

THE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF WHARFEDALE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

greenmachine

2023-2024 SEASON

WHARFEDALE vs HULL IONIANS

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2024 - Kick Off 2:00pm



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WELCOME



FEAST OR FAMINE?

A word from the Chairman...

We're home again, thank goodness! Having gone a full 12 weeks (that's THREE months in old money) between playing Sheffield Tigers in mid-November and meeting Billingham a fortnight ago it's good to be back at The Avenue today when we welcome Hull Ionians.

We pray to the fixture gods that they are a little kinder to us next season over the mid-winter period. Many say Otley should have been our Christmas fixture this time. Who am I to disagree? However, the result at Cross Green last Saturday did go some way to help? A big well done to all concerned. Hats off too to Nathan Howarth, the match referee, for his quick actions in stopping the game after Otley's George Bowen's injury, and to the medical teams from both sides for the professional handling of the situation. More about match officials later in this piece.

With two and a half months of the season remaining we face a different prospect with (including today's fixture) six first team home games and three away remaining. The way the table stands, no reasonable person could say we are promotion candidates, but it will nevertheless be a pulsating finish to the season if we can continue in this current vein of form.

The Foresters are also having a good season, currently sitting second in the Yorkshire Merit Table. Having overcome Drifffield away 30-36 a fortnight ago fingers are firmly crossed for a strong run in from them.

The Devs have gone from strength to strength this season & congratulations to all concerned; the level of participation is a truly remarkable turnaround from those Covid affected days. All things being equal, we should see the Devs appearing in the Aire-Wharfe Cup once again over the coming weeks.

The Firsts have a great away following; opposition teams must love it when the green machine comes to town & I would like to slip in a plug for Tim Clark's Wharfedale Car Share WhatsApp group. As well as being a very sociable & economical means of travel, it also helps our "green" credentials. Please feel free to contact Tim on 07932 492460 if you would like further information.

In the wider world of rugby, apart from the Six Nations championship, the current hot topic concerns match officials and their retention. The RFU is placing great importance on how everyone in the game relates to them. Please remember without them there is no game, we have no competition & mistakes can happen at every level of the game. At the end of the day, we are all human. Let's demonstrate our support for their efforts and show some appreciation.

As we look ahead towards the season's climax, we should have a feast of rugby at the Avenue to be enjoyed. With the weather set fair, let's look forward to our impending feast of rugby; it starts at 2pm today!

John Sykes

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 Ro Burridge, shows Jack Pinder and a marauding pack at Otley.

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TODAY'S OPPONENTS

Today we offer a warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters of Hull Ionians.

Although the club has only existed since the merger of Hull and East Riding with Ionians in 1989, since then we have shared a healthy rivalry across three competitions – National 1, National 2 North and the Yorkshire Cup. Although they were champions of National 2 North in 2018-19, they were soon back in our league, when they had to contend with thrusting neighbours – Hull RUFC.

Last season Hull 'Is' finished in third place in our league. This season has been a very different story, and they currently lie third from bottom. One of their brighter spots was at home to Wharfedale back in October, when they ran out victors 36-23. That was Ionians' third and last victory of the season so far, although last week they drew 38 apiece with Billingham.

It looks as if one of those clubs is likely to join Huddersfield through the trapdoor of National 2 North. We wish them luck... from tomorrow onwards.



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Tom Darwin – not bad for a makeshift scrum-half!



Harry Bullough showing his juggling skills before scoring on his return

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UNDER 11S

The boys of the under 11s have become the young men of the under 12s.

The new season has seen the whole team make the giant leap to senior school. There's been a concomitant improvement by all players in terms of their commitment and maturity as the team has embraced Stevie Graham's rigorous training program under the Friday night lights. The results have been clear to see on the pitch: the boys have found their individual groove in their assigned positions, the passing is sharp, the running lines have been sublime and the tackling hard and low.

There have been some excellent tries scored by the whole team, as the concept of using space seems to have been finally accepted after six (long) years of coaching. The under 12s haven't had it all their own way though: a match against the monsters of Bradford and Bingley provided a rugby education for our lads, as well as an introduction to some pretty fruity language. It was certainly character building and it's from such games that we will get even stronger.

As always new players are very welcome.

Thank you to all the players and their parents for their continuing hard work and support.

