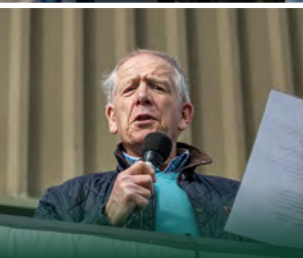


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# WELCOME



## A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR

Well, here we are; match twenty-six already and the last one of the season. Today we extend a very warm welcome to Lymm RFC and their President, Varun Maharaj. We congratulate them on what has to be considered a successful very first season in National 2. Lymm say "adieu" to their long-standing prop Gavin Woods today. By this scribe's arithmetic, today will be his 603rd senior appearance and what better place to finish your career? Best wishes Gavin.

Best wishes too to our own James Coulton (see page 17). JC is off to Dubai and he departs with the thanks and best wishes of everyone at the club. Once a Green... James?

Hopefully, the sun will shine and we can all enjoy an absorbing match. Whilst it is in our own hands as to whether we secure fourth spot in the table (4 points will be enough), I'm sure eyes and ears will also be scouring the ether to stay abreast of matches elsewhere, not least Fylde's encounter away at Sheffield Tigers. Promotion and relegation matters are also still very much to be finalised; a better script for the last day could not have been written. I wonder whether we'll be mentioned in despatches down at Headingley later today...

Aside from today's result, the first team has enjoyed further season by season improvement this term having finished the last two seasons, chronologically, in 8th and 12th position. Long may it continue! Incidentally, this season we have the third lowest points against total and the third highest number of wins; chapeau gentlemen!

We also extend our best wishes to the Foresters who tackle Sandal 2's today at West Leeds in the Yorkshire and North East Premiership playoff final. Sunday sees the Colts at Doncaster Knights ground playing in the Colts Yorkshire Bowl final. Go well boys; go 12noon.

A shout too for the Devs, who were narrowly defeated by Ilkley 2's during the preceding week in the semi final of the Aire Wharfe Cup, is well justified too. This is a remarkable achievement for them given that at the start of the season we were still suffering post-Covid drag and didn't have anything near a full team! From zero to hero Mr Marklew, take a bow.

To players of every age, capability and gender we say a massive thank you for a truly great season of rugby. Nothing gets left on the pitch and we can ask no more than that.

Echoing today's programme front cover, none of this would be possible without the magnificent support of our wonderful staff and volunteers. The list of the roles that these people fulfil is truly a long one and, quite simply, the club would not function without this commitment. Thank you!

And thanks also to our supporters for the atmosphere and the crack on matchdays; a special atmosphere for a special club. Let's hear it long and loud today folks!

Finally, our ladies are recruiting players today. They have a gazebo in the main car park and will welcome players of any age to join them. Please go and grab a glass of fizz and have a chat. Ladies' rugby is on a roll and is attracting more and more recruits to the game. The club is fully behind and supports this initiative. We look forward to a Green future.

So, let's sit back, give the boys a roar and enjoy what is left of the season. You can even stay and have a bop to live music in the clubhouse after full time.

Best wishes to everyone involved with the club, be they player, coach, sponsor, volunteer, Cavalry Club, staff member or spectator. We really couldn't do it without you. Enjoy your summer we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Wharfedale RUFC; one hundred years down. Bring on the next hundred!

**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 photos:

The cover photos, by Ro Burridge, show the heart of Wharfedale RUFC

## 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

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**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

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## WHARFEDALE RUFC MEMBERSHIP 2023-2024

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**MINI/JUNIOR PARENTS**

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## OUR VISITORS TODAY – LYMM

Every rugby club has its own origin story, but the one on the website of Lymm RFC is beautifully honest.



*During the early part of 1959 a group of young men used to congregate around the fire of the snug in the Spread Eagle Hotel. The beer in the Spread at that time did nothing to inspire the lads and one evening, when it was particularly bad, the conversation once again turned to how the matter could be rectified and someone came up with the brilliant idea of forming a drinking club. Shortly afterwards four of the men attended the Bowdon 7s. As the day progressed, they were amazed to find that the bar remained open and they decided there and then that this abuse of the licensing laws was the answer to all their problems... but first of all they needed a team.*

And so a rugby club was born! Over the decades the sporting element of the club has become more than an excuse for drinking. Nowadays the club runs a number of senior sides and a full range of junior sides, as well as teams in squash and hockey. This has been Lymm's first season at Level 4, following promotion as champions of Regional 1 North West. After a tricky start to their campaign Lymm have found their feet. With 9 wins to date (including an impressive victory away at Fylde) they sit in lower mid table. We look forwards to seeing them here today, and again next season.

