

THE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF WHARFEDALE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

greenmachine

2023-2024 SEASON

WHARFEDALE vs PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024 - Kick Off 2:00pm



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WELCOME



SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY GAME

I don't care that this has been said before, it deserves being said very week, the performance of the Green Machine this year has been nothing short of a revelation and it sets up or ends your week, every week, on a high. I look forward to following the team on a Saturday, home and away, and watching a group of 20 without fail playing their hearts out with full commitment. Their heads never go down, the performance is never less than 100% and each week I go away renewed and refreshed knowing it is only 7 days before I have the excitement of seeing our team again. Sure we have not travelled well to East Yorkshire and Sheffield and the Titans were indeed Titans home and away but we have tamed teams we historically struggle against. Jake Armstrong's article in the National League newspaper summed it up perfectly. He felt revigorated as a player by the spirit of Wharfedale and the fact the club means so much to the community of Upper Wharfedale. I would never want to highlight any player but Jake has really helped give the whole club more confidence in its Centenary Year and further he has given us a vision of what the club can strive to achieve in the "next ten".

It is not just the squad that needs commending. The whole community does: from the Chairman and the executive, the volunteers in the club and the car parking team, to our fantastic coaching, fitness and medic team. Simon has developed a coaching, fitness and medic team which I hope will stay together for many years to come. Time and time again we hear visiting supporters arriving at the Avenue saying it IS the Club that they most look forward to visiting each year. The beauty of the scenery, the hospitality and rugby knowledge of our supporters together with the opportunity to visit Grassington and the Dales for the weekend never fail to disappoint. Similarly when we visit clubs, those clubs look forward to our visit as our large visiting group swell their attendance numbers more than any club in the league. It is so so good to be a Green Machine supporter. Thank you from the whole Green Machine community for delivering so strongly in our Centenary Year.

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, **Robin Johnson** and not necessarily that of the club itself.

Cover photo:
Up and away.

Officers & Officials

PRESIDENT - John S Spencer

Tel: 01756 753015 Mob: 07885 932129

CHAIRMAN - John Sykes

Mob: 07889 815899

Email: wharfedalehands@gmail.com

SECRETARY - Philip Eddleston

The Estate Barn, Coniston Cold, BD23 4ED

Mob: 07776 202531

Email: hon.sec@wharfedalerufc.co.uk

TREASURER - Alex Howarth

Tel: 01535 633619

Email: wharfedaletreasurer@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY - Simon Verbickas

Mob: 07850 171320

Email: simonverbickas@gmail.com

FIXTURES SECRETARY - Robert Burnett

Mob: 07971 839241

Email: fixture-secretary@wharfedalerufc.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS SECRETARY - Alex Howarth

Tel: 01535 633619

Email: wharfedaletreasurer@gmail.com

PRESS/PUBLICITY OFFICER - Ed Williams

Tel: 01756 720335 Mob: 07793 408910

Email: press@wharfedalerufc.co.uk

SPONSORSHIP - John Utley

Mob: 07932 689435

Email: wharfedalecommercial@gmail.com

ADVERTISING & MARKETING - John Utley

Mob: 07932 689435

Email: wharfedalecommercial@gmail.com

CLUBHOUSE BOOKINGS - Gina Hodgson

07966 132714

Email: wharfedalebookings@gmail.com

MATCH PROGRAMME EDITOR - Simon Ravens

Tel: 01943 607170

Email: programme@wharfedalerufc.co.uk

GMS DATA OFFICER - Adrian Parry

Mob: 07721 061034

Email: wharfedalegms@gmail.com

WEBSITE EDITOR & SOCIAL MEDIA - Adrian Parry

Mob: 07721 061034

Email: wharfedalegms@gmail.com

WHARFEDALE CLUB SHOP - Gina Hodgson

07966 132714 Email: hodgsonrugby@aol.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER - Annette Campbell

Mob: 07729 554546

Email: safeguarding@wharfedalerufc.co.uk

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER - John Sykes

Mob: 07889 815899

Email: wharfedalehands@gmail.com

HEAD COACH - Simon Verbickas

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PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS

Today we welcome our regular foes but more importantly friends from across the border the Grasshoppers. Amazingly they have been around since 1869 - 155 years! We all remember Wade Dooley who played 55 times for England and was also a Lion but were you aware that the current England coach Steve Borthwick is a former player as is a previous England coach Dick Greenwood and that Will Greenwood a Rugby World Cup winner is also a former player. About 10 years ago they built a RFU funded plastic 3G pitch at their wonderful stadium.



