.

1974

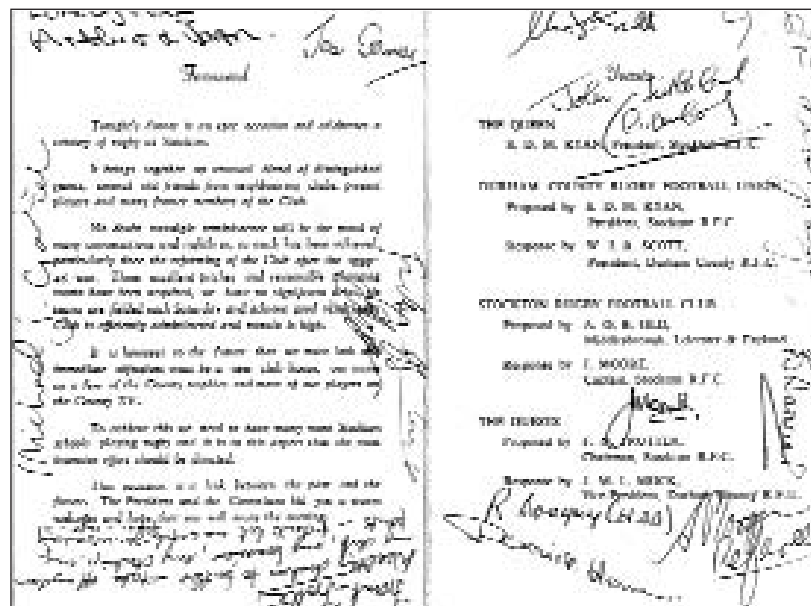
Harold Wilson voted back in as PM; President Richard Nixon resigns in disgrace; Abba win Eurovision Song Contest; Lord Lucan vanishes.

The Centenary campaign was able to build upon the solid success of the preceding two seasons.

The Centenary Committee, led by the late Bob Coulson, worked tirelessly to make sure that the style of celebration was of the highest standard. The range of events organised included a Reunion Cocktail, a Centenary Ball, a Schoolboys Seven - a - Side and matches against a Durham County Presidents XV and a Rest of Teesside XV.

The players responded to Mike Scott's coaching by recording a record number of 1st XV victories under skipper John Moore (27) which was to last until 1987-88.

The team skippers, John Moore (1st XV), J.J. Green (2nd XV), the late Ron Kell (3rd XV), John Edwards (4th XV) and Gary Hanrahan (Stocktonians) could



feel distinctly proud of the positive impact they made on the season.

Getting Shirty

The players were excited at the first match of the Centenary Season at Winlaton, wanting to get their hands on the new shirts with the Centenary logo. Unfortunately, the supplying

company had managed to mix up some of the sizes for the team numbers, which meant that Arthur Dodgson's scrum half shirt had to be worn by tight head prop Brendan Thornton, as it was the only one which would fit him.

Arthur had to use Brendan's No 3, which was a reasonable fit. They wandered off down the corridor to the toilet together for their pre-match wee wee.

A few moments later, a very smug and confident looking Winlaton loose head prop emerged from the toilet with his ashen faced scrum half colleague, saying, "I don't like the look of your scrum half, but I'll crucify that prop!" Unfortunately, as he packed down for the first scrum, it was he who turned ashen as the 20 stone Thornton bent him in two, and the colour returned to the scrum half's cheeks.



Stockton RFC Centenary Match XV v County Presidents' XV, September 1973. Back row (Left to right) Mike Scott (Coach); Derek Muirhead; John Moore; Mike Garlick; John Still; Brendan Thornton; Warren Douglas; John Humphreys; Malcolm Richardson; John Maloney Front row (left to right) Alan Roberts; Chris Gibbon; Terry Wilson; Arthur Dodgson; Doug Agar; Colin Robinson

Meat and Two Veg

The Centenary Dinner was held on Friday 26th April, when four members of the club "streaked" around the top table.

Despite wearing towels round their heads, those familiar with their anatomy knew exactly who they were - Messrs Conlon, Kiddle, Still and Marron.

Gigantor

The following day, we played away at Old Crossleyans in Halifax.

On the 2nd XV pitch, Don Robinson at loose head came up against the fearsome "GIGANTOR", who pushed Don's head so low that Arthur Dodgson's attempts to feed the ball into the scrummage came to nought, as it rebounded back off Don's left ear.


Arthur was heard to utter the famous statement; "Don, if you eat any more grass, we are going to have to milk you," and promptly decided to put the ball in on the tight head side.

Gigantor set off on a waddle down the touchline and J.J. Green's attempts to tackle him came to nought, as his thighs were too big for J.J.'s arms to encompass.

J.J. decided to try to barge him towards the touchline, but ended up in a tangle and Gigantor tripped up and fell

STOCKTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

CENTENARY SEASON — 1973-74



SPECIAL CELEBRATION EVENT

Stockton

versus

County President's XV

WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER, 1973

Kick Off 5.45 pm

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 5p

on J.J., crushing him. As he recovered his breath, J.J. asked, "Out of academic interest, just how much do you weigh?"

The reply came. "22 stone, pal!"

In the bar afterwards, Don was keen to discuss the contest with Gigantor, and ventured towards him.

Gigantor just sniffed and said, "I gave you a reet rag dolling out there."



CENTENARY SEASON 1973-74 (CLUB CAPTAIN: JOHN MOORE)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 1	A Winton Vulcans	L	20	34	T: Murray(2), Armstrong, C: Humphreys+2 Pens.	0	0	1
4	A Hartlepool Rovers	L	8	28	T: Murray(2)	0	0	2
8	A Penrith	W	16	8	T: Murray, Makin, Moore, C: Humphreys (2)	1	0	2
12	H West Hartlepool	L	10	16	T: Murray, Agar, C: Humphreys	1	0	3
15	H Sandal	W	21	4	T: Makin, Agar, Dodgson, Moore, C: Humphreys+1 Pen.	2	0	3
19	H County Pres. XV	L	6	10	T: Agar, C: Humphreys	2	0	4
22	A Gateshead Fell	W	13	9	T: Murray, Richardson, C: Humphreys+1 Pen.	3	0	4
26	H Rest of Teesside XV	W	20	12	T: Gibbon(3), Moore, C: Humphreys (2)	4	0	4
29	A Horden (DSC Prelim)	W	31	18	T: Preston(2), Murray, Robinson, Moore, C: Humphreys+3 Pens.	5	0	4
Oct. 6	A Teesside Poly.	W	27	3	T: Robinson, Gibbon, Maloney, Richardson, Humphreys, C: Humphreys (2)+1 Pen.	6	0	4
13	A Rockcliffe	L	8	17	T: Conway, Murray	6	0	5
20	H Alnwick	W	12	0	T: Moore, Walker, C: Humphreys (2)	7	0	5
24	H Durham University	W	21	16	T: Conway, Humphreys, C: Humphreys (2)+3 Pens.	8	0	5
Nov. 3	H Sunderland	W	19	9	T: Gibbon, Agar(+1 Con.), Humphreys (+1 Con.+1 Pen.)	9	0	5
10	H Redcar	W	6	4	T: Moore, C: Humphreys	10	0	5
17	H Furness	W	22	17	T: Murray, Preston, C: Humphreys+4 Pens.	11	0	5
24	H Seghill	W	45	7	T: Murray (3), Agar (2), Gibbon, Maloney, Garlick, Humphreys (+3 Cons.+1 Pen.)	12	0	5
Dec. 8	A Scarborough	W	22	4	T: Robinson, Gibbon, Preston, Garlick, C: Humphreys (3)	13	0	5
15	A Darlington	L	6	8	T: Murray, C: Humphreys	13	0	6
22	A Hartlepool O.B's	W	7	6	T: Humphreys+1 Pen.	14	0	6
26	A Westoe	W	4	3	T: Still	15	0	6
29	H West H'pool (DSC 1)	L	0	10		15	0	7
Jan. 1	H Mowden Park	L	11	12	T: Murray, Robinson, P: Humphreys	15	0	8
5	H North Durham	W	18	7	T: Murray (2), Webster, Humphreys (+1 Con.)	16	0	8
19	H Goole	D	13	13	T: Webster, P: Humphreys (3)	16	1	8
26	A Redcar	L	4	12	T: Still	16	1	9
Feb. 2	A Durham City	L	10	24	T: Agar, P: Humphreys (2)	16	1	10
9	A Morpeth	L	3	29	P: Webster	16	1	11
16	H Darlington	W	7	6	T: Murray, P: Humphreys	17	1	11
23	H Pocklington	W	15	8	T: Moore, C: Humphreys (+3 Pens.)	18	1	11
Mar. 2	A Blaydon	W	24	0	T: Thornton (2), Gibbon (2), Conway, C: Humphreys (2)	19	1	11
9	A Medicals	L	9	18	T: Conlon, C: Humphreys (+1 Pen.)	19	1	12
16	H Penrith	W	29	0	T: Murray (2), Agar (2), Webster, C: Humphreys (3) (+1 Pen.)	20	1	12
23	A Percy Park	W	22	6	T: Murray, Kiddle, Moore, C: Humphreys (2) (+2 Pens.)	21	1	12
27	H Hart Rovers (War Mem)	L	16	25	T: Murray, Armstrong, C: Humphreys (+2 Pens.)	21	1	13
30	A Novocastrians	W	51	12	T: Still (2), Dobson (2), Moore, Walker, Murray, Morron, Humphreys(+6 Con & 1 Pen)	22	1	13
Apr. 3	A Middlesbrough	W	9	0	P: Humphreys (3)	23	1	13
6	H Westoe	W	28	10	T: Gibbon (2), Moore, C: Humphreys (2) (+4 Pens.)	24	1	13
13	A Hartlepool O.B's	W	13	9	T: Dobson, Webster, C: Humphreys (+1 Pen.)	25	1	13
20	H Gateshead Fell	W	42	6	T: Murray (3), Robinson, Raybould, Webster, Muirhead, Humphreys (+5 Cons.)	26	1	13
24	A Mowden Park	W	42	3	T: Murray (3), Robinson, Douglas, Humphreys(D), Humphreys(I) (+4 Con.& 2 Pen.)	27	1	13
27	A Old Crossleyans	L	15	24	T: Dobson, Morron, C: Humphreys (2)+1 Pen.	27	1	14

Playing record: Played 42 Won 27 Drew 1 Lost 14 For 725 Against 467

Top scorers: Keith Murray 27 Tries; Chris Gibbon 11 Tries; John Moore 10 Tries, John Humphreys 10 Tries + 57 Cons.+ 46 Pens. (292 Points)

SEASON

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Elsewhere...

1974

Kojak hits British TV screens; Britain's first McDonalds opens; Japanese soldier found on Philippine island, thinking WW2 still on; Muhammed Ali regains World Heavyweight Boxing Title at 32

1975

Margaret Thatcher elected first woman leader of Tory Party; Pay rises limited to six pounds a week; Moorgate tube train crashes, killing 35; World motor racing champion Graham Hill killed in plane crash; Franco dies- Spain becomes democracy.

After the successful Centenary Season, there was always a danger that the following campaign could fall a little flat, but hard work throughout the club ensured that this was not the case.

John Moore and John Green remained as skippers on the 1st XV and 2nd XV respectively, with Brian Brayford taking over the 3rd XV, Derek Oliver the 4th XV and Gary Hanrahan remaining at the helm of the Stocktonians.

On the coaching front Geoff Preston, former 1st XV captain, took over from Mike Scott who had guided the improving outfit through the previous two seasons.

Sam Ryan remained as President, with Frank Trotter as

Chairman. Neil McConnell came in as Secretary, replacing Joe Glover, and Colin Robinson succeeded Derek Horner as Treasurer. Jim Fox continued his reign as Team Secretary.

The First Game

September began with the traditional visit to Penrith, with players sleeping overnight in their clubhouse before playing the following day.

One of the players decided to chaperone home a young lady following the dance in the clubhouse, which left skipper John Moore having to wait for his return to let him back in.

As our Romeo returned, the skipper questioned him as to his progress with the young lady in question, to which he replied, "All I got was a beef

sandwich."

As a result of our successful period we had been able to widen our travelling circle in a quest for better fixtures, and this season saw Stockton travelling to Wigton in Cumbria, and Old Hymerians in Hull.

Some of the highlights of the 1st XV's season were a narrow defeat at West Hartlepool (13-12) at the start of the season, followed on 28 September by a massive 68-3 victory at Norton over Gateshead Fell.

Unfortunately, complacency set in next time we played Fell and they avenged their defeat on 7 December with a 17-13 victory at Norton.

October saw some vigorously contested matches. Who could forget the visit of Bramley on

12 October when, with defeat looming large, one of their players kicked out in frustration, but had the misfortune to land his boot on Brendan Thornton in a maul. It was said by the crowd that Brendan's hectic pursuit of the culprit, who ran in sheer panic onto the adjoining pitch seeking sanctuary, was the fastest they had ever seen him move.

After summarily dispensing justice in the Thornton style in the middle of the 3rd XV pitch, Brendan was refused access back onto the pitch by the 1st XV referee, causing discussion amongst technically minded coaches as to whether he was actually sent off or not!

The visit to Wigton on 23 October was a tough match



John Moore



John 'JJ' Green



The late Ron Kell



John Edwards

and out first meeting on the pitch with the legendary Raymond Graham and in the bar with his brother George. People still argue which is the more fearsome...ask John Moore!. The uncompromising Raymond introduced himself to Stockton at the first line out when he appeared to dance the sailor's horn pipe down Peter Armstrong's arms, after Peter had made a dive pass to clear a Garlick "leap". George later re-introduced himself to John Moore by insisting on a round of gin & grapefruit every 15 minutes. After Christmas, results were not so consistent. A defeat on 18th January at Mowden Park was made worse by skipper John Moore's sending off and subsequent ban. The defeat at Ryton by 51-10 was a poor performance - one of the last at "Dingly Dell", their unusual pitch. However fly half David Kreczak was flattened early on by the uncompromising Ryton back row, and this did not help our cause.



The Club Tour
The Club Tour was to Wales, and the intrepid party stayed in Ebbw Vale - after an atrocious journey in which the team bus seemed to go to Abergvenny five times. After thrashing Llanhilleth 3-0 on the Saturday morning, we had to suffer an ignominious performance by the England team at Cardiff Arms Park. Our hosts had invited us back for a wild night out in Llanhilleth Working Mens Club, their social base. After an hour of listening to Morgan on the Organ and

Blodwyn on the drums, a local hostelry with live music was located, and Geoff Mitchell gave one of the performances of his life up on stage with the band. The Sunday saw us visiting Thornbury, just outside Bristol before returning home. Following our tour, the season began to pick up up towards the end, with a victory over Hartlepool Rovers by 16-12 on 28 March being the pinnacle of our winning run. Mind you, people still wonder how openside flanker Dave Humphreys got across the field to be outside the winger to

catch a scoring pass!

Bulbs and Bells
The End of Season Dinner was held at the now vanished Queens Hotel and was a fun filled affair, with some notable highlights; Michael Conlon sticking a hot lightbulb up the exposed rear of the late Jim Hamilton, who had just completed the climax of the "Zulu Warrior." Peter Armstrong being waited upon by his future wife (for the first time, but by no means not

the last), The evening ended in traditional style with the fire alarms going off. A certain irony as the unfortunate hotel did eventually go up in flames several years later, fortunately with no loss of life. The 4th XV climaxed a successful season by winning the County 4th XV Shield, with the Oliver/Deakin axis as a basis for its success.

SEASON 1974-75 (CLUB CAPTAIN: JOHN MOORE)										
Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L		
Sep. 4	A Hartlepool Rovers	L	8	25	T: Makin, Kiddle	0	0	1		
7	H Winton Vulcans	W	22	3	T: Murray Douglas Muirhead Armstrong C: Chesser (3)	1	0	1		
12	A West Hartlepool	L	12	13	T: Makin C: Chesser+2 Pens.	1	0	2		
14	A Penrith	W	22	9	T: Robinson Makin C: Chesser+4 Pens.	2	0	2		
21	A Sandal	L	7	15	T: Moore P: Humphreys	2	0	3		
28	H Gateshead Fell	W	68	3	T: Murray(5) Makin (4) Garlick Robinson Douglas C: Humphreys (10)	3	0	3		
Oct. 5	H Blaydon	L	7	13	T: Makin P: Humphreys	3	0	4		
12	H Bramley O.B's	W	23	9	T: Makin Robinson P: Humphreys (5)	4	0	4		
19	H Rockcliffe	W	31	16	T: Murray (3) Makin Eddy C: Humphreys 3 Pens.	5	0	4		
23	A Durham University	L	15	38	T: Makin Muirhead C: Humphreys (2)+1 Pen.	5	0	5		
26	H Hartlepool O.B's	W	38	6	T: Makin (4) Murray Robinson Douglas Humphreys C: Humphreys (3)	6	0	5		
Nov. 2	H Darlington (DSC I)	L	6	14	T: Murray C: Humphreys	6	0	6		
9	A Tynedale	L	10	19	T: Makin Mitchell C: Humphreys	6	0	7		
16	H Newcastle University	W	18	13	T: Murray Garlick C: Still (2)+2 Pens.	7	0	7		
23	A Wighton	L	10	31	T: Douglas Eddy C: Humphreys	7	0	8		
30	A Seghill	W	12	3	T: Morron Armstrong C: Humphreys (2)	8	0	8		
Dec. 7	A Gateshead Fell	L	15	17	T: Thornton (2) C: Kreczak (2)+1 dg.	8	0	9		
14	H Scarborough	W	29	9	T: Makin (3) Wilson Morron C: Still (3)+1 Pen.	9	0	9		
21	A Darlington	D	6	6	T: Humphreys + 1 Con.	9	1	9		
26	H Westoe	W	12	9	T: Morron Douglas C: Still (2)	10	1	9		
28	A Redcar	L	0	39		10	1	10		
Jan. 1	H Middlesbrough	L	10	37	T: Douglas P: Kreczak (2)	10	1	11		
11	H Medicals	W	53	0	T: Murray (3) Douglas (2) Mitchell Moore Makin Maloney Kreczak 5 Con+1 Pen	11	1	11		
18	A Mowden Park	L	4	15	T: Murray	11	1	12		
25	H Penrith	W	12	0	T: Makin (2) Webster	12	1	12		
Feb. 1	H North Durham	L	6	12	T: Mitchell C: Still	12	1	13		
8	A Ryton	L	10	54	T: Douglas Kreczak (1 Con.)	12	1	14		
Club Tour (Wales) 15th. & 16th. February 1975:										
Sat.	Llanhilleth	W	3	0	P: Humphreys	13	1	14		
	Sun. Thornbury	W	17	4	T: Rees (2) Preston (+1 Con.+1 Pen.)	14	1	14		
22	H Darlington	W	11	0	T: Makin (2) P: Humphreys	15	1	14		
Mar. 1	A Old Hymerians	L	11	17	T: Rayner Makin P: Humphreys	15	1	15		
15	H Durham City	L	7	19	T: Makin P: Humphreys	15	1	16		
26	H H. Rovers(War Mem.)	W	16	12	T: Humphreys (D) Murray C: Humphreys (+2 Pens.)	16	1	16		
29	A Pocklington	W	16	6	T: Thornton Douglas Humphreys (+2 Cons.)	17	1	16		
Apr-05	A Alnwick	L	0	6		17	1	17		
12	H Westoe	W	18	6	T: Jack C: Humphreys (+ 4 Pens.	18	1	17		
19	A Mowden Park	W	11	7	T: Douglas Murray P: Humphreys	19	1	17		
26	H Old Crossleyans	W	28	17	T: Dobson (2) Douglas Murray C: Humphreys (3)+ 2 Pens.	20	1	1		
Playing record: Played 38 Won 20 Drew 1 Lost 17 For 604 Against 522										
Leading scorers: Tony Makin 26 Tries; Keith Murray 19 Tries; Warren Douglas 12 Tries. John Humphreys 3 Tries +29 Conversions +24 Penalties										

SEASON

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Elsewhere...

1975

Inflation hits 25%; Saigon falls- America leaves Vietnam; Pol Pot starts reign of terror in Cambodia; Lesley Whittle found dead 52 days after being kidnapped by 'Black Panther' Donald Nielson.

1976

Jim Callaghan succeeds Harold Wilson as PM; James Hunt wins World Motor Racing crown; Bjorn Borg, 20, is youngest Wimbledon winner for 45 years; Starsky & Hutch on TV; John Curry wins skating Olympic Gold.

Frank Trotter had relinquished the post of Chairman after a seven year reign of office, during which time he gained a great deal of respect from all for his diligence and approach; attributes his son David was to bring to the position again some 10 years later.

Ian Fox had been keen to follow on from Frank. He had been 2nd XV Skipper only a few seasons before and had developed a unique reputation for his party piece performance of 'Simon Smith and His Amazing Dancing Bear.' Unfortunately, he had to stand down after his health made it

difficult for him to continue. Derek Muirhead took over the role of 1st XV skipper. During the season, Keith Murray scored 27 tries, taking his total to 73 in only 3 seasons.

Brendan Bares All

25 October 1976 saw a rather unusual end to a match at Mayfield Park against Hartlepool Old Boys, which we won 10-6.

The last few minutes were very tense as Stockton came from behind to win, and at one stage the crowd had dragged Derek Muirhead from the pitch to remonstrate with him.

Brendan Thornton set off on a charge and was eventually dragged to the ground like Gulliver in Lilliput, where he seemed to be the recipient of some violent play. This inflamed tensions somewhat leaving Brendan on the floor and 29 players handbagging it out, to the shock of the referee.

When order was restored, the ref had the 29 players in a circle for a ticking off. Meanwhile Brendan was getting to his feet and beginning to examine the stud marks on his buttocks, having lowered his shorts to aid his

view!

Unfortunately the referee happened to look over as Brendan was pointing to them and misinterpreted his actions, and sent him off for insubordination - the only one not in the fight!

75-76 saw the arrival of "the Kiwis" from the Marist club in Christchurch which give the club the lift it needed following John Moore's decision to join Hartlepool Rovers.

After having bumped into leading advocate Denis Chisman in the toilet of a local nightclub, the Kiwis took up



Stockton 1st XV, 1975-76 Back row (Left to right) Brendan Thornton; Simon Miller; Mike Garlick; Warren Douglas; Keith Murray; Kevin Brown; Denis Chisman; Mark Richardson; Derek Muirhead; Joe Rayner Front row (Left to right) Billy Webster; Keith Fawcett; Colin Robinson; Arthur Dodgson; Dave Humphreys; Wayne Barrington; Terry Wilson

residence in a large house in Junction Road which was in the tenancy of Terry Dempsey, a club player who didn't know what he was letting himself in for. Many a party was held there. Who can forget Mark Richardson, one of the most aggressive forwards ever to don the red shirt of Stockton, equally at home in the front or back row, often to be seen with his eyes on stalks shouting, "You're just not hard enough!" Or Wayne Barrington, an elusive centre fly half and a decidedly dodgy carpenter who left half finished porches in disrepair wherever he went. Kevin Brown, a heartthrob second row who had many ladies chasing him - and a few men too. Steve Shatford, a prop who converted to backrow, was a valuable second/third team player. Grant Carbine, another explosive lock who came off worse in a tangle with Ian Fisher, the notorious Rovers hit

FIRST XV FIXTURES, SEASON 1975/76

Date	OPPONENTS	Venue	For	Points Against	Result
Sept. 3	Hartlepool Rovers	Away	3	9	LOST
6	Wharfedale	Away	22	34	LOST
10	West Hartlepool	Away	6	12	LOST
13	Penrith	Home	12	33	LOST
17	Sanday	Away	0	9	LOST
20	Gateshead Fell	Away	10	6	LOST
24	Blaydon	Home	32	5	WON
27	Ryton	Away	10	9	WON
Oct. 4	Rockcliffe	Home	10	9	WON
11	Durham University	Away	14	4	WON
18	Hartlepool O.B.	Home	12	4	WON
22	Horden (Cup)	Away	3	16	LOST
Nov. 5	North Durham	Home	13	9	WON
15	Winterton	Away	13	9	WON
22	Wigton	Home	13	9	WON
29	Medicals (Cup)	Away	13	9	WON
Dec. 6	Durham City (Cup)	Away	13	9	WON
13	Scarborough	Away	13	9	WON
20	Darlington	Away	13	9	WON
27	York	Home	3	15	LOST
1976 Jan. 1	Middlesbrough	Away	3	15	LOST
3	Durham City	Away	3	15	LOST
10	Wharfedale	Home	3	15	LOST
17	Mowdon Park	Home	3	15	LOST
24	Redcar	Away	3	15	LOST
31	Novos	Home	3	15	LOST
Feb. 7	Old Hymarians	Away	3	15	LOST
14	Morpeth	Home	3	15	LOST
21	Tynedale	Home	3	15	LOST
28	Wharfedale	Away	3	15	LOST
Mar. 6	Wharfedale	Home	3	15	LOST
13	Wharfedale	Home	3	15	LOST
20	Penrith	Home	3	15	LOST
27	Hartlepool O.B.	Home	3	15	LOST
Apr. 3	Alnwick	Away	3	15	LOST
10	Westoe	Home	3	15	LOST
17	Sunderland	Away	3	15	LOST
24	Carlisle	Home	3	15	LOST
May 1	Old Crossleyans	Away	3	15	LOST

man, and the late Peter Heywood, a class three quarter and a real gentleman.

The World's not flat... ...we've been to Barrow!

In the middle of a dreadful winter, our beloved future secretary managed to secure a plum last minute pickup at the last minute through the pool for 10th January. Away to Barrow in Furness! This is a standard Brendan has since striven to improve upon.

At Appleby we were met by a blizzard, and only decided to carry on down the A66 on the toss of a coin.

We eventually arrived at Barrow at 3.15pm and having kicked off at 3.20pm, were 20 points to nil down by 3.30 pm.

Although we managed to pull back a few scores, Barrow emerged as worthy winners and the team were not happy with their performance under difficult circumstances.

Michael Garlick decided there was only one answer - a good night out!

The unfortunate recipient was Bowness upon Windermere, a rather genteel town unused to lascivious

behaviour!

After a daft half hour of halves with gin chasers in a local hostelry, Brendan decided the club should avail itself of a few of the horse brasses amongst the bric-a-brac on the walls.

The manager became suspicious and visited the team coach, where a game of 3 card brag was in full flow on his best chairs and a table removed from the lounge.

This was too much for the unfortunate man, who called

the police, but by this time the coach had made its getaway down country lanes back to Stockton.

The Club President received a phone call from the coach company indicating they no longer wished to have our business and the club decided to hold a kangaroo court.

In the middle of John Still's plea for clemency from the assembled throng, Brendan's fuse snapped. He rose and threw his pint in the general direction of the jury and left the room.

The beer (not often wasted) hit

the light bulb which exploded and fell onto the judge's head, leaving a scene of pathos as he slumped into his chair shaking his head and moaning "Oh, my God.". The result? No more coach trips that season.

Was it a record?

on January 10th. 1976, each of the Club's five senior sides played the 1st XV of another Club - simultaneously!

The Clubs providing the opposition on the day were - Furness, Westoe, Newton Aycliffe, Billingham and Northallerton.

SEASON 1975-76 (CLUB CAPTAIN : DEREK MUIRHEAD)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sep. 3	H Hartlepool Rovers	L	3	9	P: Kreczak	0	0	1
6	A Upper Wharfedale	L	22	39	T: Garlick Mitchell Knott C: Humphreys (2) + 2 Pens.	0	0	2
10	H West Hartlepool	L	6	12	P: Humphreys (2)	0	0	3
13	A Penrith	W	14	7	T: Murray Mitchell P: Humphreys (2)	1	0	3
20	H Sanday	L	12	33	T: Humphreys C: Humphreys + 1 Pen.	1	0	4
Oct. 4	A Gateshead Fell	D	12	12	T: Agar Humphreys (D) C: Webster + Humphreys (J)	1	1	4
11	H Blaydon	L	0	9		1	1	5
18	H Ryton	W	10	6	T: Murray P: Webster (2)	2	1	5
5	A Rockcliffe	W	32	6	T: Humphreys (D) Dobson Armstrong Humphreys (J) C: Humphreys(3) + 2 Pens.	3	1	
25	H Hartlepool O.B's	W	10	6	T: Muirhead Murray C: Humphreys	4	1	5
Nov. 1	A Horden (DSC Prelim)	W	10	7	T: Dobson P: Humphreys (2)	5	1	5
8	A North Durham	W	34	9	T: Murray (3) Thompson Muirhead Dobson Douglas C: Humphreys (3)	6	1	5
15	A Winterton Vulcans	W	12	7	T: Humphreys + 1 Con. + 2 Pens.	7	1	5
22	H Wigton	L	3	16	P: Humphreys	7	1	6
29	H Medicals	W	48	15	T: Murray (3) Armstrong (2) Douglas Marley Webster Dobson C: Humphreys (6)	8	1	6
Dec. 6	A Durham City (DSC 1)	L	4	22	T: Murray	8	1	7
20	A Darlington	W	13	9	T: Webster Rayner C: Humphreys + 1 Pen.	9	1	7
27	H York	W	40	15	T: Murray (2) Dobson Douglas Makin Armstrong Wilson Webster C: Humphreys (4)	10	1	7
Jan. 1	A Middlesbrough	L	3	15	dg Humphreys	10	1	8
3	A Durham City	L	4	7	T: Morron	10	1	9
10	A Furness	L	4	23	T: Armstrong	10	1	10
17	H Mowdon Park	L	10	19	T: Murray P: Humphreys (2)	10	1	11
Feb. 7	H Old Hymarians	W	17	13	T: Garlick Webster C: Humphreys + 1 Pen.	11	1	11
14	A Morpeth	L	0	44		11	1	12
21	H Tynedale	L	13	24	T: Murray Marley C: Humphreys + 1 Pen.	11	1	13
28	H Rockcliffe	W	44	0	T: Murray (4) Muirhead (2) Marley Armstrong Webster C: Humphreys (4)	12	1	13
Mar. 6	H Blaydon	L	0	17		12	1	14
13	A North Durham	W	10	0	T: Marley Murray C: Humphreys	13	1	14
20	H Penrith	W	12	10	T: Murray (2) Webster	14	1	14
27	A Hartlepool O.B's	L	9	18	T: Murray C: Humphreys + 1 Pen.	14	1	15
31	H H.Rovers (Klar Mem.)	L	14	25	T: Murray Marley P: Kreczak (2)	14	1	16
Apr. 3	H Alnwick	W	14	12	T: Winter (2) Morgan C: Beadle	15	1	16
10	A Westoe	L	0	29		15	1	17
17	H Sunderland	L	3	20	dg. Kreczak	15	1	18
19	A Carlisle	W	18	6	T: Murray(2) Marley Garlick C: Knott	16	1	18
24	A Old Crossleyans	L	10	49	T: Murray(2) C: Mitchell	16	1	19

Playing record: Played 36 Won 16 Drew 1 Lost 19 For 470 Against 570

Leading scorers: Keith Murray 27 Tries;
John Humphreys 3 Tries + 1 dg + 31 Conversions + 20 Penalties

SEASON

1976

Elsewhere...

