

Rotherham v Cornish Pirates

Saturday March 29th Kick Off 3pm

Preview By Crowlas Boy

At this stage of last season the Pirates had just secured a trip to Twickenham after a tense victory over deadly rivals Plymouth Albion in the Trophy semi-final. The league game prior to that match saw the Pirates lock horns with high flying Earth Titans (as they were known last season) in front of the Sky TV cameras at the Rec. The match was drawn in foul weather and the Titans remained 2nd in the table just 5 points behind eventual champions Leeds.

My how things have changed at Clifton Lane since then!

Raiding parties from Leeds and Plymouth Albion decimated their pack during the close season stealing the signatures of Adam Hopcroft, Erik Lund, Hendre Fourie and Jannie Bornman, whilst the Pirates snuck in and helped themselves to Messrs Steenson and Tuohy. As major sponsors Earth pulled out there was little the Titans could do but wave goodbye to many of their best players and this season has unfortunately for them been much more of a struggle.

Heading in to today's game they sit in 11th place in the table, safe from relegation, but with only nine wins to their credit and an overall points for and against difference of -228. However their form this month has been more encouraging with a home victory over Plymouth Albion (34-22) and a win on the road at Old Deer Park last weekend as they defeated the Exiles 26-25 scoring four tries in the process. Contrast this with the fact that prior to this their only league victory since beating Bedford at home at the end of November came at Esher at the back end of January, and you will appreciate that today may not be as easy for the Pirates as some may suspect

Cornish Pirates:

15 Adryan Winnan	14 Rhodri McAtee	13 Paul devlin	12 Steve Winn	11 Jimmy Moore
10 Gareth Steenson	9 Richard Bolt	8 Cap'n Cowley	7 Sam Betty	6 Chris Cracknell
5 Bruce Cumming	4 Heino Senekal	3 Dan Seal,	2 Rob Elloway	1 Alan Paver.

Replacements From: Darren Dawidiuk, Peter Cook, Sam heard, Matt Evans, Iva Motusaga Ollie Thomas, Brian Tuohy, Sam Parsons

Rotherham

15 Mike Whitehead	14 Jon Feeley	13 Jamie Blackwood	12 Mark Lawson	11 Errie Claassens
10 Tom Allen	9 Chris Hallam	8 Alex Dunlop	7 Neil Cochrane	6 Barry Jacobsz
5 Dan Smith	4 L McGowan	3 Ben Prescott	2 Nigel Conroy	1 Stuart Corsar

Replacements From: Jamie Kilbane, Jonathan McMillan, Simon Bunting, Frazer Wilford Ryan Burrows, Jamie Sutton, Neil Chivers, Jamie Lennard, Vereniki Goneva, Stephen Grissing

Match Officials:

Referee: Tim Wigglesworth - Touch judges: Dave Edmunds, Barry Dalby

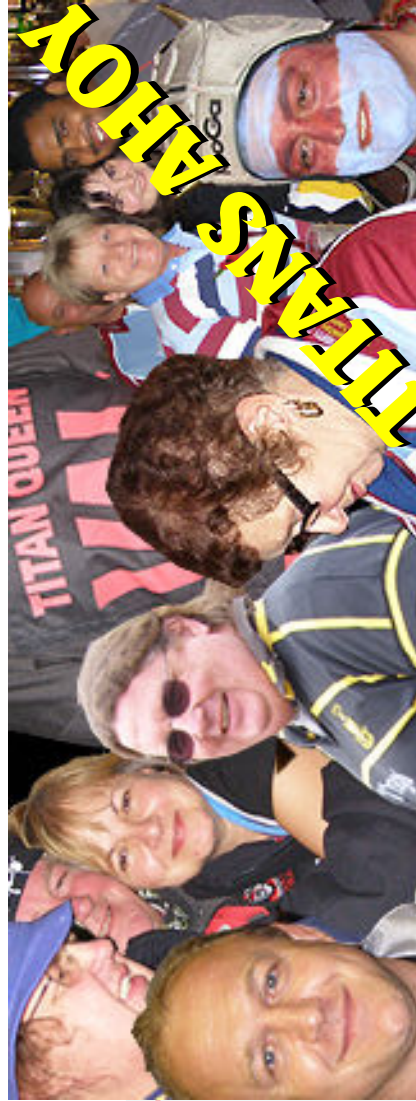
Last Time Out

18/11/07 - Cornish Pirates 28 Rotherham 18 - Camborne Rec

A somewhat forgettable match on a stormy day in West Cornwall. The Titans took an early ten point lead courtesy of a penalty and a converted try from former Pirates Neil Chivers before the Pirates rallied. It was a battle alright but four tries were scored by the home side from Beardshaw, Kemp, Fairhurst and Motusaga. Rhodri got a yellow card, Vunga Lilo made his debut, the Titans scored a late consolation try and then the heavens opened to wash away the memories of a dull contest!