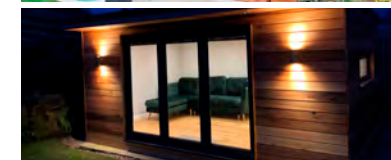
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# MICHAEL WATSON

Many members will know that our dear friend Mickey Watson passed away last week in accidental circumstances whilst walking in Wales with his brothers, Stephen and David.

What a loyal and trusted man! Embedded with Wharfedale heritage and character - so dedicated and inspiring. A former Ermysteds pupil, he played in an era of Wharfedale promotions. He was vital to the success of the team, and respected as a senior lieutenant of Clarty's leadership with John McGuinn and his evergreen car sharer, Ray Cryer. His playing career, like so many others, was greatly influenced by Jimmy Harrison.

As many have said, Mickey was the fastest hooker in the country, and played on the wing on many occasions because of his real pace. He switched seamlessly between the two positions. He was one of the jewels in the side but would always prefer the plaudits to go to the team. Playing between Andy Gains and David Townson in the front row for so many years was his ideal. They perhaps had their arms around Mickey as much as Sue! For the purists, he was a striker rather than a hooker, and was renowned for taking balls against the head on a regular basis. His contortions in the scrum and his failure to bind made life difficult for his props and the referee alike, but his talent was unquestionable.

A keen contributor to the Club WhatsApp, Mickey talked common sense. He certainly valued the core principles of respect, sportsmanship and integrity. You could sense the calculation of a keen brain beneath the happy exterior. He was trusted as much as he was admired. He was a spectator's favourite with his touch, imagination and flair, and always appeared to be in peak condition. I am sure that there were occasions when he stole the cloak of invisibility! Even now he was training for a half marathon. There will be few who can remember Mickey's talent as an accomplished flautist and singer. Perhaps there will be more who recall his incredible ability to sink a pint without swallowing. Never take him on!

Mickey had, in life, woven a rich fabric of friendship. Many of those friends played within the Wharfedale club. That is the rugby reality that is deep in our club's heritage. His demeanour reminds us that a compassionate smile is the universal language of kindness. His teammates will tell you what a privilege it was to play with him - a man capable of conjuring golden moments out of nothing. He was certainly capable of playing at higher levels, but stayed with his passion. His loyalty to Wharfedale was so strong and steadfast.

Mickey's passing has been a shock to all of us, particularly because of the accidental circumstances. We have been made aware that the future has a way of arriving unannounced. This is yet another instance where the moment may be temporary but the memory is forever. There are some people whose lives give themselves to memory. Mickey is one of those people. We send to Sue, Sam and Rebecca our heartfelt thoughts and condolences, and, of course, our love.

Au revoir, dear friend.

**John Spencer.**  
President.

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# WHARFEDALE MINIS & JUNIORS

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## U15s SEASON REPORT

An impressive season for the Under 15s, with a 15 to five winning record and a campaign reaching the semi-finals of the Yorkshire Cup, narrowly missing out to West Park Leeds. Our Yorkshire Cup journey started with an away trip to a sunny but soggy Beverley early in the season. A fast paced and high-scoring match, managing to win 38 - 14. The second match in the campaign was a 15-17 defeat at Cleckheaton, in which the lads' second half surge was not enough to secure victory. However the unique way the Yorkshire cup is organised meant we progressed to the next round meaning we were to host Sandal.

We had convincingly beaten Sandal at their ground weeks before, however this must have provoked a desire for revenge as the travelling team were a different beast! Wharfedale contained them on the second team pitch, with an excellent forwards performance, coming away victorious, winning 22 -10. The semi-final at West Park Leeds held during the Easter school holidays meant we only narrowly managed to take 16 players to Bramhope. We had players coming from as far as North Wales and plucked from tents in the West Highlands interrupting their Duke of Edinburgh. Despite a lot of the team playing out of position, and a late charge we were beaten 15 - 10.

This season has been punctuated with hard fought victories, humbling defeats and injuries plaguing momentum. Our forwards have been outstanding this year with very few teams matching our scrummaging or desire to get the ball. Matched by off-the-training-pitch moves and speed of our backs.

Thank you to all the hard work of the coaches Phil Peel, Phil Hargreaves, David Mitchell and Andrew Hodgson for their commitment to developing the talent in this young team. We will continue this momentum into next season and aim to bring some silverware back to The Avenue.

