THE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF WHARFEDALE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

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2023-2024 SEASON

WHARFEDALE vs LEEDS TYKES

SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024 - Kick Off 2:00pm

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WELCOME

TODAY'S VISITORS

Leeds Tykes were formed as Headingley RFC in 1878 and that was their name until 1992. The changes of name - Headingley, Leeds, Leeds Carnegie, Yorkshire Carnegie and twice called Leeds Tykes (as they are now) -are of little interest, but some of the former players' names are legendary and include our own John Spencer and Richard Slater, John (a former MP for Dewsbury) and Nick Whitfield (father of Wharfedale's David), Sir Ian McGeechan, who played for the Club for 15 years, Chris Rea, Peter Thompson (17 England caps on the wing), Peter Squires (also a Yorkshire 1st team cricketer), Peter Johnston, Bob Umbers, Oliver Grieveson and of course Peter Winterbottom. He played 58 times for England and 7 times for the Lions and captained Harlequins, a truly great flanker.

Peter says Headingley was a very social Club and was well run. Sir Ian says "In any rugby Club it is the people that make it. People with vision and a passion that took Headingley from pre-world war days through to be one of the biggest Clubs in the country. It's the people that I will be forever grateful for, first class people that created an environment you could enjoy. You could play rugby with a smile on your face and enjoy their company."

To read these observations from a six times Lions tourist says so much about the Club which we are playing today. Peter Winterbottom's father John, a great friend of the late Jim Caygill, was a dedicated servant of Headingley. He joined in 1950, became Chairman, then President in the Centenary Year in 1978 and was involved in the creation of the new Leeds Club after the merger with Roundhay in 1992. A number who worked at Carnegie such as Peter Ventre and Bernard White contributed a great deal to the Club in these years. Other great men involved with the original Headingley Club were Air Chief Marshal Sir Augustus Walker (RFU President 1965-66 and an international referee) and Dick Kingswell (RFU President 1972-73). Dick was also Club captain in 1936-37, served on the committee for over 40 years and was Club President in 1968-69. It was due to him that both Whitfield's played for the Club and he played a huge part in my professional career.

The very recent death of Terry Donovan means that that strong family connection has come to an end, as his brother predeceased him. He had been ill for some time. Our condolences to Liz and his children.

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome the deserved League leaders today and we wish them well in their attempt to go back to previous heights. We need a top Club from Yorkshire to figure prominently at national level.

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, **John Clark** and not necessarily that of the club itself.

Cover photo:
We couldn't manage without Jill.

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VALUABLE WHEREVER HE PLAYS - TOM DARWIN TELLS US MORE

How long have you been playing rugby?

I have been playing here since Under 7's but was familiar with a rugby ball before then. I'm following in my dad's footsteps, who also played juniors and seniors here.

Do you have a brother or sister?

Yes; a sister Gemma, a regular supporter like my parents.

Where did you go to school?

I started off at Kirkby Malham, then moved to Settle College. I am now studying product design at Northumbria University.

Who have been your biggest influences?

My parents. They've driven me all over the country for games and training. I cannot be too grateful for that support.

Do you like any other sports?

I am very sporty and happy playing anything. I have played cricket most of my life and have started to play golf, but that is definitely more just for fun.

Have you a favourite holiday destination?

Yes, Majorca. I've been going every year since I was little.

I also enjoy skiing though, so would go to the slopes at any opportunity.

Have you any favourite TV programmes?

Yes, Richard Hammond's Workshop and Top Gear.

Name three of your heroes whom you would like to invite to your home.

A designer called Jony Ive who designed most Apple products. I'd like some advice from him. The other two I'd invite would be Peter Kay (what a laugh!) and rugby international Henry Slade to pick his brains.

Anything you dislike?

Jeremy Vine's radio show probably annoys me the most - everything about it.

A SAD PERIOD FOR RUGBY SUPPORTERS

Amongst the international rugby players such as David Duckham, Clive Rowlands, David Watkins, Ken Scotland, Ben Risman, Paul Randall, JPR Williams and Barry John who have died in 2023-24 were Peter Dixon and Mike Weston.

Cumbrian-born Peter was the son of a one-time Manager of what was then Martins' Bank in Cross Hills and Mike, who played for Durham City, was under-rated except in New Zealand but he contributed impressively to the North West Counties' memorable win over the 1972 All Blacks, as well as to the North's famous win over the All Blacks at Otley in 1979.

ENGLAND V WALES

A close encounter with the home side just prevailing. What saddened me, however, was the fact that the ball was only in play for just over 36 minutes, giving paying customers poor value for money.

