

**CENTAURS
RFC**

V

GRASS#OPPERS

30th April 2016



Club History



CENTAURS RFC

The Club was inaugurated as Lyons R.F.C. on 16th May 1923. The 1939-45 war years apart, the Club spanned 45 happy years at Sudbury until in 1968 J. Lyons and Co. sold their sports ground thereby threatening the Club's existence. However the future was secured when Cyril Brandon was instrumental in negotiating our move to Osterley and thus on 3rd May 1968 Centaurs R.F.C. was formed as an open club. The ground at Osterley is owned by University College School, Hampstead. We shared the ground with U.C.S. Old Boys R.F.C. until 1979 when they moved back to the school playing fields and we became long term tenants of the school.

The first season, 1979-80, on our own at Osterley saw our most successful 1st XV since the unbeaten side of 1932-33. The team won 29 out of 38 games and reached the 4th round of the Middlesex Cup losing 14-0 to Saracens.

In 1985 the Club enjoyed its first ever appearance at Twickenham when our 7-a-side team distinguished themselves by qualifying for the Middlesex County Clubs Competition.

1987-88 saw the inauguration of a National League system with the Courage Clubs Championship. The Club responded by winning promotion and we maintained that League status until 1998. In 2000, the amount of rent required by UCS combined with the other running costs rendered the continued occupation of the ground at Osterley financially unviable. Centaurs RFC therefore surrendered the lease at the costs of its remaining assets. However, the Club was allowed to retain sufficient funds to enable a re-location to Richmond where we rented a Council owned pitch adjacent to the Athletic Ground and ran one side playing in Middlesex League 4. The Club continued to run a side until 2003 but the poor changing facilities provided by Richmond BC caused the number of players to dwindle to such an extent that it became impossible to field a team.

Such was the strength of the past playing membership, the Club has continued to operate as an association and re-build our reserves which are used for charitable purposes. We would still be interested in any group or organisation that would like to play under the Centaurs.

www.centaurs-rfc.co.uk Facebook : Centaurs RFC





The Front Row...

The vice ring of the scrum. In Golden Oldies rugby they play a separate game with the opposing front three. Often their game is played in one part of the field, without the ball, while the rest proceed elsewhere. After 15 minutes they are always completely shagged and, like all alcoholics, vow this is the last time. Multi coloured belly button lint is a prerequisite. Front rowers are reluctant to move any body part at all. However, some have been seen to give a small jump or squirm as those in the second row grasp and clutch between their legs feeling for something to grip firmly on.

**Paul
Desmonde**

**Prop
Forward**
...either side



Coach driver, former bouncer, travelled round the world, degree in business, realised that fat is the new thin, and I love the cha cha ha ha ha

**Brian
Donnelly**

Prop



'After demise of Centaurs started myself around various clubs before settling at Teddington Antlers, where both of our boys also play. Mostly stayed in West London, currently 'resting' in the oil business. Not played for seven years.

My preferred position is open side flanker, everyone else would prefer that I stayed on the touchline, but am just about tolerated in the front row where I can do the least damage, and at least people don't have to look at me.'

**Jim
Magee**

Hooker
Age:55



Married and living in Belfast to Sara, who suffered many a wet afternoon on the side line with the Old Farts – large port in hand **NOT** watching me play.

Have played many a game for Ireland against England/Wales/Scotland and other international teams, All in my dreams!!





Chris Coakley

Age:
Prop



Nickname: **Daddy Coakers**
Retired 8 years. No hair and now wear glasses.

Mat Coakley

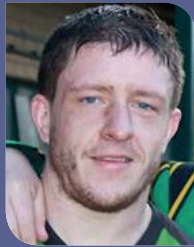
Age: 30
Prop



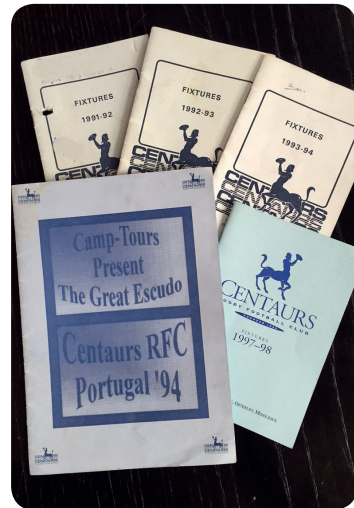
Nickname: **Sir**
School teacher and plays loose head fir the 1st team.