1976

Concorde makes first commercial flight; Massive earthquake kills 250,000 in China; Punk Rock upsets establishment; Police massacre at Soweto, South Africa.

1977

Elvis Presley dies; Liverpool win European Cup; Virginia Wade wins Wimbledon; Queen's Silver Jubilee sees street parties; Sex Pistol's 'God Save The Queen' charts at No.2; Red Rum wins his third Grand National.

After the previous season has produced more losses than victories, real efforts were made to bring more success, both on and off the field.

Mike Garlick took over as 1st XV skipper, and Alan Todd began a six year spell as chairman. These appointments made a great impact. Colin Robinson took over from Bill Eddy as 2nd XV captain, Dennis Chisman took over from Paul Prosser as 3rd XV skipper, and Geoff Darling remained as 4th XV skipper.

Horses for Courses

The season had several highlights. Playing against North Durham in a 2nd XV match, Les Catchpole had been the victim of a rather high tackle, causing a cut to open up on the bridge of his nose. There was little in the way of medical equipment handy, so in these days before blood replacements, Les was eager to get back on the field.

A large piece of sticking tape was produced with a wad of cotton wool wedged underneath to stop the flow of blood across his nose.

This made him slightly conspicuous on the field of play.

Five minutes later, after returning to the fray, Les extracted his revenge on his persecutor and was summoned to the referee with the phrase, "Stockton, I saw that! Can I

speak to the player? No, not you, the one with the sheepskin noseband!"

Next week a pair of blinkers appeared in the changing room, Les refused to wear them!

Going West!

The Tour to the West Country over the weekend of 16 April was socially a great success, even though we were defeated by strong opponents and stronger drink.

The genteel town of Cheltenham was rocked by a display of over indulgence, prompting the landlord into writing a letter of complaint to the club.

Michael Conlon was discovered riding a borrowed bicycle down the hotel stairs, complete with a stray dog in the basket on the handlebars. And no one present will ever forget Paul Marley's appalling purple pyjamas, which he tried to hide.

January 1st - New Year's Day - 1977 saw the most lastingly memorable (for all the wrong reasons) game to take place at Norton during the whole of this Commemorative 25 Year. period.

Middlesbrough were the visitors for the annual 'hung over' farce, and the game was played in weather the likes of which had not been experienced since Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

The interval was dispensed with, and Middlesbrough kicked-off the second half into the teeth of the gale, defending a 7pts. (try + penalty) lead.

As conditions worsened, Paul Marley was able to pick up a loose ball (one remembers, not many people were interested) in his '25' and lumber, in a brain-dead and frozen stupor, past some fifteen or so equally comatosed and half functioning defenders, to touch down behind Boro's line. He proceeded to carry straight on to the changing rooms, without ever changing pace! Thankfully for everyone concerned, the Referee took the hint by signalling his concurrence with the mood of general anarchy and doing the honourable thing. The game was abandoned at that point. The Club this season was

struggling to come to terms with the culture shock of having a whole clutch of rabble-rousing Kiwis in its midst, and on March 5th. against Morpeth, four of them appeared in the 1st XV simultaneously.

Grant Carbine, Wayne Barrington, Kevin Brown and 'Rico'-(Mark Richardson, him of the famous bike ride down four flights of a panicking Cheltenham hotelier's main staircase) will no doubt all be fondly (now they've gone) remembered by those left in their wake.

On Taking the Law into Your Own Hands

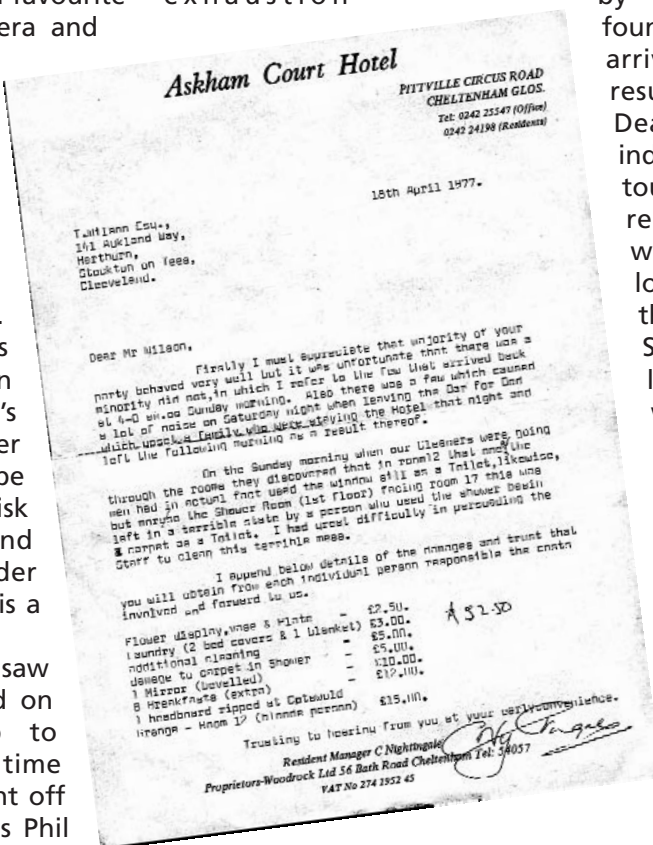
Younger members could be forgiven for assuming that Loftie's lads of recent years have been something of an exception in terms of 4th XV's. Without wanting to detract



Peter Armstrong

from Peter's achievements, we would wish to educate the uninitiated to an earlier exceptional 4th XV. This was the team of Messrs Oliver, Deakin and Captain Cooper. It is difficult to pick a favourite memory from that era and this story must be seen in the context of almost constant chaos, outrage and a b s u r d i t y punctuated by all too short periods of insincere apology and contrition. Indeed, whole books could be written solely about Deakin's exploits, but whether a publisher could be found, willing to risk his good name and prosecution under public decency laws is a different matter. The chosen incident saw the 4th XV engaged on that dreaded trip to Sandal. At that time Deakin had been sent off about as regularly as Phil Champion fails to pick up a woman, and he was under the threat of suspension by the County and ban by the Club. (This was the year that in one match the entire 4th XV were sent off). Brian's troubles did not end there, and in order to gain much needed Brownie points with Mrs Deakin, their son was taken out from under Mother's feet and placed

under father's wing for the day. On this particular Saturday, many of the established team were either in jail, on the run or suffering from intellectual exhaustion



and the team arrived only fourteen in number. To make up the shortage, a yard brush was soon borrowed from a changing room and given the role of sweeper for the afternoon, but the referee still insisted upon a visitors' touch judge. This problem was partly solved by pushing a flag into Deakin Junior's nappy and

presenting him as the Stockton official. The game eventually got under way, not without colourful incident. There then occurred a long kick to touch by the opposition, which found the Stockton forwards arriving in disarray at the resulting lineout. Young Deakin was somewhat indecisive as to the place of touch and received a sharp rebuke from the referee which had dragged on longer than the scheduled three rounds.

Shortly after this, another lineout was called, at which Chisman noticed that the Stockton touch judge was upset and in tears from his earlier reprimand by the ref, As Dennis courteously admonished the senior official for his lack of insensitivity, Brian had overheard the verbal exchange and became rapidly atuned to what had happened,

In that beautiful prose which seems only to glide from the lip of those native to Hull, Brian enquired, "What the f—'s going on here?" What followed had to be the classic case of the boot being on the other foot. Despite the fact for the previous 60 minutes or so, Brian had been guilty of "going over the top at the toss up," "tackling a man without

the ball being kicked off," and "play prejudicial to the continued existence of the Human Race," the referee found himself being berated by the former miscreant, The remaining minutes of the game provided the veritable feast of flowing rugby, spiced with the odd case of animalistic violence. Strangely the referee intervened not at all, and after what seemed a reasonable period, the captains called time by mutual consent.

It was only as the teams lined up for the weekly hypocrisy of clapping off the ref, that they realised by the colour of his face that he was at that time insufficiently recovered of his breath to have blown his whistle. It was a measure of those long gone times that news of the incident was only met with the odd raised eyebrow or indeed disappointment at the reasonableness of Deakin's action!

SEASON 1976-77 (CLUB CAPTAIN : MICHAEL GARLICK)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L		
Sep. 4	H Upper Wharfedale	L	16	30	T: Morgan Barrington Richardson C: Kreczak(2)	0	0	1		
8	A West Hartlepool	L	4	8	T: Douglas	0	0	2		
11	A Penrith	W	10	3	T: Humphreys (D) Richardson C: Kreczak	1	0	2		
15	A Horden	W	17	0	T: Muirhead Douglas Webster C: Kreczak + 1 Pen.	2	0	2		
18	H Percy Park	W	6	3	T: Rayner C: Kreczak	3	0	2		
25	H Gateshead Fell	L	14	16	T: Barrington Miller Kreczak C: Kreczak	3	0	3		
Oct. 2	A Winton Vulcans	W	13	0	T: Marley (2) C: Webster P: Kreczak	4	0	3		
9	A Sandal	L	11	13	T: Miller (2) P: Kreczak	4	0	4		
16	H Rockcliffe	W	44	8	? ?	5	0	4		
23	H Hartlepool O.B's	D	12	12	T: Dobson Marley Morgan	5	1	4		
30	A Old Hymerians	W	22	12	T: Morgan (2) Marley C: Webster (2) + 2 Pens.	6	1	4		
Nov. 6	A M. Park (DSC Prelim)	W	16	8	T: Marley Dobson Kreczak Richardson	7	1	4		
13	H North Durham	W	31	0	T: Douglas (3) Dobson Webster (2) + 2 cons. + 1 Pen.	8	1	4		
20	H Winton Vulcans	W	21	4	T: Maloney McEwan Muirhead Douglas C: Beadle P: Dobson	9	1	4		
27	A Wigton	L	3	10	P: Webster	9	1	5		
Dec. 11	A Ryton (DSC 1)	L	8	13	T: Murray (2)	9	1	6		
18	H Darlington	L	0	21		9	1	7		
27	A Westoe	L	3	17	P: Webster	9	1	8		
Jan. 1	H Middlesbrough	-abandoned	at half-time; 4-7 to 'Boro at the time; Marley try to Stockton:					9	1	9
8	H Aspatna	L	7	13	T: Douglas P: Webster	9	1	10		
22	A Redcar	L	11	21	T: Muirhead Fawcett P: Webster	9	1	11		
29	A Ryton	L	17	21	T: Armstrong Muirhead Fawcett C: Kreczak + 1 Pen.	9	1	12		
Feb. 5	H Furness	W	12	6	T: Armstrong Morgan C: Kreczak C: Webster	10	1	12		
12	H Morpeth	D	12	12	T: Webster C: Webster + 2 Pens.	10	2	12		
19	A Tynedale	L	15	19	T: Kreczak Muirhead C: Webster(2) + 1 Pen.	10	2	13		
26	A Pocklington	W	35	17	T: Morgan (2) Still (2) Fawcett Armstrong C: Webster (4) + 1 Pen.	11	2	13		
Mar. 5	A Morpeth	L	6	21	T: Thornton C: Webster	11	2	14		
12	A Marist O.B's	D	6	6	P: Webster (2)	11	3	14		
19	H Blaydon	W	7	6	T: Murray P: Webster	12	3	14		
26	A York	D	0	0		12	4	14		
Apr. 2	A Alnwick	L	9	10	T: Douglas C: Webster + 1 Pen.	12	4	15		
(Sun.) 3	H Carnegie College	L	0	6		12	4	16		
6	H H.Rovers(Klar Mem)	W	10	0	T: Miller Douglas C: Webster	13	4	16		
8	H Westoe	W	7	3	T: Miller P: Kreczak	14	4	16		
Club Tour (Gloucester + Cheltenham) 16th. & 17th. April 1977										
	Sat. Gordon League	L	8	28	T: Douglas(2)	14	4	17		
	Sun. Cheltenham Cnv. Serv.	W	22	10	T: Lofthouse Laverick (2) Wilson C: Ivson(3)	15	4	17		
23	H Penrith	W	35	10	T: Armstrong Garlick Humphreys (D) Marley Beadle Douglas C Webster(4)+Pen.	16	4	17		
30	H Old Crossleyans	W	26	3	T: Douglas Fawcett Morgan C: Scott + 3 Pens. Kreczak dg	17	4	17		

Playing record: Played 38 Won 17 Drew 4 Lost 17 For 500 Against 397

Leading scorers: Warren Douglas 13 Tries; Peter Morgan 8 Tries; Paul Marley 7 Tries; Billy Webster 4 Tries + 20 Conversions + 16 Penalties Dave Kreczak 2 Tries + 1 dg + 8 Conversions + 5 Penalties

SEASON

8

7

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7

7

Elsewhere...

1977

574 die in worst air disaster on Tenerife when two jumbo jets collide on runway; Star Wars movie a huge success; Kerry Packer's breakaway cricket series causes uproar.

1978

Louise Brown, world's first test tube baby born in Oldham; 913 sect members commit mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana; Ian Botham takes 8 for 34 against Pakistan; Space Invaders arcade game sweeps world.

With stability in the club hierarchy, Sam Ryan continued as Club President for his 5th season, with Alan Todd as 'Chair'.

The only changes were the appointments as skipper of Ian Kennedy (4th XV) and Tom McKelkerney (Stocktonians).

The 1st XV recorded their best run for five seasons, with 23 victories, but the 2nd XV had a tougher time as the club's talent gravitated to the 1st's, who at one time sported three fly halves in the same team! Accurate place kicking from back row forward Mark Lemon was vital in several victories.

Perhaps the most significant development for the club's future was the Colts XV, under the coaching of former 2nd XV captain, John Green.

The squad won the Lorimer Cup, and produced talented players like Kevin Keay, John Saunders and Maurice Douthwaite, who became the cornerstone of Stockton's success in League and Cup victories over the next twenty years.

Jemima - Strip Tease Artiste Extraordinaire

The 'Whitby Kipper' (Cockney rhyming slang) Evenings were popular fund raising events, booked through reputable agencies which supplied artistes accompanied by minders to ensure decency was observed. When the event could be disguised from the Social Secretary, Wilf Lawson, the Clubhouse was occasionally used as a venue, and the organisers were always on tenterhooks until the artistes arrived. One night, in very poor weather, the ladies were over twenty minutes late and the crowd

beginning to get a trifle restless. Ever the entrepreneur, Dennis Chisman decided that Jimmy Collins would have a go 'in drag' with the lights low, to quell the potential riot.

Jimmy was swathed in the kitchen's net curtains and seductive music soothed the scene.

"Will you please give a big welcome to Jemima!" boomed Dennis Chisman as Jim floated into the room.

The audience was enthralled by Jimmy's erotic rendering of The Dance of The Seven Veils for at least five minutes.

It was only when the last veil fell

that Jim's head and beard became visible, and the audience's titillation changed to disgust, followed by a volley of pies and peas.

Just as Jim fled, the real artiste unfortunately entered the scene, and it took all the famed Chisman charm to persuade 'Lydia' to appear.

When she did, the unfortunate girl cut her backside on a sliver of glass left on the floor, and was treated with the 1st Team medical kit by Dennis' father Ray. A real test of his recent prostate operation.

'Lydia' returned to complete her act to thunderous applause.



Stockton 1st XV, 1977-78 Back row (Left to right) Mark Richardson; Nick Beadle; Mike Garlick; Dave Edmondson; Billy Webster; Keith Murray; Eric Thompson; Dave Lee; Kevin Brown; John Maloney Front row (Left to right) Mike Conlon; Keith Fawcett; Paul Scott; Peter Morgan; Simon Miller



Stockton U14's 1977-78 Back row (Left to right) Terry Wilson (Coach); A. Moule; M. Dorrell; S. Knights; M. Marston; A. Roddam; N. Beckwith; A. McNeills; M. Baxter; P. Kulscar; M. Shield; I. Daley; A. Dobell; A. Malcolm Front row (Left to right) I. College; D. Chisholm; C. Horner; D. King;



No prizes for indentifying the young versions of Bryan Dixon, Graham Naisbitt, Danny Kitching and Max!

As for Jim...well, he never managed the Full Monty!

End of an Era

After fourteen just such commemorative events, this season saw the last of the Dr. Maurice Klar Memorial Games. What had become something of an Institution in the Club's fixture list following 'Doc's' death in 1964 simply 'disappeared' following the March 1st. 1978, 3-17 reverse against Rovers.

We also lost to Rovers in the '78-'79 and '83-'84 Durham Cups, but by the mid. to late '80s we had gained 'sufficient cred.' to warrant a regular Saturday fixture-would you believe?

Under 14's photo (left)
Can you spot Martin Dorrell with a full head of hair?

SEASON 1977-78 (CLUB CAPTAIN: MICHAEL GARLICK)

Date	Opponents	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sep. 3	A Percy Park	L	12	16	T: Murray C: Scott P: Scott (2)	0	0	1
10	A Penrith	L	3	7	P: Scott	0	0	2
17	A North Durham	W	13	6	T:Thornton P:Lemon (3)	1	0	2
24	A Gateshead Fell	W	22	0	T:Armstrong (2) Fawcett (2) Scott C:Lemon	2	0	2
Oct.1	A Blaydon	W	12	4	T:Morgan C:Lemon P:Lemon (2)	3	0	2
8	H Sandal	W	31	10	T:Armstrong(2)Fawcett (2)Scott C:Lemon (4) P:Lemon	4	0	2
15	A Rockcliff	W	27	0	T: Carbine Morgan Fawcett Muirhead Scott dg Webster C: Lemon (2)	5	0	2
22	A Hartlepool O.B's	W	24	22	T:Lemon(2) Garlick Dobson C: Lemon P: Lemon(2)	6	0	2
26	H Durham University	L	13	20	T: Robinson Beadle C:Lemon P:Lemon	6	0	3
29	H Ryton	L	9	13	T:Garlick C: Lemon P: Lemon	6	0	4
Nov.5	H Sunderland	L	9	19	T: Douglas C:Lemon P: Lemon	6	0	5
12	H North Durham	W	30	9	T:Garlick Lemon Scott Douglas C: Lemon (4) P: Lemon(2)	7	0	5
19	A Medicals	W	42	4	T:Scott (3) Carbine (2) Maloney Garlick Armstrong C: Lemon (5)	8	0	5
26	H Wigton	L	6	22	T: Scott C: Lemon	8	0	6
Dec. 3	H Newcastle University	W	19	3	T:Garlick Armstrong Douglas C: Lemon Scott P:Lemon	9	0	6
10	H Scarborough	W	33	17	T:Webster (2) Keay Conlon Garlick Robinson C: Lemon (3) P: Lemon	10	0	6
17	A Darlington	W	14	6	T: Garlick Knott P: Lemon (2)	11	0	6
26	H Westoe	W	11	7	T: Murray Kreczak P: Webster	12	0	6
31	H West Hartlepool	L	10	19	T: Murray P:Lemon (2)	12	0	7
Jan. 2	A Middlesbrough	L	3	34	P: Lemon	12	0	8
7	H York	W	7	3	T: Scott P: Lemon	13	0	8
14	H Wintaton	W	15	6	T: Douglas C: Lemon P: Lemon (3)	14	0	8
28	H Redcar	W	12	9	dg: Robinson P: Lemon (3)	15	0	8
Feb. 4	H Old Hymerians	W	10	3	T: Armstrong Raybould C: Lemon	16	0	8
25	H Pocklington	W	43	9	T:Hoar (2) Scott (2) Maloney:Garlick:Webster:Douglas C:Lemon (4) P:Lemon	17	0	8
Mar.4	H Hartlepool R. (DSC 1)	L	15	31	P: Lemon(5)	17	0	9
5	H Castleford	L	0	6		17	0	10
11	A Percy Park	W	9	3	T: Scott C: Lemon P: Lemon	18	0	10
18	H Ashington	W	27	4	T: Webster Douglas Armstrong C: Lemon (3) P: Lemon (3)	19	0	10
Apr.-01	H Alnwick	W	13	4	T: Murray dg: Knott P: Lemon (2)	20	0	10
8	A Westoe	L	3	10	P: Lemon	20	0	11
15	A Morpeth	L	9	28	P: Lemon (3)	20	0	12
19	A Acklam	W	20	4	T: Beadle Mather Douglas C: Lemon P: Lemon (2)	21	0	12
22	H Penrith	W	20	12	T:Brown Raybould Conlon C: Lemon P: Lemon (2)	22	0	12
29	A Tynedale	W	13	3	T: Hoar Raybould dg: Robinson C: Lemon	23	0	12
May-01	H Hartlepool Rovers (Klar Memorial Game)	L	3	17	P: Lemon	23	0	13

Playing record: Played 36 Won 23 Drew 0 Lost 13 For 562 Against 390

Top scorers: Paul Scott 12 Tries; Peter Armstrong 8 Tries;
Mick Garlick 8 Tries; Mark Lemon 3 Tries + 39 Conversions + 48 Penalties

SEASON

1978-1979

Elsewhere...

1978

Anna Ford first female newsreader on British TV; Amoco Cadiz supertanker splits in two off Brittany, spilling 220,000 tonnes of oil.

1979

Margaret Thatcher elected Britain's first female PM; IRA assassinate Lord Mountbatten; Shah of Iran driven into exile by supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini; Soviet Union invades Afghanistan; Trevor Francis England's first million pound footballer, signing for Nottingham Forest.

Michael Garlick had gone to work with the British Army in Germany (probably to exacerbate the Cold War), so John Maloney took over as 1st XV skipper.

All other senior officials remained in place.

The most notable event of the season was the seven week gap in fixtures due to the weather situation.

Our form after the lay off was impressive, but couldn't have had anything to do with the fitness training. There wasn't any!

Obviously proof of the old Eddie Edmondson maxim, "Too much training knackers you for a Saturday!"

Following a long freeze-up, and desperately needing a run-out before a Durham Cup game against Consett, the club, for the first time ever, accepted a 2nd. string game against Northern

Wanderers. (needless to say, Northern themselves would hardly have countenanced such a drop in the social scale.) Fortunately, we won the March 3rd. game at a 15-4 canter!

John Maloney as skipper introduced the habit of meeting at the Clubhouse for home matches. Prior to that, for several seasons, players has met at the Queens Hotel out of a habit formed when it was the watering hole of a former skipper in the

60's.

Whilst this seemed sensible, it managed to throw Ray Chester who, home off leave from the army, managed to sit patiently at the Queens for the whole afternoon waiting for his 14 team mates to arrive. Unfortunately the skipper forget to tell him the change of venue for away meets!



Stockton Under XV's, 1978-79 Back row (Left to right) T. Wilson (Coach); M. Durrell; P. Kulscar; K.Elborough; S. Knights; N.. Beckwith; G. Kennedy; G. Hurst; P.Ansbro; D. Wright; D. Wilson; M.Shield Front row (Left to right) C. Robins; A. McNiells; D. King; C.Horner; I.Daley; C. Bates

West Hartlepool		Stockton	Wed. 13th. Sept. 1978 K.O. 6.00 p.m.	
15	C D. BOYD	15	W. WEBSTER C. ROBINSON	
14	J. FENFON	14	B. DIXON	
13	C P. STACEY	13	P. SCOTT	
12	C D. STUBBS	12	W. DOUGLAS D. AGAR.	
11	J. PARKINSON	11	J. RAYBOULD	
10	C. PRICE	10	G. ROBINSON K. WORTH	
9	K. WOOD	9	A. DODGSON	
1	C D. BOWSFIELD	1	M. RICHARDSON	
2	M. WALKER	2	T. WILSON	
3	C K. HORSEMAN	3	J. MALONEY	
4	D. MITCHELL	4	G. CARBINE	
5	A. AIKENHEAD	5	J. SAUNDERS	
6	P. WOOD	6	P. HOARE	
7	C P. ROBINSON	7	A. BROWN	
8	J. WOOD	8	M. LEMON P. Marley.	
Replacements R. Clark		M. Conlon		
J. Spencer		G. Toze		
C-County				
Future Attractions				
Sat. 16th Sept.		1st XV v Hartlepool K.O. 3p.m.		
Wed. 20th Sept.		1st XV v Mowden Park K.O. 6p.m.		

DICKO'S DEBUT

"I thought we were gonna play rugby!"

After a poor beginning to the season, results improved after the flow of younger players from the Junior Section making debuts. Bryan Dixon made his first XV debut as a winger in 1978, and Kevin Keay and John Saunders had played the previous year. Dicko's first away trip was to Penrith, which in those days

meant stopping overnight in their club house following the disco, and refreshed by a constitutional around Ullswater and a greasy breakfast in town, before playing in the "Penrith Sevens." Brian found the pace a bit hectic and, by Sunday evening, when the party arrived back home, was definitely worse for wear. He had lost his voice and was heard to croak, "I thought I was only going to play rugby - they

were expecting me back at eight last night," as he was dropped in a crumpled heap on his doorstep. We rang the bell and bolted, leaving him to regale his family with tales of "hubbly bubbly." and Michael Conlon exploding bangers in the stand.

Peter Comes Third

The club tour was to London and a good time was had by all. Graham Naisbitt decided to drink

with Nick Moore and Harry Carr, who began to tutor his palate to the joys of gin & tonics. After half a dozen, I asked Graham what he thought of them.

"Its just like lemonade," he said, as he keeled to the floor, destroying a fruit machine in the process.

Later in the evening, Denis Chisman decided to hold a Peter Hudson Impersonation contest in honour of the great man's presence on the tour.

Peter was not there at the time it started, but later wandered in the

bar and shouted, "two pints of your best bitter please, barman, when you're ready, thank you."

The judge, the Club President Elect Dennis Orriss, his back to the bar and suffering from the first phase of gin poisoning, shrugged his shoulders and said, "Nah, not as good as Tim Race and Denis, but it's worth third place."

SEASON 1978-79 (CLUB CAPTAIN : JOHN MALONEY)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept.2	H Old Hymerians	L	15	18	T: Douglas C: Scott P: Scott Lemon (2)	0	0	1
9	A Penrith	L	0	9		0	0	2
13	A West Hartlepool	L	0	27		0	0	3
16	A Wharfedale	L	4	16	T: Armstrong	0	0	4
23	H Gateshead Fell	W	9	6	T: Morgan C: Scott + 1 Pen.	1	0	4
30	H Old Modernians	W	16	7	T: Douglas Mather C: Scott + 2 Pens.	2	0	4
Oct.7	H Blaydon	L	12	22	T: Carbine C: Scott + 2 Pens.	2	0	5
14	A Sandal	L	7	12	T: Lindley P: Lemon	2	0	6
21	H Rockliffe	W	42	15	T: Douglas(2) Dodgson Conlon Maloney Richardson Mather C: Webster(4)+2 P	3	0	6
25	H Durham University	L	7	29	T: Webster P: Lemon	3	0	7
28	H Hartlepool O.B's	L	8	12	T: Webster Raybould	3	0	8
Nov.4	A Ashington	W	27	6	T: Douglas (2) Raybould Armstrong Lindley C: Webster (2) + 1 Pen.	4	0	8
11	A North Durham	W	7	6	T: Webster + 1 Pen.	5	0	8
18	H Winlaton V.(DSC Pre)	W	28	7	T: Lindley (3) Conlon Armstrong C: Webster (4)	6	0	8
25	A Wigton	D	9	9	T: Raybould C: Webster + 1 Pen.	6	1	8
Dec.2	H Novocastrians	W	30	9	T: Tole (2) Lindley Conlon Douglas Raybould C: Webster (3)	7	1	8
9	A Scarborough	W	6	0	dg. Robinson P: Keay	8	1	8
16	H Ryton	L	4	9	T: Raybould	8	1	9
23	H West Hartlepool	L	4	19	T: Armstrong	8	1	10
(7 week gap in fixtures; The "Big Freeze" of the winter of '78-'79								
Feb.24	A Pocklington	W	40	9	T: Armstrong (2) Conlon (2) Carter (2) Webster (2) C: Still (4)	9	1	10
Mar.3	A Northern Wanderers	W	15	4	T: Muirhead Douglas Armstrong P: Still	10	1	10
10	A Consett (DSC 1)	W	6	3	P: Webster (2)	11	1	10
24	H Mowden Park	L	0	14		11	1	11
Apr-07	H Morpeth	L	12	17	T: Conlon Keay C: Keay(2)	11	1	12
14	H Nottingham Casuals	W	21	7	T: Kitching (2) Marley Conlon C: Webster + 1 Pen.	12	1	12
21	A Sunderland(DSC 2)	L	4	16	T: Raybould	12	1	13
26	H Acklam	W	18	3	T: Keay Muirhead Armstrong C: Keay (3)	13	1	13
28	H Penrith	W	24	4	T: Scott Brennan Raybould C: Keay (3) + 2 Pens.	14	1	13

Playing record: Played 8 Won 14 Drew 1 Lost 13 For 375 Against 315

Top scorers: Warren Douglas 8 Tries; Peter Armstrong 8 Tries; Mike Conlon 7 Tries; John Raybould 7 Tries; Billy Webster 5 Tries + 15 Conversions + 8 Penalties.

SEASON

08-19-79

Elsewhere...

1979

Israel and Egypt sign peace treaty, ending 30 years of hostility; Queen's art adviser Sir Anthony Blunt exposed as a spy; Seb Coe sets new world mile record - 3min 48.95 secs.

1980

John Lennon shot dead in New York; Ronald Reagan elected for first term as US President; Peter Sellers dies at 54; SAS storm Iranian Embassy in London, freeing hostages.

Following Sam Ryan's six years of tenure, Dennis Orriss (the first Captain following the end of World War II) began his reign as Club President. Bill Eddy stood down as Team Secretary, to be replaced by the ubiquitous Denis Chisman.

Best Foot Forward

Don Robinson had the misfortune to make his 1st XV debut against the formidable Tynedale front row of Chris 'Kong' Dixon, Alan Gledson and the legendary pig farmer, Percy Telfer.

The first scrum was not an overwhelming success, as the Tynedale pack scored a pushover try as Don vanished through the roof of the scrum. minus parachute.

Ever eager to improve, Don asked his front row colleagues for a little

advice.

"Where exactly would you like me to put my feet first?" he queried.

"Well, on the floor would be a good starting point!" came the unsympathetic reply.

Unconfirmed reports say that at half time, instead of receiving an orange like the rest of the side, Don was served with barley sugar to stop his ears popping.

We need him... he's got a big car!

Bill Eddie played a big role in developing a sophisticated selection policy.

His recommendations for which players should be promoted for long away trips often depended on which ones had large cars.

Similarly, for home games, selections often depended not on playing ability, but which on which ones' wives and girlfriends were prepared to do the teas!