Addison Southam



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Madison Hunting sprinting clear against Huddersfield

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# MINI'S PRESENTATION NIGHT

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# U12s LONDON TOUR

The U12s tour to London set off from Skipton auction mart on the evening of 12th April with a larger support staff and fan base than most Lions tours. Despite arriving in the capital at a very late hour the adult tourists and players were in good spirit. It's fair to say that some people were tired and emotional the next day. What then occurred was a whistle stop tour of the capital taking in all major sites, the Natural History museum, whilst wearing wigs. An evening meal was followed by ten pin bowling of varying abilities (A.Donald had clearly been polishing his balls furiously for the competition) and go-karting.

On Sunday morning the tour got serious with a game against Blackheath FC, the oldest rugby club in the world, apparently. Blackheath were incredibly well drilled, fast and very skilful. In the face of determined opposition from the boys in green, Blackheath took their opportunities well and scored 10 tries in total. Wharfedale U12s played well in parts. Some of the passing was excellent, there were some excellent try saving tackles and there were well supported individual carries to penetrate the Blackheath defences to come tantalisingly close to the try line. A special mention has to be made to S.Throup who was instrumental in leading our attack and was justly rewarded with our only try. R.Shuttleworth was named by Blackheath as their man of the match for his gliding runs and dogged tackling. The game was played in the true rugby spirit and was thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike. We express our sincere thanks to our generous hosts and look forward to welcoming them up Dale in the near future. The U12s will have learned a great deal from a technically gifted and physical side.

The tour was a great success. The spirit was superbly exemplified by our man of the tour, J.Dawson, who engaged in every activity and the match with good humour and commitment. Many thanks to all individuals and companies who have supported the tour: without your generosity we would not have been able to go on tour and we certainly would not have had such a brilliant time.

**Adam Birkby**

## Players:

B.Battle, W.Birkby, S.Bowers, S.Coope, J.Coope, J.Dawson, F.Donald, N.Graham, J.Green, M.Hargreaves, B.Holme, J.North, D.Paton, F.Peverley, R.Shepherd, R.Shuttleworth, S.Throup

## Coaches:

S.Graham, A.Donald, A.Birkby, A.Coope, J.North, M.Battle

## Travelling support:

J.Bowers, S.Hargreaves, K.Holme, D.Paton, N.Peverley, A.Shepherd, D.Shuttleworth, R.Throup



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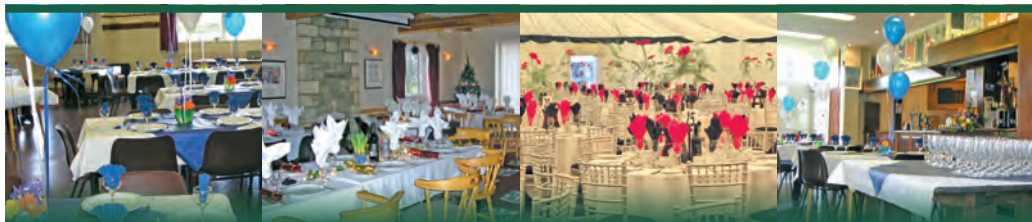
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## 1st XV - Fixtures/Results 2023/2024

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	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	W	31 - 21
30 Mar 24					-
06 Apr 24	Billingham	N2N	Away	L	20 - 17
13 Apr 24	Huddersfield	N2N	Home	W	40 - 17
20 Apr 24		N2N	Away		-
27 Apr 24	Lymm	N2N	Home		-

National League Division Two North  
**2024-25 FIXTURES**  
Due in early June

## League Table 2023/2024 National League Division Two North

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Rotherham	25	24	0	1	930	446	118
2 Leeds Tykes	25	23	0	2	1064	441	116
3 Sheffield	25	17	1	7	759	591	90
4 Wharfedale	25	16	0	9	614	473	79
5 Fylde	25	13	1	11	760	664	78
6 Tynedale	25	12	1	12	669	645	72
7 Sheffield Tigers	25	12	1	12	668	722	64
8 Hull	25	12	1	12	646	763	62
9 Otley	25	9	1	15	686	736	59
10 Lymm	25	9	1	15	693	843	54
11 Preston Grass'	25	8	1	16	712	884	52
12 Billingham	25	7	2	16	550	747	43
13 Hull Ionians	25	5	1	19	636	890	39
14 Huddersfield	25	2	1	22	548	1090	22

