

THE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF WHARFEDALE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

greenmachine

2023-2024 SEASON

WHARFEDALE vs BILLINGHAM

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2024 - Kick Off 2:00pm



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WELCOME



TALE OF THE TABLE

What just happened? Back in mid-November, when the Firsts last entertained us here by beating Sheffield Tigers, we were third in the league. Since then we've continued our good form, with memorable victories on the road at Huddersfield, Hoppers and Fylde. And yet we're now down in fifth place. How come? Well yes, during that time we've also been beaten by two very proficient units, Rotherham and Sheffield, but the main reason for our slump is the unavoidable postponement of our home games. The good news is not just that we now have two games in hand on the teams immediately above us, but that the majority of our remaining fixtures are here at the Avenue. In fact, the plan is that between now and the end of the season there will be rugby here every Saturday – starting next week with a 1.30 kick-off against Billingham 2nds. So unless it's to our away games, don't be going far!

Beyond the Tale of the Table, there is another frustration to our lack of activity at home. Since the start of the season, the atmosphere here had been building. Not since we were in National 1 had the decibel gauge gone into the red so regularly. Can we rekindle that fire straight away today? On the evidence of our trip to Fylde, we most certainly can. Not just did the team blow off the cobwebs with a fantastic display of spirit and

verve, but Dale's minority in the huge crowd made the vast majority of the noise. Altogether, it was Wharfedale at its sweetest. As for the rather more sour taste of last week's visit to Sheffield, we shall pass over that in noisy silence.

For those who enjoy reading the tea leaves, another cause for optimism is the way the success of the Firsts is acting as a talent magnet. Our great 2019 colts side was always likely to form the nucleus of something special at a senior level, and so it is proving. When young talents such as Rian Hamilton and Ben Patchett come back, and when 'retired' players can't quite find the exit door, we know we're on the right track.

So come on, let's hear the roar!



From our last home game,
when Ollie Riddiough was nobbut a lad

Opinion warning:

Readers should be aware that this organ may contain something which resembles an opinion. The Wharfedale club wishes to point out that it is the view of this week's editor, **Simon Ravens** and not necessarily that of the club itself.

Cover photo:

The cover photo, by Ra Burridge, shows spirit.

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MINI/JUNIOR PARENTS

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WHARFEDALE JUNIOR SECTION

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TODAY'S OPPONENTS

Today we warmly welcome the players, staff and support of Billingham RUFC.

This will be our second meeting this season. Second? That's right – because we visited Billingham for a friendly back in August. On that occasion we welcomed them over our tryline on a regular basis, and they ran out winners 41-19. Billingham also beat us the previous August, when they came here and won 21-26.

This, though, will be our first league fixture. Billingham celebrate their centenary this year (at least we're ahead on that score). The club was originally connected with the Synthetic Ammonia and Nitrates Company, which later became ICI. Once established, the club became a force in the Durham County Rugby Union, and the first team was very strong during the 1950s and early 1960s. Sadly for Billingham, the advent of league rugby coincided with the demise of ICI, and the club suffered as a result.

Today, though, they are a community club on the up. Last season saw them promoted from Regional 1 North East. Although they currently lie third from bottom in the table, they've had some impressive results, including an away victory over Otley, a good home win over Hull Ionians, and a spirited showing against Leeds Tykes.



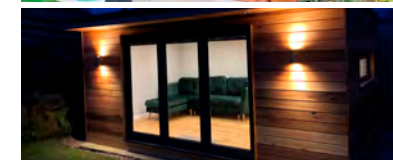
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UNDER 10S

Rugby at under 10s begins to resemble the game the majority of people will watch as this age sees the introduction of the ruck, maul and uncontested scrums.

Three very technical parts of the game and, coupled with the change in tackle height law, a lot of information for young brains to take in (and for older brains to coach and referee).

The group have shown great patience, enthusiasm and aptitude as we've taken them through the intricacies of each of these new skills. Alongside this we continue to work on the core skills of passing, catching and lines of running; encouraging the players to run straighter and pass the ball, letting the ball do the work to utilise space.

