

# OPMs turn out in force for St Luke's charity clash

OPMs Veterans were out in force at Launceston's Polson Bridge ground on Wednesday night to play their first-ever fixture – a charity match in aid of St Luke's Hospice.

The Elburton club were able to field 26 players against a strong Cornish All Blacks' vets side, which included former Cornwall county captain Dean Shipton.

OPMs trailed 27-0 at the break, but fought back in the second half to narrow the gap to 27-14, thanks to Andy Phelan's first try for the club and Phil Hague's dazzling solo effort, before Launceston crossed again to seal their victory.

Launceston's tries came from Rob



## RUGBY

Fry (3), JJ Wilcocks, Keith Sutherland and Mike Howgill.

OPMs hope to have raised around £500 for St Luke's, a charity supported by club stalwart and OPM Nomads prop John Gillan, who is suffering from Glioblastoma Multiforme, an inoperable brain tumour, and is in palliative care at home.

John has made more than 1,000 appearances for the club since first turning out for the Jesters – the club's second string – in 1975.

He first began playing senior rugby in

1959, in Bermuda, where he was born, and went on to represent Bermuda against touring sides before moving to England in 1975.

OPMs honorary secretary Ernie Bolster said: "We wanted to play in support of John, to mark the excellent service he has given us over the years, and to raise funds for a charity close to John's heart.

"It was an excellent atmosphere and a really good night, and we'd like to thank Launceston for hosting us."

**GOOD OLD BOY:** OPMs held a charity rugby match in honour of stalwart John Gillan (right)

