

Notes, etc.

The songs I've typed here are by no means the only songs sung at parties, but they are typical and are among the most popular. Other songs usually sung

are "The Ball of Kerriemuir," usually known as "4 and 20 Virgins" since ~~that's~~ the verse they usually start with is "4 + 20 Virgins came down from Inverness." etc. The chorus is always the "Balls to your Partner" one (far inferior to the usual ~~one~~) but the tune is always the standard one - this tune, I think, is the best of all bawdy song tunes, not only because it's a good tune in its own right (this may not be obvious after 30 verses or so, I admit) but because it has such an infectious swing that it's hard not to join in. I have heard quite a few people sing the song, but have yet to hear a significant variant of the tune.

"I don't Want to Join the Army" and "In Mobile" are popular, in completely standard versions

"Cats on the Rooftops" is occasionally, though seldom, sung. We had a couple of South Africans on the team, so "Zulu Warrior" was often sung. The Limerick song is sung only occasionally.

"If I were the Marrying Kind" is usually the first song sung at any rugby party, & is usually occasionally returned to later in the evening. My version is not quite complete (lousy memory) because there are verses for all positions on the team - these

are somewhat interchangeable, as the same verse can be sung about the prop, or the second-row for instance. This song is featured in the ~~lead~~ sound track of "Sporting Life" in the party scenes, in a fairly complete version, too.

The song is sung from the woman's point of view, which usually causes confusion, and singers seldom get the gender of the pronouns right - I have heard it sung from the male point of view:

"the kind of girl that I would wed is
a Rugby fullback's daughter," which rhymes better anyway, now that I think of it.

There's not much to say about "Old King Cole" it's all chorus, no verse. Often people will shorten the chorus ~~in~~ after a few verses or if dates are present, eliminating part or all of the "Howe your father etc." ~~to the "Compo Compo" lines.~~

The "Sexual Life of the Camel," is interesting because of its chorus, which has a little dance that goes with it. I have no idea if this chorus is sung in other versions or not - this is the only place I have heard it anyhow. The third verse is sung only occasionally & the second one is sometimes skipped, too. I have always thought this song owed all its popularity to its great first verse anyway, for none of the other

verses I've heard match up to it. The
tune used is (with the exception of the chorus)
dull, lifeless and hard to sing to boot, which
raises the question of why it is used at all -
however, all rugby teams I've heard use
this tune.

The "Wild West Show" is, along with
the "Ball of Kerriemuir" the co-favorite
party song. In the last couple of parties I was
at, the song was sung for 20 minutes at
least. Verses of this seem to be owned
by the various players, who each have
a verse or two that they alone sing (this
isn't always true, of course, but is in many cases).
Occasionally, shaggy-dog stories & other
well-known jokes turn up as verses - I
suspect a few of the players always keep
an eye out for useful material.

IF I WERE THE MARRYING KIND

①

1. If I were the marrying kind
and thank the Lord I'm not, Sir;
The kind of man that I would wed
would be a rugby fullback.

For he'd find touch and I'd find touch
and we'd find touch together,
We'd be all right in the middle of the night
finding touch together.

---similarly---

2. ...scrum-half,
For he'd put it in and I'd put it in,
and we'd put it in together,
we'd be all right in the middle of the night
putting it in together.

3. ...center
For he'd break through and I'd break through
and we'd break through together,
we'd be all right in the middle of the night
breaking through together.

4. ...prop
For he'd shove hard &c.

5. ...hooker
For he'd hock balls &c

6. ...fly-half
For he'd knock-on &c

7.spectator
For he'd come again &c

8. ...referee
For he'd blow hard &c

9. ...touch judge,
For he'd put it up &c

10. ...groundskeeper
For he'd sow seed &c

Some glossing may help with
"If I were the marrying kind"

To find touch : to kick the ball out of bounds, i.e. over the ~~touch~~^{touch} line. The fullback is the one who most often has to kick for touch.

The scrum-half is the one who puts the ball in the scrum to start play.