Rob Coakley

Age: 28
Hooker



Hooker for 1st team and recently joined the Job (Police)





The Second Row...

This is the most restful position. To be able to rest one's head between two well cushioned thighs, clutching on to each other's love handles can put some second rowers to sleep. They are known to enjoy the comfort of being comfortably tucked up at the bottom of a pile of players. An experienced second row can go through a complete game without making any contact with the ball whatsoever. Usually distinguished by a magnificent pair of ears and a nose the shape of South America. Second rows types have an uncanny ability to sustain regular breathing amidst putrefied, nauseating odours. They love scrums and the mysteries associated with slipping ones arms through the legs of the front row. The art of this simple act has usually been passed down from father to son or mother to daughter. Second rowers have been known to run in circles and blow kisses to the supporters when they are in fact meant to be playing.
Happy days :)

**Rob (Bob)
Ellis**

Age:46



Nick name: Bartman
(ask Nick Lambert)
Preferred Position: Anywhere in
the Rows, or the back line for
that matter.

Still working (unfortunately!)
and have made sporadic
appearances for Chiswick,
Ealing and Barnes RFC's

“Conversion” The situation when
a Welshmen remembers that he's Welsh
after he has been ignored by the All
Black/Australian/South African/England

**Nial
Stirling**

**Lock/back
row
Age:58**



Employable in Edinburgh. Meat
free marauder.

**A
Ringer**

**Lock/back
row
Age:21 ish**



Build like a brick Sh1thouse.





The Loose forwards...

Golden Oldies loose forwards are basically nasty people who have never grown up. They have learned however, to get younger colleagues to do the actual tackling. The number eight loose forwards usually believe they could have played one more season in the competitive grade and always get conned by the other flankers into doing dirty work. The main goal of the loose forwards is to complete the game with their hair still in place, and be in the front row of exotic dance establishments. They are also apt to remember plays in which they were involved, even though no one else who played in the same game has the faintest recollection of their participation. Some are known to shave their legs and the soles of their feet.



Jim Hart

Loose
Forward /
Centre
Age 48



Preferred Position: Centre or openside (my last game was at hooker! Can also play scrum half and fullback)

Nickname: Pants (as in gym pants, although someone suggested a poem that started 'oh pants the heart' - some people have too much time on their hands)

I've been living in Bromley for the last 12 years and have played (well, wondered around a pitch aimlessly) a few times in the intervening period with various levels of enthusiasm. 3 kids - two boys aged 19 & 3 and a girl aged 6. Just started a new business delivering data centres and mission critical facilities.





Brendan Masterson

Age: 40+
Forward



Nickname: **TheSilver Fox**

Still in London, finally got married. After Centaurs, started playing with London Irish

Like all good Irishmen – still drinking the Black Stuff!!

Chris East

Back row
Age:21



Final year at Northampton University. First team for his whole three year term and was skipper last year.

Nickname - EASTO (funny that).

Mike Saxton

Age:50
Forward



Nickname: **Saxo**

Divorced and Married again. Lived in Sydney for 4 years and coached a NSW Subbies Div 1 team Lindfield. Now living in Dubai for last 2.5 years coaching under 6's including my daughter Lilly for a side called Jebel Ali Dragons.





The Scrum Half...

A small knotty type person who usually does exercises on the day of the match. Spends the whole game trying to keep out of the reach of opposing forwards. Usually becomes cocky in the last fifteen minutes and gets battered. On the Vintage Whines, the scrum half traditionally talks to the referee, the forwards of both teams, backs of both teams, supporters and other teams playing close by. The current Vintage Whines scrum half has been known to keep talking in a style similar to shorthand dictation even after the match and right up until close to 1 AM the following morning.

Karbun Tang

Age: 49
Scrum Half
Centre,
Wing, FlyHalf, Scrum Half



Karbun Tang started playing for Centaurs RFC as a 15 year old colt, playing for the colts and then for every team from 6th to the 1st team over 14 seasons. Staines RFC tempted Karbun away with a semi pro contract and a higher playing standard. After several successful seasons, age and injuries forced 1st team retirement and into vets rugby. At 39, relocated to New York, played and coached Division 1, Long Island RFC and then their vets. At 45, moved to Dallas and now occasionally playing for Alliance RFC in Division 3. Still hanging in there (barely)!