Games this season started with a 'drip feed' of the new elements of the game with all teams taking a little time to get used to the changes. After a couple of weeks, games are now full-on and the players are relishing the wrestle at the ruck and – bizarrely to a former back such as me – getting stuck into a scrum.

Our numbers remain at 12, with a couple leaving over the summer being replaced by 2 newcomers in September, neither of whom had ever played before but have fitted straight in. They've never looked out of place, and already look like they've been playing since U7s. It's never too late to start so if anyone knows a child who fancies giving rugby a go, they are more than welcome to come along and see what they think.

With the assistance of Rob and Mark and the continued support of all the parents, we are looking forward to another enjoyable season.

Russ Aldersley



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Ltd were the first company to introduce washable doormats into the UK market in 1995 with incredible success and now branded under the Mighty Mat name. In more recent years Primeur has added a range of Garden Products under the Eco Garden brand which are all manufactured from re-cycled car tyres. James Keighley, Chairman of Primeur Ltd, is a familiar figure at the club, having been involved at Wharfedale for the past 18 seasons. "I am a very proud supporter of WRUFC and everything it stands for. I have had many happy hours both helping with the juniors and supporting the senior teams."

Primeur Limited would like to wish both Wharfedale and Billingham the best of luck in the game. Having said that, James adds 'let's hope for a big Green win and more points to keep the momentum going in what is proving to be a very successful and enjoyable season'.

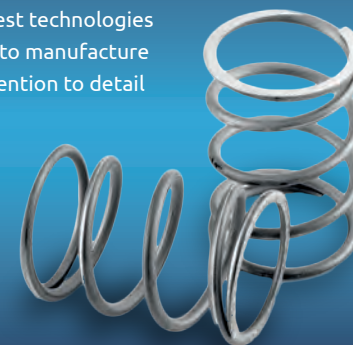
Although James and his guests would have been here in force when the match was originally to have been played on December 3, due to other commitments Primeur are unable to be with us today. As a valued main sponsor of the club, we thank them for their continued support.

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James Coulton proving a menace at Sheffield



Rian Hamilton dotting down at Sheffield. It's never too late for a tackle!



Looks like Jake is holding up a cardboard cut out of Joe Fawcett.

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The traditional Boxing Day fixture saw us welcome two playing teams of our friends from North Ribblesdale and also two teams from the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Squad. The most significant results from that day can be seen here.



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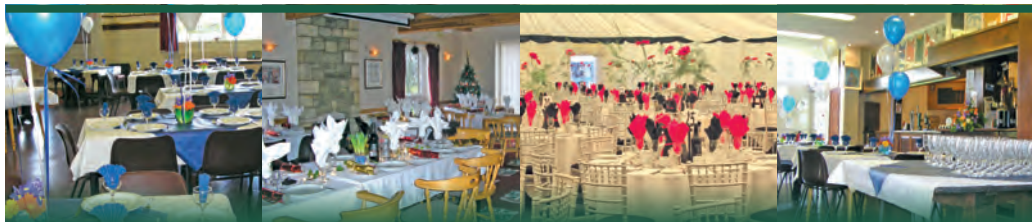
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1st XV - Fixtures/Results 2023/2024