11/11/2006 - Earth Titans 18 Cornish Pirates 24 - Clifton Lane

On the day that Argentina won their first ever international at Twickenham the Pirates came back from the dead to overturn an 18-0 half-time deficit. With a howling gale at their back the Titans scored late tries in the half through Hennessey and Gareth Steenson. The Irishman also converted his own try and slotted two penalties. After the break the tide turned dramatically. Tries from Cattle and Winn converted by Di Bernardo along with a penalty from the little general reduced the arrears to 18-17 with ten minutes to go. Lewis Vinnecombe snatched the win with a late try in the corner converted, this time from the touchline, by Alberto. The Titans folded and the points belonged to the Pirates.



PRESS GANG EXPRESS

Issue 4 29/03/08

ROTHERHAM V CORNISH PIRATES SAT MARCH 29TH 2008

Welcome aboard the Press Gang Express for today's mission to Clifton Lane, Rotherham – the current home of today's opponents, a formidable cow-pie and a notable enclave of claret and blue Vikings. After last Sunday's demolition of Doncaster we can surely allow ourselves a moment or two of indulgence to contemplate another try-fest today, can't we?

As we are staying overnight in Rotherham after the match at the Carlton Park Hotel there is no rush to "sup-up" and get back on the bus after the match. There is no post-match schedule as such so feel free to enjoy your stay to the full. We will advise as to the departure time for the return journey in good time, honest!

Please remember that you are each responsible for your own hotel bill and if you miss the bus in the morning it's a mighty long walk home!

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this trip's in flight newsletter. Put your feet up, enjoy the catering and bar service and who knows – we may even have a heater and a loo that works.

Rotherham Factoids

Rotherham, along with St.Ives (Huntingdonshire), Wakefield and Bradford-upon-Avon (Somerset), has one of only four remaining Bridge Chapels in Britain. These were common in medieval times and were used by travellers to pray for safe crossings or to give thanks for a safe arrival.

Rotherham derives its modern day name from the Saxon Rodreham, meaning homestead or village on the river Rother.

Prior to the Norman Conquest Acun the Saxon was lord of the manor. William the Conqueror however had other ideas, just for a change, dispossessed him (a quaint Norman term for "brutally murdered with an axe") and gave the settlement to his half-brother – Robert, Count of Mortain.

During the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles I, Rotherham embraced the royalist cause. However after the siege of Sheffield in 1643 it was claimed by the parliamentarians. Council Tax went up, bin collections became fortnightly, and getting your kids into the local school became a real nightmare.

Next Press Gang Trip Moseley

The next away fixture for the Pirates is at Billesley Common, the home of Moseley, on April 19th. For anyone who does not yet know this trip will be FREE to Press Gang Members ONLY!

We are providing one 44-seater bus and bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis.

In the interests of fairness regular travellers will be given booking priority.

Press Gang Membership

REMINDER

A quick word for those who have not yet renewed their Press Gang membership; it is now due and for the princely sum of £5 you can remain a part of this rapidly expanding supporters club.

There will be new initiatives for next season and we will be looking to improve the way match travel service and make it even more affordable.

The following are a few anecdotes of my husband Edwin's refereeing days between 1972 and 1986.

Ormsdale RFC (sadly no longer in existence) played on a site near Redruth. They had no clubhouse of their own but used the facilities of the Treleigh Arms. On match days the team and officials would change at the pub, then a raggle-taggle band of players, officials, wives and girlfriends would make their way across the old Redruth bypass, over the new one, down a lane, over a stile and across two fields before reaching the pitch where the cows would have to be chased off before play could commence. Following the game we would all retrace our steps back to the pub for the traditional post-match jollity.

Edwin was invited to be one of the touch judges at a game in Carlisle between Cumbria and Cornwall in the County Championship. After the post-match dinner at a local hotel, and the usual high jinks, everyone retired for the night. However, in the early hours some of the Cornwall team felt a bit peckish and decided to raid the kitchen for a snack. Someone found an enormous tray of eggs in the fridge so they decided to have a fry-up. Unfortunately, whilst the tray was being taken to the cooker, the carrier tripped and the eggs were smashed on the floor. Panic set in but someone found the ideal solution – a Hoover! They owned up next morning and all damages were paid for.

Edwin went on many exchange trips to other parts of the country. On one occasion he and three fellow referees were on exchange in the London area where they were to stay the night with one of the local officials, who was a rep for Guinness. He had managed to acquire a barrel of the Dublin-brewed stuff, and a good time was had by all well into the night. They were obliged to polish off the last of the Guinness at breakfast next morning before driving back to Cornwall.

He refereed a game between Newquay Hornets and Cullompton. The visitors were on their "Easter Tour" and as they were coming to a seaside area they had all brought their buckets and spades with them. They had to eat their food with the spade and drink their beer from the bucket otherwise they would be fined. After the meal in the clubhouse they treated everyone to their party piece. The players stood in a circle, backs to the "audience", and sang a bawdy song. They gradually removed one item of clothing – shirt then trousers – until they were left in just their skimpy red underpants. Everyone was agog – would they or wouldn't they? They did, which was a sight to behold for all the ladies present! Some people may say that those were the good old days of Cornish rugby. Personally I think the rugby is more exciting nowadays, but thank goodness the Press Gang is still keeping alive the old post-match traditions – almost!