Matt Cleary

Age: 49
Scrum Half



Nickname:

Shortarse annoying Brit for the last 19 years!

Played my last game of rugby in 2005 for Ealing Vets in Dublin and was overtaken on the pitch by Phil Harvey. Manage to play astro -football nowadays with very little contact! Work in the construction industry up until 2009 when someone turned out the lights in Ireland. Have been in property management since then and am now director of a property management company.





The Fly Half...

In Golden Oldies rugby this is the big laugh position reserved for aging trendies who think they can still cut the mustard. They act tough by striking various poses, snarling, blowing snot, hoiking boogers, and wearing velcro inside their jockstraps. If someone comes near them they usually do one of three things. (1) kick the ball anywhere (2) run anywhere (3) assume the fetal position. On the Vintage Whines, the Fly Half position is reserved for those able to consume two pints of beer and a double cheeseburger 10 minutes prior to the game

Andy Cleary

Age: 53
Fly Half



Nickname: **Rock McStone**

Occasional run outs for Ealing Evergreens

Liam Cleary

Age: 23
Fly Half
/Full Back



Nickname: **Ass King**

Leeds Gryphon and Civil Service Stag. Waiting for the call up to the Finland international set up, but still working on my Vodka consumption





Eddie Beck



Age: 46 ³/₄

Fly Half
/Inside Centre

Nickname: **Skinny**

Still playing regularly for Ealing where I started as a colt at 15 and went back as a vet at 35 having drunk the middle part of my playing career away at centaurs! Still have the very occasional small run out with the 1st under the managerial leadership of Nick Lambert (some might remember that Centaur No8) Finished skippering the Ealing 2's this year but still playing for them mainly as I like a run about with the young lads keeps me interested no matter how many times I get granddad called at me!!

Working in Austria , living in London married still to Freddie 20th anniversary in June, two kids Morgan and Kyle. No pets, still smoke free but drink dark rum until I turn into a pirate!

Alistair Mitchel



Age: xx

Fly Half

Nickname: **Ally**

Ally Mitchell was 1st team fly half and I'm fairly certain had Centaurs not moved and survived, Ally Mitchell would still be 1st team fly half (Quote from Karbun Tang)





Brendan Cleary



Age: 20

Full back,
sometimes

Fly half and even better
in the Centres

Nickname: **B Dawg**

Currently playing for Civil Service stags. Retired from international rugby at the age of 17 down to personal reasons and really bad genetics!

The Centres

One inside the other outside. When attacking, they are the ones who run quickly toward the nearest opponent and collapse into their arms. When they try to kick the ball it is always an adventure. Center's traditionally have high sperm counts but on the Vintage Whines we use forwards as center's so this tradition is threatened. Center's are usually known for speed and Vintage Whine center's are no exception. They often sprint off the field to the toilet or to the bar to reload. They have an uncanny knack of tripping over themselves or being flattened by opposition players whom they were trying to run through.





Malachy Mulhall



Age: 57

Back in the day Centre.

Now the side-line

Nickname: **Taj** - Slob Willim came up with it when Malcom McLaren released Buffalo Girls - 'Taj Mulhall goes round the outside' distant memories now.

Spent the last 15 years in Dubai, played a bit of rugby for Exiles, then focused on Gaelic football for 13 years and recently started playing for the Jebel Ali Dragons 3's in a community league (rolling subs).

Have played in the Dubai 7's most years either in vets 10's or social 7's with the Gaelic lads. Most memorable win was Boxing day 2009 winning the 'fat boy 10's' with Simon 'Haji' Morris.

David Roberts



Age: 50

Right Wing /Outside Centre

Last played for Centaurs circa. 1995 and following an ankle injury and haven't played rugby since. Got married in 1994 to Gabrielle and remarkably she's still putting up with me. Had a son, Julian, in 1998 who has just celebrated his 18th birthday. Bumped into Nick Lambert in 2010 as our boys were playing against each other at he Twickenham 7's festival. Moved up to the Lake District near Ullswater for a few years back in 2003 and took up cycling up there because I was getting too fat. Now take part in various bike races and events around the country and go to France a couple of times a year to cycle the cols of the Pyrenees.

“Blindside” The term used to describe the referee's inability to see a foul committed. Following a technique refined by former All Black hooker and captain Sean Fitzpatrick that allowed him to commit a foul usually in a ruck or maul at the very moment that the referee turned his back to check on the offside line.