In Bill's frequent absences,



Stockton 1st XV, 1979-80 Back row (Left to right) John Pollitt (Coach); John Maloney; Bob Brennan; John Saunders; Paul Scott; Warren Douglas; Paul Mather; Dave Edmondson
Front row (Left to right) Grant Carbine; Billy Webster; Mike Conlon; Peter Armstrong; Peter Morgan; Martin Lindley; Mark Richardson



"Has anyone seen Cyril?"
"No - but I can tell he is here somewhere."

skippers were often advised by his wife Margaret's opinion as to players' availability and form. Many claimed to rely on her rather than Bill's judgement.

The Christmas Oscar Nomination

The club Christmas Pantomime was 'Aladdin', and who else could play the wicked Ebenezer other

than Brian Deakin-everyone's favourite villain (except Brendan Thornton, that is).

During rehearsals, Brian practiced his death throes in the final act by swallowing a glass of 'poison', which was orange juice.

On the day of the performance, 'Widow Twanky' (Dennis Chisman), slipped a triple gin into the previously inert poison.

The look on Brian's face as he tossed back the poison was one of absolute horror as he acted out the most realistic death scene and spluttered, "I'll get you Chisman, you bastard!" in front of a hundred innocent young children. The curtains were hurriedly drawn in front of him before Mary Whitehouse got to hear of it.

Woodstock Revisited

A great moneymaking idea of the Social Committee was to hold an outdoor event on the pitches, rather than Yasgur's Farm.

Marquees were hired, a Country and Western group booked, and food and drink imported, courtesy of Michael Conlon's pickup truck. Les Catchpole, our resident engineer, ran lights (probably highly illegally) from the floodlights.

The sun shone, the crowds arrived and, because of the noise, so did Cleveland Costabulary, to be rebuffed by Denis Chisman waving the Public Entertainments License!

Following 'Betty' Grange's attempt to climb up the marquee tent pole, the highlight of the evening was the bingo session, run by the late Jim Garlick, father to 'ur Michael'.

Jim, in his excitement, forgot to close the door on the wire cage before spinning it around.

Unfortunately, he also had the microphone switched on as he boomed, "I've lost all me balls!"

Jeff Carter

On a far more serious note, a tragic loss in the season came with the death of promising centre Jeff Carter, who was killed in a road accident the weekend before Christmas.

A university student, Jeff was highly regarded by all and many thought he would have developed into a future Club Captain.



SEASON 1979-80 - (CLUB CAPTAIN : WARREN DOUGLAS)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 1	H Old Hymerians	L	20	30	T: Douglas Marley Armstrong C: Keay + 2 Pens.	0	0	1
8	A Penrith	D	4	4	T: Kitching	0	1	1
15	H Wharfedale	W	36	27	T: Kitching (3) Fawcett Douglas Webster C: Keay (3) + 2 Pens.	1	1	1
22	A Gateshead Fell	W	18	14	T: Raybould Armstrong Douglas P: Keay (2)	2	1	1
29	A Ryton	L	0	9		2	1	2
Oct. 6	H Consett	W	29	0	T: Raisbeck Grange Raybould Wild Keay C: Keay (3) + 1 Pen.	3	1	2
13	H Sandal	L	7	17	T: Tole P: Webster	3	1	3
20	A Rockcliffe	W	40	7	T: Haywood(3) Taylor Robinson Douglas Webster C: Webster (3) + 2 Pens.	4	1	3
27	A Hartlepool O.B's	L	0	21		4	1	4
Nov. 3	H Ryton	L	10	31	T: Kitching + 2 Pens.	4	1	5
10	H North Durham	W	7	6	T: Edmundson P: Keay	5	1	5
17	A Winton Vulcans	W	13	9	T: Douglas Byrom C: Keay + 1 Pen.	6	1	5
24	H Wigton	L	9	23	T: Stitt C: Keay + 1 Pen.	6	1	6
Dec. 1	A Novocastrians	L	9	12	T: Douglas C: Keay + 1 Pen.	6	1	7
8	H Scarborough	W	22	9	T: Newbould Douglas Fleetham Webster P: Keay (2)	7	1	7
22	A Hartlepool O.B's	L	10	12	T: Marley Douglas C: Keay	7	1	8
26	H Westoe	W	8	4	T: Kitching Fleetham	8	1	8
29	A West Hartlepool	L	10	42	T: Madden Keay C: Keay	8	1	9
Jan. 5	H York	W	32	3	T: Douglas (2) Kitching (2) Marley Webster C: Keay (4)	9	1	9
12	A Aspatia	L	0	23		9	1	10
19	A Mowden Park	L	22	27	T: Douglas Humphreys Saunders Raybould C: Keay (3)	9	1	11
26	H Redcar	W	7	6	T: Fleetham P: Keay	10	1	11
Feb. 9	A Morpeth	L	11	26	T: Kitching Raybould P: Kitching	10	1	12
16	H Gateshead Fell	L	6	24	T: Armstrong C: Keay	10	1	13
23	H Pocklington	W	10	4	T: Keay Armstrong C: Keay	11	1	13
Mar. 1	H Seghill	W	28	16	T: Douglas (2) Armstrong (2) Taylor Raybould C: Webster Keay	12	1	13
8	H Harist O.B's	W	28	0	T: Humphreys Edmundson Allen Keay C: Keay (3) + 2 Pens.	13	1	13
15	H Sunderland	L	7	11	T: Kitching P: Keay	13	1	14
22	A Alnwick	D	7	7	T: Pollitt C: Keay	13	2	14
26	A Winton V.(DSC 1)	W	25	9	T: Miller Douglas Keay C: Keay (2) P: Keay y(2) Kitching	14	2	14
Apr.-02	H Sunderland (DSC 2)	W	7	6	T: Madden P: Keay	15	2	14
5	H Leicester Owls	W	16	9	T: Armstrong Keay C: Keay + 2 Pens.	16	2	14
7	A Blaydon	L	4	20	T: Madden	16	2	15
12	A Westoe	L	4	21	T: Conlon	16	2	16
17	H Hart. Rovers(DSC-SF)	L	4	18	T: Douglas	16	2	17
19	H Ripon	L	3	8	P: Keay	16	2	18

Playing record: Played 36 Won 16 Drew 2 Lost 18 For 473 Against 521

Leading scorers: Warren Douglas 15 Tries; Danny Kitching 10 Tries;
Kevin Keay 6 Tries + 28 Conversions + 24 Penalties

SEASON

1980

Elsewhere...

1980

Bjorn Borg wins Wimbledon for 5th time; Mount St. Helens volcano erupts in Washington State; Independent Rhodesia renamed Zimbabwe.

1981

Princess Diana weds Prince Charles at St. Paul's Cathedral; First London Marathon; 'Yorkshire Ripper' Peter Sutcliffe jailed; BBC launch 'Only Fools and Horses'; Botham heroics win cricket series against Australia.

Albert Pontefract - Kicking Prop

During the early autumnal glory of September 1980, the 1st XV made a rare sojourn into West Yorkshire, having arranged its first fixture with Bingley.

The journey was torturous (Brendan had in time-honoured fashion "misplaced the map") and after circumnavigating the Rivers Swale, Wharfe, Calder, Nidd and Ure-luckily we never got as far as the Don- we wended our way down Wagon Lane in Bingley to find the rugby ground picturesquely situated adjacent to the river Aire.

We changed in what appeared to be a padded cell without the padding and after the usual exhortations from our skipper at the time, Warren Douglas, took the field with the nervous anticipation of any side venturing into the uncharted territories.

The match from the opening minutes was played at a furious pace as both sides tried to test each other's mettle.

Bingley, as befits a West Yorkshire side, had a massive pack and a kicking fly half.

Fortunately for John Maloney (who appeared to be frothing at his famous gills) there was a

natural break in play as the ref awarded an incomprehensible penalty against Stockton in a rather innocuous position on the park - inside the Bingley half and close to the touch line.

The Stockton pack back-peddled towards the touchline (with Brendan of course, shaking his head and muttering under his breath in his well-rehearsed stage whisper) anticipating another raking boot upfield.

However, the Bingley captain solemnly handed the ball to their loose head prop, a stout bearded individual (who later proved to be blessed with genial good

humour).

The cry from the assembled touchline throng was "kick it, Albert!" Albert, without show of emotion upon his normally beaming countenance, signalled his intention to the referee as the Stockton side looked somewhat in disbelief.

John Moore, confidently stood on the Stockton 10 metre line and loudly announced to all, "He'll never get anywhere near this!" Nevertheless, Maloney and Wilson lined up like a pair of Leaning Towers of Pisa in an attempt to distract the kicker.

With the minimum of preparation



Stockton U 15's 7 a Side Winners 1980 -81 (Left to right) C. Winspear; C. Higginbotham; J.Smith; M. Ferguson; C. Smith; A. Horner; P. Thackeray



Junior Squad Coaches and Administration (Left to right) Len Horner; Mike Jones; Terry Wilson; Tony McNeilis; John Moore

Albert placed the ball upright, took one pace backwards, while simultaneously wiping his nose with the back of his hand. There was an eerie silence around the ground as Albert took one pace forward and swung his right boot in a parabola towards the ball, which it hit with a mighty 'thwack'. The ball soared like an Exocet high into the stratosphere. A gasp of astonishment came from the Stockton pack. Even Eddie's continuously calm countenance had a puzzled air upon it. The ball thundered against the upright above the height of the crossbar, which shook madly. It then rebounded back into play almost to the 22, where Kevin Keay caught it and lashed it into touch. By this time Moore's confidence had wilted somewhat, and he yelled, "No more silly penalties- anywhere on the pitch!"

The legend of Albert had been born. The following year, the return fixture was held at Norton, and the crowd were expectant, having heard of Albert's legendary right boot. Eventually Bingley were awarded a long range penalty and the crowd hushed as Albert was handed the ball. Taking two steps backwards, Albert wiped his nose and thundered towards the ball. Unfortunately, his non-kicking leg slipped from under him (a dog turd, he later claimed) and he fell on his backside and toe poked the ball into touch. The crowd gasped - the legend had been shattered!

Moore's Return

The return of John Moore from Hartlepool Rovers gave the club a considerable boost, with the 1st XV results improving significantly. However, John never got used to the prompt departures from late

stops on away trips, and on returning to the York coach park, saw the Stockton coach disappearing north. All he could do was keep walking while his wife Cath came to pick him up. Unfortunately, as he was passing through the suburb of Clifton had to nip over a fence to answer a call of nature. John still claims that there is a fast growing tree that marks the spot, A testament to his powers.



Teams	
MIDDLESBROUGH (White)	STOCKTON (Red)
15 S. HUTTON	15 W. WEBSTER
14 R. UNDERWOOD	14 A. MAKIN *
13 R. A. WALSH	13 W. DOUGLAS *
12 K. COLLINS *	12 D. ALLEN
11 D. J. LAIDLAW	11 D. KITCHING
10 A. J. BAXTER	10 D. KREZAK
9 D. FRANK	9 P. ARMSTRONG
1 H. H. ROBINSON *	1 D. EDMUNDSON
2 B. COYNE (Capt) *	2 T. WILSON
3 N. S. P. ENEVOLDSON *	3 J. MALONEY
4 T. JONES *	4 B. DIXON
5 S. MICKLEWRIGHT	5 J. SAUNDERS
6 D. MCMANUS	6 J. C. MOORE *
7 M. J. WAIN	7 C. RAY
8 P. F. RILEY	8 P. MORLEY
Referee: J. MAWBY (Yorkshire Society)	
† International	‡ International Trialist
	* County Player

SEASON 1980-81 (CLUB CAPTAIN : WARREN DOUGLAS)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 3	A Hartlepool Rovers	L	3	28	P: Keay	0	0	1
13	A Penrith	W	10	6	T: Byrom P: Kitching (2)	1	0	1
16	H Acklam	W	30	7	T: Armstrong (2) Phillips Doree dg: Keay C: Keay + 3 Pens.	2	0	1
20	A Bingley	L	3	12	P: Keay	2	0	2
27	H Gateshead Fell	W	25	10	T: Armstrong Webster Moore Lowes C: Kitching (3) + 1 Pen.	3	0	2
Oct. 4	H Ryton	D	13	13	T: Webster P: Keay (3)	3	1	2
11	A Sandal	D	17	17	T: Kitching Keay dg: Keay + 2 Pens.	3	2	2
18	H Rockliffe	W	20	7	T: Kitching Byrom Keay C: Keay + 2 Pens.	4	2	2
22	H Durham University	L	9	19	I Pen. Try C: Webster + 1 Pen.	4	2	3
25	H Hartlepool O.B's	W	28	6	T: Allen (2) Douglas Moore C: Keay (3) + 1 Pen.	5	2	3
Nov. 1	H Consett	W	15	12	T: Webster C: Keay + 3 Pens.	6	2	3
8	A North Durham	W	17	0	T: Douglas (2) dg: Keay + 2 Pens.	7	2	3
15	H Winton Vulcans	W	30	0	T: Todd (2) Keay(2) Taylor C: Keay (2) + 2 Pens.	8	2	3
22	A Wighton	W	7	0	T: Douglas P: Keay	9	2	3
29	H Ashington	W	29	0	T: Kitching (3) Armstrong Webster Moore Taylor Douglas C: Keay (2) + 1 Pen.	10	2	3
Dec. 6	H Novocastrians	W	21	3	T: Thornton (2) Taylor C: Keay (3) + 1 Pen.	11	2	3
13	H Scarborough	W	31	6	T: Kitching (2) Moore Douglas Dixon C: Keay (4) + 1 Pen.	12	2	3
20	H Darlington	W	12	0	T: Dixon C: Keay + 2 Pens.	13	2	3
26	A Westoe	W	9	4	T: Kitching dg: Keay C: Keay	14	2	3
27	H Redcar	W	35	9	T: Phillips (2) Edmundson Moore Tunnicliffe Keay C: Keay (4) + 1 Pen.	15	2	3
Jan. 1	H Middlesbrough	L	3	18	P: Keay	15	2	4
3	A York	L	4	9	T: Dixon	15	2	5
10	H Aspatia	L	0	9		15	2	6
24	A Sunderland	W	12	9	T: Phillips Douglas C: Keay (2)	16	2	6
31	A Percy Park	W	35	13	T: Douglas (2) Kitching Wild Phillips Raisbeck Armstrong C: Scott (2)	17	2	6
Feb. 7	A Old Hymerians	L	18	34	T: Keay (2) Phillips Armstrong C: Keay	17	2	7
14	H Morpeth	L	0	3		17	2	8
21	A Redcar	W	34	13	T: Douglas (2) Keay (2) Wild Phillips Raisbeck C: Keay (3)	18	2	8
28	A Pocklington	L	6	11	T: Dixon C: Keay	18	2	9
Mar. 7	H Newcastle University	W	10	6	T: Keay + 1 dg: + 1 Pen.	19	2	9
21	H Horden	W	35	0	T: Kitching (2) Keay (2) Armstrong Saunders Allen C: Keay (2) + 1 Pen.	20	2	9
28	A Novocastrians	W	11	7	T: Kitching Douglas dg: Krezak	21	2	9
Apr-02	H West H'pool (DSC 2)	L	0	10		21	2	10
4	A Alnwick	L	9	37	T: Douglas C: Keay + 1 Pen.	21	2	11
11	H Westoe	D	3	3	P: Keay	21	3	11
18	H Hillheads	W	40	9	T: Keay (2) Lowes Armstrong Dixon Moore Douglas C: Keay (3) + 2 Pens.	22	3	11
20	A Ripon	L	12	15	T: Lowes C: Keay + 2 Pens.	22	3	12

Playing record: Played 37 Won 22 Drew 3 Lost 12 For 606 Against 365

Leading scorers: Kevin Keay 14 Tries + 5dg + 37 Conversions + 36 Penalties (253 points); Warren Douglas 14 Tries; Danny Kitching 12 Tries; Peter Armstrong 8 Tries.

SEASON

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Elsewhere...

1981

First laptop computer seen; Space shuttle Columbia makes first flight; Ronald Reagan shot and lives; AIDS is first recognised.

1982

Britain wins the Falklands War; ET is a huge movie hit; Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly film star Grace Kelly, dies in a car crash; Sir Freddie Laker's Laker Airlines collapses; British movie 'Chariots of Fire' sweeps the Oscars; Channel 4 launched.

Peter Armstrong took over from Warren Douglas as Skipper, and with Neil McConnell coming to the end of his seven year stint as Secretary, Jim Garlick took his place in his own inimitable style.

The return of Tony Makin and Keith Murray from Hartlepool Rovers strengthened the team further and the 1st XV had its most successful season ever in terms of % of wins, with the blend of youth and experience proving too much for most opposition.

The club officials remained largely intact for the season.



Mike Conlon (ball in hand) and Trevor Wild at the Billingham 7's.
Trevor's boss was not impressed!

Sevens Triumph

A notable success was the Durham County Sevens Tournament at Billingham, held on a Sunday afternoon, where Stockton won the trophy for the first time in several years.

Unfortunately, Trevor Wild was pictured coasting in for the winning try.

His boss was non too pleased, as Trevor had phoned in sick for the Sunday shift!

Trevor's explanation was that his miracle cure was a result of the the water in the buckets at the side of the pitch, which he claimed must have come from Lourdes.



23rd Jan 1982, Redcar 0 Stockton 3- a thriller after 7 weeks layoff with bad weather. Back row (Left to right) Billy Webster; John Still; Warren Douglas; Brendan Thornton; Graham Naisbitt; Bryan Dixon; Dennis Chisman; David Allen; Trevor Wild Front row (Left to right) Dave Kreczak; Andy 'Max' Ducker; Dave Cooke; Kevin Keay; Peter Armstrong; Terry Wilson; Keith Murray



Stockton Under 16's 1981-82 Back row (Left to right) C Winspear; A. Bean; P. Connorton; S. McBean; P Thackeray; R. Jones; A. Wiles; A. Harrison; R. Brown Middle row (Left to right) C. Higginbotham; N. Tunney; D. Pyle; A. Hewitt; c. Smith; R. Brown; G. Yeaman; j. Downes; Front row A. Horne; P. Venus

Injuries Galore

Peter Armstrong, as in golf, became a non - playing Captain after taking a hefty whack to the ribs from an unfriendly Sandal back row, which kept him out for part of the season.

Tony Makin also didn't last for long before his shoulder was dislocated.

The first time was in making a try - saving tackle against a young Rory Underwood in the local derby against Middlesbrough, which we narrowly lost.

Just as he was recovering, it happened again in what was politely described as a 'bedroom incident'.

As if anyone believed his pathetic story about hopping around with one foot stuck in his trousers as he fell over!

Oh La La!

The highlight of the season just HAD to be the Paris Tour - despite the fact that our French 'opposition' had forgotten to put us in their diary, meaning, of course, that we were going to have to spend the whole of the Sunday twiddling our thumbs in the bar!

It was a memorable event, especially the evening poor Jimmy Collins was stabbed.

Alan Todd still feels guilty about not paying for his McDonalds, in the ensuing confusion.

Acklam RFC, also on tour, had also been let down by their opposition, and for a few awful moments, through the Friday evening alcoholic haze, we actually contemplated a Sunday game.

Fortunately, common sense

eventually prevailed.

Mystery No.1:

who was the guy who was sat in a Dover toilet, wallowing in an ecstatic haze of defecatory delight after a long, long journey, suddenly to have his joyfulness shattered by the freezing cold contents of a large fire-water bucket 'hoyed' over the partition? I know that man!

Mystery No.2:

Who was the guy that did the 'hoying'? I also know that man.

Mystery No.3:

who was the guy that ever-so-carefully placed 'a number' of mysteriously acquired units of exquisite French plonk amongst the team shirts and sailed through Customs, sort of 'bold as brass'?

Needless to say, the inevitable occurred, with the Customs guys taking an instant fancy to him! We ALL know that man!



Warren Douglas in action



Sam Ryan

Headmaster of Red House School, Norton, Sam Ryan (left) was a central figure at Stockton Rugby Club during the 1970's. and his death in 1982 was a sad loss to the club. During his long association, Sam held the offices of Secretary, Chairman and President.

SEASON 1981-82 (CLUB CAPTAIN : PETER ARMSTRONG)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept.1	H Dolphins	W	32	9	T: Douglas (2) Keay Makin Ray Wild C: Keay (3) Kitching	1	0	0
5	H Sunderland	W	7	6	T: Ray P: Kreczak	2	0	0
9	A Middlesbrough	L	0	12		2	0	1
12	A Penrith	W	32	4	T: Dixon (2) Murray Allen Raisbeck Moore C: Keay (4)	3	0	1
19	A Tynedale	W	9	6	T: Armstrong C: Kreczak P: Kitching	4	0	1
26	A Gateshead Fell	W	11	6	T: Dixon Allen P: Kitching	5	0	1
Oct.3	A Ryton	L	6	12	P: Kreczak (2)	5	0	2
10	H Sandal	W	19	10	T: Douglas Dixon C: Keay + 1 dg P: Kreczak (2)	6	0	2
17	H Blaydon	L	9	12	P: Kreczak (2) Keay	6	0	3
21	A Durham University	W	19	4	T: Wild Douglas C: Keay P: Keay (3)	7	0	3
24	A Hartlepool O.B's	W	13	3	T: Kitching Keay C: Keay + 1 Pen.	8	0	3
31	H Durham City	L	9	26	P: Keay (3)	8	0	4
Nov.7	H Bingley	L	10	20	T: Allen P: Keay (2)	8	0	5
14	H Noth Durham	W	15	7	T: Webster Keay C: Keay + 1 Pen.	9	0	5
21	A Winton Vulcans	L	12	13	T: Keay C: Keay + 2 Pens.	9	0	6
28	H Wigton	L	11	19	T: Douglas Wild P: Keay	9	0	7
Dec.5	A Novocastrians	D	6	6	T: Allen C: Keay	9	1	7
Repeat of Season '78-'79's "Big Freeze; 7 week gap in fixtures.								
Jan.23	A Redcar	W	3	0	P: Keay	10	1	7
30	H Seghill	W	32	12	T: Kitching (2) Cooke (2) Chisman Armstrong C: Keay (4)	11	1	7
Feb.6	H Old Hymerians	W	35	3	T: Keay (2) Douglas Pett Armstrong dg: Kreczak C: Keay (3) + 2 Pens.	12	1	7
13	A Morpeth	W	18	0	T: Cooke Moore dg: Douglas C: Keay (2) + 1 Pen.	13	1	7
27	H Pocklington	W	22	6	T: Kitching Dixon C: Keay + 4 Pens.	14	1	7
Mar.6	A Newcastle University	W	13	0	T: Douglas Armstrong C: Keay + 1 Pen.	15	1	7
13	H Marist O.B's	W	18	6	T: Armstrong Kitching Wild P: Keay (2)	16	1	7
20	A Rockliffe	W	6	4	T: Cooke C: Kreczak	17	1	7
27	H Percy Park	W	23	9	T: Moore Dixon Douglas C: Keay + 3 Pens.	18	1	7
31	H Blaydon (DSC 2)	L	3	9	P: Keay	18	1	8
Apr-03	H Alnwick	W	26	9	T: Kitching (2) Cooke Dixon Allen C: Keay (3)	19	1	8
9	A Westoe	L	10	13	T: Webster dg: Douglas P: Keay	19	1	9
12	H Ripon	W	16	3	T: Cooke (2) C: Keay + 2 Pens.	20	1	9
17	A PercyPark	W	14	6	T: Douglas Cooke Saunders C: Keay	21	1	9
21	A Northallerton	W	17	7	T: Douglas Moore Keay C: Keay + 1 Pen.	22	1	9
24	H Penrith	W	29	21	T: Keay (2) Douglas Wild Horner C: Keay (3) + 1 Pen.	23	1	9

Playing record: Played 33 Won 23 Drew1 Lost 9 For 505 Against 280

Leading scorers: Kevin Keay 9 Tries + 34 Conversions + 34 Penalties (206 Points); Warren Douglas 11 Tries; Dave Cooke 8 Tries; Bryan Dixon 7 Tries; Danny Kitching 7 Tries.

SEASON

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Elsewhere...

1982

Michael Fagan breaks into Buckingham Palace, sits on Queen's bed and has a chat; Prince William born.

1983

Tories, led by Mrs Thatcher, re-elected with 144 majority; Seat belts become compulsory for front car passengers; Derby winning horse Shergar kidnapped and never seen again; Ben Kingsley wins Best Actor Oscar for portraying Gandhi.

Denis Chisman's reign as 1st XV Skipper was curtailed by a severe neck injury, and John Moore took over half way through the season, when Denis was forced into retirement.

On a positive note, victory was achieved once again in the Durham County Sevens at Billingham.

Alan Todd stepped down after six years as Club Chairman, to be replaced by Jim Fox who began to reform the Committee structure of the

club.

Neil McConnell was back in business as secretary, which meant that General Committee Minutes would once again contain such classics as, "Balls. Colin Robinson has one brown one and one white one."

Neil would often wonder what was so amusing.

One in the Eye for Toddy

The Christmas Review Show proved a popular event.

Scripted by Alan Todd and Bob Howat (Stockton's answer to Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber) there was one laugh that wasn't scripted or expected by Alan.

Mike Conlon was playing a dowager aunt that Alan was "chatting up", and without warning produced an unscripted custard pie from out of the depths of a shopping bag, which Alan then duly received full in the face.

This form of Brandoesque

improvisation was too much for a trained Thespian like Alan, who stormed off the stage, threatening to pull the plug on the whole event.

Fortunately, like all good 'luvvies', he calmed down sufficiently for the show to reach its crescendo-an operation on Harry Carr's intestines-from which a rugby ball, a crate of ale, twenty fags and a stick of celery were somehow removed, with Harry living to tell the tale!



Stockton 1st XV, 1982-83. Back row (Left to right) D. Kreczak; D. Allen; D. Pett; G. Naisbett; T. Wild; K. Murray; W. Douglas; D. Chisman; Front row (Left to right) M. Conlon; D. Cooke; C. Horner; J. Moore; K. Keay; B. Cummins; A. Ducker



Tour of Ireland- XV versus Navan Back row (left to right) J. Moore; A. Ducker; D. Benson; A. Watson; T. McCarthy; D. Raisbeck; G. Naisbett; M. Garlick; J.H.W. Collins.
Front row (left to right) J. Riley; R. Jackson; D. Lowes; T. Wilson; J. Hannah; P. Lofthouse; W.Webster.

He jumps like clockwork!

Following an impeccable Colts career, Geoff Hurst strode like a colossus into the senior changing room, determined to make his presence felt as an up-and-coming second row.

Geoff announced, with an air of confidence, that he would be "jumping at 2."

A sarcastic colleague suggested that if he won the ball, he could try again at ten past.



Photo right; Back row (left to right) B. Hudson; O.Doree; W. Douglas; M. Smith; D. Pett Front row (left to right) C. Smith; K. Murray; D. Cooke



MORPETH'S Chris Bird sidesteps a challenge from Stockton's Terry Wilson



Peter Armstrong

SEASON 1982-83 (CLUB CAPTAINS: DENNIS CHISMAN then JOHN MOORE)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept.1	A West Hartlepool	L	0	36		0	0	1
4	A Old Hymerians	L	12	15	T: Pett C: Robinson P: Robinson Horner	0	0	2
8	H Middlesbrough	L	6	18	P: Keay (2)	0	0	3
11	A Penrith	L	3	7	P: Kitching	0	0	4
18	A Durham City	L	19	47	T: Cooke(2) Allen C: Keay (2) + 1 Pen.	0	0	5
25	H Gateshead Fell	L	12	19	T: Keay Allen C: Keay (2)	0	0	6
Oct.2	H Ryton	W	4	3	T: Hudson	1	0	6
9	A Sandal	L	0	11		1	0	7
16	H Rockcliffe	W	17	0	T: Keay (2) Moore dg: Kreczak C: Keay	2	0	7
23	H Hartlepool O.B's	W	7	3	T: Douglas P: Keay	3	0	7
27	H Durham University	L	0	36		3	0	8
30	H Manchester University	L	9	14	P: Keay (3)	3	0	9
Nov.6	H Sunderland	W	39	12	T: Douglas (3) Cooke (2) Webster Keay C: Keay (4) + 1 Pen.	4	0	9
13	A North Durham	L	0	6		4	0	10
20	H Winton Vulcans	W	50	6	T: Cooke (3) Keay (2) Wild Douglas Webster dg: Kreczak C: Keay (6)+ 1 Pen.	5	0	10
27	A Wighton	L	6	16	P: Keay (2)	5	0	11
Dec.4	H Novocastrians	W	17	4	T: Still Cooke Keay C: Keay + 1 Pen.	6	0	11
11	A Scarborough	W	26	10	T: Allen Cooke Keay C: Keay + 4 Pens.	7	0	11
27	A Westoe	W	13	8	T: Naisbitt Douglas C: Keay + 1 Pen.	8	0	11
Jan.3	H Consett	W	33	11	T: Cooke Webster Douglas Horner Keay C: Keay(5) + 1 Pen.	9	0	11
8	A York	L	10	13	T: Keay (2) C: Keay	9	0	12
15	H Bowden Park	W	18	7	T: Weston Hurst C: Webster (2) + 2 Pens.	10	0	12
22	A Redcar	W	11	10	T: Kreczak Hurst P: Keay	11	0	12
29	A Sunderland	W	25	15	T: Cooke (2) Douglas Keay C: Keay (3) + 1 Pen.	12	0	12
Feb.5	H Duke of Well. Rgmt.	W	44	4	T: Keay (4) Douglas (2) Cooke Hannah C: Keay (6)	13	0	12
12	H Morpeth	L	0	11		13	0	13
19	A Keighley	D	12	12	T: Keay C: Keay + 2 Pens.	13	1	13
26	H Tynedale	W	12	7	T: Cooke C: Keay + 2 Pens.	14	1	13
Mar.5	H Newcastle University	W	11	3	T: Cooke Raisbeck P: Kreczak	15	1	13
12	A Marist O.B's	W	8	4	T: Keay Ducker	16	1	13
26	A Percy Park	L	12	28	T: Keay dg :Kreczak C: Keay + 1 Pen.	16	1	14
30	A Mowden Park(DSC 2)	W	14	0	T: Allen Cooke P: Keay (2)	17	1	14
Apr.-02	A Alnwick	L	3	18	P: Keay	17	1	15
4	A Ripon	L	0	12		17	1	16
9	H Westoe	W	33	3	T: Pett Wild Cooke Moore Horner C: Keay (5) + 1 Pen.	18	1	15
13	A West Hart. (DSC 3)	L	3	13	P: Keay	18	1	17
16	H Aspatria	W	9	3	dg: Kreczak P: Keay (2)	19	1	17
23	H Penrith	W	26	15	T: Wild (2) Cooke Ollett Keay C: Keay (3)	20	1	17

Playing record: Played 38 Won 20 Drawl Lost17 For 524 Against 460

Leading scorers: Kevin Keay 20 Tries + 44 Conversions + 32 Penalties (264 Points); Dave Cooke 18 Tries; Warren Douglas 10 Tries.