Adam Birkby & the coaches



TODAY'S SPONSOR

All our sponsors have a special relationship with the club, but that's particularly so today. Truth is that we simply wouldn't exist without them. That's right, it's our ex players who are sponsoring – those who have retired in glory, like Rob Baldwin and Josh Burridge (surely shome mistake, ed.) Amongst the 50-60 attending, doubtless there will be many friendships renewed today – and not just in the back row on the field. Was it Simon Horsfall who once said that 'Wharfedale is an easy club to join, and a difficult club to leave'? The proof of this is seen by scrolling down our club's contact page, and looking at our wider network of volunteers. We thank all our ex players for their past efforts on the field, and for their support today. And we thanks Alex Driver for his efforts in coordinating the festivities.



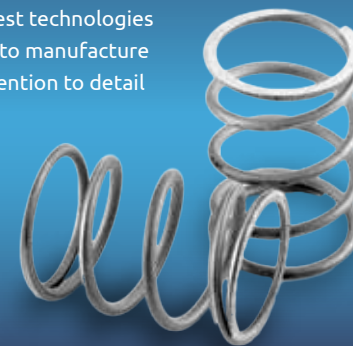
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Sam Dickinson against Billingham



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2024

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The team who man the gate on match days are amongst the real unsung heroes of our club.

Who else arrives so early and yet never gets to see the kick-off? The very least they deserve from us is a nice piece of real estate. And courtesy of Harry Whitaker, who constructed and installed it, they now have a brand new shed. There was talk of extending the shed with guest facilities, a gymnasium, squash court, swimming pool and private cinema, but these plans are inexplicably held up by red tape.

Still, the club wishes to extend it's thanks and appreciation to Harry for the shed – and to those who now operate from it.



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Evening/Night (from 6pm to midnight)	£100	£100	£200

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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	W	31 - 7
10 Feb 24	Otley	N2N	Away	W	0 - 41
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 TYNEDALE
Saturday 2 MARCH 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	18	18	0	0	776	325	89
2 Rotherham	17	16	0	1	609	301	78
3 Sheffield	18	13	1	4	586	425	70
4 Wharfedale	17	12	0	5	433	326	57
5 Fylde	18	9	1	8	560	448	56
6 Sheffield Tigers	18	9	1	8	498	501	49
7 Tynedale	17	8	1	8	442	410	49
8 Hull	18	8	1	9	455	545	41
9 Otley	17	6	0	11	454	546	38
10 Preston Grass'	17	5	1	11	477	585	36
11 Lymm	18	5	1	12	490	604	34
12 Hull Ionians	18	3	1	14	444	640	27
13 Billingham	18	4	2	12	364	530	26
14 Huddersfield	17	2	0	15	364	766	14

Today's Fixtures National League Division Two North

Billingham	v	Hull
Lymm	v	Otley
Preston Grass'	v	Leeds Tykes
Rotherham	v	Sheffield
Sheffield Tigers	v	Huddersfield
Tynedale	v	Fylde
Wharfedale	v	Hull Ionians

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	27-32	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	19-57	12-28
Hull	40-24	06 Apr	60-26	-	25-30	22-58	34-27	27 Apr	40-33	16 Mar	15-33	24-18	10-34	24 Feb
Hull Ionians	38-38	14-36	27 Apr	18-23	-	34-49	24 Feb	34-39	15-19	24-49	06 Apr	25-26	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	49-6	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	48-28	27-32	13 Apr	14-47	45-34	-	02 Mar	24 Feb	41-45	24-31	31-26	0-41
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	28-24	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	31-7	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	Drifffield	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	Drifffield	Merit	A	W	30 - 36
10 Feb 24	Billingham	Merit	H		Cancelled
17 Feb 24	Hull Ionians	Friendly	H		Cancelled
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 TYNEDALE
Saturday 2 March 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 Wharfedale Foresters	10	8	0	2	283	173	41
3 Drifffield 2	12	9	0	3	435	281	49
4 Sheffield 2	13	9	0	4	322	224	49
5 Sandal 2	12	7	2	3	333	254	41
6 Heath 2	12	5	0	7	295	310	36
7 Alnwick 2	8	4	0	4	94	158	23
8 Billingham Lions 2	6	3	0	3	152	119	17
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	13	2	1	10	186	368	18

Cath Harrison Trophy 2023-24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1 Foresters	12	9	0	3	352	207	75.00
2 Dev XV	7	5	0	2	254	109	71.43
3 1st XV	20	13	0	7	495	415	65.00

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Today's referee is Daniel Woods, assisted on the lines by our old friends Brendan Fitzmaurice and Don Helme.

Assessing their performance from the stands is Geoff Blackburn. We thank them all for their contribution to our game.

For what it's worth, we may alert some of our Adboard Warriors that the RFU is stepping up its vigilance regarding abuse. Why don't we save our voices for supporting our team, rather than loudly denigrating others?