They have had a mixed season but are a very dangerous team. We cant forget the thrashing we received at the end of last season. We need to be on our guard today and play as we know we can- with full of Dale spirit and determination. Lets hope for a fair, good spirited and exciting game from both sides.

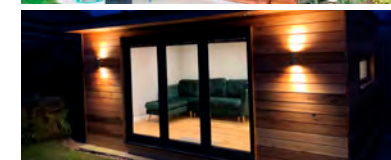
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THE FUTURE LIFEBLOOD OF THE CLUB

The U14's have been having a good season. This year Wharfedale and Skipton joined forces and combined squads. This has enabled the team to train and play together in greater numbers.

It has been the first year playing in the Yorkshire Cup. This has certainly been an interesting and competitive competition. So far the team have won three, drawn one (due to the weather) and lost one.

The last instalment played on the 17th March was a real nail biter that went down to the wire - 29-27 with the winning points coming via conversion in off the posts! One of the most memorable moments was the fantastic display of running rugby that saw us come away as winners after the short trip away to Hornsea and the incredible celebrations that followed.

Following the win on the 17th March the team are now in to the Yorkshire Cup Bowl Final against Malton and Norton. A fantastic achievement.

The whole team have really improved this year, the training is really paying off as our rucking/mauling gets stronger. Our scrum is incredibly strong and is only halted by the 1.5m push rule. The backs go from strength to strength with running displays and we cannot forget the kicking for points which has been crucial for some of our results.

All the coaches are incredibly proud of the team. We have a playing squad now that has grown from 25 to 31.

Next for the team is the Yorkshire Bowl Final and then the teams first tour to Alnwick Rugby Club; which judging by the singing in the changing rooms after the games is going to be a raucous affair!

Jim Bowers



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It is our pleasure to welcome the management, staff and guests from Brook Taverner, whose longstanding involvement with the club and sponsorship of today's game are testament to a lasting relationship between two age-old, Yorkshire institutions. On behalf of all associated with Wharfedale RUFC, we would like to thank Andrew Booth and his co-directors for their continued and invaluable support. Long may our partnership continue.

BROOK TAVERNER

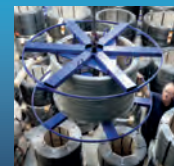
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It is now been two weeks since the runaway league leaders visited the Avenue but it is still being talked about by those who were there.

First the result – we lost but in every other sense we won. Even looking at it through a “Green Eye”, the Green Machine were just as good as the so called “money machine”. At the beginning of the match your author saw an old colleague he hadn’t seen for many a year. I said hello to discover to my surprise he was the Tykes Chair. He told our family this was a game that Leeds had been focussing on as one of the toughest of the season. He wasn’t wrong and he looked worried at half time and mightily relieved at full time. Our pack were simply magnificent and outplayed the Leeds pack and our backs defence were superb. I can’t remember a missed tackle. A breakaway interception try, some good tactical kicking by the Leeds backs and some last minute desperate tackles summed up Leeds’ performance. A dominant pack in the scrum, a full hearted team effort and relentless pressure in attack and defence summed up our game. Our line out worked, the pick and go tactic was again superbly executed testing the Leeds defence time and time again, our jackalling was first rate and had we been a little more clinical when in the Leeds 22 it was a game we should have won.

We may not be playing Leeds next season, though the Titans and Sheffield may have something to say about that, but I believe if we played them next week we would win.