SEASON

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Elsewhere...

1983

One pound coin goes into circulation;
Over 1.5 million die in war in Sudan;
Tory Chairman Cecil Parkinson resigns
after getting his secretary pregnant;
Mrs Thatcher re-elected as PM.

1984

2,500 killed in Bhopal chemical plant
leak; Policewoman Yvonne Fletcher
shot dead in front of Libyan Embassy,
London; Singer Marvin Gaye shot
dead by his dad; Eric Morecambe and
Richard Burton both die, aged 58.

Keith Murray took over as 1st XV Captain, with the remainder of the senior administration remaining in place.

Keith enjoyed the team's successful season, but towards the end a serious shoulder injury suffered by John Moore during a match at Aspatria forced his retirement.

Inspirational Team Talks

The 1st and 3rd XV's had travelled to play at Keighley, and found themselves having to share a changing room. A rather rare occurrence.

The 1st's prepared as usual by discussing the game plan, reminding everyone of the calls and moves, stretching and finally sprinting on the spot, before emerging onto the field, covered in a light sheen of perspiration and smelling of linament.

The 3rd team watched in expectant awe, as their skipper for

the day, Dr. T.J. McCarthy, rose to his feet to address his team in what they expected would be an emotional and inspiring experience.

Unusually for Tim, this proved a rare occasion when he proved to be a man of few words.

"Right," said Tim. "Let's see how it goes, and if that doesn't work, we'll play it by ear!"

Following this short, sweet and somewhat directionless speech, the team trooped out to receive a thirty nil tanking.

Cinderella Lindsey? It fits!

Whilst unpacking his kit at Novos for a Second XV match, Joe Rayner announced he had forgotten his boots.

"Has anyone got a spare pair of size 13's?" he asked, in hope.

Amidst the usual hoots of derision for asking, Peter Lindsey said that he wore 12's, and if anyone had a spare pair, he would give Joe his 12's.

Joe pounced on the 12's and, after much huffing, managed to get his feet inside them and pronounced them wearable.



Stockton 1st XV, 1983-84. Back row (Left to right) M. Smith; T. Wild; W. Douglas; J. Lofthouse; J. Ollett; J. Maloney; G. Naisbett; R. Taylor Front row (Left to right) D. Cooke; M. Ferguson; M. Conlon; M. Murray; P. Armstrong; D. Allen; S. Todd



"Crouch, touch, pause and engage!" Whilst hooker Terry Wilson and loose head prop Ian Birch look keen to get stuck into the Gateshead Fell front row, Dave Edmundson seems to be having second thoughts...maybe because he was playing tight head!

STOCKTON.		DOLPHINS.	
15) P. Bramley		15) I.S. Harris (Tynedale & Northern 'B')	
14) D. Cooke		14) G. Melville (Otley)	
13) W. Douglas		13) A. Hamblay (Hartlepool Rovers & Durham Univ)	
12) D. Cates		12) D. Garforth (Otley)	
11) P. Champion		11) D. Docherty (Gateshead Fell)	
10) A. Horner		10) J. Riley (Durham Univ)	
9) P. Armstrong	Referee:	9) M. Waddington (Otley & York)	
1) G. Naisbitt	Arthur Smart	1) M. Wright (Capt) (Otley & York)	
2) T. Wilson	(Durham Society)	2) M. Barnett (Otley & York)	
3) M. Douthwaite		3) M. Marklew (Otley)	
4) R. Taylor		4) P. Candlish (Gateshead Fell & Durham)	
5) J. Dixon		5) D. Mitchell (West Hartlepool & Durham)	
6) A. Ducker		6) A. Harle (Durham City & Durham)	
7) T. Wild		7) S. Robinson (Durham City)	
8) M. Smith		8) C. Holley (Roundhay & York)	
Replacements from			
A. Horner, N. Hicks, C. Parsons, P. Weston, S. Bradley.			

Meanwhile, Peter was vainly trying to wedge his feet into Tom Mac's spare size 10's.

With kick off approaching, we ran out, with the protesting Peter at the rear.

As the match progressed, it soon became obvious Peter's blood circulation was not all it should have been and was slowing down his progress around the field drastically.

By the end he had developed a mincing stride quite akin to

Stockton shine

Stockton, who lost Othman Naisbitt after 15 minutes and played most of the second-half with only seven forwards, gained an excellent 10-0 win at Horden.

When Naisbitt went off with a back injury, Peter Lithgo came on at wing forward with Andy Ducker moving to prop.

Stockton scored the only try in the first-half when the three-quarters moved the ball well and Dave Cooke made good ground before sending in Chris Horner.

Will Webster also kicked a penalty, but Horden used the wind well to build a 9-7 interval lead with two penalties from Terry McLean and a John Groves' drop goal.

After the restart, Stockton lost Ducker with a back injury but missed good chance to cross during heavy pressure when Trevor Wild and Warren Douglas went close.

The winning score did not come until ten minutes from the end when Terry Wilson won a vital scrum against the head on his own line and play switched upfield for Webster to kick another penalty.

Wayne Sleep.

Unfortunately, this was not communicated to the touchline where Matthew England, as Selector, was shaking his head in despair as Novo's fly half slipped past Peter's vain attempts to catch him for the umpteenth time.

The result; Joe was give a glowing write up and remained in the 2nd XV.

Peter was branded a 'carthorse' and dropped to the 3rds!



SEASON 1983-84 (CLUB CAPTAIN : KEITH MURRAY)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 3	H Old Hymerians	L	0	3		0	0	1
7	A Middlesbrough	L	9	15	P: Ferguson (3)	0	0	2
10	A Penrith	W	23	9	T: Douglas Lowes Smith C: Ferguson + 3 Pens.	1	0	2
17	H Durham City	L	3	27	P: Webster	1	0	3
24	A Gateshead Fell	L	9	22	T: Cooke C: Heighton + 1 Pen.	1	0	4
Oct. 1	A Ryton	W	10	6	T: Douglas P: Webster(2)	2	0	4
8	H Sandal	W	7	6	T: Lowes P: Robinson	3	0	4
15	A Rockcliffe	D	3	3	P: Webster	3	1	4
22	A Hartlepool O.B's	L	15	21	T: Douglas C: Robinson + 3 Pens.	3	1	5
29	H Westoe	W	15	9	T: Raisbeck(2) Robinson P: Ferguson	4	1	5
Nov. 5	A Tynedale	L	7	18	T: Conlon P: Webster	4	1	6
12	H North Durham	L	3	4	P: Webster	4	1	7
19	A Winton Vulcans	W	45	13	T: Phillips(2) Murray(2) Cooke(2) Pett Dixon Moore C: Moore(3) Robinson(2) + 1P:	5	1	7
26	H Wigton	W	17	6	T: Moore Murray Naisbitt C: Webster + 1 Pen.	6	1	7
Dec. 3	A Novocastrians	L	10	15	T: Champion P: Ferguson (2)	6	1	8
10	H Scarborough	W	11	6	T: Wild Champion P: Moore	7	1	8
17	A Darlington	W	4	0	T: Pett	8	1	8
24	A Blaydon	W	19	15	T: Wild Dixon C: Webster + 3 Pens.	9	1	8
26	A Westoe	L	3	7	P: Webster	9	1	9
31	A Hartlepool Rovers	L	9	15	T: Douglas C: Webster + 1 Pen.	9	1	10
Jan. 7	H York	W	14	4	T: Kindon Moore Cooke C: Webster	10	1	10
28	H Redcar	W	18	13	T: Cooke (2) Murray Smith C: Webster	11	1	10
Feb. 4	H Ripon	D	3	3	P: Cooke	11	2	10
11	A Morpeth	W	7	6	T: Phillips + 1 Pen.	12	2	10
18	H Keighley	L	8	15	T: Bromley Wild	12	2	11
25	H Pocklington	W	15	6	T: Cooke (2) Armstrong P: Ferguson	13	2	11
Mar. 2	A Newcastle University	W	28	6	T: Murray (2) Cooke (2) Wild Smith C: Bromley Webster	14	2	11
10	H Harist O.B's	W	42	0	T: Cooke (2) Murray (2) Moore (2) Kindon Smith Allen C: Bromley (3)	15	2	11
17	H Sunderland	W	10	9	T: Naisbitt Ferguson (2)	16	2	11
24	H Percy Park	W	21	9	T: Wild (2) Murray Dixon C: Webster + 1 Pen.	17	2	11
28	A Hart. Rovers (DSC 2)	L	0	24		17	2	12
31	A Horden	W	10	9	T: Horner P: Webster (2)	18	2	12
Apr. 07	H Alnwick	L	12	21	T: Cooke Douglas C: Bromley(2)	18	2	13
14	H Westoe	W	30	6	T: Pett (2) Cooke (2) Allen C: Ferguson (2) P: Ferguson McKay	19	2	13
21	A Aspatria	L	9	32	T: Douglas C: Ferguson + 1 Pen.	19	2	14
28	H Penrith	W	18	11	T: Murray (2) Todd Cooke C: Ferguson	20	2	14

Playing record: Played 36 Won 20 Drew 2 Lost 14 For 467 Against 394:

Leading Scorers: Dave Cooke 16 Tries; Keith Murray 11 Tries; Billy Webster 7 Conversions + 15 Penalties; Mark Ferguson 5 Conversions + 1 4 Penalties.

SEASON

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Elsewhere...

1984

New Zealand declares itself nuclear-free; Shocking TV pictures of starving Ethiopians prompt 'Band Aid' charity record 'Do They Know It's Christmas';

1985

Bob Geldorf's 'Live Aid' Concert raises millions for starving in Ethiopia; CD Rom arrives; British scientists discover hole in ozone layer over Antarctica; Sir Clive Sinclair launches C5 buggy.

Whilst Keith Murray remained skipper, there were several changes in other senior positions.

Dennis Orriss stood down after four years as President.

He was replaced by Joe Glover, who had been in an official capacity at the club since just after the war, and this office

was well deserved.

David Trotter took over as Secretary from Neil McConnell, and Brendan Thornton took over from Jim Fox as Chairman.

The season proved interesting off the field.

Relationships with our landlords at the club hit a rocky patch, as 'the hoover' would appear between 6.30pm and 7pm, during which time the bar was shut!

At one stage, the Club Chairman was banned from the premises,

which led to the unusual sight of a Committee Meeting taking place with the door open and Chairman Brendan Thornton sitting on a chair outside the building, making a full contribution.

Results for the 1st XV were mixed. At one stage, the skipper announced in a serious tone prior



Cleveland Sevens winners; Back row (Left to right); D.Pett; P Weston; A. Ducker; I. Fleetham; P. Champion; Front row (left to right) D. Cooke; A. Cartwright; M. Conlon; S. Bradley

to a derby battle, "If we win today, it will mean we have had more losses than defeats this season!"
No wonder some players were slightly confused.

Max

Just how did Andy Ducker come to be referred to by one and all as 'Max'?
In his early school career, Andy played on the flank, with not a lot of success, but with quite a lot of injury.
Some of his performances were so instantly forgettable that, in selection, it was difficult to recall whether he had played or not in a particular match.
And if so, for how long.
One selector solved the problem. "Yes", he said, "Andy has played, because I remembered he came to me for his half time orange!"
After that, people just asked, "Did Andy get an orange?"
Of course, the orange soon became a 'Jaffa', and as those fans of Scarborough will tell you, the only Jaffa worth talking about is Max.
Sadly, our Max can't play the violin, but he soon learned to play other instruments.
He did, of course, feature in an incident on the 1992 Paris Tour when he was involved in a unique form of sponsorship, brokered in 'Rue de 1,000... Holes' by a school headmaster who will remain nameless, to protect his pension!

THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- Q1; After receiving a kick on the head and being asked by Dr. Tim McCarthy, "Did you pass out?", who replied, " I didn't have the ball at the time."
Q2; Of which illustrious lock forward was it said, "the only time he gets his feet off the deck is when the ref checks his studs!"
Q3; Which venerable member, on being told by the referee that he was being penalised for not retiring early enough, replied, "I intend to play for another season." (He was penalised a further 10 metres)

Asleep in the chair

Post match "clubbing" has always been popular amongst Stockton players, in order to relax following the day's efforts.
However, one player, who shall remain nameless in order to protect his shame, took the relaxation too far.
Whilst the modern player frequents establishments like "Bojangles" "Cinzas" "Club M" and "Millennium", those of more mature years will recall visits to "Bentleys" in Brunswick Street, which had risen from the ashes of the legendary "Titos" (frequented by those of the pre-Centenary era).
Player behaviour has been known to stray from urbane to boistrous, but there is one incident which can only be classed as soporific.
After an evening of replacing lost fluids our hero, needing a leak,

tottered into the toilets at the aforementioned Bentleys.
Those former aficionados of Bentleys will recall the shoe shine man based in the bogs.
After splashing his boots, our hero decided that to enhance his normally minimal chances of "pulling," a more sartorial shine on his shoes would contribute.
He lumbered into the 'chair' of throne like proportions that the shoe shine man provided for his customers' comfort whilst he beavered away brushing boots.
So comfortable was the said chair that our hero's eyelids became heavy, his breathing regular, and eventually full blown snoring akin to a B52 bomber roared from his throat.
By the time the shoe shine man completed his task our hero had lapsed into a deep slumber and could not be woken.

A large queue had begun to form for shoe shining as the unfortunate man tried to raise his now unwelcome guest. Suddenly, a brainwave!
He recognised our hero's club tie, and set off in search of colleagues clothed in similar garb in the club, in the vain hope they could wake Rip Van Winkle.
Two burly forwards were persuaded into the loo and eventually woke our hero by pouring beer (at night club prices!) over his head.
He began to wave his arms, akin

to the Pope in the Sadia Gestatoria, as he came round.
To a round of applause from the watching throng he staggered to his feet full of apologies.
He appeared at the club following week in a pair of...suede shoes!



SEASON 1984-85 (CLUB CAPTAIN : KEITH MURRAY)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 1	A Old Hymerians	L	7	16	T: Cooke P: Ferguson	0	0	1
3	H Dolphins	L	6	10	P: Bromley (2)	0	0	2
8	A Penrith	L	0	3	P: Bromley	0	0	3
12	H Middlesbrough	L	4	34	T: Champion	0	0	4
15	A Durham City	L	0	15		0	0	5
22	H Gateshead Fell	L	15	26	T: Cooke (2) Taylor P: Ferguson	0	0	6
29	A Percy Park	W	15	9	T: Cooke Wild C: Ferguson + 2 Pens.	1	0	6
Oct. 6	H Ryton	W	9	0		2	0	6
13	A Sandal	D	16	16		2	1	6
20	H Rockcliffe	W	16	9		3	1	6
27	H Hartlepool O.B's	L	6	22		3	1	7
Nov. 3	H Tynedale	W	14	4		4	1	7
10	H Hartlepool Rovers	L	9	25		4	1	8
17	H Winton Vulcans	L	3	6	P: Keay	4	1	9
24	H Wigton	L	8	15	T: Weston Bromley	4	1	10
Dec. 1	H Novocastrians	W	13	10	T: Weston Taylor C: Bradley P: Cooke	5	1	10
8	A Scarborough	W	31	22	T: Weston (2) Armstrong (2) Pett Cooke C: Ferguson (2) + 1 Pen.	6	1	10
15	H Darlington	W	19	15	T: Pett (2) Laing C: Cooke (2) + 1 Pen.	7	1	10
22	H Blaydon	W	23	13	T: Pett (2) Weston Armstrong P: Ferguson (2) + 1 Pen.	8	1	10
26	A Westoe	W	33	13	T: Weston (2) Douglas Wild Conlon C: Ferguson (5) + 1 Pen.	9	1	10
Jan. 5	A York	L	10	15	T: Weston Douglas C: Ferguson	9	1	11
19	H Mowden Park	W	11	6	T: Weston (2) P: Ferguson	10	1	11
26	A Redcar	W	28	6	T: Weston (3) Pett Armstrong C: Cooke + 2 Pens.	11	1	11
Feb. 2	A Ripon	L	9	14	T: Cooke C: Bradley + 1 Pen.	11	1	12
9	H Morpeth	W	8	0	T: Weston Routledge	12	1	12
16	H Ripon	W	7	6	T: T: Conlon dg: Ferguson	13	1	12
23	A Pocklington	W	28	16	T: Weston Ducker Pett Murray C: Bradley (3) + 2 Pens.	14	1	12
Mar. 2	H Newcastle University	W	12	3	T: Weston Taylor C: Cooke(2)	15	1	12
9	A Marist O.B's	L	12	17	P: Ferguson (4)	15	1	13
16	A Sunderland(DSC 2)	W	19	12	T: Pett (2) Armstrong Bradley P: Bradley (2)	16	1	13
23	A Tynedale	L	10	19	T: Weston Cooke C: Ferguson	16	1	14
27	A West Hart. (DSC 3)	L	3	41	dg: Bradley	16	1	15
30	H Horden	L	10	15	T: Cooke dg: Bradley P: Ferguson	16	1	16
Apr-06	A Alnwick	W	18	13	T: Cooke (2) Champion C: Ferguson (3)	17	1	16
13	H Westoe	L	0	7		17	1	17
20	H Aspatia	W	16	4	T: Pett (2) Cooke C: Bradley (2)	18	1	17
27	H Penrith	L	11	14	T: Pett Ducker P: Cooke	18	1	18

Playing record: Played 37 Won 18 Drew1 Lost 18 For 359 Against 491
Leading scorers (minus six fixtures-scores not recorded) Mark Ferguson 16 Conversions + 10 Penalties + 1 dg: Paul Weston 17 Tries; David Pett 12 Tries; David Cooke 11 Tries.

SEASON

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Elsewhere...

1985

Bradford soccer ground blaze kills 56;
Boris Becker wins Wimbledon, aged
17; BBC launches Eastenders; Ruth
Lawrence, aged 13, gets first class
maths degree from Oxford University.

1986

Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine
kills 35 immediately, thousands later;
Mike Tyson, 20, becomes youngest
World Heavyweight Boxing
Champion.

Mike Conlon took over from Keith Murray as skipper, with David Trotter taking over as President. Matthew England took over the position of Secretary, which David had vacated.

The opening of the season was similar to the previous season, with another 'Black September.'

The 1st XV was a young side, missing the finishing power of winger Dave Cooke, who had moved to progress a career which saw him regularly top the scoring charts in the National League.

Alan Richardson's coaching skills blended the team together and the first victory was recorded against Sandal in October.

A sign of the progress over the season was an appearance in the Durham Senior Cup Semi-Final.

The defeat against a more experienced Gateshead Fell side was a valuable learning experience for players who were to enjoy several victories in the following decade.

Brian Cummins had made a dramatic recovery from a knee injury that would later reoccur

and end his career.

Brian was deservedly awarded the Club Player of the Season Troph

The Chairman's Plastered!

Mike Conlon got off to a rather inauspicious start when he managed to break a leg.. Fortunately for Mike, it wasn't his. The fractured limb was attached to David Trotter, who was running touch at the time!

Mike tackled his opposing hooker from Old Hymerians and as he swung him round, his legs felled the unlucky Dave, who was carted off to hospital and spent the next

two months hobbling around in a plaster pot.

When the moment finally arrived to remove it, he promptly collapsed in agony. The bone had mended, but the undiagnosed ligament trouble had not.

So the Chairman was plastered for three months, continually!



Stockton 1st XV, 1985-86 Back row (Left to right) Alan Richardson (Coach); P.Weston; D. Muirhead; M. Douthwaite; G. Hurst; B. Routledge; P. Webster; G. Naisbett; D. Pett; K. Murray; A. Cummins Front row (Left to right) S. Graham; P.Lee; D. Headlam; G. Newton; M. Conlon; B. Cummins; M. Ferguson; A. Cartwright; C. Smith

STOCKTON RFC PLAYER'S WIFE PROFILE

NAME - Mrs A N Other

BIRTHDATE - Sick of reminding him but normally coincides with Players Dinner.

BIRTHPLACE - Not normally discussed in polite company but approximately 6" below navel.

HEIGHT - People with posh accents

WEIGHT - Yes, with dinner on table every Sunday lunch-time

CHILDREN - 2.4, otherwise none that I know of (Ho! Ho!)

SCHOOL - four times a day to take & pick up children

EMPLOYED AS - Cook, Gardener, Nurse, Handywoman, Driver, Buyer, Laundreywoman, Accountant, Painter & Decorator, Hostess - House Wife!

CAR - What - Harry? Actually almost, after one Penrith Disco - but he fell asleep.

TOURS - Saturday nights dropping his drunken mates off.

CLUB DEBUT - Players Dinner 1973 - He didn't know it was men only.

WORST RUGBY MEMORY - Players Dinner 1973, leaving 30 seconds after arriving.

BEST RUGBY MEMORY - Being overlooked for tea rota.

FAVOURITE CAPTAIN - Mark Philips

FAVOURITE PLAYER - The tall blonde charmer (every visiting club has one)

FAVOURITE COMEDIAN - David "NASTY" Raisbeck.

FAVOURITE BOOK - Family Allowance or Cheque

FAVOURITE RECORD - His "new leaf" for 5 days 8½ hours.

EASIEST OPPONENT - Husband trying it on on Saturday night.

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT - Husband trying it on on Sunday morning.

DRINK - Wouldn't you if married to him?

LEAST FAVOURITE SINGER - John Hannah.

PERSONAL AMBITION - Divorce and re-marriage to a light-house keeper, I would probably see more of him and besides, he would have an excuse for looking like a prick at work.

Excerpt from Match Programme

He Ain't Heavy- He's my Brother!

In a key match against Hartlepool Rovers, David Pett had the misfortune to move from his favoured No. 8 position to the unacustomed tight head prop, following an injury to 'Bullet,' his elder brother.

Bravely, David stuck to his guns for 60 minutes, then crawled off the pitch.

Bullet's observation on David's performance was less than complimentary.

As David sipped orange juice through a straw, slumped in the corner of Rover's bar, with

exhaustion etched all over his face, all Bullet could say in support of his sibling was, "Well, if you'd got as high in the line out as you were in the scrum, we might have won a bit more ball!"

'Moorisms'

'You are playing like a pack of eight men!'

'Lets be first to the mucks and rawls...'

"You threequarters are running at threequarter pace."

Courtesy of the legendary John Moore

SEASON 1985-86 (CLUB CAPTAIN: MICHAEL CONLON)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 3	A				Middlesbrough	3	44	P:
Ferguson	0	1			L			
7	H	Old Hymerians	L	7	8		0	2
14	A	Penrith	L	4	18		0	3
21	H	Durham City	L	6	51		0	4
28	A	Gateshead Fell	L	3	29		0	5
Oct. 5	A	Ryton	L	7	12		0	6
12	H	Sandal	W	13	10		1	0
19	A	Rockcliffe	W	23	15		2	0
26	A	Hartlepool O.B's	L	7	22		2	0
Nov. 2	A	Tynedale	W	11	10		3	0
9	A	North Durham	W	22	17		4	0
16	A	Wimlaton	D	12	12		4	1
23	A	Wigton	L	7	15		4	1
30	H	Alnwick	L	14	22		4	1
Dec. 7	A	Novocastrians	W	15	9		5	1
14	H	Morpeth	W	9	8		6	1
21	A	Darlington	W	9	6		7	1
Jan. 4	H	York	L	8	19		7	1
11	A	Horden	W	21	17		8	1
18	A	Mowden Park	W	12	9		9	1
25	A	Redcar	W	25	6		10	1
Feb. 1	H	Ripon	L	0	10		10	1
8	A	Morpeth	L	4	32		10	1
Mar. 1	H	Newcastle University	L	3	26		10	1
8	H	Marist O.B's	W	19	13		11	1
15	H	Sunderland	W	16	7		12	1
22	H	North Durham(DSC 2)	W	66	0		13	1
29	H	Redcar	W	24	4		14	1
31	A	Hartlepool Rovers	L	3	22		14	1
Apr. 5	A	Alnwick	W	15	13		15	1
9	H	Darlington (DSC 3)	W	6	4		16	1
12	H	Westoe	W	16	12		17	1
16	H	G'head Fell(DSC-SF)	L	3	20		17	1
26	H	Penrith	W	25	18		18	1

Playing record: Played 34 Won 18 Drew 1 Lost 15 For 438 Against 540

Leading scorers: Mark Ferguson 21 Conversions+22 Penalties (108 points); Paul Weston 17 Tries; David Pett 13 Tries.

SEASON

1988

Elsewhere...

1986

US space shuttle 'Challenger' explodes, killing crew; Prince Andrew weds Sarah Ferguson; President Marcos flees the Philippines- his big spending wife Imelda leaves behind 2,000 pairs of shoes.

1987

Herald of Free Enterprise ferry sinks off Zeebrugge, killing 193; Terry Waite kidnapped in Beirut; Hurricane rocks much of southern England.

The previous season's senior officials all remained in position, while the process of bringing talented young players through from the Colts began to reap rewards, and the return of Bryan Dickson from Hartlepool Rovers spurred the 1st XV on to its best season for many years in terms of points scored and wins.

Only six matches ended in defeat, the lowest total since 1950 - 51.

The biggest disappointment of the season had to be going out of the Durham Cup on the 'away rule', after Hartlepool Rovers equalised with a

dubiously awarded penalty in the last few minutes.

One small consolation was that Stockton won the 'Pernod Attack' Award for scoring the most tries in the County Cup Competition.

Bryan Dixon scored 32 tries and Paul Weston 31- still the highest totals recorded in 1st XV history.

Durham County Sevens Winners

Back row (left to right) Alan Brown; Paul Lee; Graham Kell; Andy 'Max' Ducker; Front row (left to right) Mick Conlon; Phil Champion; Chris Todd



Stockton 1st XV, 1986-87 Back row (Left to right) J. Moore (Coach); A. Cummins; C. Smith; K. Keay; M. Douthwaite; G. Hurst; D. Pett; B. Dixon; G. Naisbett; P. Webster; A. Wiles; R. Taylor; S. Burton; B. Cummins; J. Still Front row (Left to right) C. Todd; G. Kell; P. Weston; P. Lee; M. Conlon; P. Branson; P. Champion; A. Cartwright; S. Graham; M. McNally

THE 'WHO SAID IT' CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- 1 "OK lads, so far this season we've had more losses than defeats!"
- 2 "We're going to delomarise them!"
- 3 "Right lads, we're really going to pull our puds out for the red shirts!"
(Stockton were wearing blue!)
- 4 "We're going to go from the word go!"
- 5 "Right lads, we'll see how it goes, and if that doesn't work we'll play it by ear!"
- 6 "I want to see the last man there!"

TODAY'S TEAMS

DURHAM CITY

(Navy Blue & Gold)

J. SMITH	15
R. ARMSTRONG	14
M. LITTLECHILD	13
K. SPEARMAN	12
G. SPEARMAN	11
J. BLAND	10
A. KYLE	9

A. STEPHINSON	1
M. FENWICK	2
N. GRAY	3
S. EDDIE	4
P. CANDLISH	5
R. ANDERSON (Capt)	6
M. HOWARD	7
J. PRICE	8

W. CARLING	16
M. WHITE	17

STOCKTON

(Scarlet)

S. GRAHAM	15
P. CHAMPIAN	14
W. DOUGLAS	13
D. ALLEN	12
P. WESTON	11
P. LEE	10
C. SMITH	9

G. NAISBITT	1
M. CONLON (Capt)	2
M. DOUTHWAITE	3
C. ALDIS	4
B. TAYLOR	5
D. MUIRHEAD	6
C. ROY	7
B. DIXON	8

Referee: Derek English (Durham Society)

Note a certain W. Carling - on the bench!

OTHER TEAMS TURNING OUT FOR STOCKTON TODAY

SARACENS away to DARLINGTON

15	S Graham
14	G Newton
13	P Branson
12	M McNally
11	S Banks
10	S Alban
9	J Gill
1	S Pett
2	S White
3	W Roxby
4	G Hurst
5	R Taylor
6	B Cummings
7	C Ray
8	A Ducker

R. H Carr

'A' XV home to DARLINGTON

15	S Iaing
14	I Smith
13	D Coates
12	M Graham
11	D Wilkins
10	I Fleetham
9	A Cartwright
1	B Hoar
2	T Wilson
3	J Husband
4	A Wiles
5	J Coates
6	J Ollitt
7	S Burton
8	D Evans

R. A Richmond
R. N Moore

STOCKTONIANS away to T.D.S.O.B.