Date	Opponents	Comp	Venue	W/L	Results
12 Aug 23	Billingham	Friendly	Away	L	41 - 19
19 Aug 23	Chester	Friendly	Home	L	12 - 14
26 Aug 23	Blackburn	Friendly	Away	W	24 - 33
02 Sep 23	Lymm	N2N	Away	W	21 - 22
09 Sep 23	Rotherham	N2N	Home	L	19 - 34
16 Sep 23	Tynedale	N2N	Away	W	22 - 24
23 Sep 23	Fylde	N2N	Home	W	27 - 26
30 Sep 23	Sheffield	N2N	Home	W	33 - 25
07 Oct 23	Otley	N2N	Home	W	31 - 7
14 Oct 23	Hull Ionians	N2N	Away	L	36 - 23
21 Oct 23	TBC				-
28 Oct 23	TBC				-
04 Nov 23	Hull	N2N	Home	W	35 - 6
11 Nov 23	Leeds Tykes	N2N	Away	L	20 - 8
18 Nov 23	Sheffield Tigers	N2N	Home	W	31 - 17
25 Nov 23	Preston Grass'	N2N	Away	W	22 - 35
02 Dec 23	Billingham	N2N	Home	P	- P
09 Dec 23	Huddersfield	N2N	Away	W	12 - 26
16 Dec 23	Rotherham	N2N	Away	L	33 - 7
23 Dec 23					
30 Dec 23					
06 Jan 24					
13 Jan 24	Tynedale	N2N	Home	P	- P
20 Jan 24	Fylde	N2N	Away	W	7 - 24
27 Jan 24	Sheffield	N2N	Away	L	31 - 14
03 Feb 24	Billingham	N2N	Home		-
10 Feb 24	Otley	N2N	Away		-
17 Feb 24	Hull Ionians	N2N	Home		-
24 Feb 24	Hull	N2N	Away		-
02 Mar 24	Tynedale	N2N	Home		-
09 Mar 24	Leeds Tykes	N2N	Home		-
16 Mar 24	Sheffield Tigers	N2N	Away		-
23 Mar 24	Preston Grass'	N2N	Home		-
30 Mar 24	TBC				-
06 Apr 24	Billingham	N2N	Away		-
13 Apr 24	Huddersfield	N2N	Home		-
20 Apr 24	TBC	N2N	Away		-
27 Apr 24	Lymm	N2N	Home		-

National League Division Two North

NEXT HOME GAME AT THE AVENUE

vs HULL IONIANS

Saturday 17 FEBRUARY 2024

Kick Off 2.00pm

League Table 2023/2024

National League Division Two North

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Leeds Tykes	16	16	0	0	669	297	79
2 Rotherham	16	15	0	1	577	274	73
3 Sheffield	17	12	1	4	558	401	65
4 Fylde	17	9	1	7	533	416	55
5 Wharfedale	15	10	0	5	361	319	47
6 Sheffield Tigers	16	8	1	7	466	427	45
7 Tynedale	16	7	1	8	385	391	44
8 Hull	16	7	1	8	393	454	36
9 Preston Grass'	16	5	1	10	444	545	34
10 Lymm	17	5	1	11	466	576	33
11 Otley	15	5	0	10	406	477	33
12 Billingham	16	4	1	11	319	461	23
13 Hull Ionians	16	3	0	13	381	576	23
14 Huddersfield	15	2	0	13	317	661	13

Today's Fixtures

National League Division Two North

Otley	█	v	█	Huddersfield
Hull	█	v	█	Leeds Tykes
Hull Ionians	█	v	█	Sheffield Tigers
Wharfedale	█	v	█	Billingham

League Fixtures/Results 2023/2024

National League Division Two North



	Billingham	Fylde	Huddersfield	Hull	Hull Ionians	Leeds Tykes	Lymm	Otley	Preston Grasshoppers	Rotherham	Sheffield	Sheffield Tigers	Tynedale	Wharfedale
Billingham	-	25-38	23 Mar	17 Feb	24-17	12-29	25-25	29-40	24-38	27 Apr	16-14	09 Mar	20-17	06 Apr
Fylde	32-26	-	62-19	35-8	23 Mar	13 Apr	14-15	41-18	33-27	10 Feb	09 Mar	26-26	28-34	7-24
Huddersfield	24-8	24 Feb	-	12-49	31-39	10-52	24-33	06 Apr	17-41	02 Mar	16 Mar	25-44	10 Feb	12-28
Hull	40-24	06 Apr	60-26	-	25-30	03 Feb	34-27	27 Apr	10 Feb	16 Mar	15-33	24-18	10-34	24 Feb
Hull Ionians	10 Feb	14-36	27 Apr	18-23	-	34-49	24 Feb	34-39	15-19	24-49	06 Apr	03 Feb	16 Mar	36-23
Leeds Tykes	24 Feb	30-17	57-17	41-11	66-15	-	16 Mar	31-18	53-21	26-20	27 Apr	10 Feb	06 Apr	20-8
Lymm	13 Apr	28-50	41-48	09 Mar	31-30	24-43	-	17 Feb	46-22	22-36	26-41	23 Mar	33-26	21-22
Otley	10-12	16 Mar	03 Feb	27-32	13 Apr	14-47	45-34	-	02 Mar	24 Feb	41-45	24-31	31-26	10 Feb
Preston Grasshoppers	16 Mar	27-41	09 Mar	30-30	44-35	17 Feb	06 Apr	26-41	-	7-34	24-26	39-41	27 Apr	22-35
Rotherham	52-24	34-19	43-15	28-9	09 Mar	23 Mar	33-10	34-32	13 Apr	-	17 Feb	35-17	42-7	33-7
Sheffield	26-13	34-28	71-19	13 Apr	40-10	35-40	10 Feb	23 Mar	36-14	17-37	-	33-24	24 Feb	31-14
Sheffield Tigers	35-25	27 Apr	17 Feb	36-17	49-5	29-50	47-35	24-16	24 Feb	06 Apr	28-32	-	0-10	16 Mar
Tynedale	24-12	17 Feb	33-18	23 Mar	28-25	12-35	26-18	09 Mar	38-43	19-33	19-19	13 Apr	-	22-24
Wharfedale	03 Feb	27-26	13 Apr	35-6	17 Feb	09 Mar	27 Apr	31-7	23 Mar	19-34	33-25	31-17	02 Mar	-



