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GOING UP: OPMs players celebrate after securing promotion to Devon and Cornwall division for next season

Picture Paul Slater EAA11895_PNS_002

Old Boys break out the bubbly after play-off win

**DEVON ONE AND CORNWALL ONE
PLAY-OFF
OPMs...45
Perranporth...8**

by **ALAN MANSELL**

Rugby Correspondent

OPMs team manager Simon Adams was poised with the champagne as captain Gareth Rule led his triumphant side through the tunnel at the end of their play-off win over Perranporth.

The Old Boys finished their season in some style clinching the third promotion place into Devon and Cornwall with a 45-8 victory over the Cornishmen.

Adams said: "It was the backs who pulled it off, Darren Clark in his position on the wing and Neil Bellamy at full back. Si Parker shored up our front row and we have done lots of work on the scrummaging machine in the last week. Devon One is a hard league to get out of."

The Old Boys almost fell behind inside a minute when Porth's Adi Matthews penalty attempt went wide of the posts. It wasn't long, however, before the OPM forwards were soon putting in long drives upfield and in the eighth minute went to ground inside the Perranporth twenty-two.

The ball spun out to Bellamy coming into the ball and five points were on the board, Carl Thomas adding two more.

Winger Darren Clark then caught the ball on his touchline, sliced through the waiting defence and off-loaded to centre Graham Pascoe, who dived into the corner. Thomas made no mistake from wide out.

Thomas had the easiest of kicks from in front of the posts following Bellamy's second try. The full back used his pace to carve through from inside his own half as the first quarter ended.

Porth pushed from the restart and Adi Matthews potted his third try to trail 21-3 as the Old Boys were caught offside.

But the Cornishmen hadn't learned the lesson not to kick into OPM hands.

Clark fielded a deep ball and Porth were again in trouble. Back in their twenty-two, Clark was brought down but scrum half Sammy Matts was in close support to get the touchdown.

OPMs were on the boil at the start of the second half and within two minutes Bellamy was over for his hat-trick. Thomas converted to lead 33-3.

Nick Edyvean, who has played for Premiership club Sale Sharks, showed no signs of the hamstring injury that has taken him out of top-flight rugby to pull back a try wide out on his wing.

Then OPMs scored the try of the match with Howard Turner at fly half jinking through the Porth back row, Matts in support feeding Clark for the winger to find Bellamy on his shoulder and a pass inside gave centre Lloyd Thomas a free run home.

With ten minutes to go Carl Thomas's run put the Old Boys into the visitors' twenty-two and their final try should go to the whole pack, whose drive was unstoppable.