15	P Hamsey
14	A Kay
13	B Mears
12	R Ledgerwood
11	D Duck
10	P Raines
9	K Roberts
1	B Whittaker
2	J Davey
3	J Robson
4	D Scullion
5	C Parsons
6	D Underwood
7	N Mackern
8	J Markl

R. C Green
R. D Dunbar
R. D Raisbeck
R. K Chan

SENIOR COLTS home to DARLINGTON

15	C TODD
14	S ALLEN
13	J BRANSON
12	P METCALF
11	I TODD
10	C ARGUS
9	D ICLTON
1	I SANDERSON
2	S GILL
3	P HENDERSON
4	C GIBSON
5	K EATHERINGTON
6	G HALL
7	G CLEMINSON
8	G DOCHERTY

R. G MALONEY
R. S CARTWRIGHT
R. A SLEE

STOCKTON RFC: SEASON 1986-87 (CLUB CAPTAIN: MICHAEL CONLON)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 6	A Old Hymerians	W	22	3	T: Aldus Ray Pett Dixon C: Lee (3)	1	0	0
13	A Penrith	W	24	3	T: Weston (2) Conlon (2) C: Lee + 2 Pens.	2	0	0
20	H Horden	W	19	12	T: Dixon Weston C: Lee (2) + 1 Pen.	3	0	0
23	H Middlesbrough	W	9	6	T: Weston C: Beadling + 1 Pen.	4	0	0
27	H Gateshead fell	D	12	12	T: Weston dg: Lee C: Beadling + 1 Pen.	4	1	0
Oct. 4	H Ryton	L	12	15	T: Aldus Weston C: Lee (2)	4	1	1
7	A Durham City	L	9	20	T: Cummings C: Lee + 1 Pen.	4	1	2
11	A Sandal	L	0	29		4	1	3
18	H Rockcliffe	W	31	16	T: Aldus Weston Conlon Wiles Dixon Champion C: Lee (2) + 1 Pen.	5	1	3
25	H Hartlepool O.B's	W	30	0	T: Weston (2) Lee Dixon Conlon C: Kell(5)	6	1	3
Nov. 1	A Redcar	W	22	12	T: Champion Conlon Weston C: Kell (2) + 2 Pens.	7	1	3
8	H North Durham	W	30	6	T: Champion (2) Douthwaite Dixon Ray Weston Conlon C: Kell	8	1	3
11	A Hartlepool Rovers	W	10	0	T: Champion Weston C: Kell	9	1	3
15	H Winton Vulcans	W	49	3	T: Weston (4) Champion (2) Pett (2) Webster Kell C: Kell (2) Lee P: Lee	10	1	3
22	A Westoe	L	15	20	T: Keay Champion Weston P: Kell	10	1	4
29	A Manchester	L	0	9		10	1	5
Dec. 6	H Novocastrians	W	14	9	T: Champion Keay P: Keay Kell	11	1	5
13	H Blyth	D	11	11	T: Pett Weston P: Keay	11	2	5
20	H Darlington	W	34	6	T: Weston (3) Dixon (2) Brown Pett C: Kell (3)	12	2	5
27	H Blaydon	W	42	3	T: Champion (2) Dixon (2) Keay Taylor Smith Weston C: Kell (5)	13	2	5
Jan. 3	A York	W	8	0	T: Weston Dixon	14	2	5
17	H West Hartlepool	L	3	13	P: Keay	14	2	6
24	H Redcar	W	27	0	T: Weston (2) Pett Dixon Ray C: Kell Keay P: Keay	15	2	6
Feb. 7	A Ripon	W	10	9	T: Dixon P: Keay(2)	16	2	6
14	H Morpeth	D	13	13	T: Dixon Pett C: Keay + 1 Pen.	16	3	6
21	A Wharfedale	W	27	0	T: Hurst Dixon Naisbett Branson Banks C: Kell(2) + 1 Pen.	17	3	6
28	A Pocklington	D	6	6	P: Keay (2)	17	4	6
Mar. 7	H Newcastle University	W	42	3	T: Champion(2)Conlon Weston Dixon Lee Todd Naisbett Keay Branson C: Kell	18	4	6
14	A Marist O.B's	W	26	3	T: Dixon (3) Champion C: Keay (2) + 2 Pens.	19	4	6
21	A Sunderland	W	46	0	T: Dixon (4) Branson (2) Conlon Lee Banks C: Keay (4)	20	4	6
28	H Percy Park	W	36	4	T: Dixon (5) Pett Conlon C: Keay (4)	21	4	6
Apr. 04	A Westoe (DSC 2)	W	28	7	T: Weston (3) Dixon Todd C: Keay + 2 Pens.	22	4	6
8	H Horden (DSC 3)	W	29	6	T: Dixon (3) Weston Kell Todd C: Keay + 1 Pen.	23	4	6
15	H H. Rovers (DSC-SF)	D	10	10	T: Champion P: Keay (2)	23	5	6
18	A Hartlepool O.B's	W	18	7	T: Champion Keay Douthwaite C: Keay (3)	24	5	6
20	H Acklam	W	20	0	T: M.Smith (2) Champion Dixon C: Keay (2)	25	5	6
25	H Penrith	W	29	0	T: Wiles Burton Naisbett Champion Weston C: Kell (2) Keay P: Keay	26	5	6

Playing record: Played 37 Won 26 Drew 5 Lost 6 For 773 Against 276

Leading scorers: Bryan Dixon 32 Tries; Paul Weston 31 Tries;
Phil Champion 18 Tries; Kevin Keay 3 Tries + 26 Conversions + 17 Penalties (115 points);
Graham Kell 2 Tries + 21 Conversions + 6 Penalties (68 points).

SEASON

88

88

-

7

88

Elsewhere...

1987

'Black Monday' Stock Market crash wipes £50 billion off share prices; King's cross tube station fire kills more than 30 people.

1988

Pan Am jumbo jet explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270; Golfer Sandy Lyle is first Brit to win US Masters; Ski jumper Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards stars at Olympics.

This season saw the milestone decision to introduce league rugby, which could not have come at a better time for Stockton.

The club was promoted from North East Division 2 at the first attempt and several players made their debuts for the Durham County side,

which reversed the trend of many years that players felt they had to leave the club to gain County honours.

Stockton reached its first Durham Cup Final for the first time in 25 years, with an memorable away win over West Hartlepool.

An outstanding result, but

unfortunately, the return visit to Brierton Lane to play Durham City in the Final was not successful. the experience of City playing four leagues higher proved decisive at vital moments.

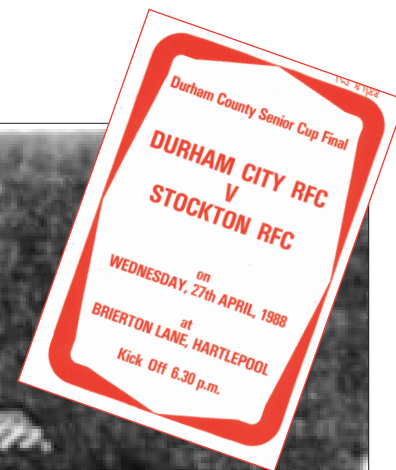
However, the 3rd XV under Ian Fleetham's excellent captaincy succeeded in bringing home

silverware when they defeated Blaydon in the final of the Cup at Norton.

Blaydon had the last laugh, as they took the actual trophy away with them following an evening of commiseration.



●SKIPPER Ian Fleetham (centre) with the J and B Rare Team of the Month awards for March flanked by Ian Richardson (left) of J and B Rare Scotch Whisky and Journal Rugby Writer Alan Hedley (right) with the winning team Stockton III.



Brave Stockton hold Saracens

STOCKTON wrote a memorable chapter in their history when they gained a 12-12 draw with Courage League Division Two side Saracens in a pulsating game at Norton yesterday.

RUGBY

failed to grab a draw winner right at the when his kick from the way line dropped just the bar, though Stockton were happy to settle an excellent draw.

Stockton KO West in fine cup display

STOCKTON captured their biggest scalp for many years when they knocked West Hartlepool out of the Durham Senior Rugby Union Cup last night.

There was no Duke about Stockton's 14-6 success.

Flaming A***holes!

During the season, the management of the club were investigating the possibility of relocating from Norton to a playing field in Fairfield, belonging to a Trust.

As part of the wooing process, the Trustees, several of whom were prominent councillors, were invited to visit the club at Norton, inspect the facilities and see what a fine, outstanding bunch of chaps we were, totally fitted to moving to a middle class suburb

of Stockton.

The last game of the season was chosen as the time of the visit, but what our committee had forgotten was that Penrith were our opposition, and that normally led to post-match high spirits.

After several 'boat races', Rick drinking pints stood on his head in less than five seconds and Scully demolishing allcomers in the Cadbury's Creme Egg Eating Contest, the stage was ripe for Jimmy Collin's famous party trick. Spurred on by the opportunist

arrival of a Sports Gazette seller, Jim was ready to see if he could get as far as the Cricket Scoreboard with a flaming copy of the local newspaper jammed into his posterior.

A Penrith front row opponent soon fell behind as the flames fanned out and Jimmy, naked from the neck down, had almost reached his goal, roared on by the mesmerised crowd, when around the corner walked the official visiting party, with the Club President in the middle of a

speech to a lady with a blue rinse hairdo and twin set and pearls, about his super bunch of well behaved chaps, a credit to any neighbourhood.

Her pince nez fell from her nose in shock as she got a full view of Jimmy's rear end beginning to resemble a funeral pyre!

"Well!", said the President

"I wonder what has happened.

They aren't *normally* like this!"

The official party turned 180° as one and marched out of Station Road in silence, leaving one very

embarrassed President and one very hot Jimmy Collins. The club remained in Norton. Wonder why?



SEASON 1987-88 (CLUB CAPTAIN:MICHAEL CONLON)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 2	A Middlesbrough	W	22	9	T: Pett (2) Branson Corbett Dixon C: Bromley	1	0	0
5	A Horden	L	12	15	T: Dixon C: Bromley P: Lee(2)	1	0	1
12	H SELBY	W	19	10	T: Makin Corbett Dixon C: Lee (2) P: Bromley	2	0	1
19	A NOVOCASTRIANS	L	9	10	T: Douglas C: Beadling + 1 Pen.	2	0	2
23	A West Hartlepool	L	18	23	T: Lee Naisbett C: Beadling(2) + 2 Pens.	2	0	3
26	A Gateshead Fell	L	0	13		2	0	4
Oct. 3	H OLD HYMERIANS	W	14	6	T: Todd Champion Naisbett C: Beadling	3	0	4
10	A POCKLINGTON	W	14	4	T: Dixon Newton P: Lee (2)	4	0	4
17	H PONTEFRAC	W	47	3	T: Lee (2) Champion(2) Dixon Newton Allen Wilson C: Beadling(6) + 1 Pen.	5	0	4
24	H Hartlepool O.B's	W	14	3	T: Conlon Bromley P: Lee Bromley	6	0	4
31	A RYTON	W	16	7	T: Newton Lee Brown C: Bromley(2)	7	0	4
Nov. 7	H West Pk. Bramhope	W	16	6	T: Conlon Dixon C: Lee + 2 Pens.	8	0	4
15	H Saracens	D	12	12	T: Headlam C: Bromley P: Lee Bromley	8	1	4
21	A Penrith	W	22	3	T: Newton (2) Horner Brown Allen C: Bromley	9	1	4
28	A Manchester	W	10	8	T: Brown P: Bromley Lee	10	1	4
Dec. 5	A Percy Park	W	48	0	T: Newton (2) Allen(2) Dixon Champion Bromley Conlon Headlam C: Bromley(6)	11	1	4
12	A Alnwick	W	12	3	T: Pett Kell C: Beadling (2)	12	1	4
19	A Darlington	W	9	3	T: Brown C: Beadling + 1 Pen.	13	1	4
26	H Seaham	W	33	0	T: Wilson (2) Todd Bromley Champion C: Beadling (5) + 1 Pen.	14	1	4
Jan. 2	H YORK	W	15	9	T: Brown C: Beadling + 3 Pens.	15	1	4
9	A N'CASTLE UNIV.	W	33	12	T: Webster (2) Aldus Dixon Horner Cartwright C: Beadling (3) + 1 Pen.	16	1	4
16	H Westoe	W	43	3	T: Lee (2) Dixon (2) Weston (2) Pett Brown Branson C: Beadling (2)+1 Pen.	17	1	4
30	A Wigton	L	6	13	T: Pett C: Beadling	17	1	5
Feb. 6	H Ripon	W	28	9	T: Pett (2) Brown Naisbett Douthwaite Webster C: Beadling (2)	18	1	5
13	A Morpeth	L	7	10	T: Brown P: Bromley	18	1	6
20	A Winton V.(DSC 1)	W	28	0	T: Bromley (2) Brown Weston dg: Lee C: Bromley (3) + 1 Pen.	19	1	6
27	H Wharfedale	W	13	9	T: Headlam Weston C: Bromley + 1 Pen.	20	1	6
Mar. 5	A Edinburgh Wnds.	L	12	17	T: Bromley Lee C: Bromley(2)	20	1	7
12	H BEVERLEY	W	13	12	T: Brown Lee C: Bromley + 1 Pen.	21	1	7
19	H Sunderland	W	39	7	T: Horner Weston Champion Brown Dixon Pett Ryan C: Bromley(4)+ 1 Pen.	22	1	7
26	A BARNSELY	W	10	3	T: Weston P: Bromley(2)	23	1	7
30	A Darlington (DSC 2)	W	67	0	T: Weston (4) Newton (3) Ryan (2) Bromley (2) Wilson C: Bromley (8)+1 Pen.	24	1	7
Apr-02	A Durham City	W	14	3	T: Brown (2) dg: Lee P: Bromley	25	1	7
4	A Redcar	L	3	11	P: Bromley	25	1	8
9	A Hull & E.R.	W	16	10	T: Pett P: Bromley (4)	26	1	8
13	A West.Hart. (DSC-QF)	W	14	6	T: Brown Horner P: Bromley Lee	27	1	8
20	H Mowden Pk(DSC-SF)	W	16	3	T: Pett Lee Dixon C: Bromley (2)	28	1	8
25	H Penrith	W	15	0	T: Lee Pett Douthwaite dg: Lee	29	1	8
27	N Durham C.(DSC-Final)	L	12	18	dg: Lee P: Kell (2) Bromley	29	1	9

Playing record: Played 39 Won 29 Drawl Lost 9 For 751 Against 293

Leading scorers: Alan Brown 14 Tries; Bryan Dixon 11 Tries; Paul Weston 10 Tries; Graham Newton 10 Tries; David Pett 10 Tries; Paul Bromley 8 Tries+29 Conversions+19 Penalties (147 Pts.); Paul Lee 7 Tries+4 dg's+2 Conversions+1 Penalty Paul Beadling 25 Conversions+12 Penalties (86 Pts.).

SEASON

1988-89

Elsewhere...

1988

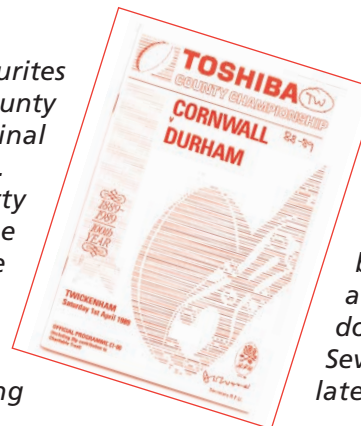
Three IRA members shot dead on Malta; George Bush elected US President; Inferno on Piper Alpha oil rig in North Sea kills 167.

1989

Berlin Wall dismantled; Communist regimes toppled in East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania; Sky TV launched; Japanese Emperor Hirohito dies.

Bryan Dixon took over as 1st XV skipper, Denis Chisman as Secretary and Stockton faced the higher standard of North East One with some confidence. Our position as runners up was not good enough to claim the single promotion slot. However, four of our players were part of the victory by

Durham over favourites Cornwall in the County Championship Final held at Twickenham. A large party supporters from the club made the journey south to 'Headquarters', then played a Sunday morning



game against Letchworth RFC, where Kevin Keay had become based following a job move down south. Several bar games later, the weary

party boarded the coach home, still unable to grasp the essentials of 'cockaleekie'.

Big Dick's 'Broken Leg'

In the late 80's, York were a tough side to beat, with a large, if somewhat immobile pack. They always enjoyed their visits to Norton in the bar, even if the field of play got heated at times, as



● **SKIPPER** Bryan Dixon receives the trophy and £250 cheque from Whitbread representative John Wilkinson after his teammates were voted national junior team of the month.

matches were always close-run affairs. One of the cornerstones of their pack was Dick Hepworth, a huge prop from the old school, One who firmly believed his job was in the scrummage and appeared to have little instinct for ball handling outside the rolling maul. On a rare occurence, Dick was found with the ball in his massive hands in open play, and eventually was dragged down like a wounded wilderbeest by the Stockton pack, which fell on top of him. Dick gave a loud yell of anguish

and clutched his leg as players watched him writhing on the floor. "I felt it snap!" he shouted. "It must be broken! Get a doctor! Stretcher! Aaarghhh!" On raced Dr. Tim McCarthy who, fearing the worst, gently rolled Dick's sock to examine the potentially horrific injury, but Tim's skills were wasted on how to treat ... a broken tie up! Dick stumbled sheepishly to his feet, full of embarrassed apologies just as the stretcher arrived and held the tie up to the crowd, claiming, "Well, I knew

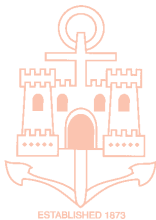
something had snapped!" Fortunately it was not the good humoured crowd's patience as they enjoyed the moment.

John Still's Hangover Cure

Waking up on tour and feeling like death is a common occurence. John Still, however, tells of a most unusual hangover cure - but it can't be bottled. John had stumbled to the door of his bedroom, and began lurching towards the bathroom, feeling decidedly ill, when he suddenly saw an apparition in front of him,

specs askew, skin a pallid grey torpor. It was unshaven, had holes in its string vest and its LongJohns underwear hung baggily around its knees. To complete the ghastly picture, it had a roll-up fag dangling from the corner of its dribbling mouth and its breath stank of last night's stale ale. John suddenly felt much better, as realised that this unfortunate creature must be a far worse state than he. Who else but Bill Eddy had passed him, with a slurred 'Good morning.'

Arthur Dodgson also witnessed the terrible sight of Bill's unique underwear, and was so moved that he insisted that the Veterans team - of which Bill was Honorary Patron- should be named 'The LongJohns' as a warning of how we could all end up!



Four Stockton players in Durham's County Championship victory at Twickenham (left to right) Bryan Dixon; Maurice Douthwaite; Graham Naisbett; and Alan Brown

SEASON 1988-89 (CLUB CAPTAIN : BRYAN DIXON)									
Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L	
Sept. 3	A Ripon	W	20	6	T: Weston Brown Wilson	1	0	0	
10	H KEIGHLEY	W	24	9	T: Weston (2) Kell dg: Lee C; Bromley (3) + 1 Pen.	2	0	0	
14	A Acklam	L	0	14		2	0	1	
17	A York	L	8	15	T: Weston Bromley	2	0	2	
24	A THORNENSIAANS	W	14	6	T: Brown Weston Dixon C: Bromley	3	0	2	
28	H Middlesbrough	L	7	18	T: Turner P: Bromley	3	0	3	
Oct. 1	A Penrith	L	12	16	T: Kell C: Lee P: Lee Bromley	3	0	4	
8	H BLAYDON	W	24	6	T: Weston (2) Dixon Brown C: Bromley + 2 Pens.	4	0	4	
15	H Wigton	W	13	6	T: Weston (2) C: Beadling + 1 Pen.	5	0	4	
22	A GATESHEAD FELL	W	19	7	T: Weston Champion C: Bromley P: Lee(2) Bromley	6	0	4	
29	A Beverley	L	6	9	dg: Lee + 1 Pen.	6	0	5	
Nov. 5	H Ryton	W	18	6	T: Dixon (2) C: Bromley(2) P: Bromley Kell	7	0	5	
12	H WESTOE	W	51	6	T: Wilson (2) Turner (2)Weston Champion Naisbett Conlon Brown Bromley dg: Lee C: Bromle y(3) Lee	8	0	5	
19	A Tynedale	L	16	42	T: Bromley Naisbett Conlon C: Kell (2)	8	0	6	
26	A MORPETH	L	4	16	T: Weston	8	0	7	
Dec. 3	H Darlington	W	34	0	T: Wilson(2)Weston Champion Dixon Brown C: Beadling(3) + 1 Pen.Try	9	0	7	
10	H Alnwick	W	12	6	T: Turner C: Beadling + 2 Pens.	10	0	7	
17	H Horden	W	45	6	T: Weston (3)Brown (2) Conlon Dixon Champion dg:Lee C: Beadling (5)	11	0	7	
24	H West Hartlepool	W	4	3	T: Dixon	12	0	7	
31	H Durham City	W	20	18	T: Weston Wilson Champion C: Bromley P: Bromley Lee (C)	13	0	7	
Jan. 7	A Selby	W	19	9	T: Dixon Naisbett	14	0	7	
14	H OLD BRODLEIANS	W	11	6	T: Dixon Champion P: Lee	15	0	7	
21	H Seaham	W	54	0	T: Bromley (4) Weston (2) Champion (2) Henderson Turner Hoar C: Lee (2) Kell (2) Bromley	16	0	7	
28	A Wilslow	W	24	14	T: Dixon (2) Brown Webster Weston C: Bromley Lee	17	0	7	
Feb. 4	H Pocklington	W	26	6	T: Weston (2) Champion Turner dg:Lee C: Lee (C) Bromley P: Lee	18	0	7	
11	A ROTHERHAM	L	12	35	T: I Pen.Try C: Lee(C) P: Bromley Lee	18	0	8	
18	A Sandal	L	12	16	T: Brown Wilson C: Lee (2)	18	0	9	
Mar. 11	A OLD CROSSLEYANS	L	3	26	P: Lee(C)	18	0	10	
18	A Sheffield	L	4	24	T: Dixon	18	0	11	
27	H Redcar	W	25	12	T: Wiles (2) Beadling dg: Lee C: Beadling (2) + 2 Pens.	19	0	11	
Apr-05	A Blaydon (DSC 2)	W	28	0	T: Newton(3) Champion Dixon Lee C: Lee (C) (2)	20	0	11	
8	H NOVOCASTRIANS	W	32	6	T: Dixon (4) Lee Champion Douthwaite C: Beadling (2)	21	0	11	
12	A Mowden Pk.(DSC 3)	W	10	9	T: Champion P: Lee (C) (2)	22	0	11	
15	H Hull & E.R.	W	23	0	T: Saunders (3) Naisbett C: Lee (C) (2) P: Beadling	23	0	11	
19	A Hart.Rovers(DSC SF)	L	3	12	P: Lee (C)	23	0	12	
29	H Penrith	W	23	10	T: Turner(2) Rea C: Beadling + 3 Pens.	24	0	12	
Playing record: Played 36 Won 24 Drew 0 Lost 12 For 660 Against 400									
Leading scorers: Paul Weston 23 Tries; Bryan Dixon 17 Tries; Phil Champion 12 Tries; Paul Bromley 7 Tries+18 Conversions+10 Penalties (94 pts); Paul Lee 2 Tries+7 Conversions +8 Penalties+7dg (67pts); Paul Beadling 1 Try+15 Conversions+9 Penalties (61pts.)									

SEASON

1989-90

Elsewhere...

1989

Up to 2,600 people, mostly students, reported dead after Chinese troops clear Tiananmen Square. Beijing; Exxon Valdez oil tanker leaks 11 million gallons of oil in Alaska.

1990

Iraq invades Kuwait, sparking Gulf War; Mrs Thatcher ousted as Tory leader-John Major takes over; Hubble space telescope launched.

There were no changes amongst fewer officials for this crucial season as we tried to maintain our progress.

Promotion from North East 1 was assured following another successful playing season, and several more players gained County caps, apart from Paul Lee and John Saunders.

We also won the J&B Journal Trophy - a merit table of North Eastern clubs. A run of 19 winning matches in succession

was a club record for 1st XV games.

SIMON'S MISSING NIGHT

Following our match with Edinburgh Wanderers we had to endure the sight of the Scots defeating England at Murrayfield to win the Grand Slam.

The Stockton team just had to drown its sorrows.

So much that Simon White collapsed on his return to the hotel as his colleagues were

getting changed for the evening session.

As Simon could not be woken, he was left asleep in the bedroom.

His colleagues tiptoed back in at 2am to find Simon still asleep and they began to get ready for bed.

Simon suddenly awoke and seeing his colleagues in various states of undress leapt up and began to put on his "gear" ready for the night. "Where are we off to, lads? I'm glad I put my head down for half an hour. I feel great

now. Let's go go go!"

He was most disappointed when Paul Lee had to point to the clock in the room to show the time at 2.10am, and felt he had missed a night of his life's drinking opportunities.

Fortunately, he had the opportunity to more than make up for it in Boroughmuir's clubhouse the following day where he was seen drinking two bottles of lager at a time!



Stockton 1st XV, 1989-90 (Back row) Bill Hudspith; Graham Newton; Mike Wilson; Brian Hoar; Mick Conlon; Phil Champion; (Middle row) John Still; Graham Naisbett; Maurice Douthwaite; Paul Bromley; Geoff Huot; Paul Webster; Martin Howe; Alan Cummins; (Front row) Alan Brown; Simon White; Paul Lee; Bryan Dixon; J&B Representative; Graham Kell; Liam Turner; Craig Lee

Peter Lofthouse - Scarlet Pimpernel

Peter Lofthouse was known to be a very loyal skipper to his players in 3rd and 4th XV's he ran, and never enjoyed having to drop players, especially his most able lieutenants and partners in crime. At one stage, though, full back Jim Collins form had definitely taken a dip, and his position was in some doubt.

Jim, however had taken precautions and bent over the nails on the selection board, so it was difficult to remove his name tag from the board and he retained his position week after week, despite some decidedly dodgy performances.

One week though, Lofty realised that Jim would have to be dropped after players were coming down from the team above.

Jim had a sneaking suspicion that this was a possibility, and sat in the bar after Monday night's training, awaiting his fate.

Lofty wrote down his team and then peeped out from behind the curtains in the function room to see Jim sat Buddah- like in the bar, with his face set in grim determination.

"Oh my God," said Peter. "He's out there! What should I do now!"

Peter's nerve cracked!

As Brendan pinned up the team sheet, Jim broke the world record for the 20 metre dash to see his name amongst the substitutes.

Peter had already crept back

STOCKTON	V's	IRISH SELECT XV
GRAHAM KELL	15	NICK HEENEY
GRAHAM NEWSON	14	DAVID PRIESTMAN
CRAIG LEE	13	GREG HARRITT
PAUL BRANSON	12	JOHN O'HAGAN
PAUL CHAMPION	11	IVAN POWER
PAUL LEE	10	TONY WARD
LIAM TURNER	9	ALEX O'REGAN
GRAHAM NAISBITT	1	BRYAN WYLAND
MIKE CONLON	2	TIM D'ARCY
MAURICE DOUTHWAITE	3	FINBARR O'DONNHY
PAUL WEBSTER	4	JERRY HOLLAND
JOHN SAUNDERS	5	JOHN BROWNE
MIKE WILSON	6	SHAY MAGUINNESS
ALAN HIGMAN	7	PERCIE POWER
BRYAN DIXON	8	IAN COUNTEAN
REF:		REF:
STEPHEN WHITE		PADDY JOINS
REFEREE: JOHN WEST IRU INTERNATIONAL PANEL:		

through the selection "chamber" and made a hasty exit from the rear door of the room and into the car park as Jim waited to meet him head on!

"He's got the guts of a louse, the ginger headed b*****d! I know he's in there! Tell him to come out and face me like a man!," shouted Jim into the selection room as Peter, like the Scarlet Pimpernel, was already halfway up Station Road

in his car, well out off the scene.

After ten minutes, Jim's patience snapped and he walked into the selection chamber to see the rear exit door flapping in the wind!

As it was, Peter had a call - off, so Jim was needed to play anyway, but it took Peter's most persuasive pleading for Jim to accept the offer of his old shirt back.



Ward boost for Stockton

TONY WARD, the former British Lion who is still fully capable of dazzling his opponents with dashing bursts of speed and sudden sleighs of hand, spearheads an Irish Invitational team which will open Stockton's new Rugby Union season at Norton on Saturday, September 2 (3 pm).

He will play fly-half and several other Irish internationals have already agreed to play. They are: Kennedy; scrum-half Stobbs; winger Terry Fitzgerald and Matt Darcy, lock Harry Steel and No. 10 David Spring.

This attractive charity match is an aid of multiple sclerosis victims and Stockton's goodwill officials are expecting a bumper crowd. Tickets are £2 (adults) and £1 (OAJ's and children).

Below; the outstanding Tony Ward, Ireland and British Lions, evades Stockton tackles in the Irish Select Match



SEASON 1989-90 (CLUB CAPTAIN-BRYAN DIXON)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept.2 H	Irish Select	L	18	19	T: Lee (2) Turner C: Lee(C) 3	0	0	1
9 A	KEIGHLEY	W	21	9	T: Kell dg: Lee C: Lee(C) P: Lee (4)	1	0	1
16 A	Penrith	W	19	6	T: Brown Wilkinson Branson C: Hudspith Wilkinson (+1 Pen.)	2	0	1
23 A	THORNHENSIA	W	36	7	T: Champion (2) Kell Newton Lee Branson Wilson Dixon C: Lee(C) (2)	3	0	1
27 A	Middlesbrough	W	10	3	T: Douthwaite Branson C: Lee	4	0	1
30 H	Beverley	W	46	16	T: Wilkinson (3) Hurst (2) Hudspith Kell Wilson Howe C: Kell (4) Wilkinson	5	0	1
Oct.7 H	Sunderland	W	28	3	T: Lee (3) Champion Wilson Metcalfe C: Lee(C) (2)	6	0	1
14 A	BLAYDON	W	20	6	T: Brown (2) Turner C: Lee(C) (+2 Pens.)	7	0	1
21 A	Wigton	W	17	4	T: Hurst Turner dg: Hudspith P: Lee Bromley	8	0	1
28 H	GATESHEAD FELL	W	27	3	T: Bromley (2) Dixon Saunders Kell C: Bromley Lee (+1 Pen.)	9	0	1
Nov.4 A	Redcar	W	27	9	T: Champion (2) Dixon Turner C: Bromley P: Lee (3)	10	0	1
11 A	YORK	W	22	12	T: Dixon (2) White C: Lee Bromley (+2 Pens.)	11	0	1
18 H	Tynedale	W	23	10	T: Dixon Bromley White Kell C: Bromley(2) +1 Pen.	12	0	1
25 A	MORPETH	W	26	8	T: Dixon Brown Wilkinson Newton C: Lee(C) (2) +2 Pens.	13	0	1
Dec.2 A	Darlington	W	14	7	T: Champion Kell P: Lee(C) (2)	14	0	1
5 A	Morley	W	11	6	T: Champion Kell P: Lee(C)	15	0	1
9 A	Alnwick	W	6	3	P: Lee (C) (2)	16	0	1
16 H	Ripon	W	27	3	T: Brown (2) Wiles Dixon C: Lee(C) + 3 Pens.	17	0	1
23 H	Acklam	W	30	7	T: Newton Lee Lee (C) dg:Lee(C) P: Lee(C) (5)	18	0	1
26 A	Horden	W	22	3	T: Bromley (2) Kell Lee(C) P: Lee(C) (2)	19	0	1
30 A	Durham City	L	3	16	P: Lee(C)	19	0	2
Jan.6 A	West Hartlepool	L	4	19	T: Kell	19	0	3
13 A	OLD CROSSLEYANS	D	23	23	T: Lee (C) Naisbitt Bromley Branson C: Lee(C) (2) P: Kell	19	1	3
20 A	Westoe	W	8	3	T: Dixon (2)	20	1	3
27 H	Bridlington	W	28	3	T: Dixon White Kell Conlon C: Lee(C) (2) +3 Pens.	21	1	3
Feb.3 A	Pocklington	W	12	3	T: Turner C: Lee (C) + 2 Pens.	22	1	3
17 H	Sandal	W	29	10	T: Bromley (3) Turner C: Lee(C) (2) +3 Pens.	23	1	3
24 A	Wharfedale	L	7	12	T: Naisbitt P: Lee	23	1	4
Mar.3 H	Rotherham	L	7	12	T: Bromley P: Lee(C)	23	1	5
10 H	OLD CROSSLEYANS	W	23	15	T: Bromley (2) P: Lee(C) (5)	24	1	5
17 A	Edinburgh Wanderers	L	14	22	T: Turner Hurst P: Kell(2)	24	1	6
24 A	Ryton	W	27	8	T: Brown (2) Bromley (2) Webster Champion P: Lee(C)	25	1	6
28 H	G'head Fell (DSC 2)	W	29	8	T: Bromley Turner Kell Champion dg: Lee(C) C: Lee(C) (2) +2 Pens.	26	1	6
31 A	NOVOCASTRIANS	W	24	7	T: Wilson Kell Dixon Turner C: Lee(C) +2 Pens.	27	1	6
Apr-04 H	H'pool Rovers (DSC 3)	D	12	12	dg: Lee(C) (2) +2 Pens.	27	2	6
21 A	Huddersfield	L	7	22	T: Webster P: Lee(C)	27	2	7
28 H	SELBY	W	43	16	T: Dixon (2) Webster r(2) Lee(C) Conlon Bromley Wilson P: Lee(C)(4) +1 Pen.	28	2	7

Playing record: Played 37 Won 28 Drew 2 Lost 7 For 750 Against 355

Leading scorers: Bryan Dixon 14 Tries; Graham Kell 12 Tries; Liam Turner 9 Tries; Phil Champion 9 Tries; Paul Bromley 16 Tries + 5 Conversions + 4 Penalties (86points); Craig Lee 4 Tries + 27 Conversions + 46 Penalties + 4 dg: (220 points).