Some more facts: Nearly 18 and a half minutes were spent waiting for scrums to take place, just under 11 minutes waiting for penalties and conversions to be taken, 10 minutes waiting for line outs to be formed and the list goes on. An 80 minute match lasted for 96 minutes and 38 seconds! We spectators are being taken for a ride. Thanks for this information previously posted on our website.

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WHARFEDALE MINIS & JUNIORS

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JUNIORS

This season we have moved from the minis to the junior section and started sessions of mid-week training, which all the boys have fully embraced.

We have noticed an increase in physicality and improvement in the tackling/organisation of the opposition this season. This, initially, came as a bit of a shock to some players as previously they have broken defensive lines at will, but now have had to play more as a team to stretch their opponents and open up gaps in attack. We have focussed on this area in training, and we are now seeing the benefits of the boy's hard work.

We started the season well with some good performances and results, even turning over Ripon away (who have historically beaten us). November and December saw us have a tough time facing stiff opposition in the form of our nemesis –Harrogate- at home and away, and the performances and results suffered. We then had six weeks without a game, due to Christmas and the bad weather. However it has been pleasing to see the boys persevere with training hard and we have seen a massive improvement in the boys' skills,evidenced with some great recent performances. Our recent victory against Blackburn was a great team effort and really showed the improvement made by the group this season.

We're fortunate to have 25 players registered with our group and all have improved throughout the season and played a part in its success. Some are moving on to pastures new next season and this coupled with the move to 15 aside next season means we are still open to new players joining.

We would like to give a 'big shout out' to Matt Wareing who, sadly, will be leaving the group at the end of the season. Matt has coached this group for the last seven seasons, doing the first three seasons on his own! A big Thank You Matt from all of the players, parents and coaches.

John Snell

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We thank the firm most sincerely for their continuing support of our Club and not least for the total commitment on and off the field over many years of Rob Baldwin and his dad. We welcome them today as well as fellow Directors Matthew Child, Jason Atkinson and Gavin Hindle. One can never overstate the debt we owe to firms such as this one who support us in good times, such as now, and in less good.

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Josh Prell scores at Hull

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LEEDS MEMORIES

It's almost 30 years since another highflying Leeds team travelled to the Avenue to play in the then National Division 3.

September 1996 saw a star-studded Leeds team unbeaten and tied on points with Exeter. Part of the programme was written in Welsh (tongue in cheek), a reference to the two Welsh internationals in the Leeds ranks, Colin Stephens and player coach Philip Davies. Tongan international Seteki Tuipolutu was in the centre. Wharfedale had lost the previous week to Harrogate and Stephens put Leeds into a 9-0 lead via two penalties and a drop goal. The visitors, however, hadn't reckoned with the indomitable spirit and "hwyl" of the Greens. Tuipolutu looked destined to score twice before being smashed early by Andy Hodgson and later by Russ Buckroyd. It would have been the match-winning try and wasn't the end of Buckroyd's swashbuckling performance. Roared on by the crowd, he scored just before half-time and the tide began to turn. Leeds' Gerry Ainscough put Leeds ahead but it was then Hedley Verity's turn to score, first with a charge down then after an explosive break. That second try for him gave Wharfedale the lead. Buckroyd's 35 yard drop goal clinched a memorable 23-18 victory.

John Lovell

SEDBERGH

Sedbergh School has much to be pleased about in various sports not least by the emergence of Philip Dowson as coach at Northampton.

We must agree with him when he says "We need to change the optics of the sport and show how much fun it is to play and to watch." I believe that Wharfedale and Leeds RUFC's are doing just that, not least by their expansive style of play. At international level Ireland and France lead the way.

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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		-
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

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Saturday 23 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	20	20	0	0	878	352	99
2	Rotherham	20	19	0	1	706	340	93
3	Sheffield	20	14	1	5	627	476	75
4	Wharfedale	20	14	0	6	500	383	66
5	Fylde	20	10	1	9	616	525	62
6	Sheffield Tigers	20	11	1	8	564	559	59
7	Tynedale	20	9	1	10	523	479	55
8	Hull	20	10	1	9	506	579	50
9	Otley	20	7	0	13	522	607	44
10	Lymm	20	6	1	13	524	649	38
11	Preston Grass'	20	5	1	14	529	703	38
12	Hull Ionians	20	4	1	15	494	698	32
13	Billingham	20	4	2	14	401	617	27
14	Huddersfield	20	2	0	18	442	865	18

Today's Fixtures
National League Division Two North

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

League Fixtures/Results 2023/2024
National League Division Two North

National League Rugby

	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	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	32-34	-	12-49	31-39	10-52	24-33	06 Apr	17-41	12-31	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	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	16 Mar	36-23
Leeds Tykes	57-13	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	-	15-14	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	-	41-12	13-34	41-45	24-31	31-26	0-41
Preston Grasshoppers	16 Mar	27-41	09 Mar	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	09 Mar	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	16 Mar
Tynedale	24-12	45-22	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	39-19	09 Mar	27 Apr	31-7	23 Mar	19-34	33-25	31-17	18-17	-