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RELEGATION AND PROMOTION NEWS

We are now at the part of a season where we have half an eye on next season, though hopefully the team can remain unbeaten for the rest of our Centenary Year. Simon will be looking to bring new players into the squad for next season. We may lose a couple of key players to life overseas (the grass is never greener guys) and I sincerely hope most of the current squad will stay and commit to the club for next year. However who will be playing? That is not as obvious as you think. With Jersey Reds demise there is a concertina effect down the leagues. 3 teams will come down from National League One. Currently the most northerly relegation threatened is Leicester Lions but Sale are looking over the shoulders and Sedgley Park have been on a downward spiral in 2024. If however the current 3 remain the bottom three we will not be playing a relegated team next season. The 3 winners of National League Two North East and West go up. While it is between Leeds and Rotherham in the north it looks like Peter Winterbottom's Esher in the East will be promoted with a battle between our old foes Lutonians and Bristol based Dings in the West.

What is complicated is only 5 out of 6 bottom teams in national league 2 go down. This is a very tight battle. Huddersfield will go down in our division though I am sure we see them again soon as they have a good colts program. However currently Hull Ionians or Billingham can go down but though possibly neither may. It looks like both teams will go down in 2 West as the highest team has 27 points but in 2 East the second last team has 33 points, the Dane's as the Is and Billingham. Right now it is too close to call whether we will lose either the Is or Billingham or neither.

Two teams come up and currently that is Macclesfield and in all likelihood Harrogate though Heath are competing strongly though York's challenge has recently fallen away.

So lets say no team comes down from league 1 to our league and two go down that means we have a spare slot for our league for next year. That means we might welcome Chester back (unless they appeal like Lymm did last year). If however only Huddersfield go down and the Is and Billingham survive then Harrogate and Macclesfield will fill the spare positions. That means a great and exciting league for next season with everything to play for, for our ambitious management and squad.

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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	W	39 - 19
24 Feb 24	Hull	N2N	Away	L	21 - 10
02 Mar 24	Tynedale	N2N	Home	W	18 - 17
09 Mar 24	Leeds Tykes	N2N	Home	L	8 - 12
16 Mar 24	Sheffield Tigers	N2N	Away	L	20 - 18
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 HUDDERSFIELD

Saturday 13 APRIL 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	22	22	0	0	968	377	108
2 Rotherham	22	21	0	1	795	386	103
3 Sheffield	22	15	1	6	685	514	81
4 Wharfedale	22	14	0	8	526	415	68
5 Fylde	22	11	1	10	661	593	67
6 Tynedale	22	11	1	10	585	527	65
7 Sheffield Tigers	22	12	1	9	603	607	63
8 Hull	22	10	1	11	557	654	52
9 Otley	22	8	0	14	590	655	50
10 Preston Grass'	22	7	1	14	625	744	47
11 Lymm	22	7	1	14	569	749	42
12 Billingham	22	5	2	15	453	662	33
13 Hull Ionians	22	4	1	17	537	776	33
14 Huddersfield	22	2	0	20	476	971	18

Today's Fixtures
National League Division Two North

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

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	24-30	24-17	12-29	25-25	29-40	24-38	27 Apr	16-14	30-19	20-17	06 Apr
Fylde	32-26	-	62-19	35-8	23 Mar	13 Apr	14-15	41-18	33-27	27-32	23-22	26-26	28-34	7-24
Huddersfield	24-8	32-34	-	12-49	31-39	10-52	24-33	06 Apr	17-41	12-31	15-36	25-44	19-57	12-28
Hull	40-24	06 Apr	60-26	-	25-30	22-58	34-27	27 Apr	40-33	29-47	15-33	24-18	10-34	21-10
Hull Ionians	38-38	14-36	27 Apr	18-23	-	34-49	31-19	34-39	15-19	24-49	06 Apr	25-26	26-36	36-23
Leeds Tykes	57-13	30-17	57-17	41-11	66-15	-	78-17	31-18	53-21	26-20	27 Apr	49-6	06 Apr	20-8
Lymm	13 Apr	28-50	41-48	28-22	31-30	24-43	-	15-14	46-22	22-36	26-41	23 Mar	33-26	21-22
Otley	10-12	46-22	48-28	27-32	13 Apr	14-47	45-34	-	41-12	13-34	41-45	24-31	31-26	0-41
Preston Grasshoppers	26-22	27-41	70-19	30-30	44-35	14-45	06 Apr	26-41	-	7-34	24-26	39-41	27 Apr	22-35
Rotherham	52-24	34-19	43-15	28-9	42-17	23 Mar	33-10	34-32	13 Apr	-	32-14	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	27-19	31-14
Sheffield Tigers	35-25	27 Apr	34-32	36-17	49-5	29-50	47-35	24-16	32-26	06 Apr	28-32	-	0-10	20-18
Tynedale	24-12	45-22	33-18	23 Mar	28-25	12-35	26-18	26-22	38-43	19-33	19-19	13 Apr	-	22-24
Wharfedale	31-7	27-26	13 Apr	35-6	39-19	8-12	27 Apr	31-7	23 Mar	19-34	33-25	31-17	18-17	-