SEASON

1990-91

Elsewhere...

1990

300,000 strong Poll Tax protest erupts into riot in London's West End; East and West Germany unify; England lose 4-3 to Germany in World Cup Semi-Final.

1991

Allies liberate Kuwait; Boris Yeltsin succeeds Gorbachov in Russia; Publisher Robert Maxwell dies at sea.

Paul Lee took over from Bryan Dixon as skipper, and Alan Todd became President following Joe Glovers's five year tenure of office.

The rest of the senior team remained in-situ.

It could be argued that 1990-91 proved to be our most successful in the last 25 years. Consider the outstanding list of achievements:

- **Most 1st XV victories**
- **Fewest 1st XV defeats**
- **Most 1st XV points scored**
- **Promotion from North 2 at the first attempt;**
- **The club's first Durham Senior Cup victory, defeating Gateshead Fell**
- **Victory for the first time in the Durham 2nd XV Cup, defeating West Hartlepool Stags**

This was a truly outstanding achievement. Congratulations to all involved.

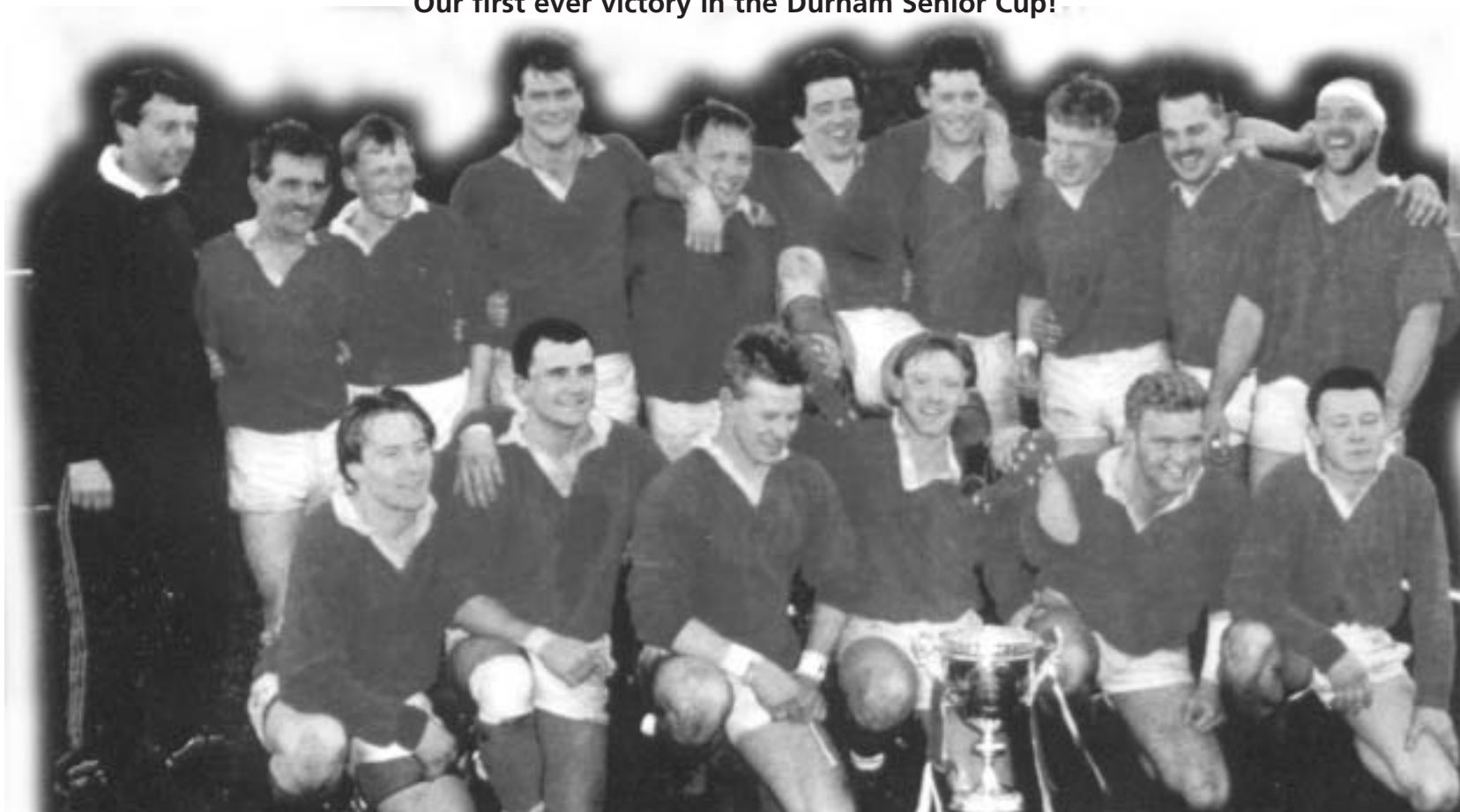
The playing strength of the Club was further enhanced by the arrival of experienced players such as Dave Turner joining from Acklam.

His goalkicking proved a real bonus for the team.

At The First Hurdle

Against the background of such earth shattering achievements, it is worth recalling in one classic moment during the 4th XV Cup game at Houghton-le-Spring. Harry Carr, who had ventured deep into the neighbouring field to retrieve the match ball by clambering a formidable (for 'H' that is) ranch-style fence, very nearly met his Waterloo.

Our first ever victory in the Durham Senior Cup!



Stockton 1st XV, 1990-91 (Back row, left to right) John Still; Mike Conlon; Dave Turner; John Saunders; Maurice Douthwaite; Bryan Dixon; Chris Aldus; Ian Allen; Paul Bromley; Graham Naisbett (Front row, left to right) Craig Lee; Liam Turner; Simon White; Paul Lee; Martin Howe; Graham Kell



Stockton Saracens XV which defeated Hartlepool Stags to win the Durham County 2nd XV Cup Back row (Left to right) I.Allan; A. Wiles; G. Docherty; K. Etherington; C. Gibson; P. Webster; S. Sanderson; S. Brown; B. Hoar Front row (left to right) A. Guest; J. Brown; J. Clarke; P. Beattie; I. Roy; M. Wilson; G. Morrigan; J Simpson

His return to the field of play co-incided with his being spotted by a large and rather ferocious looking German Shepherd-the canine variety, of course.

It showed an immediate interest in 'H's jerky, unnatural but nevertheless distinctive geriatric gait.

The beast decided to make an acquaintance (friendly no doubt) before 'H' again negotiated the fence.

Harry clearly, and understandably, felt unable to take a chance on the friendliness, or otherwise, of the dog's disposition, and what consequently developed was simply a 'sprint for the fence'.



'H's 70m initial advantage very swiftly measured no more than a stride, and to say that he reached, and hit, the fence, with alacrity, would be to make the understatement of the year. Whilst humour doesn't necessarily emerge from near catastrophe, the incident does seem to prove beyond doubt that blind panic will invariably produce supreme athleticism. For the rest of us, we just fell about!

Under 9's Victorious

On a little more serious note, though pleasantly serious, a number of our supporters were witness to a touching little scene over at the Acklam Park ground in Middlesbrough.

After a superbly enthusiastic Durham County U-9's Cup competition, Stockton's Captain, a young lady by the name of Sinead McCarthy, accepted the trophy on behalf of the winning team.

It was very quickly transferred to pride of place in the Club's trophy

cabinet.

A number of folk continue to extoll the 'evils' of sporting competition amongst young people.

Believe us, they've got it wrong, and the enthusiasm, pleasure and sheer fun seen that Sunday afternoon went some way along the road to proving that statement!

Well done to all of those youngsters, victors and vanquished alike!

SEASON 1990-91 (CLUB CAPTAIN: PAUL LEE)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 1	A Kendal	W	14	0	T: Turner(L) (2) P: Lee(C) (2)	1	0	0
8	A Bradford & Bingley	L	8	10	T: Webster Dixon	1	0	1
12	H Acklam	W	36	10	T: Turner(L) (2)Bromley y(2)Douthwaite Lee(C) C: Turner(3)+2 Pens.	2	0	1
15	H Hull Ionians	W	19	10	T: Conlon Bromley C: Lee(C)+3 Pens.	3	0	1
22	H WHARFEDALE	W	9	3	P: Turner (3)	4	0	1
29	A Sheffield	L	12	23	P: Turner (4)	4	0	2
Oct. 6	A WIGAN	D	18	18	T: How e(2) C: Turner(2)+2 Pens.	4	1	2
13	H NEW BRIGHTON	W	31	6	T: Champion Hoar Allan Dixon Lee(C) C: Turner+3 Pens.	5	1	2
20	A CARLISLE	W	21	15	T: Turner (2) Roy C: Lee(C) Turner(2)+1 Pen.	6	1	2
27	H HUDDERSFIELD	W	37	4	T: Dixon Naisbitt Horner Allen Bromley C: Turner (4) + 3 Pens.	7	1	2
Nov. 3	A Durham City	W	17	0	T: Lee Lee(C) White C: Turner+1 Pen.	8	1	2
10	A ALNWICK	W	7	3	T: Bromley P: Turner	9	1	2
17	H SANDBACH	W	22	4	T: Bromley Aldus Lee(C) C: Turner (2)+2 Pens.	10	1	2
24	H WIGTON	W	14	0	T: Turner Bromley P: Turner (2)	11	1	2
Dec. 1	H Darlington	W	29	3	T: Turner Bromley Daley Lee(C) C: Turner(2)+3 Pens.	12	1	2
15	H Blaydon	L	7	9	T: Bromley P: Turner	12	1	3
22	H Ryton	W	27	8	T: Turner Bromley Howe Kell Wilson C: Turner (2)+1 Pen.	13	1	3
29	H Westoe	W	36	0	T: Dixon (2) Howe (2) Turner Wilson White C: Turner (4)	14	1	3
Jan. 5	H Blyth	W	40	3	T: Turner (2) Bromley (2) Dixon Branson Howe Lee(C) C: Turner (4)	15	1	3
12	A LYMM	W	14	12	T: White Howe P: Turner (2)	16	1	3
19	A Gateshead Fell	W	26	0	T: Branson (3) Howe Wilson Gowing C: Turner	17	1	3
Feb. 2	H Durham City	W	32	9	T: Dixon (2) Bromley Turner Howe Webster C: Turner+2 Pens.	18	1	3
20	A West Hartlepool	L	9	20	dg: Lee(C) P: Turner (2)	18	1	4
23	H York	D	9	9	P: Turner (3)	18	2	4
Mar. 2	A Rotherham	L	15	19	T: Turner C: Turner+3 Pens.	18	2	5
9	H Horden	W	23	3	T: Turner (2) Webster Champion C: Turner Lee(C)+1 Pen.	19	2	5
16	A Rockcliffe	W	40	3	T: Bromley (3) Lee (2) Douthwaite Howe Turner(L) C: Turner (4)	20	2	5
23	A WEST PK(ST. H)	W	33	0	T: Howe (2) Turner(L) (2) White Bromley C: Lee(C) (2) Turner+1 Pen.	21	2	5
30	H Novocastrians	W	61	15	T: Turner(4)Beattie(2)White(2)Lee Howe Wiles Saunders C: Turner(5)+1Pen.	22	2	5
Apr-06	H SANDAL	W	13	7	T: Turner(L) Dixon C: Turner (+1 Pen.)	23	2	5
10	H Bishop Auck.(DSC 2)	W	27	7	T: Lee(C) Turner Howe Naisbitt C: Turner(4)+1 Pen.	24	2	5
13	A Tynedale	W	11	10	T: Dixon Howe P: Lee(C)	25	2	5
17	A Consett (DSC 3)	W	25	9	T: Bromley (2)White Champion Turner C: Lee(C)+1 Pen.	26	2	5
23	A H'pool Rovers(DSCSF)	W	13	3	T: Bromley (2) C: Turner P: Lee(C)	27	2	5
27	H Penrith	W	52	10	T: Turner (3) Docherty (3) Hudspith (2) Roy Simpson C: Turner (6)	28	2	5
30	N Gateshead Fell	W	10	7	T: Turner P: Lee(C) Turner	29	2	5

(Durham Senior Cup Final)

Playing record: Played 36 Won 29 Drew 2 Lost 5 For 807 Against 261

Leading scorers: Paul Bromley 21 Tries; Martin Howe 15 Tries; Bryan Dixon 10 Tries; Dave Turner 21 Tries + 53 Conversions + 45 Penalties (325 points); Craig Lee 7 Tries + 1 dg + 6 Conversions + 9 Penalties (70 points).

SEASON

1991-92

Elsewhere...

1991

Hostages Terry Waite and John McCarthy released from Lebanon; 'Birmingham Six' freed 16 years after being wrongfully convicted for 1974 IRA bombings; Queen's Freddie Mercury dies of AIDS aged 45.

1992

John Major's Tories win General Election; US President Bill Clinton elected; Windsor Castle ravaged by fire; 'Silence of the Lambs' voted Best Picture at the Oscars.

Following on from perhaps the most successful season in the club's history proved to be a significant challenge, as the squad was hit by injuries to new first XV skipper Graeme Naisbett, former skipper Paul Lee and several other key players.

North One proved a tough league, being filled with teams who in the past would not

deign to give Stockton a fixture, or of whom we were in some awe!

We managed to just survive our first season in this tough league.

The highlights, (following the opening match against The Luddites, the Yorkshire-based touring side), included two matches in the National Knockout Trophy, (The

Pilkington Cup), which we entered via winning the Durham Cup the during the previous season.

Our first match at home saw us victorious over Towcesterians from the League above us, League 4 (North).

The second game saw us visit one of the great names in English rugby, Coventry, victors in the Cup in the 70's.

Although we were defeated on the day, Coventry certainly remembered our performance, not least for our try from a rehearsed short penalty move which saw us shunt their pack (which contained future England hooker Richard Cockerill) embarrassingly back over their try line.




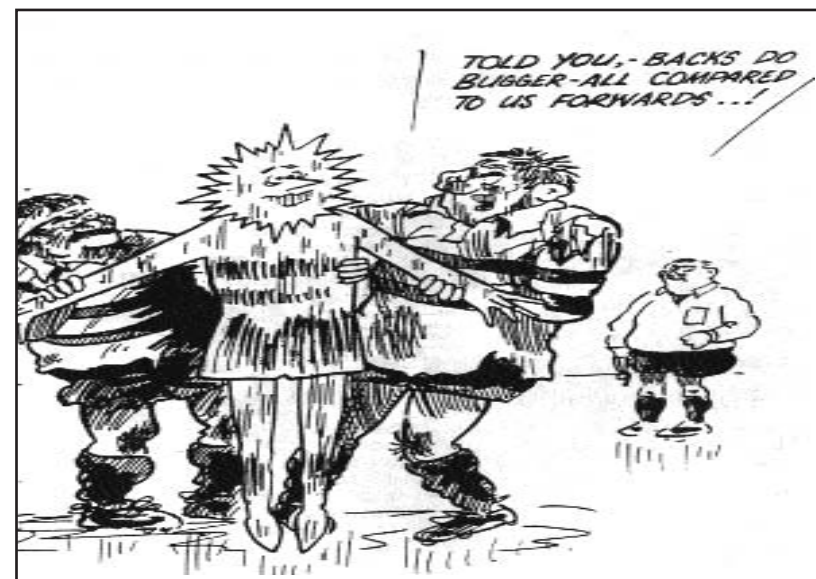
Stockton 1st XV, 1991-92 Back row (Left to right) M. Conlon; I.Roy; M. Douthwaite; P.Webster; G. Hurst; J. Saunders; P. Bromley; G. Kell; Front row (left to right) W. Roxby; W. Hudspeth; D. Turner; P.Weston; G. Naisbett; S. White; M. Howe; I. Allen; A Cartwright



Stockton v West Hartlepool, 15th February 1992. Referee John Heselwood gives the command to engage. Below; Mike Conlon throwing into the lineout. What happened next? Scrum down or opposition ball?



 PEUGEOT TALBOT MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED OFFICIAL SPONSORS TO THE COVENTRY CLUB					
Coventry			Stockton		
No.	Name		Name	No.	
15	Martin Fairn	Full Back	Graham Kell	15	
14	Leroy McKenzie	Right Wing	Dave Turner	14	
13	Jason Minshull	Right Centre	Paul Weston	13	
12	Steve Chapman	Left Centre	Billy Hudspith	12	
11	Mark Bennett	Left Wing	Paul Bromley	11	
10	Richard Angell	Stand Off	Alex Guest	10	
9	Richard Turner	Scrum Half	Andy Cartwright	9	
1	Damian Tabram	Forwards	Robin Preston	1	
2	Richard Cockerill		Michael Conlon (C)	2	
3	Warwick Bullock		Maurice Douthwaite	3	
4	Julian Hyde (C)		Paul Webster	4	
5	Tony Gulliver		John Saunders	5	
6	Phil Stone		Ian Allen	6	
8	Craig Cosgrove		Greg Tyreman	8	
7	Clint Chadwick		Martin Howe	7	
Replacements:			Replacements:		
Mark Lakey			Alan Turner		
Gary Sharp			Mike Wilson		
Referee			Referee		
Andrew Mason			London Society		
Touch Judges, Bill Jones, R.F.U.			Peter Hart, R.F.U.		



SEASON 1991-92 (CLUB CAPTAIN:GRAHAM NAISBETT)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 1	H Luddites	W	20	4	T: Bromley Hurst Cartwright Kell C: Turner (2)	1	0	0
10	H Bishop Auckland	W	40	3	T: Bromley (4) Turner (2) Weston Allan C: Turner (4)	2	0	0
14	A Wharfedale	L	16	20	T: Weston Bromley Cartwright Roxby	2	0	1
21	H Towcestrians(Pilk.1)	W	17	10	T: Turner (2) Weston C:Turner+I Pen.	3	0	1
24	A Morley	L	9	31	T: Hudspith C: Turner+ I Pen.	3	0	2
Oct. 5	A Blaydon	L	0	13		3	0	3
12	A Morpeth	W	26	12	T: Turner (2) Bromley Cartwright Weston P: Turner Guest	4	0	3
19	H Carlisle	W	38	4	T: Wiles (2)Weston (2) Turner Allen Bromley Kell C: Turner(2) Guest	5	0	3
26	H Sheffield	L	9	26	P: Guest (3)	5	0	4
Nov. 2	A Gala	L	3	35	P: Guest	5	0	5
9	A Coventry (Pilk. 2)	L	6	20	T: Howe C: Guest	5	0	6
16	H HULL IONIAN	L	4	7	T: Howe	5	0	7
23	A WIGTON	W	17	15	T: Howe Grieves Bromley C: Guest+I Pen.	6	0	7
30	A Ryton	W	19	3	T: Allen Bromley Dixon Beattie P: Turner	7	0	7
Dec. 7	H MIDDLESBROUGH	W	10	9	T: Hudspith P: Turner (2)	8	0	7
14	A TYNEDALE	L	12	38	T: Howe Bromley C: Guest (2)	8	0	8
21	H H'POOL ROVERS	D	9	9	P: Turner (3)	8	1	8
28	A Roundhay	L	9	10	T: Lee C: Turner +I Pen.	8	1	9
Jan. 4	A SANDAL	L	3	22	P: Turner	8	1	10
11	H BIRKENHEAD P.K.	W	15	13	T: Turner C: Turner+3 Pens.	9	1	10
18	H Lymm	W	27	25	T: Wilson Howe Docherty C: Lee (2) Bromley P: Lee Bromley (2)	10	1	10
Feb. 2	A Durham City	L	0	40		10	1	11
8	A WIDNES	L	3	45	P: Lee	10	1	12
15	H West Hartlepool	L	4	22	T: Beattie	10	1	13
22	A Sunderland	W	30	3	T: Beattie (2) Newton Bromley Turner(L)+Pen.try C: Bromley (3)	11	1	13
29	H B'FORD & BINGLEY	L	3	35	P: Bromley	11	1	14
Mar. 7	H Alnwick	L	11	17	T: Bromley Webster P: Guest	11	1	15
14	A ROTHERHAM	L	3	48	P: Bromley	11	1	16
28	A Vale of Lune	L	10	33	T: Preston P: Guest(2)	11	1	17
Apr-01	H Sunderland (DSC 2)	W	46	0	T: Bromley (4) Howe (2) Guest (2) Aldus Saunders C: Guest (2) Bromley	12	1	17
8	H WHTDSOB(DSC 3)	W	18	9	T: T: Dixon C: Guest+4 Pens.	13	1	17
11	H York	L	7	20	T: Howe P: Guest	13	1	18
22	A H'pool Rvrs.(DSC-SF)	L	8	15	T: Daley Bromley	13	1	19
25	A Morpeth	W	33	16	T: Beattie (2) Turner Todd Howe Daley C: Turner (3)+I Pen.	14	1	19

Playing record: Played 34 Won14: Drew1 Lost19 For 485 Against 631

Leading scorers: Martin Howe 9 Tries;
Paul Bromley 18 Tries + 5 Conversions + 4 Penalties (94 points)
Dave Turner 9 Tries + 15 Conversions + 15 Penalties (111 points)
Alec Guest 2 Tries + 8 Conversions + 14 Penalties (66 points)

SEASON

3

9

2

9

9

Elsewhere...

1992

Sally Gunnell wins 400m Hurdles Gold at the Barcelona Olympics; Frankie Howard and Benny Hill die within 24 hours; 'Black Wednesday' money crisis sees interest rates soar.

1993

Grand National declared void after two false starts; US Federal agents storm Waco cult's Texas HQ- 81 die; PLO Leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli P.M. Rabin sign peace deal in US.

There were changes in the hierarchy, with Tim McCarthy replacing Alan Todd as President, John Maloney replacing David Trotter as Chairman and John Moore returning as Coach.

With a year's formative experience behind us, the club coped better with its second season in North One.

Whilst Chris Horner had returned from injury, we lost him in the autumn with an injured knee.

A respectable league position was achieved and the 1st XV regained the Durham County

Cup, defeating Hartlepool Rovers in the Final.

Lower teams thrived, with the Stocktonians bringing home the Durham 4th Teams Cup courtesy of a 1 point victory over Westoe Senators.

Who will ever forget the emotional scenes as Mike Appleton, after years of underachievement on the rugby fields of Northern England, burst into tears at the enormity of his achievement. He was finally a winner - and at Westoe, too!



Picture by RICHARD PATTISON
HIGH FLYER — Rovers lock Steve Mansam (right) rises at a line-out to beat Stockton's Paul Webster in last night's Durham Cup final at Mowden Park. M8487



The Stocktonians; Durham County 4th XV Shield Winners Back row (left to right) B. Thornton, M. Appleton, I. Roy, G. Brownlee, D. Underwood, G. Pearson, S. Colton, I. Johnson, A. Ready, J. Brown, G. Shayler, R. Preston, N. Moore, t. McCarthy Front row (left to right) A. Ducker, M. Carr, T. Wilson, P. Wilkinson, G. Delmar

Hungry Stockton lift Durham trophy

By GORDON FAIRBAIRN

SUPERB Stockton demolished Hartlepool Rovers with an exhibition of 'hungry rugby' at Mowden Park last night to lift the Durham Cup for the second time in three years.

While their forwards totally dominated in both the tight and loose, they never flinched from open play up when the chance arose, and they scored three of the five tries in the match in the 24-13 win.

Scrum half Chris Horner was in magical form, and proved a real thorn in the Rovers' side. His persistence in following up an apparently lost cause led to Stockton's second try.

He chipped ahead, and when the ball bounced awkwardly for Rovers, Horner was there to pounce on it, feed Bryan Dixon in support, and on hand to finish the move off.



after a 50-yard dash with white shirts trailing in his wake.

Kevin Sainty put Rovers in front with a ninth minute penalty, but when Stockton scored a magnificent opening try to go in front, they never looked like losing the match.

Dave Turner fielded a long hopeful kick for touch in his own half, ran inside and completely wrong-footed Rovers with a slick reverse pass to Beattie, who headed diagonally for the corner. Bromley and Lee were in support and the latter touched down. Turner kicked three penalties and Rovers looked a beaten side at 19-3 down. But with excel-

Horner makes Rovers suffer

took advantage as Stockton's nerves took over and they conceded seven penalties in the closing minutes.

Only desperate defence kept Rovers tally down to two tries in this spell, Eric Alderton squirming over the line for the first and King getting a late consolation in the corner.

"I've waited 16 years for this moment," rejoiced Stockton skipper Graham Naisbitt as he held the trophy — Stockton's ticket to the

● **CHRIS HORNER**, Stockton's scrum half, made excellent use of the masses of clean ball won by his forwards.

● **THE** variety of tactics employed by the Norton men served to bamboozle Rovers who only came into the game late in the match.

● **Horner himself** served the coup de gras with a late run for the line.



Spot the Ball!

1992-93 (CLUB CAPTAIN: GRAHAM NAISBITT)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 1	H Darlington	W	23	10	T: Guest Bromley Beattie C: Turner+2 Pens.	1	0	0
2	A Bishop Auckland	L	21	23	T: Guest Kell dg: Turner C: Turner+2 Pens.	1	0	1
5	A Bridlington	W	18	5	T: Horner Dixon dg: Guest (2) C: Turner	2	0	1
12	H Blaydon	W	16	10	T: Beattie Webster P: Turner (2)	3	0	1
19	A Alnwick	W	14	8	T: Lee Turner C: Turner (2)	4	0	1
26	A HULL IONIAN	W	21	6	T: Beattie (2) C: Turner+3 Pens.	5	0	1
Oct. 3	H WIGTON	W	14	9	T: T. Allan P: Turner (3)	6	0	1
10	A MIDDLESBROUGH	L	3	6	P: Turner	6	0	2
17	A Carlisle	W	28	8	T: Turner Turner(L) Webster Beattie C: Turner (4)	7	0	2
24	H TYNEDALE	W	12	11	T: Beattie (2) C: Turner	8	0	2
21	A H'POOL ROVERS	L	11	15	T: Conlon dg: Lee P: Turner	8	0	3
Nov. 14	H SANDAL	L	23	6	T: Howe Webster C: Turner (2)+3 Pens.	8	0	4
21	A WHARFEDALE	L	11	22	T: Beattie P: Turner (2)	8	0	5
28	A Harrogate	L	12	50	T: Beattie Turner C: Turner	8	0	6
Dec. 2	A N'castle Gosforth	L	0	22		8	0	7
5	H Morpeth	L	3	11	P: Turner	8	0	8
12	A York	L	12	13	T: Beattie+Pen. Try C: Hudspith	8	0	9
19	H Novocastrians	W	13	10	T: Beattie Wiles P: Bryson	9	0	9
28	A West Hartlepool	L	13	24	T: Howe Wilson P: Bryson	9	0	10
Jan. 9	H WIDNES	W	8	3	T: Howe P: Turner	10	0	10
16	A Chester-le-Ste(DSC 2)	W	17	0	T: Beattie (2) Keay C: Turner	11	0	10
23	A Gateshead Fell	W	32	8	T: Beattie (2) White(S) dg: Keay C: Turner+4 Pens.	12	0	10
30	A Novocastrians	W	29	8	T: Crozier (2) Howe Horner Keay C: Turner (2)	13	0	10
Feb. 6	H Blaydon (DSC 3)	W	22	0	T: Keay Beattie Douthwaite Horner C: Turner	14	0	10
13	A B'FORD & BINGLEY	L	0	34		14	0	11
20	H Bishop Auckland	W	53	13	T: Kell (2) Bromley (2) Crozier Turner Allan Moore C: Turner (5)+1 Pen.	15	0	11
Mar. 6	H Rotherham	L	15	22	T: Beattie Keay Lee	15	0	12
13	H NORTHERN	W	8	5	T: Allan P: Turner	16	0	12
20	H Durham City(DSC-SF)	W	46	10	T: Beattie (2) Bromley y(2) Allan Keay dg: Keay C: Turner(2)+3 Pens.	17	0	12
27	A VALE OF LUNE	L	10	11	T: Beattie (2)	17	0	13
Apr-03	H LYMM	W	17	12	T: Branson P: Turner (4)	18	0	13
10	A D'ton Mowden Park	W	54	0	T: Beattie (3) Bromley (2) Keay Brown(W) Raine C: Turner (7)	19	0	13
17	A Sandal	L	20	25	T: Bromley (2) Wiles C: Turner+1 Pen.	19	0	14
27	MP H'pool Rovers(DSC-F)	W	24	13	T: Bromley Horner Lee P: Turner (3)	20	0	14

Playing record: Played 34 Won 20 Drew 0 Lost 14 For 623 Against 453
 Leading scorers: Paul Beattie 24 Tries;
 Dave Turner 4 Tries + 32 Conversions + 38 Penalties + 1 dg (301 points).

SEASON 4 9- 3- 9

Elsewhere...

1993

Toddler Jamie Bulger abducted and murdered by two youngsters in Liverpool; Nobel Peace Prize shared by South African President F.W. de Klerke and Nelson Mandela.

1994

Nelson Mandela appointed first black President of South Africa; Brazilian Motor racing driver Ayrton Senna killed in San Marino Grand Prix; First National Lottery Draw.

Paul Bromley took over as skipper from Graham Naisbett, but, unfortunately, the league season was not as successful as the previous campaign. Paul bravely decided to step down from the role to be replaced by Paul Lee in the spring. Another victory in the Durham Cup against Hartlepool Rovers

at the Friarage meant we had won the trophy three times in the last four seasons. Durham County paid a return to Twickenham to contest the County Championship with old rivals Yorkshire, and again there were four Stockton players in the side, three of whom had played in the victory against Cornwall in

1989.

Graham Naisbett had the honour of leading Durham at Twickenham.

Although Durham lost, they were far from disgraced and Graham, Bryan Dixon and Maurice Douthwaite fully enjoyed their second visit and Chris Aldus (a Peter Lofthouse 'discovery!') his first, in front of

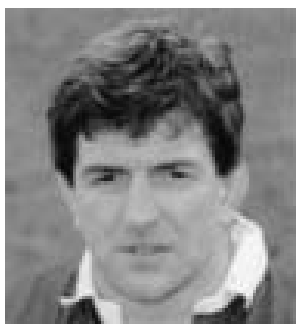
many travelling Stockton spectators. Once again, we visited Letchworth on the following Sunday and spent several hours in their bar, doing 'The Grand Old Duke of York'.