## Today's Fixtures National League Division Two North

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

## 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	53-29	24-30	24-17	12-29	25-25	29-40	24-38	27 Apr	16-14	30-19	20-17	20-17
Fylde	32-26	-	62-19	35-8	45-17	18-15	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	26-26	17-41	12-31	15-36	25-44	19-57	12-28
Hull	40-24	39-36	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	48-14	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	55-14	20-8
Lymm	39-24	28-50	41-48	28-22	31-30	24-43	-	15-14	46-22	22-36	26-41	43-24	33-26	21-22
Otley	10-12	46-22	48-28	27-32	55-34	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	46-42	26-41	-	7-34	24-26	39-41	27 Apr	22-35
Rotherham	52-24	34-19	43-15	28-9	42-17	32-26	33-10	34-32	67-20	-	32-14	35-17	42-7	33-7
Sheffield	26-13	34-28	71-19	39-14	40-10	35-40	28-24	21-15	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	14-36	28-32	-	0-10	20-18
Tynedale	24-12	45-22	33-18	34-36	28-25	12-35	26-18	26-22	38-43	19-33	19-19	36-27	-	22-24
Wharfedale	31-7	27-26	40-17	35-6	39-19	8-12	27 Apr	31-7	31-21	19-34	33-25	31-17	18-17	-



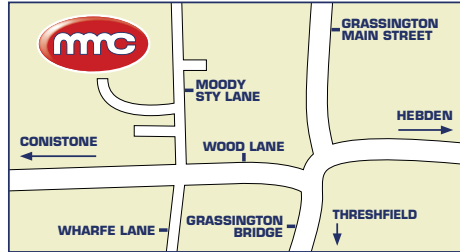


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## Wharfedale Foresters Fixtures/Results 2023/2024

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	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	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	W	24 - 26
30 Mar 24					
06 Apr 24	Billingham	Merit	A	W	5 - 26
13 Apr 24	Huddersfield	Friendly	H		Cancelled
20 Apr 24	Sheffield (Semi-Final)	Merit	H	W	29 - 3
27 Apr 24	Sandal (Final)	Merit	A		

## Yorkshire League Merit Tables

### Premiership 2023-2024

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tynedale Raiders 2	10	9	0	1	231	147	47
2 Wharfedale Foresters	15	12	0	3	404	250	62
3 Drifffield 2	18	13	0	5	555	363	72
4 Sandal 2	16	11	2	3	462	340	60
5 Sheffield 22	17	9	0	8	415	319	54
6 Heath 2	17	7	0	10	385	456	51
7 Billingham Lions 2	9	3	0	6	212	218	23
8 Alnwick 2	13	7	0	6	207	258	33
9 Ilkley 2	11	4	1	6	191	243	21
10 Scunthorpe 2	16	3	1	12	289	469	29
11 York 2	12	3	0	9	227	305	21
12 Sheffield Tigers 2	14	1	0	13	230	440	19

### Cath Harrison Trophy 2023-24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1 Foresters	18	14	0	4	570	298	77.78
2 Dev XV	9	7	0	2	316	141	77.78
3 1st XV	28	17	0	11	676	572	60.71

## TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Today's referee is Daniel Woods, and he is assisted on the lines by Paul Fincken and Graham Bentley. Assessing them from the stand will be Hanson Haigh.

We thanks these gentlemen today, and all our officials this season, for making our game possible.



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Gordon Brown

John & Pam Clark

Philip Cartman

Bill & Jo Foster

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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

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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

