



RAMPAGES WINTER (2)

Hope you are all well and getting through Lockdown 2. I know from your emails that the Rampages' articles have brought back many fond memories in these bleak times. Keep them coming.

Who has played the most games for Harlow? Those that come to mind are Fred (Freddie) Lloyd and Keith Clarke (Clarkie). Andy Ball must also be up with them and this is his XV.

Andy Ball XV

Here's my team of people I enjoyed playing with, with me in it! not necessarily the best!

15 Steve Barrett

14 Dyfrig Powell

13 Kenny Gladden

12 Graham Fisher

11 Steve Levy

10 Spike Saunders

9 Gary Phillips

1 Jem Poyser

2 Ian Gallantree

3 Peter Carter

4 Malcolm Leese

5 Peter Bishop

6 Cliff Bishop

8 Alan Knightley

7 Andy Ball

Replacements

- John Minchin

- Martin Polkinghorne

- Geoff Hargreaves

Of course, I could have picked an entirely different 15 and still have enjoyed the game so I hope no one is offended by their omission.

In the first Rampages we ended with a picture quiz featuring two great Harlow legends Keith Handscombe and Terry McNamara and I asked you for the best caption. It was won by Keith Baker.

In this issue we start with a photo sent in by Marcus Russell with the comment “The best scrum half ever to play for Harlow in my opinion “.

We’ve had over the years many outstanding scrum halves and I’m sure all of you have your own personal favourite.

However, my question for this Issue Prize is what and when was the game and name as many of the faces in the photo.

Bottle of wine to the winner:



Snippets

Jon Locke is now a headmaster in Barcelona and sent me an email saying “I am happy to try to produce my best XV but know I will struggle not to name the 1st Eastern Counties winning team. We should never have gained the success we did, but through passion and desire we were irrepressible”.

the Presidency, moving to more of a figure-head role. It was in this role that many of you will remember his after-dinner speeches and jokes. It was definitely the way he told them.

I will conclude with my HRFC Dream Team. As I have tried to explain, we have been blessed with many brilliant players and characters at Harlow, over the years. I also hold fantastic memories of mates I grew up with who I was always proud to walk out onto the pitch with. Props like Julian Heath, Pete Claridge were immense. Back rowers like Mark Kitchen and Darren Addicott were fearless and brilliant. Backs like Mark Guthrie and Alan Price were hard, skillful and could always make something out of nothing. However, my Dream Team has to be our first ever Eastern Counties Cup winning team. Any of the above could have seamlessly slipped into this team but this was the team on the day. We were proud, fearless and won. I will never forget that team of Harlow Legends”:

1. Mark Coombs
2. Jon Locke (Capt)
3. Chris Ray
4. Michael Nutt
5. Reggie Crafton
6. Mark Bruford
7. Richard May
8. Pete Keeling
9. Lee Harron
10. Dave Hurley
11. Lee Smith
12. Dave Oastler
13. Keith Handcomb
14. Matt Howard
15. John Price

Subs

16. Julian Heath (God help us if a back row went off)
17. Gavin Loveday
18. Mark Leppard

Props Appreciated by Ian Gallantree

After playing senior rugby for teams in Kent and London, I joined Harlow RUFC in 1970 and captained the 1st XV the following year, then played until I was 50 and captained all the Harlow teams down to the Vets (at the time Harlow put out 6 senior sides weekly).

Since I played all my rugby at hooker, and Ross Loveday was 1st XV scrum half when I joined the Club, Ross has asked me to write something about life in the front row and the props I played with.

A rugby team is made up of two parts, the set of backs and the pack of forwards.



You can recognise the backs, they're the guys who stand around for most of the game, looking sun-tanned, wearing tight shorts and checking if their wives and/or girlfriends are watching them; while the pack are charging all over the park trying to secure the ball for their backs who are only really interested in getting ball if it is handed to them on a plate with plenty of space to run with it.

It is a common misconception that the front row, and especially the props, are considered to be the not so clever overweight fat guys who do nothing but push as hard as they can in the scrum for eighty minutes while contributing very little else.

The front row and the props in particular need to be the strongest men on the pitch, they are not just the fatties just leaning on each other. I wish to put the record straight when it comes to the props and their value. In the scrums when the weight comes on from our second and back rows, together with the full pressure from the whole opposition pack, this virtually all goes through our two props shoulders and backs. This huge pressure has to be directed by our front row's shoulders to give our scum the advantage, apart from this strain the props had me telling them exactly how I wanted to be positioned conformably while all this shoving is going on. At hooker when it was the opposition's put in, I would always try to get my right shoulder on the back of the opposition hooker's neck, driving down as the pressure comes on, if everything worked well my opposition hooker would have is head forced down which apart from being very painful for him, he could not lift his feet up to hook the ball leaving me or our tighthead prop to hook the ball as it came straight through the scrum. Hearing my hooker groaning or even screaming was very enjoyable.

These days hookers don't really hook the ball since the ball doesn't have to be put into the scrum straight anymore.

It used to be that hooking/winning your own put in was vital, if I lost a couple of balls on our own put in, which happened rarely, then my tactic was wait until after the next scrum then give their hooker a tap on the chin as we stood up. This always led to a minor punch up between the front rows, so I would always warn the props what was going to happen so they would be ready. Everything would settle down and the hooker would then be a little more careful and not so keen to take another put in off me, but even so, props are very important when using this tactic.

In the line out our props have to block players coming through our lineout while at the same time trying to get through the opposition lineout to give their scrumhalf a rough time.

The front row are always very fit since they are the last to get out from scrums etc. to run and catch up with the other forwards to get to the next breakdown. From the point of longevity in the game they must be the strongest and fittest as evidenced by the fact that in Vets XVs it is the front row who are always the oldest players.

Another misconception is that the props are not especially bright, again this is not true, in the majority of teams I have played in they seem to be the best qualified, I list below the props I played with in the 1st XV at Harlow and their careers/qualifications:



- ★ David Taylor : Senior Architect Harlow Council
- ★ Dennis Parry : Headmaster
- ★ John Pendleton : Computer Programmer
- ★ David Giess : Senior Accountant & Partner
- ★ Harry Gamble : Professor Solid State Physics, Queens University, Belfast
- ★ Mick Hunt : Senior Teacher fluent in 3 languages including Russian
- ★ Keith Clark : ?

★ Other props I played with in the other Harlow XVs down to the Vets XV, and who had all played in the 1st XV at
★ some stage:

- ★ Don Smale
- ★ Peter Carter
- ★ John Osbourne
- ★ Kingsley Reece
- ★ Barry Stockley

★ All the above were excellent props, highly intelligent and great guys, they are my Heroes of the Front
★ Row and I love and admire them all.

★ Ian Gallantree

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