Durham Cup Winners, 1st XV, 27th April 1994. Back row (left to right) A. Raine; J. Saunders; C. Aldus; G. Naisbett; S. White; T. Allan; M. Douthwaite; B. Dixon; A. Wiles; L. Turner; D. Allen; M. Graham. Front row (left to right) P. Beattie; P. Bromley; P. Lee; G. Newton; K. Keay; S. Moore



Chris Aldus




Bryan Dixon



Maurice Douthwaite



Graham Naisbett

DURHAM		YORKSHIRE	
			
Team: Marion Sharla White	Players: G.D. SKEARMAN (Bishop) O. EVANS (West Hartlepool) L. KELL (Hartlepool Albion) P.J. NICKALLS (Newcastle) L.A. MATTHEW (Durham City) J. HILL (Durham City) S. KIRKUP (Durham City) R.C. NAISBITT (Newcastle) D. DOUTHWAITE (Durham City) C. ALDUS (Durham City) J. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) D. HENDERSON (Durham City) B. DIXON (Durham City)	Players: H. HENDERSON (Durham City) M. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) C. HENDERSON (Durham City) R. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) C. HENDERSON (Durham City) R. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) C. HENDERSON (Durham City) R. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) C. HENDERSON (Durham City) R. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City)	Players: H. HENDERSON (Durham City) M. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) C. HENDERSON (Durham City) R. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) C. HENDERSON (Durham City) R. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) C. HENDERSON (Durham City) R. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City) C. HENDERSON (Durham City) R. HENDERSON (Durham City) S. HENDERSON (Durham City)

Christmas Disco

A rather alarming consequence of the Annual Disco, which could have been much more dramatic in its effect, was the spectacle (witnessed by the 1st XV and travelling supporters making their way to the Sunday morning bus) of Robin Hood, a grotty looking Christmas Fairy and something else that defies description all 'feeling' their way across the car park looking for the nearest vehicle in which to disappear over the horizon - probably into

oblivion.

Names please to Police HQ on Thistle Green if anyone recognised them - a number of locals are still in shock!



STOCKTON RFC: SEASON 1993-94 (CLUB CAPTAIN: PAUL BROMLEY)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept. 1	H Bishop Auckland	W	87	7	T: Beattie (4) Lee (2) Dixon (2) Douthwaite (2) Bromley Pett Naisbett White C: Keay (6) Bromley P: Keay	1	0	0
2	A Darlington	L	7	15	T: Metcalfe C: Turner	1	0	1
11	H Syston (Pilk' on Cup)	L	8	11	T: Naisbett P: Turner	1	0	2
18	H Westoe	W	41	5	T: Bromley (2) Slee Allen Pett Baxter Cartwright C: Keay (2) Bromley	2	0	2
25	H Roundhegians	W	15	8	T: Bromley Horner C: Bromley P: Bromley	3	0	2
Oct. 2	H Novocastrians	W	18	5	T: Crozier Saunders Allen P: Bromley	4	0	2
9	A Lymm	W	22	10	T: Douthwaite Baxter Beattie White C: Bromley	5	0	2
23	H HULL IONIAN	L	6	8	P: Bromley (2)	5	0	3
30	A WIGTON	W	35	21	T: Beattie (2) Baxte r(2) Metcalfe C: Turne (2) P: Turner (2)	6	0	3
Nov. 6	A Morpeth	W	23	14	T: Beattie (2) Crozier Pett P: Turner	7	0	3
13	H MIDDLESBROUGH	L	11	25	T: Turner P: Bromley (2)	7	0	4
Dec. 4	H HARTLEPOOL RVS.	W	12	3	T: Beattie Horner C: Bromley	8	0	4
11	A SANDAL	L	6	13	P: Bromley (2)	8	0	5
18	A Rotherham	L	7	54	T: Bromley C: Bromley	8	0	6
27	A Durham City	W	17	3	T: Lee Moore Hanson C: Moore	9	0	6
Jan. 3	H West Hartlepool	L	3	21	P: Moore	9	0	7
8	A WIDNES	L	3	16	P: Moore	9	0	8
15	A Blaydon	L	15	33	T: Turner Allen C: Bromley C: Moore	9	0	9
22	A TYNDALE	L	6	48	dg: Keay P: Bromley	9	0	10
29	H HUDDERSFIELD	L	7	8	T: Baxter C: Moore	9	0	11
Feb. 12	A NORTHERN	W	15	12	T: Douthwaite Baxter C: Moore P: Bromley	10	0	11
19	H WHARFEDALE	W	5	42	T: Naisbett	10	0	12
Mar. 5	H Acklam	W	41	21	T: Bromley (2) Crozier (2) Moore Graham: 1 pen. try: C: Moore (3)	11	0	12
12	H VALE OF LUNE	W	21	12	T: Bromley (3) dg: Keay P: Moore	12	0	12
19	H West Pk. Bramhope	L	25	38	T: Dixon Allen Colton Crozier C: Moore P: Moore	12	0	13
26	A Manchester	L	5	37	T: Turner	12	0	14
30	H B. Auckland (DSC 2)	W	51	8	T: Beattie (2) Crozier (2) Dixon (2) Keay (2) Allen C: Bromley (3)	13	0	14
Apr. 02	H Carlisle	W	44	23	T: Crozier (2) Keay (2) Beattie Earnshaw Allan C: Bromley (3) P: Bromley	14	0	14
9	H Kendal	L	20	32	T: Beattie Keay Allen C: Bromley P: Bromley	14	0	15
20	A Horden (DSC 3)	W	16	8	T: Beattie (2) P: Moore dg: Lee	15	0	15
23	A G'head Fell (DSC-SF)	W	29	16	T: Turner Allan Dixon C: Moore P: Moore (2) dg: Keay	16	0	15
27	A H'pool Rvs. (DSC-F)	W	16	14	T: Lee C: Moore P: Moore dg: Lee (2)	17	0	15

Playing record: Played 32 Won 17 Drew 0 Lost 15 For 637 Against 591
Leading scorers; Paul Beattie 16 Tries; Simon Crozier 9 Tries;
Paul Bromley 10 Tries + 14 Conversions+ 12 Penalties (114 points).

SEASON

5

94-

94-

94-

Elsewhere...

1994

Channel Tunnel opens; American Football legend O.J. Simpson tried for murder; Tony Blair becomes Labour Party Leader following tragic early death of John Smith.

1995

Israeli PM Rabin assassinated; O.J. Simpson cleared of murder; Ronnie Kray dies aged 61-has East End gangster's funeral; Michael Foale first British astronaut to walk in space.

Dennis Chisman relinquished the post of Secretary after a six year stint, to be replaced by John Robinson, who would be instrumental in attracting quality sponsorship to the club. The other officials remained in office, and Paul Lee continued as Club Skipper.

Once again, we were fortunate to strengthen our first team squad with the acquisition of Mark Appleyard from West

Hartlepool.

This had the effect of increasing competition for back row places, as Martin Howe had made a successful recovery from the broken leg he sustained in February 1993.

Walsall the Fuss About?

We made an unfortunate early exit from the Pilkington Cup at Lichfield.

In the interests of squad preparation, we had spent the previous night in the Midlands. Most players responded in a mature fashion, but several salkadoos attempted to relieve the pre - match tension by resorting to the snorting of tequila.

No prizes for the ringleader's name (rearrange these letters to identify the guilty party; RODUGAGA)!

Following a morning session at Walsall Club, we took to the field in a reasonably confident mood. Then, disaster.

The referee took exception to Kevin Keay's neoprene undershorts, insisting that they afforded Kevin an unnatural amount of protection (from



Durham Cup Winners! Back row (left to right) Alan Cummins; Steve White; John Still; Will Hudspith; Maurice Douthwaite; Chris Aldus; Dave Turner; Kevin Keay; John Saunders; Graham Naisbett; Paul Bromley; Andy Wiles; (Front row, left to right) Dave Allen; Liam Turner; Martin Howe; Graham Kell; Simon White; Bryan Dixon; Mark Appleyard; Nick Smithson

94/9

NORTH — One					P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandal	12	8	3	1	227	126	19				
Stockton	12	8	2	2	198	111	18				
Manchester	12	7	3	2	217	166	17				
Bradford & B	12	8	0	4	230	166	16				
Hull Ionians	12	6	1	5	198	196	11				
Huddersfield	12	5	1	6	183	167	11				
Widnes	12	5	1	6	183	188	11				
York	12	5	1	6	157	198	11				
Middlesbrough	12	5	1	6	162	206	11				
W Pk Bramhope	12	5	1	6	197	162	9				
Tynedale	12	4	1	7	184	154	9				
Wigton	12	3	1	8	132	238	7				
Durham City	12	2	0	10	124	272	4				



John Saunders (left) challenges for the ball

what?) and insisted he remove them just prior to the kick off. This upset Kevin, who was carrying a slight groin strain. An alternative pair were found which satisfied the referee, but Kevin waddled around for the rest of the afternoon in what appeared to be a pair of incontinence pants under his shorts. Although we lost the match, Kevin later took up the issue with the manufacturers via a leading a national rugby magazine, and he was given full support! Following this setback, a run of 14 consecutive victories took us to the top end of the table.

When the crunch came, we were unable to defeat Sandal or Bradford and Bingley and finished second in North One - our best ever league placing. One more point from the above matches would have clinched promotion to the heady heights of National 4. C'est la vie! As a consolation, we won the Durham Senior Cup for the third successive year by beating Horden 19 - 0 at the New Friarage, minus the Skipper who was away on Fire Brigade duty.

SEASON 1994-95 (CLUB CAPTAIN: PAUL LEE)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Sept.1	H Darlington	W	33	10	T: Howe (2) Bromley Brown C. Turner (2) Moore P. Turner Moore dg: Lee	1	0	0
3	H Driffield	W	33	6	T: Beattie (2) Allen Keay MooreC: MooreP: Moore dg: Keay	2	0	0
10	A Lichfield(Pilk'tonCup)	L	12	20	T: Crozier Turner C: Turner	2	0	1
17	H YORK	W	23	0	T: Dixon Turner Beattie Howe P: Turner	3	0	1
24	A WEST PK. B'HOPE	W	26	21	T: Saunders Beattie C: Turner (2) P: Turner (3) dg: Lee	4	0	1
Oct.1	H MANCHESTER	D	18	18	P: Turner (6)	4	1	1
15	H Durham University	W	34	21	T: Beattie (2) Allan Saunders Preston C: Turner (3) P: Turner	5	1	1
22	A HULL IONIAN	L	14	22	T: Bromley P: Turner (3)	5	1	2
29	H WIGTON	W	23	0	T: Beattie (2) Bromley Appleyard P: Turner	6	1	2
Nov.5	A Carlisle	W	10	7	T: Bromley C: Turner P: Turner	7	1	2
12	H Morpeth	W	28	8	T: Slee (2) Lee Aldus Bromley P: Turner	8	1	2
19	A Newcastle University	W	50	10	T: Slee (2) Appleyard (2) Allan (2) Howe C: Turner (6) P: Turner	9	1	2
26	H Gateshead Fell	W	20	12	T: Wiles (2) Keay C: Turner P: Turner	10	1	2
Dec.3	A Novocastrians	W	40	18	T: Allan (2) Brown (2) Smithson Turner Keay C: Turner P: Turner	11	1	2
10	A Westoe	W	20	17	T: Bromley (2) Kell pen. try C: Turner	12	1	2
18(Sun.)	A Northern	W	29	3	T: Bromley (3) Lee Dixon C: Turner(2)	13	1	2
24	H Hartlepool Rovers	W	10	6	T: Lee(C) C: Turner P: Turner	14	1	2
Jan.7	A MIDDLESBROUGH	W	6	3	P: Moore dg: Moore	15	1	2
14	H TYNE DALE	W	12	9	P: Moore (3) dg: Lee	16	1	2
21	H Redcar	W	25	7	T: Dixon Wiles Howe Naisbitt C: Turner P: Turner	17	1	2
Feb.4	H Lymm	W	45	8	T: Lee(C) (2) Lee Etherington Beattie Bromley Allan C: Turner (2) P: Turner (2)	18	1	2
11	A DURHAM CITY	W	9	3	P: Turner(3)	19	1	2
18	A Wharfedale	L	6	62	P: Turner(2)	19	1	3
25	H SANDAL	D	6	6	P: Lee(C) dg: Lee	19	2	3
Mar.4	A B'FORD & BINGLEY	L	15	16	T: Appleyard(2) Allan	19	2	4
11	H Alnwick	W	55	5	T: Bromley (2) Lee(C) Lee Dixon Aldus White Allen Slee C: Turner(5)	20	2	4
18	A Ashington	L	0	7		20	2	5
25	H WIDNES	W	26	7	T: Appleyard Howe C: Turner r(2) P: Turner (4)	21	2	5
29	H Ryton (DSC 2)	W	67	16	T: Bromley (3) Howe (2) Kell Allen Turner(L) Lee Dixon Wiles C: Turner (6)	22	2	5
Apr.-08	A HUDDERSFIELD	W	18	6	T: Bromley Dixon C: Turner P: Turner (2)	23	2	5
12	A Mowden Pk.(DSC-3)	W	30	19	T: Kell Dixon Hudspith Appleyard C: Turner (2) P: Turner (2)	24	2	5
22	H H'pool Rvs. (DSC-SF)	W	15	5	T: Turner(L) Turner C: Turner P: Turner	25	2	5
26	N Horden	W	19	0	T: Turner(L) Douthwaite Smithson C: Turner (2)	26	2	5

Playing record: Played 23 Won 16 Drew 2 Lost 5 For 779 Against 378
Leading scorers; Paul Bromley 17 Tries; Dave Turner 4 Tries+42 Conversions+39 Penalties (221 points).

SEASON

96-95-96

Elsewhere...

1995

Generation Game host Larry Grayson dies, aged 66; Rogue trader Nick Leason bankrupts Barings Bank; Japanese Kobe earthquake kills 5,480.

1996

Gunman Thomas Hamilton shoots dead 16 children, their teacher and then himself in a school gym in Dunblane, Scotland.

Paul Lee remained as 1st XV Skipper, and the senior officials remained in office.

The club was strengthened by the return of experienced players. David Cooke rejoined

from West Hartlepool, where he had regularly been one of the top scorers in the county.

This form did not desert him, and he notched up 23 tries and began to make a significant

input into Stockton's coaching. Danny Kitching returned to Teesside from Peterborough where he had moved in the early 80's after leaving college. Danny was also a valuable

addition to the playing and coaching squad.

Brett Wildridge had returned to Teesside from study on Tyneside and joined Stockton from Gateshead Fell.



Winners of the Darlington Building Society 'Tens' Trophy

In the Pilkington Cup, Stockton defeated Broughton Park who were a league above, but found the might of Leeds, a professional club with an influx of ex-premiership players, too much to cope with in the next round. This was the first time we had come across the scenario of a dressing room after a match being full of old brown envelopes torn open to retrieve, no doubt, no doubt, the win bonuses. Ours were covered, as usual, in old tea bags! The gulf was beginning to appear between the 'haves' and 'have nots'. Although we finished in the middle of North One, the standard to which we were playing were benchmarked when we played our old local opposition. The club rattled up some huge scores; 68 against Novos (remember, they had been promoted with Stockton from North East Two back in 1988, the first year of leagues), 83 against Blyth and our best ever score at 1st XV level: 97 against Carlisle. We lost a Durham Cup Semi - Final at Blaydon and with no other senior team having success, there was no silverware in the cupboard. A rare event in the 90's for Stockton.

On Leaving Messages
Wives are wily creatures whose sole raison d'être it would appear to club skippers, is to form a potential barrier to prevent her husband taking the field on a regular basis in order to maximise her own accompanied trips to the Metro Centre. Perhaps the supreme exponent of the skill was the wife who shall be referred to simply as 'Mrs H', in order to save embarrassment and potential legal processes. Our entrepreneurial skipper rang, more in hope than anticipation, to speak to Mr H in order to acquaint him of the following week's fixture (away to Tierra del Fuego - again). As usual, Mrs H, moving with the speed of a cheetah, pounced on the phone to intercept the message. In fact she announced rather snootily to our skipper that Mr H had in fact been mortally wounded in our previous week's glorious defeat at Sandal and as he had sustained a broken leg and would not be available for several months, not to bother ringing up for him. Our skipper could only revel in the bravery of Mr H, who had completed the previous week's match, obviously in great pain but not murmured a word to anyone. The team were transfixed when they heard the tales of bravery as they settled down to several months without their team-mate. However, events took a rather peculiar turn when, two weeks

later, the bold Mr H stormed into the clubhouse aiming to discuss matters selectional with our skipper. "Why on earth haven't you bothered to ring me for the last two weeks? I've paid my subs! I've got a big car! And I'm a better player than Brent Whittaker!" shouted the irate Mr H. Our skipper was aghast. "I'm sorry, but when did you get your pot off?" he asked. "What pot?" said the grim faced Mr H, who was beginning to suspect matters matrimonial behind the plot. "The one your wife said you had on your broken leg," retorted our skipper. "I've never had a broken leg!" said the disgusted Mr H, as his team mates hooted in derision at his being set-up. Mr H stormed out of the club, vowing to sort out his wife for once-and-for-all on such matters. Mr H subsequently retired and is now a regular visitor to the Metro Centre on Saturdays.



Paul Lee



Newcastle Sevens Winners

SEASON 1995-96 (CLUB CAPTAIN: PAUL LEE)										
Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L		
Sept.2	A Cleckheaton	W	26	15	T: Lee Cooke Bromley Brown C: Turner (3)	1	0	0		
9	H Broughton Pk.(Pil.C)	W	13	11	T: Saunders C: Turner P: Turner (2)	2	0	0		
16	A YORK	W	21	11	T:Lee Bromley C: Turner P: Turner (3)	3	0	0		
23	H WEST PK.B'HOPE	W	28	7	T: Turner (2) Howe Kell C: Turner (4)	4	0	0		
30	A MANCHESTER	L	3	33	P: Turner	4	0	1		
Oct. 7	H Leeds (Pilk. Cup)	L	8	27	T: Bromley P: Turner	4	0	2		
21	H HULL IONIANS	L	8	22	T: Bromley P: Turner	4	0	3		
28	A WIGTON	L	3	21	P: Turner	4	0	4		
Nov. 4	H Horden	W	31	5	T: Crozier (2)Turne r(2) Poulson Preston C: Turner (3)	5	0	4		
11	H MIDDLESBROUGH	W	20	3	T: Kitching White C: Turner(2) P: Turner(2)	6	0	4		
18	H Blyth	W	83	8	T: Cooke(5)Beattie(2)Wildridge(2)Turner(L)KitchingWebsterPoulson C:Turner(9)	7	0	4		
25	A Gateshead Fell	W	15	12	T: Cooke (2) Beattie	8	0	4		
Dec. 2	H Novocastrians	W	68	7	T: Turner(L)(3) Kelly (2) Matchett r(2) Kitching Beattie Henderson Cooke Wildridge C: Kell (4)	9	0	4		
9	H Westoe	W	31	0	T: Brown(S) (2) Crozier Appleyard Poulson C: Kell (3)	10	0	4		
16	H Ashington	W	24	21	T: Cooke Brown Turner(L) Crozier C: Kell (2)	11	0	4		
23	H Durham City	W	28	20	T: Cooke Lee Turner(L) C: Kell (2) P: Kell (3)	12	0	5		
Jan.6	A TYNEDALE	L	0	28						
13	H MACCLESFIELD	L	13	24	T: Cooke Wildridge P: Kell	12	0	6		
20	A Morpeth	W	23	22	T: Crozier Kell Crowe C: Kell P: Kell(2)	13	0	6		
Feb.3	H Blaydon	L	9	13	P: Kell (3)	13	0	7		
10	A BRIDLINGTON	W	27	26	T: Kitching (2) Turner(L) Crozier C: Good (2) P: Good	14	0	7		
17	H B'FORD & BINGLEY	L	17	19	T: Kell P: Moore (2) Good (2)	14	0	8		
24	A WIDNES	L	17	25	T: Matchett P: Lee (4)	14	0	9		
Mar. 9	H Wharfedale	L	13	29	T: Crozier (2) dg.Lee	14	0	10		
16	H Northern	W	37	18	T: Cooke (2) Howe (2) Colton Crozier C: Turne r(2) P: Turner	15	0	10		
30	H HUDDERSFIELD	W	8	3	T: Cooke P: Kell	16	0	10		
Apr-03	H Mowden Pk.(DSC-2)	W	34	10	T: Kell Howe White Saunders Crozier C: Kell (3) P: Kell	17	0	10		
6	H Carlisle	W	97	10	T: Cooke (4) Crozier (4) Turner Turner(L) Howe Thornton Lee Kennedy Appleyard C: Turner(11)	18	0	10		
13	A Lymm	W	34	14	T: Kitching (2) Appleyard (2) Cooke Hudson C: Lee (2)	19	0	10		
17	H Horden (DSC-3)	W	24	13	T: Cooke (3) C: Kell (3) P: Kell	20	0	10		
24	A Blaydon(DSC-SF)	L	14	28	T: Kell P: Kell (3)	20	0	11		
Playing record: Played 31 Won 20 Drew 0 Lost 11 For 777 Against 504										
Leading scorers: Dave Cooke 23 Tries; Dave Turner 3 Tries+39 conversions+12 penalties (129 points); Graham Kell 18 conversions+15 penalties (81points).										

SEASON

1996-97

Elsewhere...

1996

Prince Charles and Princess Diana, and Prince Andrew and Fergie, divorce.

1997

Princess Diana killed in Paris car crash; Labour's Tony Blair elected after 18 years of Tory power; Scientists in Scotland clone Dolly the Sheep; 'Titanic' film blockbuster becomes biggest box office hit ever.

The Club Executive remained in position, as did Paul Lee as First Team Captain.

With John Still having a sabbatical from coaching, the club was fortunate to be able to call upon the services of Graham Cook who was, at that time, the Durham County XV Coach.

The squad continued to develop in strength, with David Tighe joining the club from Hartlepool to make the

scrum half position his own, and the forwards being bolstered by the bulk of Mark Binns.

After a moderate start to the season, the side clicked after Christmas, with a ten match unbeaten spell that coincided with the return of Alan Brown and Craig Lee from West Hartlepool, both somewhat disillusioned with their first experience of so-called professional rugby.

The run of wins included a victory over Sedgely Park, who were later promoted.

Who can forget the sight of Paul Webster being faster around the field than another forward; Park's massive ex-Orrell and England B lock, Bob Kimmins.

The climax to the season was regaining the Durham Senior Cup, the victory being our first ever at Norton, against a plucky Sunderland outfit.

Our winning score of 50 points must rank amongst the highest in the history of the Finals.

This was the fifth time in seven seasons we had won the trophy, and our Saracens XV completed 'The Double' by winning the County Second XV Trophy.



2nd XV Cup Winners Back row (left to right) Geoff Waterfield; Brian Hoar; Simon Moore; Danny Cowell; Steve Thornton; Keith Etherington; Ian Todd; Graham Kell; Brett Wildridge; Simon Brown; Tony Smith; Wayne Brown; Dave Mogie; (Front row, left to right) Joff Staples; Mark Graham; Nev Slee; Ian Allan; Simon White; Steven White; Scott Colton

Shaken, not Stirred

At Christmas, we had the usual Saturday evening Christmas Fancy Dress Disco.

At the said event was a dead ringer for Agent 007 -James Bond- complete with revolver and holster (toys, of course!).

Following the Disco, Agent 007 withdrew, along with the rest of the gang, to the Mall nightclub in town in search of the local versions of Miss Money Penny!

Unfortunately, his shoulder holster and its contents caused some consternation amongst the local crowd control engineers (bouncers to you), especially when he began to wave it around in a drunken stupor.

It was late on the following Sunday, afternoon, just prior to 'Songs of Praise', that Sergeant John Coates of the Cleveland Constabulary (and Stockton RFC) managed to organise the release from the cells of said Agent 007! Now, we ask, who was that agent 007?

REFEREE GOES OFF THE RAILS

ONE local club referee, after an attempted conversion had hit the cross bar and rebounded into play, shocked both sides by waving play on.

He screamed for the game to continue immediately.

After a moment of chaos the ball was cleared into touch.

The referee apologised for confusing the conversion with a penalty attempt.

He blamed a passing train that he was glued to . . . as he was a fanatical trainspotter.

The train was the focus of his attention during the kicker's preparation.

In a Right Flap

Story is that of a bemused Derek Underwood left the field at Leeds shaking his head.

Pressed into late service as a hooker, Stan Chapman found the opposing tight head prop in Masonic mood, preventing his flap signal to his scrum half by holding onto his left wrist.

The home referee had apparently turned a Nelsonic eye to the shady goings on.

Leaving the field with Derek, Stan announced triumphantly that he used his superior intellect to sort out the problem.

"How?" queried Derek.

FIRE FURY

I HAD an overwhelming response to my plea for refereeing debates last Sunday.

The best one of the week came from from Terry Wilson of Stockton RFC.

"We were playing at a picturesque county ground in the East Riding, and were just beginning to overturn a 30 points deficit with 15 minutes to go when a ringing sound was heard in the distance," he explained.

"Shortly afterwards, a fire engine swung into view and the referee, kit and all, ran off the pitch and jumped into it to do his duty as a retained fireman.

"This left 30 bemused players to troop off early to the bar and sample the local brew to put out their flames. - We claimed a draw."

Don't forget to keep faxing me with more stories on 0191-296 3974.

"Easy," said Stanley.

"I just flapped with my other hand!"

Nuff said!

Advice Mechanical or Matrimonial?

Steve Thornton had recently purchased his first motor vehicle, after successfully passing his Driving Test (a feat his father Brendan repeated on occasions). Unfortunately, he had to leave his new four wheeled pride and joy out in the open under a tree, as his parents had first claim on the family garage.

He came into the club changing room with an earnest expression on his face, seeking advice on his predicament about this new love in his life.

"What do you do if a bird craps on your windscreen?" he asked. Wayne Brom broke off from taping himself into oblivion and offered his solution.

"Well, I wouldn't go out with her again!"

Wayne is shortly to start a new job as an agony aunt on the Beano.

SEASON 1996-97 (CLUB CAPTAIN: PAUL LEE)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Aug.31	A Durham City	L	20	24	T: Douthwaite Cooke Poulson Crozier	0	0	1
Sept.7	H WIDNES	L	6	25	P: Good (2)	0	0	2
14	A Northern (NPI-1)	L	21	46	T: Appleyard Woodhouse Cooke C: Good (3)	0	0	3
21	A B'FORD & BINGLEY	W	23	9	T: Kell Cooke C: Good(2) P: Good(3)	1	0	3
28	H WEST PK. B'HOPE	W	38	18	T: Preston (2) Tighe Kell Cooke Good C: Good P: Good (2)	2	0	3
Oct-05	A SEDGELEY PARK	L	19	41	T: Matchett Wildridge pen. try C: Good (2)	2	0	4
12	H Old Brodleians	W	27	12	T: Etherington (2) Howe C: Turner (3) P: Turner (2)	3	0	4
19	H HULL IONIAN	L	10	19	T: Kitching C: Good P: Good	3	0	5
26	A TYNEDALE	W	26	16	T: Crozier (2) Kitching C: Turner P: Turner dg. Lee	4	0	5
Nov. 9	H WIGTON	W	27	26	T: Turner (L) Thornton C: Turner P: Turner (5)	5	0	5
16	H BROUGHTON PK.	W	21	15	T: Etherington pen. try C: Turner P: Turner(3)	6	0	5
30	H Alnwick	L	20	24	T: Turner(L) (2) Antonini C: Turner P: Turner	6	0	6
Dec. 14	A Westoe	L	5	16	T: White	6	0	7
21	H Winton V (DSC-1)	W	55	6	T: Cooke (3) Lee Shadforth Binns Etherington Preston Crozier C: Turner (5)	7	0	7
28	A Hartlepool Rovers	W	25	15	T: Cooke (2) Thornton Preston C: Turner P: Turner	8	0	7
Jan. 11	H MACCLESFIELD	D	7	7	T: Howe C: Turner	8	1	7
18	A Darlington (DSC-2)	W	22	7	T: White Turner Etherington Crozier C: Kell	9	1	7
25	A BRIDLINGTON	L	18	27	T: White Kitching Kell P: Kell	9	1	8
Feb. 1	H NEW BRIGHTON	L	14	29	T: Turner Tighe C: Turner (2)	9	1	9
8	A BROUGHTON PK.	L	13	40	T: Dixon Naisbitt dg. Good	9	1	10
15	A WIGTON	L	17	23	T: Kitching Brown Turner C: Turner	9	1	11
22	A Blaydon (DSC-SF)	W	23	3	T: Lee Brown Cooke Dixon C: Turner	10	1	11
Mar. 1	H TYNEDALE	W	18	9	T: Howe Webster C: Turner P: Turner (2)	11	1	11
8	H HULL IONIAN	D	17	17	T: Lee(C) (2) Kitching C: Turner	11	2	11
15	H SEDGELEY PARK	W	38	17	T: Lee(C) Kitching Brown Crozier Howe Turner C: Turner (4)	12	2	11
22	A WEST PK. B'HOPE	W	28	8	T: Cooke Howe P: Turner (6)	13	2	11
Apr-05	H B'FORD & BINGLEY	W	50	14	T: Lee(C) (3) Brown (2) Lee Cooke Binns C: Turner (5)	14	2	11
12	A WIDNES	W	29	6	T: Cooke Turner pen. try C: Turner P: Turner (4)	15	2	11
19	H BRIDLINGTON	W	43	10	T: Crozier (3) Lee(C) Kitching Tighe Cooke P: Turner (4)	16	2	11
26	A MACCLESFIELD	W	20	14	T: Cooke (2) Lee(C) Webster	17	2	11
30	H Sunderland (DSC-F)	W	50	11	T: Cooke (2) Binns(2) Lee(C) Turner Howe Crozier C: Turner (5)	18	2	11
May-03	A NEW BRIGHTON	L	8	21	T: Webster P: Turner	18	2	12

Playing record: Played 32 Won 18 Drew 2 Lost 12 For 758 Against 577

Leading scorers: Dave Cooke 18 Tries; Dave Turner 5 Tries+38 conversions+28 penalties (185 points).

SEASON

8

9

-

7

6

Elsewhere...

1997

Britain hands over Hong Kong to China; World chess champion Garry Kasparov beaten over 6 games by a computer. Fashion king Gianni Versace shot dead outside his Florida home.

1998

US President Bill Clinton survives Monica Lewinsky sex scandal; Peter Mandelson quits Labour Cabinet over outcry over secret home loan from another Minister.