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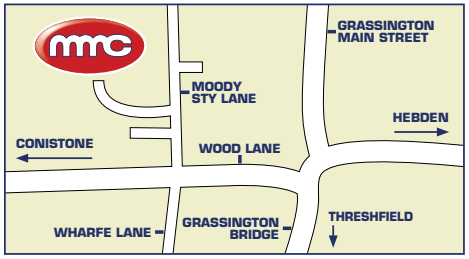

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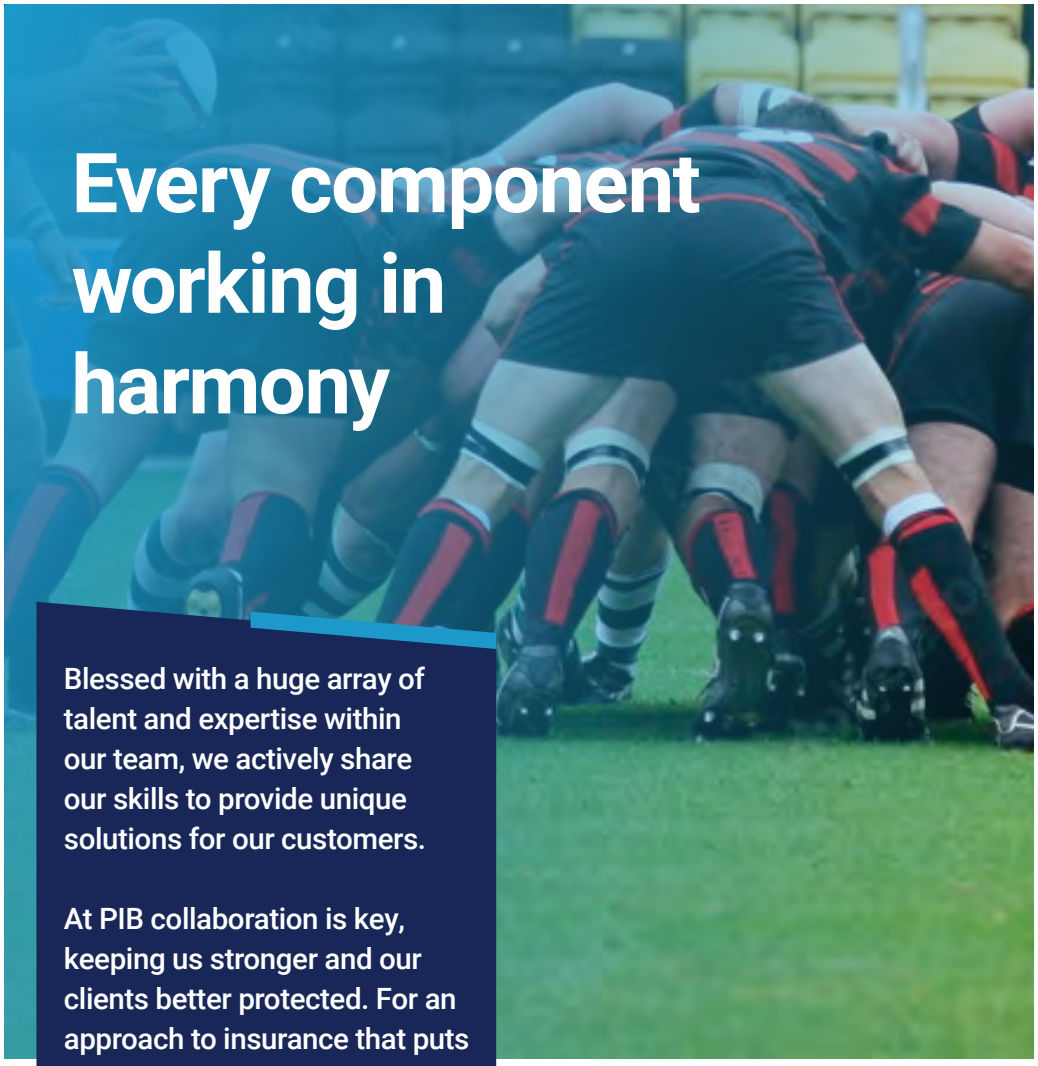

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PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

This season's players have been sponsored by the following groups and individuals.