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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	W	30 - 36
10 Feb 24	Billingham	Merit	H		Cancelled
17 Feb 24	Hull Ionians	Friendly	H		Cancelled
24 Feb 24	Knaresborough	Friendly	A	W	7 - 58
02 Mar 24	Tynedale	Merit	H	L	0 - 26
09 Mar 24					
16 Mar 24	Sheffield Tigers	Merit	A	W	19 - 40
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 HUDDERSFIELD
Saturday 13 April 2024**

Yorkshire League Merit Tables

Premiership 2023-2024

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tynedale Raiders 2	8	7	0	1	231	147	37
2 Driffield 2	16	12	0	4	550	351	65
3 Wharfedale Foresters	12	9	0	3	323	218	47
4 Sheffield 2	16	10	0	6	412	290	60
5 Sandal 2	15	10	2	3	450	335	56
6 Heath 2	14	6	0	8	328	373	41
7 Billingham Lions 2	7	3	0	4	179	152	20
8 York 2	10	3	0	7	215	288	21
9 Ilkley 2	8	2	1	5	142	215	16
10 Sheffield Tigers 2	12	1	0	11	230	440	23
11 Alnwick 2	10	4	0	6	116	189	19
12 Scunthorpe 2	16	3	1	12	265	443	27

Cath Harrison Trophy 2023-24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1 Foresters	15	11	0	4	489	259	73.33
2 Dev XV	7	5	0	2	254	109	71.43
3 1st XV	25	15	0	10	588	504	60.00

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

We are delighted to welcome some regulars to officiate today.

Michael Harris, well known to both teams is supported by our old friends Simon Lazenby and Jonathan Keeton.

Let's hope it is quiet game for all three of them. Please remember we are lucky to have them help us play the game and they are impartial!



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Everyone involved in rugby in England, whether as a player, coach, referee, administrator, parent or spectator is expected to uphold the Core Values of our sport.



TEAMWORK
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	Ryan	HODGSON
14	Sam	GAUDIE
13	James	COULTON
12	Oli	CICOGNINI
11	Robbie	DAVIDSON
10	Louis	VERITY
9	Ollie	RIDDIOUGH
1	Sam	DICKINSON
2	Ben	PATCHETT
3	Jake	ARMSTRONG
4	Elliott	STOCKTON
5	George	HEDGLEY [c]
6	Jack	PINDER
7	Ben	MARKEY
8	Rob	BALDWIN
16	Jimmy	MEEHAN
17	Robbie	COLLINSON
18	Rhys	GREEN
19	Tom	BERESFORD
20	Josh	PRELL



PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS

15	Jacob	BROWNE
14	Harvey	MAY
13	Jack	LIGHTOWLER
12	Izaak	GOSLING
11	Tyler	SPENCE
10	William	HUNT
9	Joseph	HARRISON
1	Jake	POPE
2	Harry	HOLDEN
3	Michael	ASHDOWN
4	Ewan	NAYLOR
5	Alastair	MURRAY
6	Declan	NORRINGTON
7	Robert	WILLETS
8	Scott	RICHARDSON
16	Oliver	TRIPPIER
17	Wade	WILLIAMS
18	Samuel	TOWNSLEY
19	Ciaran	O'DONNELL
20	Edward	KEOHANE

REFEREE :

Michael HARRIS

ASSISTANT REFEREES :

Simon LAZENBY
Jonathan KEETON