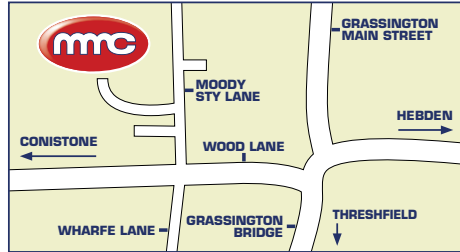


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Wharfedale Foresters Fixtures/Results 2023/2024

Date	Opponents	Comp	Venue	W/L	Results
12 Aug 23					
19 Aug 23	Chester	Friendly	H		Cancelled
26 Aug 23					
02 Sep 23					
09 Sep 23	Scunthorpe	Merit	H	W	50 - 10
16 Sep 23	Tynedale	Merit	A	L	54 - 12
23 Sep 23					
30 Sep 23	Sheffield	Merit	H	L	17 - 21
07 Oct 23					
14 Oct 23					
21 Oct 23	Driffield	League	H	W	26 - 17
28 Oct 23	Hull Ionians	Friendly	A		Cancelled
04 Nov 23					
11 Nov 23	Heath	Merit	H	W	47 - 7
18 Nov 23	Sheffield Tigers	Merit	H	W	60 - 10
25 Nov 23	Preston Grass'	Friendly	A	L	23 - 10
02 Dec 23	Billingham	Merit	H		Cancelled
09 Dec 23	Heath	Merit	A	W	11 - 14
16 Dec 23					
26 Dec 23	North Ribblesdale	Friendly	H	W	20 - 9
30 Dec 23					
06 Jan 24					
13 Jan 24	Tynedale	Merit	H		Cancelled
20 Jan 24	Fylde	Friendly	A	W	5 - 45
27 Jan 24	Sheffield	Merit	A	W	13 - 17
03 Feb 24	Driffield	Merit	A		
10 Feb 24					
17 Feb 24	Hull Ionians	Friendly	H		
24 Feb 24	Clitheroe 1st XV	Friendly	A		
02 Mar 24	Tynedale	Merit	H		
09 Mar 24					
16 Mar 24	Sheffield Tigers	Merit	A		
23 Mar 24	Scunthorpe	Merit	A		
30 Mar 24					
06 Apr 24	Billingham	Merit	A		
13 Apr 24	Huddersfield	Friendly	H		
20 Apr 24	League Semi-Final	Merit	TBA		
29 Apr 24	League Final	Merit	TBA		