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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		
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	6	5	0	1	205	147	27
2	Wharfedale Foresters	10	8	0	2	283	173	41
3	Driffield 2	14	10	0	4	478	324	55
4	Sheffield 2	15	10	0	5	386	263	57
5	Sandal 2	13	8	2	3	378	297	46
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	10	0	0	10	178	373	17
12	Scunthorpe 2	14	2	1	11	198	408	19

Cath Harrison Trophy 2023-24

		P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1	Foresters	13	10	0	3	449	207	76.92
2	Dev XV	7	5	0	2	254	109	71.43
3	1st XV	22	14	0	8	544	455	63.64

WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT THEM?

Due to a last-minute reshuffle of referees last Saturday, the Foresters were without a match official at short notice. We must thank Graham Summersgill for his willingness to stand in at short notice and referee the game. When I say short notice, he was pulled away from his Yorkshire pudding at The Fountaine just before kick off. Thank you Graham; your efforts were appreciated by all at this club and also by the Tynedale players who had travelled down for the fixture.

Graham's efforts are regrettably set against a deteriorating national picture of abuse and hostility towards match officials. This permeates the game from international level downwards. Recent indications are that the RFU are taking a much stronger line against offenders. How soon before we see points deductions for clubs?

We all have a role to play in maintaining high standards. We are Wharfedale; let us make sure we're on top of our game.

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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

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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
January	£40	24	Will Greenwood
	£20	104	Jeremy Daggett
	£10	55	Len Tiffany
February	£40	33	Gordon Jackson
	£20	23	Louise Stockdale
	£10	106	John Utley
March	£100	5	Cath Hartley
	£40	122	Alice Eddleston
	£20	157	Gill Stockdale
	£10	6	Ian Douglas

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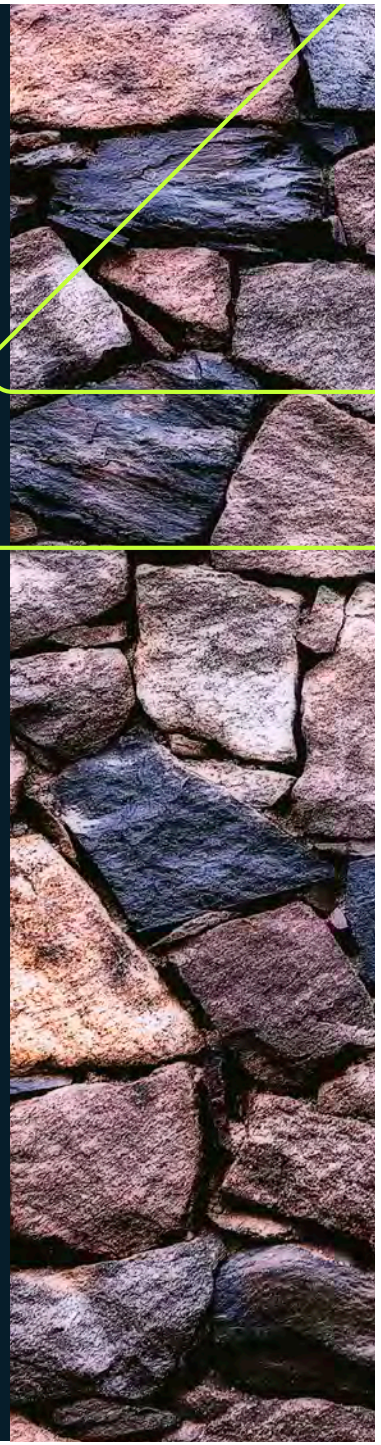

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ENJOYMENT
DISCIPLINE
SPORTSMANSHIP

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.
Value volunteers and paid officials alike.
Enjoy the game.

Rugby Football Union. The England rose is an official registered trademark of the Rugby Football Union.

An unusual line out clearly won by the Greens

WHARFEDALE

15	Ryan	HODGSON
14	Tom	DARWIN
13	James	COULTON
12	Oli	CICOGNINI
11	Robbie	DAVIDSON
10	Louis	VERITY
9	Ollie	RIDDIOUGH
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	Jimmy	MEEHAN
17	Ben	PATCHETT
18	Rhys	GREEN
19	Josh	BURRIDGE
20	Josh	PRELL

LEEDS TYKES

15	Kieran	DAVIES
14	Ben	TURPIN
13	Ben	DIXON
12	Tom	WILLIAMS
11	Ewan	EVANS
10	Pete	LUCOCK
9	Will	HARDWICK
1	Toby	WILLIAMS
2	Adam	BROWN [C]
3	Alex	FISHWICK
4	Jake	BRADY
5	Jack	GILMARTIN
6	Lucas	WALSH
7	Jonny	TEAGUE
8	Junior	NU'U
16	Archie	UPTON
17	Will	DENNIS
18	Ollie	KENYON
19	Eddie	BROWN
20	Henry	MACNAB

REFEREE :

Michael HARRIS

ASSISTANT REFEREES :

Jason GARRICK

Don HELME