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CAVALRY CLUB 2023-24

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Farfield Osteopath

Gordon Brown

John & Pam Clark

Philip Cartman

Bill & Jo Foster

Mark Fox

Mark Hancock
Amerdale Ltd

Robin Hargreaves

Michael Harrison

William Marshall

Peter & Shirley Procter

THE CAVALRY CLUB

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

Robert & Helen Austin

David & Claire Baker

Tony & Ann Bancroft

Adam Birkby
Ellergill Holiday Lettings LLP

Thank you to all our Cavalry Club members for their valuable support of the Club.

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

USE IT OR LOSE IT

Your **200 CLUB** draw rolls on into another season. It's a trickle of income which slowly accumulates over time and helps towards the upgrade of facilities, such as pending improvements to the players' changing rooms. But like all **games of chance** "you have to be in it to win it" so please consider joining the **200 CLUB** squad this season and who knows, you may get picked. On the field of play the rules of the oval ball game may be ever changing but our quarterly draw format remains just the same. The subscription is still only **£18 per year, for all 12 draws** and all you need to do to join, is contact:

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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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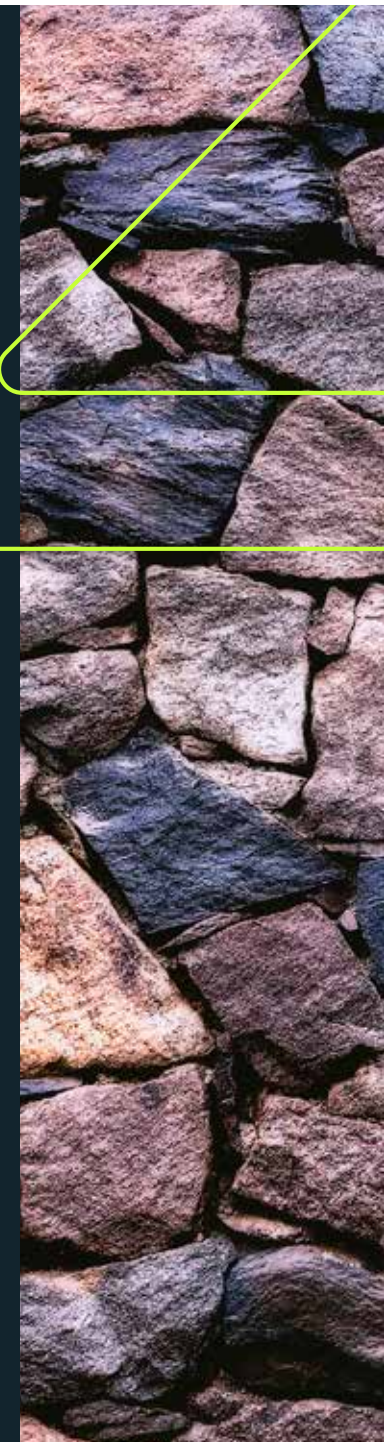
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RESPECT
ENJOYMENT
DISCIPLINE
SPORTSMANSHIP

Play to win - but not at all cost.
Win with dignity, lose with grace.
Observe the Laws and regulations of the game.
Respect opponents, referees and all participants.
Reject cheating, racism, violence and drugs.
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WHARFEDALE

15	Harry	BULLOUGH
14	Josh	PRELL
13	Oli	CICOGNINI
12	Louis	VERITY
11	Ryan	HODGSON
10	Robbie	DAVIDSON
9	Tom	DARWIN
1	Sam	DICKINSON
2	Robbie	COLLINSON
3	Jake	ARMSTRONG
4	Elliott	STOCKTON
5	George	HEDGLEY [c]
6	Jack	PINDER
7	Ben	MARKEY
8	Rob	BALDWIN
16	Ben	PATCHETT
17	Jimmy	MEEHAN
18	Josh	BURRIDGE
19	Rhys	GREEN
20	Omari	KAUP-SAMUELS



HULL IONIANS

15	L	MINIKIN
14	S	WILSON
13	W	YATES
12	W	STOWE
11	A	CELELLA
10	C	KIRK
9	S	POCKLINGTON
1	S	EDWARDS
2	A	FORTH
3	E	WALKER
4	J	MAKIN
5	C	SANDERSON
6	A	HUDSON
7	J	SANDERSON
8	G	MEWBURN
16	S	WESTWOOD
17	C	MITCHELL
18	F	GASCOIGNE
19	L	POWELL
20	J	BRITTON

REFEREE :

Daniel **WOODS**

ASSISTANT REFEREES :

Brendan **FITZMAURICE**
Don **HELME**