**NEXT FORESTERS HOME GAME
vs HULL IONIANS
Saturday 17 February 2024**

Yorkshire League Merit Tables

Premiership 2023-2024

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tynedale Raiders 2	5	4	0	1	169	114	22
2 Driffield 2	11	9	0	2	405	245	46
3 Wharfedale Foresters	8	6	0	2	247	143	31
4 Billingham Lions 2	5	3	0	2	152	119	19
5 Sheffield 2	12	8	0	4	277	214	44
6 Sandal 2	11	6	2	3	279	240	36
7 Heath 2	12	5	0	7	295	310	36
8 Alnwick 2	8	4	0	4	94	158	23
9 York 2	8	3	0	5	196	198	19
10 Ilkley 2	8	2	1	5	142	215	16
11 Sheffield Tigers 2	9	0	0	9	135	328	14
12 Scunthorpe 2	11	2	1	8	162	269	16

Cath Harrison Trophy 2023-24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1 Foresters	11	8	0	3	316	177	72.73
2 Dev XV	6	4	0	2	206	97	66.67
3 1st XV	18	11	0	7	423	408	61.11

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

None of today's officials are strangers to Wharfedale.

The match referee is Dave Charlton from Northumberland. He is assisted on one line by Tudor Griffiths, who recently officiated in his 500th league game. On the other line will be Dean Lythgoe, who is Head Teacher of St. Aidan's Academy in Darlington.

We thank them all for their contribution to our game.



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John & Pam Clark

Philip Cartman

Bill & Jo Foster

Mark Fox

Mark Hancock
Amerdale Ltd

Robin Hargreaves

Michael Harrison

William Marshall

Peter & Shirley Procter



Peter Robinson

Mike Savage

Jon Slater

Stephen B Turner

Michael Watson

Edwin & Brenda Williams

Colonels

Paul Mason
Pearson Associates

John Sumner
Vanguard Shipping Ltd

David Mitchell

Majors

Philip Eddleston

William Fry
Rural Solutions

Stuart Henderson
Welfare Call (Group) Ltd

David & Victoria Heuck
Grey Hawk Capital Ltd

Will Midgley
Midgley Motor Company

Philip & Judith Turner

Lieutenants

Sam Allen
Sutcliffe Construction Ltd

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David & Claire Baker

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If you are interested in joining our Cavalry Club please call Jon Slater on 07971 036607 or email jslater@mansecapital.com

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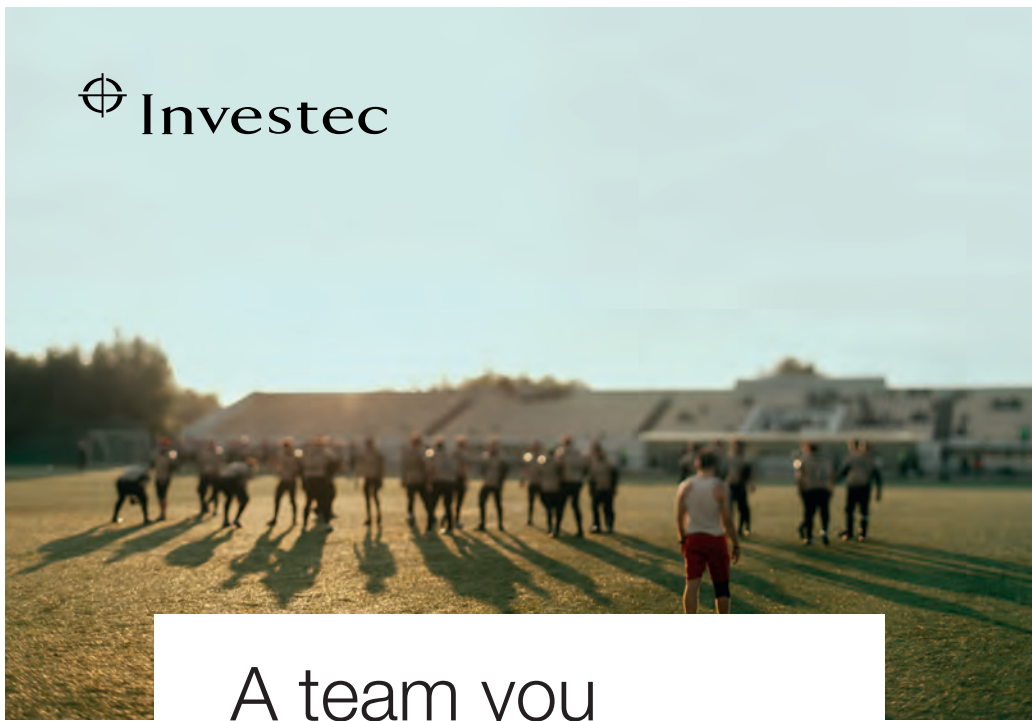
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LATEST WINNERS!	Month	Prize	No.	2023 Winners
	October	£40	113	Adam Mavir
£20		124	James Eddleston	
£10		22	Dan Harrison	
November	£40	145	Peter Ward	
	£20	85	Briony Wood	
	£10	200	John Harrison	
December	£100	89	Gordon Webster	
	£40	135	David Pye	
	£20	82	Tom & Norma Bradley	
	£10	144	Bob Davis	