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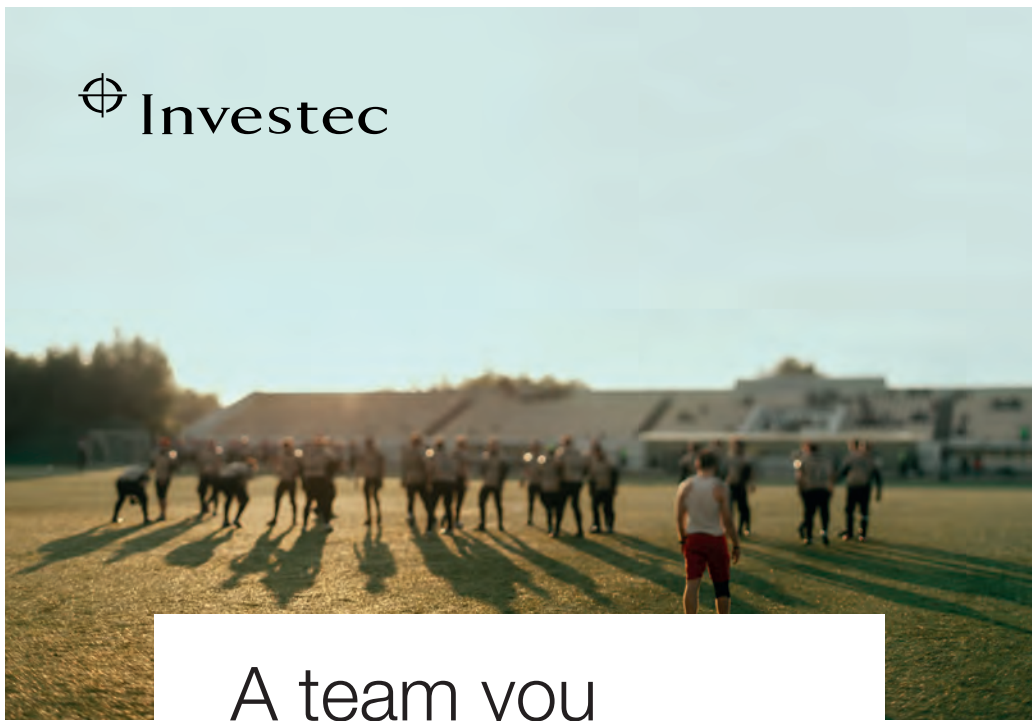
Your **200 CLUB** draw rolls on into another season. It's a trickle of income which slowly accumulates over time and helps towards the upgrade of facilities, such as pending improvements to the players' changing rooms. But like all **games of chance** "you have to be in it to win it" so please consider 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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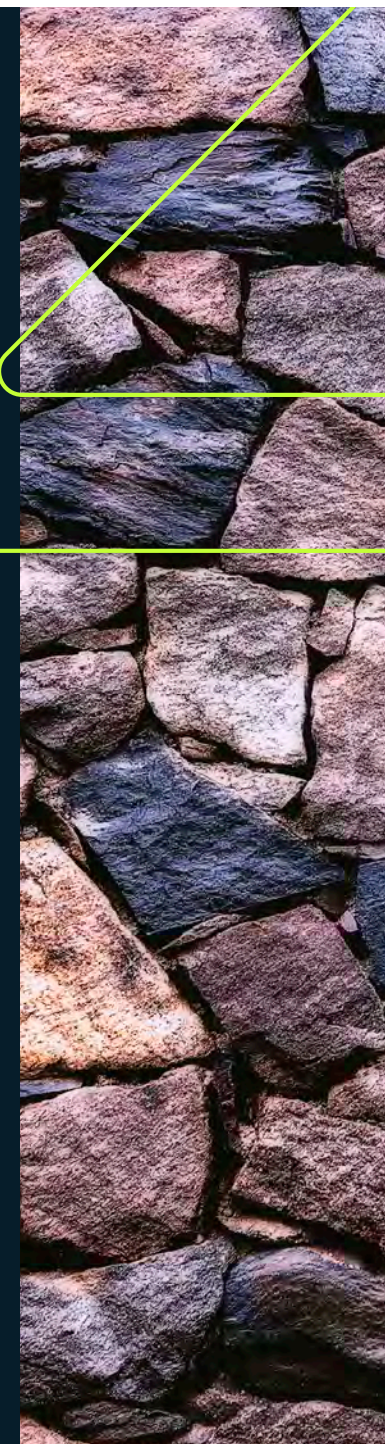
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Rhys Green heading for Billingham's try-line

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



## LYMM

15	Alfred	SIMPSON
14	Andrew	WILLIAMS
13	Stephen	PILKINGTON
12	James	KIMBER
11	Patrick	JENNINGS
10	Thomas	SHARD
9	Callum	MORRIS
1	Ralph	MCEACHRAN
2	James	PITCHER
3	Matthew	HAND
4	James	YATES
5	Rhys	LILLY
6	Joshua	HADLAND
7	Harry	MARTIN
8	Oliver	HIGGINSON
16	Jordan	WIDDRINGTON
17	Robert	MAKIN
18	Ben	THOMPSON
19	Gavin	WOODS
20	Jack	STRIDE

### REFEREE :

Daniel **WOODS**

### ASSISTANT REFEREES :

Paul **FINCKEN**  
Graham **BENTLEY**