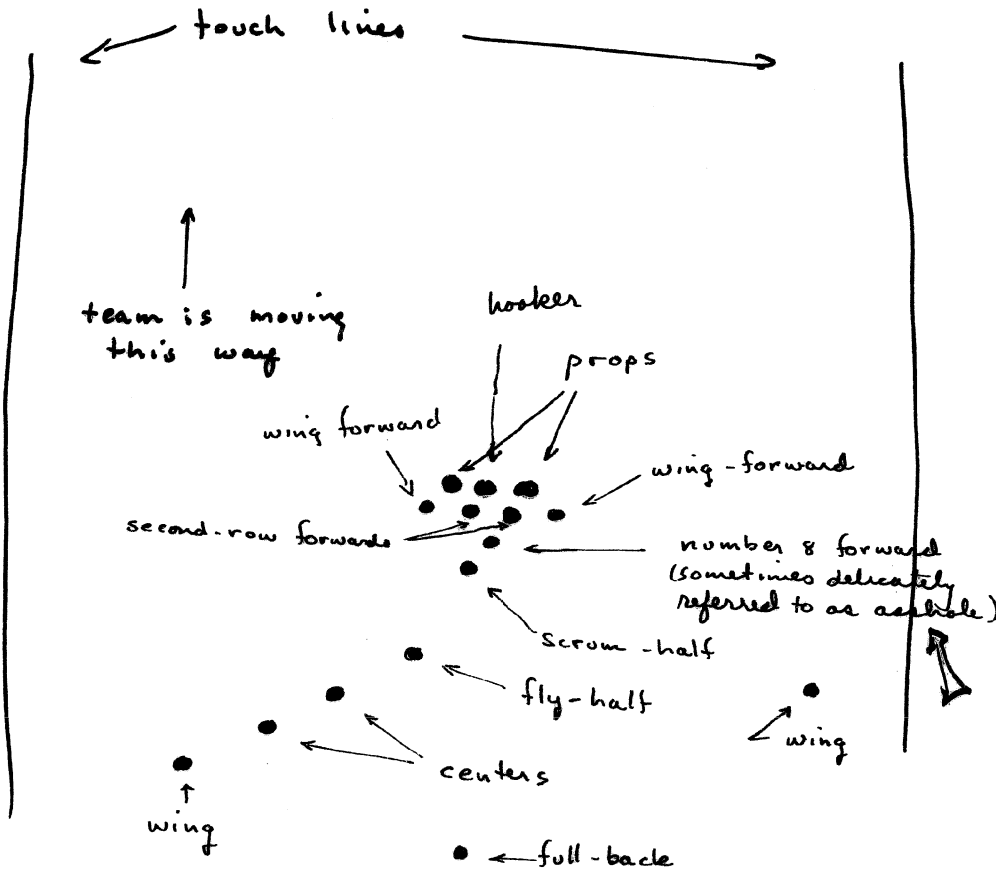
The prop : front man (there are two of them) in the scrum.

To knock on : to fumble the ball forwards - this automatically stops play when it happens + a scrum is called on the spot.

The hooker : is in charge of getting the ball in the scrum - he can only use his feet + can't touch it with his hands. The process is called "hooking" the ball.

The touch judge stands on the sidelines to mark where the ball goes out of play. This he does by running to the spot and holding a flag over his head.

The team line up looks like this



OLD KING COLE

① Old King Cole was a merry old soul
And a merry old soul was old King Cole,
He sent for his wife in the middle of the night,
and he sent for his fiddlers three.

Now every fiddler had a very fine fiddle) *drawn out a bit to save the full number of the coming line*
And a very fine fiddle had he.
Fiddle-diddle-dee diddle-dee went the fiddler
Merry, merry men are we,
there's none so fair as can compare
With the boys of the RFC. *Rugby Football Club, of course*

How's your father? All right.) *Each line to "shave & a haircut two bits"*
How's your mother? Half tight.
How's your sister? She might.
When was the last time? Last night.
Compa, ~~ompa~~, stick it up your goompa,
Merry merry men are we.
There's none so fair as can compare
with the boys of the RFC.

(Each time the poor sleepless buccar wakes,
he sends for a ~~three~~ more--the song is cumulative--
some of those he sends for:)

② ...Butchers three.
Now every butcher had a very fine chopper
And a very fine chopper had he.
Put it on the block, chop it off said the butcher,
Fiddle-diddle-dee, diddle dee went the fiddler,
Merry merry men &c

③ ...Coalmen three.
Now every coalman had a very fine sack,
And a very fine sack had he.
"Do you want it in the front or the back," said
the coalman
"Put it on the block, chop it off," said the butcher.
Fiddle diddle dee, diddle dee went the fiddler
Merry merry men &c

④ ...Tailors three.
Now every tailer had a very fine needle, / and
a very fine needle had he.
"Stick it in and out, in and out," said the tailor

⑤ ~~3~~ ...Bakers Three
fine buns
"Stick your bun in the oven" said the baker

THE SEXUAL LIFE OF THE CAMEL
(or titty-boom)

① The sexual urge of the camel
is greater than anyone thinks.
At the height of the mating season,
He tried to bugger the sphinx,
But the Sphinx's posterior organs
Are blocked by the sands of the Nile
which accounts for the hump on the camel,
And the Sphinx's inscrutable smile.

Chorus:
Singing, boom-titty-titty boom-titty-titty titty-
boom.
Singing boom-titty-titty boom-titty-titty yea!
Singing boom-titty-titty boom-titty-titty titty-boom
Singing boom-titty-titty boom-titty-titty-yea!

② Researches at Oxford and Cambridge
By Darwin and Huxley and Hall
Have shown that the ass of the hedgehog
Can hardly be buggered at all.
Now why don't the boys down at Oxford,
Do like the boys down at Yale?
They cut all the quills off the hedgehog
Just so they can get at the tail.

③ One night on the train from Oxford
I found that I had to stand.
A little boy offered me his seat
I felt it with my hand,
Oh--we're all queers together
So excuse us as we go upstairs,
Oh we're all queers together
So excuse us as we go upstairs.

← This verse
is sung much
less often than
the first two.

There is some choreography for the chorus:
on every "boom", the singer slaps his
butt. On every "titty," he slaps his
chest, and on "yea," he throws his
hands in the air. All together, now,
class: Singing Boom-titty titty ...