Sat, 23/9/17. Ashford 22 Vets 7 (or was it 5?). OK so it wasn't a win but to paraphrase El Capitan ([Neil Cole](https://www.facebook.com/neil.cole.397?fref=gs&dti=347446165466543&hc_location=group)) it was 'bloody' enjoyable (with a sympathetic & understanding ref), there were no serious injuries (though [Dan Cummings](https://www.facebook.com/dan.cummings.188?fref=gs&dti=347446165466543&hc_location=group) may yet have a tiny creature hatch from the vicinity of his right eye) and Ashford were quite hospitable (jug of old Dairy Red Top in the changing room after the game alongside one, I believe, from loyal supporter Mr Cracknell. As grateful as we all are, I will leave you to decide which was the more unexpected?!). Somewhat surprisingly we struggled in the scrum (which begs the question: has [Karim Neseyif](https://www.facebook.com/karim.neseyif?fref=gs&dti=347446165466543&hc_location=group) lost too much weight) and as a consequence meant a lot of untidy ball for the backs. That's our excuse anyway and it wasn't just because of the stand in scrum half! (Where's [Mick Walker](https://www.facebook.com/mick.walker.902?fref=gs&dti=347446165466543&hc_location=group) when you need him?). The lineout functioned pretty well with El Capitan and Skip Ex - utility player supreme - [Adrian Clark](https://www.facebook.com/adrian.clark.9847?fref=gs&dti=347446165466543&hc_location=group), performing admirably. It was only in the second half (one try down at the break) that the oppo's younger legs (and maybe our depleted oxygen levels) that we struggled to keep up. Even then, however, we did have the final, if consolation, score when Dan Cummings crashed over following a quick tap penalty. As to the question mark over our score, I thought my attempted drop kick conversion went wide but my eyesight without the old specs ain't great and who am I to argue with El Capitan who assured me we scored 7!!? Shout outs for a coup!e of players on either side of the grim reaper spectrum - Scott Clark (Adrian's son), who's energy levels went some way to making up for the rest of us and the legend that is Steve Pooley (who after stepping in at loose head had to be persuaded by the ref during the dying embers of the game that maybe the scrum should go uncontested before his head ended up somewhere where the sun doesn't shine). Incidentally their oldest player, a spring-like 46 year old, had to be persuaded by 3 of us in the bar that Steve was actually 72 years young. Man of the Match - Dan Cummings (deputised by Richard Cutbill in the boat-race); Twat of the Match - [Brian Costello](https://www.facebook.com/brian.costello.7355?fref=gs&dti=347446165466543&hc_location=group) (Teflon hands). PS: we were pretty crap in the boat race!PPS: those who infringed the dress code - El Capitan knows who you are!