Once against stability in the club hierarchy was the basis for a solid season.

John Still returned to the coaching for after his year's sabattical, Simon Moore decided to commute from the Midlands to play for us once more, and Lenny Heira returned to the coaching team from his spell 'on the rigs.' Lenny, a globetrotting Maori, had first intermittently appeared on the scene the previous season. He brought with him boundless enthusiasm and motivation, even if some of his handling skills left the players, and often himself, somewhat bemused by the chaos which occasionally ensued. Lenny had an ace up his sleeve -

Loa Tupou, the mighty Tongan whom he had met whilst they were both based in Perth (Western Australia, that is, not Scotland).

Once the arcane rules of registering foreign players had been conquered with "HQ" at Twickenham, Loa was on his way, our first "professional" player, as John Robinson reminded us.

His presence gave the club a much needed boost in the late autumn when he arrived.

His fearsome tackling made grown men wince, and his alleged amorous charms had ladies' hearts fluttering across Teesside.

It was rumoured that Thornton (Junior) and Crozier followed him

round for mentoring in order to be able to pick up the ladies he had cast aside! (not true).

The 1st XV had reasonable success, although a Semi-Final Durham Cup defeat at Norton at the hands of Mowden Park (a club that had been able to take advantage of the new age of professionalism) was a difficult pill to swallow.

Fortunately Neville Slee led the Saracens to victory in the 2nd XV Cup Final for the second successive season, to bring some silverware back to Norton.

A major disappointment was the defeat of the Stocktonians, under Stan Chapman's unique brand of leadership, who were just unable

to wrest the Durham 4th XV Shield from Blaydon.

The Final went to extra time in a thunderstorm at Hollow Drift and there were many tired limbs dragged off the field after 100 minutes of action...more than enough for two matches of normal Stocktonians Fayre!



Tongan Loa Tupou



1st XV 1997-98 Back row (left to right) J. Coates (Manager); G. Kell; M. Douthwaite; J. Green; I. Todd; B. Dixon; C. Aldus; A. Cowell; S. Moore; S. Roxby; J. Still (Front row, left to right) P. Underwood; D. Kitching; D. Turner; S. White; P. Lee; S. Thornton; M. Howe; D. Tighe; S. Crozier



Mayor saves the day

MIGHTY Mayor Barry Woodhouse leapt into sporting action to save the day.

For Stockton's number one citizen fanned a rather higher number as super sub in a rugby match.

Barry had just finished a Mayoral duty involving a four course lunch when he went to watch his 21-year-old son play away for Stockton thirds at Middlesbrough.

When one of the team had to go off with a dislocated shoulder he took him to the dressing room to give a bit of first aid.

Not wanting to see his lad's team down to

14 men it was a quick change, up 'n' under the wire and onto the pitch.

Although the game was lost his heroic actions were appreciated by the rest of the team - if not by son Paul.

'He was horrified. He thinks I'm too old,' said the 49-year-old, who used to play for Hartlepool and Billingham. I dropped a couple of balls but my tackles were spot on. I had four to make and got them all.

'I came through it unscathed and at the end was hoisted onto the shoulders of the second row in triumph.'

**From our own correspondent,
Wednesday, 25th February 1998;
Durham City "Cherrypickers"
14 points, Stockton 'Longjohns'
55 points**

Hollow Drift was the scene of an epic game of flowing rugby in which Stockton gained ample revenge for last season's defeat at the hands of City.

The Longjohns changing room prior to the encounter was a cross between an apothecary's emporium and an Egyptian mummification parlour, such was the amount of strapping and embrocation used in order to ensure they were able to take the

field. Unfortunately it had little effect on Mr David Benson whose only "good leg" failed after a dynamic opening quarter leaving him hobbling toward the touchline, to be replaced by the even older Ian Fleetham, who was at least now playing with a set of backs that had a vague inkling of the intricacies of the 'Lollipop.'

This reshuffle in the backs brought Warren 'has anyone got any tie ups?' Douglas into the unaccustomed fly half position to partner Peter Armstrong, who was playing his first game for some 13 seasons. With vigorous family support from the touchline ("Pass it, Dad!"), Peter first strolled up the blind side of a maul

for his first score in years, and on unwisely attempting to repeat this was subsequently the victim of a tackle that was apparently made by a distant relative of the infamous hangman Albert Pierrepoint, causing him to retire to the sanctity of the stand.

Whilst the scrummage exchanges appeared to largely become the result of some Kofi Annan-like negotiations by Michael Conlon, both Graham Naisbitt and Maurice Douthwaite managed to lure the opposition into a false sense of security before hoicking them back some 20 yards at a rare City put in near the Stockton line, which drew the observant comment of "You haven't been pushing so far!"

The loose was vigorously contested, none more so than by Chris Ray whose reputation for even tempered jocularity on the field of play seemed to have momentarily deserted him following a stiff arm charge from the opposing number 8. Fortunately Bryan Dixon was at hand to inflame the situation.

With kicking to touch *de rigueur*, the few lineouts that did occur became a test of Mike Wilson's arm strength in trying to hoist John Saunders high enough to shove a "War Cry" under his boots. Fortunately Paul Webster (who was the slowest forward even in this match) proved an easier and closer target under the floodlights.

As the tries flowed with Danny Kitching, Dave Cooke and Dave

Allen all running the opposition, and supporting Stockton players ragged, Dave Turner was given the opportunity to practice his place-kicking, which he should have taken with both hands, as he had little success with his feet.

The second half brought forth the much-acclaimed substitutes, with Brian Hoar and Terry Wilson upsetting the City front row in their first scrummage and drawing the plea, "We had an agreement with the others!"

Harry Carr used his balding pate to good effect in order to dazzle the opposition from scrum half, whilst Andy Ducker actually completed a match without the

need for medical attention for the first time in memory. John Markl became the party pooper ten metres from the line and was unable to pass to Douglas 'Bader' Agar who at 86 (well, his knees are) and the oldest player on the park, had made 60 yards in support after making a typical tackle.



SEASON 1997-98 (CLUB CAPTAIN: PAUL LEE)

Date	Opposition	R	F	A	Scorers	W	D	L
Aug.23	H Northern	W	13	12	T: Howe C: Moore P: Moore (2)	1	0	0
30	A WIDNES	L	9	15	dg. Lee P: Moore(2)	1	0	1
Sept.13	A Aspatria (NKO-1)	L	13	24	T: Thornton C: Moore P: Moore (2)	1	0	2
20	A BROUGHTON PK.	L	0	56		1	0	3
27	H NEW BRIGHTON	L	13	38	T: Etherington Hanson P: Turner	1	0	4
Oct.11	A MACCLESFIELD	W	25	12	T: Crozier C: Turner dg. Lee(2) P: Turner (4)	2	0	4
18	A WIGTON	L	7	17	T: Thornton C: Turner	2	0	5
25	H TYNEDALE	L	16	32	T: Tighe C: Moore P: Turner (3)	2	0	6
Nov. 1	A Alnwick	W	18	10	T: Moore (2) C: Moore P: Moore (2)	3	0	6
8	A HULL IONIAN	L	7	31	T: Howe C: Moore	3	0	7
15	H MIDDLESBROUGH	L	6	28	P: Moore(2)	3	0	8
29	H BRIDLINGTON	W	22	5	T: Lee Moore P: Moore(4)	4	0	8
Dec.6	H Hartlepool Rovers	W	30	3	T: Beattie (2) Cowell Wildridge Henderson Turner	5	0	8
13	A Percy Park	W	56	14	T: Brown(2)Henderson(2)Thornton,Wildridge,Moore,Topou,Crozier,Kell P: Moore(2)	6	0	8
20	A WEST PK. B'HOPE	W	24	16	T: Beattie Tighe C: Moore P: Moore (4)	7	0	8
27	A Morpeth	W	13	10	T: Wildridge (2) P: Turner	8	0	8
Jan.10	H DONCASTER	D	9	9	P: Moore (3)	8	1	8
17	A MIDDLESBROUGH	L	17	23	T: Beattie P: Moore (4)	8	1	9
24	H HULL IONIAN	W	32	22	T: Beattie Topou Dixon White C: Moore (3) P: Moore(2)	9	1	9
31	A TYNEDALE	D	10	10	T: Crozier C: Turner P: Turner	9	2	9
Feb-07	H WIGTON	W	32	20	T: Brown Topou Lee Etherington Howe C: Moore (2) P: Moore	10	2	9
14	H MACCLESFIELD	W	23	6	T: Howe Kitching Crozier C: Kitching P: Moore (2)	11	2	9
28	A Durham City(DSC-2)	W	71	19	T: Wildridge (3) Topou (2) Hoar Beattie Turner Crozier Thornton Etherington C: Turner(8)	12	2	9
Mar.7	A NEW BRIGHTON	L	9	21	P: Moore (3)	12	2	10
14	H BROUGHTON PK.	W	31	18	T: Aldus Brown Beattie C: Turner (2) P: Turner (4)	13	2	10
21	A BRIDLINGTON	L	22	23	T: Kitching Turner Crozier C: Turner (2) P: Turner	13	2	11
28	A H'pool Rovers(DSC-3)	W	58	5	T: Topou (2) Crozier (2) Kitching Lee Dixon Etherington Wildridge dg. Tighe C: Turner (3) Moore (2)	14	2	11
Apr-04	H WIDNES	W	20	17	T: Cowell Brown C: Turner (2) P: Turner (2)	15	2	11
11	A DONCASTER	L	8	13	T: Kitching P: Turner	15	2	12
18	H D'ton M.Pk.(DSC-SF)	L	13	16	T: Henderson C: Turner P: Turner (2)	15	2	13
25	H WEST PK.B'HOPE	L	13	24	T: Underwood C: Turner P: Turner dg. Lee	15	2	14

Playing record: Played 31 Won 15 Drew 2 Lost 14 For 640 Against 569

**Leading scorers: Loa Topou 7 Tries; Paul Beattie 7 Tries;
Brett Wildridge 7 Tries; Simon Moore 4 Tries + 9 conversions + 35 penalties (143points);
Dave Turner 3 Tries + 18 conversions + 20 penalties (111points).**

SEASON

99-98

Elsewhere...

1998

Arsenal win the League and Cup Double; Linda McCartney, wife of ex-Beatle Sir Paul, dies; Terrorist bomb kills 28 in Omagh, N. Ireland

1999

Climber George Mallory's body, missing for over 60 years, is found on Everest; Lennox Lewis is Britain's first undisputed Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the century.

The realities of the professional era began to hit home when, over the close season, 1st XV squad players departed from the club to join Darlington, our local rivals, some three leagues below us, which had just declared themselves a professional club. Alan Brown took over as Stockton's skipper, and the whole club worked hard pre-season in order to dispel the popular rumours that Stockton 'were for the drop.'

New players Lee and David Richardson joined from Middlesbrough, Geoff Waterfield

returned from Redcar, and Paul Thomson and Scott Manson joined from West Hartlepool.

At the end of September we were top of North One. but fter that, injuries began to pile up.

Bryan Dixon had disc trouble, Andy Cowell and Chris Aldus both broke legs, Danny Kitching damaged knee ligaments, Scott Manson fractured a scaploid, and Steve Thornton broke his knee. All long term injuries.

Nevertheless, a creditable mid-table position was a well-earned reward for the season's hard graft.

Linda Coates, the club physio was working overtime, and at one stage there appeared to be more people waiting to see Linda than training!

Mind you, the first appearance of the acupuncture needles sent most players running for the training ground.

At one time, a trophy was to be instigated for the 'Squealer of the Week' in the Physio suite. However, when it was realised that Mark Binns would win outright every week, the investment was not made.

A semi-final defeat against

Blaydon meant the County 1st XV Cup did not return to Stockton, and at the end of the season, three players who had been central to the success of Stockton over the previous fifteen seasons announced their retirement; Graham Naisbett, Maurice Douthwaite and Bryan Dixon, three of the best forwards ever to wear a Stockton shirt, and all proud to wear Durham County caps.



2nd XV 1998-99 Back row, left to right) S. Roxby; S. Brown; W. Brown; K. Etherington; I. Todd; M. Poulsen; T. Smith; R. Bartlam; I. Edwards; B. Hoar (Front row, left to right) G. Kell; A. Antonini; S. White; P. Woodhouse; N. Slee; G. Delmar; J. Staples; A. Bare; D. Cooke



The Future for Stockton RFC

(Left) the young players from Ian Ramsey School proudly display their silverware.

The Under 15 and Under 16 sides both won their Durham County Schools Finals, and both teams train with Stockton RFC.

Who knows who the young Stockton stars of the future may be...



THWAITES
THE NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUES

**NORTH 1
FINAL LEAGUE TABLE**

Date: 17th April 1999 Week No.: 30

Club	P	W	D	HOME			AWAY			Pts
				L	F	A	L	F	A	
Doncaster	22	13	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	37
Tynedale	22	10	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	30
Middlesbrough	22	9	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	27
Blaydon	22	8	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	24
Hull Ionians	22	7	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	21
Stockton	22	6	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	18
Macclesfield	22	7	0	5	1	1	4	2	1	24
Widnes	22	5	0	4	1	1	4	2	1	16
Widnes	22	4	0	6	1	1	5	0	7	12
Broughion Park	22	3	2	5	1	1	5	0	8	10
Bridlington	22	2	0	6	1	1	5	0	8	4

RESULT OF FINAL MATCHES PLAYED ON SATURDAY 17th April 1999

BLAYDON	8	v	STOCKTON	7
DONCASTER	33	v	NORTHERN	7
MIDDLESBROUGH	46	v	WIDNES	3
WIDNES	20	v	BROUGHION PK	11
MACCLESFIELD	16	v	TYNEDALE	20
BRIDLINGTON	14	v	HULL IONIAN	18

CONGRATULATIONS TO DONCASTER AFTER THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT OF LAST YEAR!

CONDOLANCES TO NORTHERN FOR THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT OF THIS YEAR!

FAREWELL, WITH REGRETS, TO THOSE AT THE WRONG END, WHO WE SHALL NOT BE MEETING UP WITH AGAIN NEXT YEAR



1st XV, 1998-99 Back row (left to right) B. Thornton (Fixture Secretary); T. Wilson; (Chairman of Selectors); G. Delmar; D. Turner; I. Todd; M. Binns; B. Wildridge; B. Dixon; J. Andrew; C. Aldus; M. Douthwaite; G. Naisbett; J. Coates (Manager); J. Still (Coach); Front row D. Kitching; D. Cooke; N. Smithson; D. Tighe; A. Brown; L. Richardson; D. Richardson; S. Crozier; S. Thornton

The Juniors

Signs of a breakthrough!

The Junior Club, which many will say was the vehicle by which the Stockton Club launched itself into the most exciting twenty years of its

existence, came about quite fortuitously after the advent of mini-rugby in 1973/74.

Joe Rayner and Alan Todd quite simply started to coach the mini-game on Sunday

mornings, with a view, largely, to interest as many youngsters who would care to join in.

Immediately Jim Fox and Len Horner came on board (as did Mike Jones) and in the 1974-75

season we very quickly had mini-sides able to compete at Under-13, Under-12 and Under 10 years.



We have to say that we owe the Red House School, Norton, an immense debt here.

They'd had a full season's start on the idea, and their youngsters, with parents, literally turned up in droves to help and publicise the venture.

Needless to say, Under-12's soon find they're Under-13's without any mini-rugby accommodation, and so we then had the need to provide full 15-a-side rugby for post-mini age groups.

Largely at Len Horner's instigation, we quickly had fixtures for an Under-13 team to start season 1976-77, and such was the interest in the local schools (and here we've got to mention the Grange School, and Doug Agar and Peter Hudson particularly) we were able to field Under-14 and Under-15 teams in full games on those same Sunday mornings. Like Topsy - it just grewed! Very quickly we had a (lovely) monster on our hands.

Such was the enthusiasm shown, and such was the need to push the idea around the local schools, the late (and sadly missed) Jim Graham prepared a Schools Liaison Strategy that caught the eye of, and gained a commendation, from the hallowed halls of 'Headquarters', Twickenham no less!

We were literally up and running and a look at that very first Under-15's side of 1976-77, ten of whom went on to play 1st XV Rugby (indeed, some of them still do at Stockton), suggests that

the idea of 'catchin' 'em young' can be an extremely effective way of 'catchin' 'em for good.'

It could be said, with all due modesty, that Stockton's Junior Club set the pattern for the North East.

Certainly, along with the advent of the meritocratic leagues system it was directly responsible for enabling this previously unfashionable Club to adopt a Division-wide, respectable profile. Who knows where our new breed of young players, coaches and administrators can take us!



The Colts

Building for The future

Stockton Colts first started competitive matches in the late 1950's when Grangefield Grammar School formed the nucleus of the side.

In those days, players played both for the school in the morning and the Colts in the afternoon.

The Colts today are a product of a natural progression through the Stockton Junior Section, as many schools and colleges no longer play rugby, for whatever reason. The catchment areas for players remain constant; with



STOCKTON Senior Colts, who beat Ryton 26-0 to win the Mike Amphries' Memorial Trophy for the Durham County Rugby Union Championship for the first time. They are: Back row (left to right): Peter Dixon (team

manager), Geoff Cleminson, Peter Cass, Graham Docherty, Mark McNally, Ian Hamblett, Peter Armstrong (coach), Trevor Wild (coach). Middle row: Stuart Graham, Chris Todd, Neville Slee, Graham Kell, Mark Graham (capt.), Paul Lee, Stephen

White, Graham Newton. Front row: Andrew Maddison, Wayne Roxby.

They are pictured with the Jeff Carter Memorial Cup after beating Stockton Sixth Form College 22-3 in their annual match.

the majority coming from the Stockton, Norton, Billingham and Eaglescliffe areas. Coaching/training sessions generally take place on Thursday evenings, with the players being encouraged to train with the senior players on Monday evenings or to train independently to attain the fitness levels that are now required. This especially applies if their training is only once a week and the aim is to feed players into the senior sides and produce a 1st XV regular. In earlier years, roughly 15 players

progressed into the senior sides every two years, but now, with more players going away to university, this figure has reduced to 15 players in 4 years. Coaching has always been undertaken by willing volunteers, notably Roger Atkinson, John Green, Bob Howat, Peter Dixon, Trevor Wild, John Maloney and recently Peter Armstrong, who has been the mainstay since 1985. The coach's role is manyfold, including not only being the Coaching Organiser, but also Transport Manager, Treasurer and Agony Aunt. The Secretary duty is currently carried out by Matthew England, who manages to fit this in between his Durham County and North of England commitments. With the growing reputation of Stockton Colts and the need of tougher opposition, fixtures have been sought further afield, the result being a steadily improving

fixture list.

Touring sides from throughout the British Isles have also been entertained, and the fixture list includes the better Yorkshire sides (Morley, Harrogate and Leeds), while tourists have arrived from such far flung places as Syston, Nuneaton, South Leicester, Oldham (England); Nelson and Croesyceiliog, (Wales); Grangemouth, Gala Wanderers (Scotland) and CIYMS (Ireland).

Many notable players have progressed through the Colts to become regular 1st XV players. including Maurice Douthwaite, Stephen White, Graham Naisbitt, Brian Hoar, Philip Henderson, Nick Smithson, Keith Etherington, Bryan Dixon, Alan Brown, Simon

Moore, Stephen Thornton, Simon White, Graham Kell, and Simon Crozier.

Talented players playing 1st XV rugby at other clubs include Craig Lee, Martin Howe, Paul Beattie and Paul Lee (currently at Darlington), Jeremy Good (Ilkestone) Andrew Richardson (Pocklington), Philip Champion (Hartlepool Rovers), Paul Metcalfe and Geoff Hurst (Billingham) and Russell Earnshaw (Bath).

Apologies to any missed out!

There have been several outstanding performances over the years.

The 1988/89 Season saw both the U-19's and U-17's lifting the Durham Cup, a first for any club in Durham, while the U-19's also



won the Sandal 7's and the Darlington Festival.

The 1992/93 side won the Blaydon 7-a side Tournament without conceding a point and the recent side reached the last 16 of the National Clubs Colts Cup before losing to Torquay. A great experience for the players. We have an impressive list of players who have had County and North of England honours and two players, Simon Moore and Jeremy Good, were invited to the England Colts trials.

The growing number of cup competitions and tournaments is increasing, both 5 a-side and 7 a-side, and demanding a better standard of entrant each year and therefore a greater intensity of matches.

A combination of both improved fixture list and competition/

tournament participation is needed for the development of players, but for how much longer?

The 1998/99 season saw 4 Durham County sides; U 17 Clubs/ Schools, U 18 Schools, U18 Clubs and U19 Clubs.

In the professional era, a club will only improve with a strong Colts side.

At Stockton we intend to build on our excellent tradition.



51 YEARS OF POST WAR PLAYING RECORDS

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts For	Pts Agst
1948-49 ..	24	10	2	12	156	204
1949-50 ..	26	16	2	8	288	206
1950-51 ..	25	16	3	6	348	155
1951-52 ..	30	9	3	18	192	411
1952-53 ..	31	19	4	8	415	151
1953-54 ..	29	11	3	15	274	243
1954-55 ..	27	13	0	14	262	254
1955-56 ..	28	12	1	15	292	278
1956-57 ..	33	15	1	17	306	318
1957-58 ..	25	3	1	21	135	338
1958-59 ..	30	12	5	13	210	248
1959-60 ..	32	14	1	17	220	301
1960-61 ..	33	14	5	14	263	245
1961-62 ..	31	12	1	18	308	344
1962-63 ..	23	14	2	7	269	186
1963-64 ..	29	16	4	9	322	170
1964-65 ..	31	22	1	8	536	238
1965-66 ..	29	17	0	12	314	212
1966-67 ..	31	21	3	7	433	188
1967-68 ..	35	19	4	12	502	316
1968-69 ..	30	14	0	16	364	421
1969-70 ..	33	9	2	22	320	545
1970-71 ..	36	11	3	22	348	503
1971-72 ..	39	24	0	15	600	475
1972-73 ..	37	23	1	13	726	469
1973-74 ..	42	27	1	14	725	467
1974-75 ..	38	20	1	17	613	535
1975-76 ..	36	16	1	19	460	539
1976-77 ..	36	17	4	15	484	378
1977-78 ..	35	23	0	12	569	380
1978-79 ..	28	13	1	14	371	330
1979-80 ..	38	16	4	18	493	521
1980-81 ..	37	22	3	12	603	357
1981-82 ..	33	23	1	9	505	283
1982-83 ..	38	20	1	17	522	457
1983-84 ..	37	21	2	14	538	413
1984-85 ..	37	18	1	18	459	491
1985-86 ..	35	18	1	16	449	562
1986-87 ..	37	26	5	6	773	276
1987-88 ..	39	29	1	9	749	293
1988-89 ..	36	24	0	12	656	400
1989-90 ..	37	28	2	7	750	355
1990-91 ..	36	29	2	5	817	268
1991-92 ..	34	14	1	19	485	631
1992-93 ..	34	20	0	14	624	453
1993-94 ..	32	17	0	15	637	591
1994-95 ..	33	26	2	5	779	378
1995-96 ..	31	20	0	11	777	504
1996-97 ..	32	18	2	12	758	577
1997-98 ..	31	15	2	14	640	569
1998-99 ..	27	13	0	14	418	556

CLUB TROPHIES

1964-65	Durham County 7's Durham 3rd XV Cup
1966-67	Furness 7's Durham County 7's
1968-69	Newark 7's
1971-72	Redcar Tournament
1973-74	Newark 7's
1974-75	Durham 4th XV Cup
1978-79	Durham 4th XV Cup
1980-81	Durham County 7's
1982-83	Durham County 7's
1984-85	Cleavelands 7's
1985-86	Whitby 7's
1986-87	Whitby 7's Durham County 7's Pernod Attack Award
1987-88	N.E. Division 1 Champs Whitby 7's Durham County 7's Durham 3rd XV Cup
1988-89	Durham County 7's
1989-90	N.E. Division 1 Champions J & B Journal Trophy Champions Durham County 7's Durham 3rd XV Cup
1990-91	N. Division 2 Champions Durham Senior Cup J & B Journal Trophy Champions Durham 2nd XV Cup West Park (B) 7's Durham County 7's
1992-93	Durham Senior Cup Durham 4th XV Cup
1993-94	Durham Senior Cup
1994-95	Durham Senior Cup West Park Brarnhope 7's
1995-96	Darlington Building Society 10's Trophy
1996-97	Durham Senior Cup Durham 2nd XV Cup
1997-98	Durham 2nd XV Cup

COLTS & JUNIORS

1961-62	Lormer Cup (U19's)
1977-78	Lormer Cup (U19's)
1978-79	Darlington Festival Champions (U' 15's)
1979-80	Darlington Festival Champions (U15's)
1980-81	York 7's (U 19's) North British 7's (U15's)
1984-85	Durham County Champions (U17's) Darlington Festival Champions (U17's)
1985-86	Durham County Champions (U19's)
1986-87	Durham County Champions (U17's)
1987-88	Durham County Champions (U17's) Sandal 7's (U19's) Horden 7's (U19's)
1988-89	Houghton 7's (U14's) Durham County Champions (U14's) (U17's) (U19's) Darlington Festival Champions (U19's) Sandal 7's (U19's)
1989-90	Durham County Champions (U15's) (U19's) Darlington Festival Champions (U19's) Horden 7's (U19's) Stockton Centenary 7's (U15's)
1990-91	Durham County Champions (U13's) (U16's) (U19's) Darlington Festival Champions (U19's) Stockton Centenary 7's (U13's) (U16's) Boroughmuir Tournament Champions (U14's)
1991-92	Durham County Champions (U14's) (U17's)
1992-93	Darlington Festival Champions (U19's) Blaydon 7's (U19's)
1993-94	Durham County Champions (U19's) (U16's) (U13's)
1994-95	Durham County Champions (U16's) (U12's)
1995-96	Durham County Champions (U13's) Darlington Festival Champions (U19's)

COUNTY HONOURS

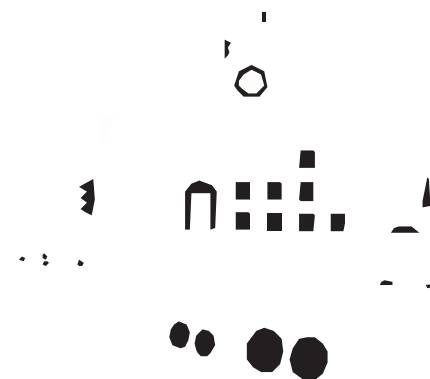
During a 126 year history, 27 Stockton players have won their County Colours, accumulating 219 appearances. This is the full list with numbers in brackets referring to each player's total. (All Durham County unless stated).

R.BICKNELL	1874-1876	(2)
C.O. FAWCUS	1874-1875	(1)
S. POWELL	1874-1876	(3)
W. HILL	1874-1876	(3)
C.J. SADDLER	1874-1876	(2)
J. SLADDEN	1887-1888	(2)
N.BOWEN	1926-1927	(3)
K. WILLIAMSON	1949-1951	(11)
C.H. TEALEY	1950-1951	(9)
R.L. COULSON	1955-1956	(1)
D. RICHARDSON	1955-1956	(1)
E. A. CHAPMAN	1964-1967	(32)
O.TURNBULL	1964-1967	(6)
C. SINCLAIR	1964-65	(2)
C. BACON (Notts/Lincs/Derby)	1965-1966	(3)
A. MAKIN	1975-1976	(1)
D. COOKE	1983-1985	(7)
R MARLEY (Glamorgan)	1986-1987	(1)
M.DOUTHWAITE	1987-1995	(29)
G.NAISBETT	1987-1994	(27)
B. DIXON	1987-1995	(18)
A. BROWN	1988- 1990	(10)
J. SAUNDERS	1989-1991	(3)
P. LEE	1989- 1995	(6)
C. ALDUS	1993- 1995	(8)
P. BEATTIE	1993- 1994	(3)
K. ETHERINGTON	1995-1997	(10)
D. TIGHE	1996-1997	(3)
S. CROZIER	1996-1997	(1)
D. MUIRHEAD	1997- 1998	(1)

125th Anniversary Roll of Honour

Joe Glover
Phil Iveson
Joe Byrom
John Robinson
Arthur Dodgson
Tim McCarthy
George Naisbitt
Albert Eyre
R. Skillbeck
Denis Chisman
Peter Wishlade
Keith Kelly
Terry Wilson
Paul Lee
Mike Garlick
John Coates
Linda Coates
Jim Fox
Tony Fox
Bill Webster
Allan H. Brown
Ken Williamson

Steve Tighe
K. H. Hoyle
Kevin Keay
Len Horner
Chris Horner
Jeremy Horner
Keith Swabey
Russell Earnshaw
Mrs P.M. Simpson
Mrs H.J. Tealey
(The late C.H. Tealey)
Dave Humphreys
Brendan Thornton
Dave Grange
Frank Cook M.P.
Alan Cummins
Simon Brown
Michael Jones
Alan Todd
John Maloney
Len Small
Jeff Costello



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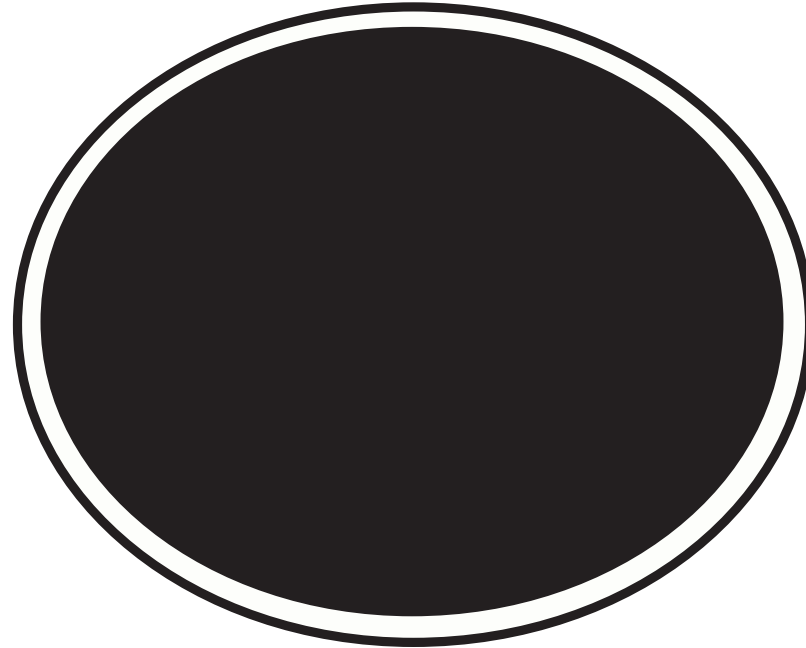
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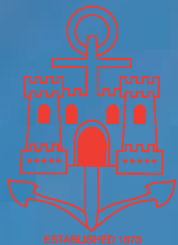
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