Tell Us Your Story

I need your Pirates memories too folks for this newsletter. You will end up getting my whole life story otherwise!!! Please e-mail it to Dick Straughan Dickeeeee@aol.com. And share it with your fellow travellers.

Today's Food & Bar Service

Once again we can thank John Murrish for providing in-flight rolls. Freshly made rolls priced at £1.00

Fresh Coffee 50p a cup (not instant)

At the Poop Deck Bar thanks to Skinners Brewery we have Betty Stoggs on draught at £1.50 a pint
Also cans of Cider & Lager, Vodka & Gin with a variety of mixers

ALL DRINKS £1.50.

Please put payment for food & drinks in the relevant cash boxes to help with accounting - ENJOY !!



Player Stats Season 2007/08 - Week 26 (23 March 2008)

Apps	Reps	T	C	P	D	PTS
Gareth Steenson	21	5	52	47	1	273
Ollie Thomas	15	5	3	16	2	53
Paul Devlin	15	5	10	0	0	50
Jimmy Moore	17	7	7	0	3	44
Chris Cracknell	21	2	8	0	0	40
Rhodri McAtee	13	10	6	0	0	30
Vunga Lilo	11	2	6	0	0	30
Brian Tuohy	10	5	6	0	0	30
Iva Motusaga	19	5	5	0	0	25
Adryan Winnan	14	0	5	0	0	25
Nathan Kemp	10	7	4	0	0	20
Tim Cowley	21	1	3	0	0	15
Ed Fairhurst	18	3	3	0	0	15
Steve Winn	14	1	3	0	0	15
Heino Senekal	15	2	2	0	0	10
Dan Seal	19	6	1	0	0	5
Peter Cook	15	6	1	0	0	5
Joe Beardsshaw	15	1	1	0	0	5
Rob Elloway	14	6	1	0	0	5
Alan Paver	11	6	1	0	0	5
Nick Buckley	9	4	1	0	0	5
Richard Bolt	8	3	1	0	0	5
Sam Betty	2	5	1	0	0	5
Eniola Gesinde	2	2	1	0	0	5
Darren Dawiduk	1	10	1	0	0	5
Bruce Cumming	18	3	0	0	0	0
Matt Evans	11	8	0	0	0	0
Ali Koko	8	1	0	0	0	0
Sam Heard	7	8	0	0	0	0
Mark Ireland	7	0	0	0	0	0
Scott Hobson	5	9	0	0	0	0
Simon Whalling	2	2	0	0	0	0
Stan McKeen	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sam Parsons	0	3	0	0	0	0
Penalty Try	0	0	2	0	0	10
		88	68	52	1	735

National League Division One - 2007/08 (Week 24)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Northampton	26	26	0	0	135	295	20	124
2 Exeter	26	21	0	5	789	371	17	101
3 Nottingham	26	20	0	6	726	456	21	101
4* Cornish Pirates	26	19	0	6	735	486	12	89
5 Doncaster	26	19	0	6	713	479	13	89
6 Bedford	26	16	0	10	614	475	12	76
7 Coventry	26	10	1	15	556	598	16	58
8 Plymouth Albion	26	11	0	15	455	466	12	56
9 London Welsh	26	11	0	15	436	610	7	51
10 Esher	26	10	0	16	460	692	9	49
11 Rotherham	25	9	0	16	456	684	13	49
12 Moseley	25	9	1	15	408	669	5	43
13 Newbury	25	8	1	16	434	601	9	43
14 Sedgley Park	26	5	1	20	420	771	11	34
15 Pertemps Bees	26	4	0	22	401	630	13	29
16 Launceston	25	5	0	20	343	788	5	25

*3 points Deducted

This Weekend's Games

Saturday, 29th March 2008
Rotherham v Pirates
Coventry v Pertemps Bees
Doncaster v Bedford
Exeter v Esher
Launceston v Newbury
Northampton v Nottingham
Plymouth Albion v Moseley

Remaining Home Games

Sun April 6th Plymouth Albion K0 3pm
Sat April 26th London Welsh K0 3pm

Edwin Bryant Trophy

The Edwin Bryant Trophy donated by Carole Bryant, has been named in recognition of her late husband, whose contribution to the club & the community was legendary.

The trophy will be awarded to the player chosen by Press Gang vote and will be presented by Carole at the last match of the season: London Welsh Members should shortly receive postal nomination & voting forms

Press Gang Travel Raffle

Today's travel raffle prize is a mystery as we go to press. No doubt Marshy will think of something. All Proceeds to the Press Gang Travel Fund



Bruce & Sheila's Notes

Bruce & Sheila Say:

Clubhouse food from 1pm homemade steak & ale pie or chilli. Other supplies turn rt. out of ground miniamt 50yds
Disco in the club about 7.30/1am
Fancy an Indian later? let us know and we'll get a table booked if you don't mind sharing with us Rotherham reprobrates

Taxis Some Numbers

Azad Taxis 01709 366 023
Alpine Taxis 01709 552 777
Gold Star 01709 366 666
A1 Taxis 01709 555 555