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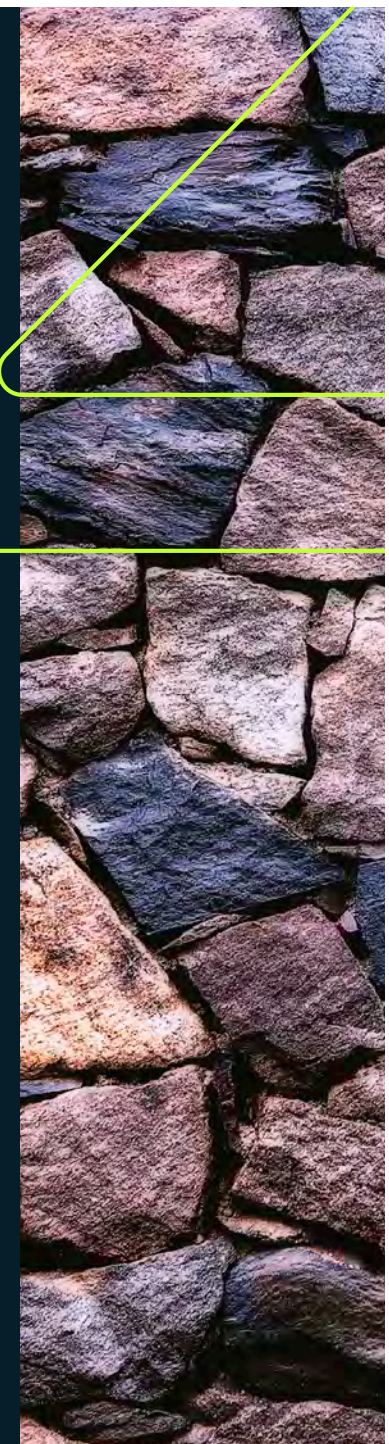
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Win with dignity, lose with grace.
Observe the Laws and regulations of the game.
Respect opponents, referees and all participants.
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WHARFEDALE

15	Ryan HODGSON
14	Robbie DAVIDSON
13	James COULTON
12	Ollie CIGOGNINI
11	Rian HAMILTON
10	Louis VERITY
9	Tom DARWIN
1	Sam DICKINSON
2	Robbie COLLINSON
3	Jake ARMSTRONG
4	Elliott STOCKTON
5	George HEDGLEY [c]
6	Rhys GREEN
7	Ben MARKEY
8	Rob BALDWIN
16	Dan WILLS
17	Jimmy MEEHAN
18	Josh BURRIDGE
19	Jack PINDER
20	Harry BULLOUGH`



BILLINGHAM

15	Elliott HUSBAND [c]
14	Joe ROSS
13	Peter YOULL
12	Luke ARMSTRONG
11	Jonny HORNER
10	Peter EVANS
9	Conner FOLEY
1	Dan DIXON
2	Jordan FOULDS
3	Kieran CLARK
4	Ryan KIRKBRIDE
5	Michael WHINN
6	Dan BURNS
7	John PADLEY
8	Michael WALTON
16	Ed GRAHAM
17	Jake BAMBER
18	Connor WITTON
19	Ryan FOREMAN
20	Matty KIRBY

REFEREE :

Dave CHARLTON

ASSISTANT REFEREES :

Dean LYTHGOE
Tudor GRIFFITHS