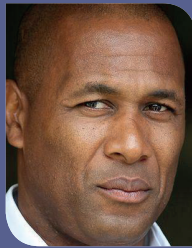




The Wingers...

There is one of these on each side of the field, left and right. They are known for having a marked reluctance to take responsibility and a tendency to panic under pressure. They are always the first to pull a muscle. On the Vintage Whines, rather than allowing any true wings to pull up lame before the match, forwards, especially slow and exhausted front row types, are usually deployed to confuse the opposition, resulting in opposition players avoiding the stench and odor of our outer flanks.

Eric Murray



Age: 48
Winger

Nickname: **I have many**
Last 15 / 16 years getting older, have been running out for the occasional game for Ampthill Vets.

Simon Morris



Age: 55
Winger

Nickname: **Hadji**
I Can play a bit





The Fullback...

The last line of defense who is always blamed when the opposition score. Vintage Whine fullbacks however, position themselves with care to avoid being near attacking players or under high kicks. This is known as reading the game well. They also make great cheerleaders and will cheer everyone else on while clamoring about trying to keep up. They often gasp and wheeze while looking to the sideline for the nearest water bottle or opportunities to be included in the best photographs.

Denis Chronpolois



Age: 50
Something

Still chasing the ultimate Saturday night.

David Murray



Age: 49
Out Half

In last 15 years have lived and played in the Scottish Borders, and in Yorkshire, but stopped playing regularly three years ago and rarely play now. Have got into running to keep myself fit.

“Cap” Compulsory headgear bearing sponsor’s logo worn at post-match interviews.





Dave - Hoggie - Hampshire



Age: 60

**Team
Doctor
& Former
Prop**

In 2001 left UK to work for Fugro a major oilfield services company was transferred to Dubai where he was Regional Manager MENA for the positioning navigation group, got involved with Dubai Exiles and Dragons rugby clubs, met and married his wife Ana there, had 2 kids, Freddie now 12 and girl Nikka now 9. Returned to be resident in Netherlands ever since but working in Scotland with 2 other companies in subsea engineering internationally now semi retired at 60 doing some specialist work.





A Poem for old rugby players...

When the battle scars have faded
And the truth becomes a lie
And the weekend smell of liniment
Could almost make you cry.
When the last rucks well behind you
And the man that ran now walks
It doesn't matter who you are
The mirror sometimes talks
Have a good hard look old son!
The melons not that great
The snoz that takes a sharp turn sideways
Used to be dead straight
You're an advert for arthritis
You're a thoroughbred gone lame
Then you ask yourself the question
Why the hell you played the game?
Was there logic in the head knocks?
In the corks and in the cuts?
Did common sense get pushed aside?
By manliness and guts?
Do you sometimes sit and wonder
Why your time would often pass
In a tangled mess of bodies
With your head up someone's.....?
With a thumb hooked up your nostril
Scratching gently on your brain
And an overgrown Neanderthal
Rejoicing in your pain!
Mate – you must recall the jersey
That was shredded into rags
Then the soothing sting of Dettol
On a back engraved with tags!
It's almost worth admitting
Though with some degree of shame
That your wife was right in asking
Why the hell you played the game?
Why you'd always rock home legless
Like a cow on roller skates
After drinking at the clubhouse
With your low down drunken mates

when you'd wake up – check your wallet
Not a solitary coin
Drink Berocca by the bucket
Throw an ice pack on your groin
Copping Sunday morning sermons
About boozers being losers
While you limped like Quasimodo
With a half a thousand bruises!
Yes – an urge to hug the porcelain
And curse Sambuca's name
Would always pose the question
Why the hell you played the game!
And yet with every wound re-opened
As you grimly reminisce it
Comes the most compelling feeling yet
God, you bloody miss it!
From the first time that you laced a boot
And tightened every stud
That virus known as rugby
Has been living in your blood
When you dreamt it when you played it
All the rest took second fiddle
Now you're standing on the sideline
But your hearts still in the middle
And no matter where you travel
You can take it as expected
There will always be a breed of people
Hopelessly infected
If there's a teammate, then you'll find him
Like a gravitating force
With a common understanding
And a beer or three, of course
And as you stand there telling lies
Like it was yesterday old friend
You'll know that if you had the chance
You'd do it all again
You see – that's the thing with rugby
It will always be the same
And that, I guarantee
Is why the hell you played the game!







Classic Tour Mommments





