THE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF WHARFEDALE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

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2026-2027 SEASON

WHARFEDALE vs TYNEDALE

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2026 - Kick Off 2:00pm

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WELCOME

FORWARDS

On behalf of the club, I would like to express our appreciation to our outgoing Chairman, John Sykes. John has not only proved a tireless worker for the club, but has gone about his business with real spirit and personal warmth. His won't be an easy act to follow, but follow we must. Our club has plenty of team players with intelligence and passion – it's in the Wharfedale blood. Now it is the turn of someone else to step forwards.

John Spencer, President

Forwards. For every club, there are times when stepping forwards seems almost impossible. In December 2015, when today's welcome visitors Tynedale found their clubhouse five feet deep in water, moving on must have seemed futile. Especially as they had recently been relegated from National 1. And yet move on they did, not just by building a magnificent flood-resilient clubhouse, but by nurturing a team of promotion contenders.

Wharfedale doesn't face an existential threat, as Tynedale did then. So let's not over-dramatise this. But since we find ourselves in a fix both on the pitch and in the clubhouse, we can still take heed the from the way Tyne have moved forwards in the last decade.

On the pitch we have to accept that some things are out of our hands. One senior tells me that "I know that injuries are part and parcel of rugby, but I've been around this club all my life and this is unprecedented. On training evenings our physios room looks more like a field hospital than a rugby clubhouse." Luckily, in Jill, Katie and Johnny B we have a supremely dedicated team on the case. Right now they deserve a special vote of thanks. Respect.

But how about off the pitch? The stand-out of our club's contact page is the line that just reads 'Chairman TBA'. Beyond that, though, there is also the reality that Ed Williams and John Utley have also taken a step back after years of magnificent, committed service. So there are holes to fill. Plural. The problem is that almost all of us can find good reasons – work, family, geography – why we can't take on more responsibilities.

And here is where we can heed the example of our own past and present. Go back a couple of decades, and the Wharfedale hierarchy had all played together. They'd loved having each others' backs on the pitch, and took that team mentality into the clubhouse. And we could also think about the example of our Ladies section, which is going from strength to strength headed up by two names, not one. Perhaps it's not a single individual that the club needs now but, as John says, team players.

Simon Ravens

Cover photo: The cover photo, by Ro Burridge, shows Tom Beresford against Sheffield Tigers in his 50th appearance for the Firsts.

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SIMON SAYS...

There is plenty to be positive about at Wharfedale, even if our first-team results over recent weeks haven't quite reflected the standards and expectations we set ourselves as a group.

Following our brilliant home victory against Preston, who had been unbeaten before visiting the Dales, we have unfortunately had to make 17 player and positional changes across our last three games due to injuries and unavailability. That level of disruption inevitably has an impact on performances, combinations and consistency, particularly when players are being asked to step into unfamiliar roles or return from injury.

That said, we are not a group that will look for excuses. We know there are areas of our game we need to improve, and the responsibility lies with all of us to keep working hard, maintain our standards and ensure we are ready to take our opportunities when they come. The season is certainly not decided in October, and there is still plenty of rugby to be played and plenty of time to get our campaign back on track.

Our medical team deserves enormous credit for the work they are putting in behind the scenes. They are working tirelessly to support our injured players and get them back on the pitch as quickly and safely as possible. Having a settled squad available consistently will make a significant difference, and we are looking forward to welcoming players back into the fold over the coming weeks.

This weekend's break for the first team also comes at a welcome time. After seven consecutive games, the opportunity to recover physically, recharge mentally and give some players additional time to work towards full fitness is important. We will use the break positively before returning with renewed energy and a clear focus on the challenges ahead.

Away from the first team, there are some excellent developments across the club that deserve recognition. Our second team is now competing in the Yorkshire League and performing well in the upper reaches of the table. This is an important step in strengthening our senior rugby structure, providing players with meaningful competition and creating a stronger pathway between our teams.

It was also fantastic to see the third team take to the field for the first time this season. Getting that fixture played is another positive step for the club and demonstrates the importance of creating opportunities for as many players as possible to represent Wharfedale.

Our ladies have also made an outstanding start to their campaign, winning all of their fixtures so far. Their performances are a credit to the players and coaches involved and provide another example of the progress being made across our rugby programme.

While we would all like the first-team league table to look different at this stage, it is important that we keep the bigger picture in mind. Wharfedale is about more than one team's results. It is about developing players, strengthening our pathways, creating opportunities and building a club that can compete and thrive at every level.

There is work to do, and nobody is shying away from that. We know what we are capable of, we have already shown glimpses of it this season, and our focus now is on turning that potential into consistent performances and results.

Thank you, as always, to everyone who continues to support the players, coaches and wider club. We will keep working, keep improving and keep moving forward together.

Simon Verbickas, Director of Rugby

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Under-12s - The Season Ahead

We're looking forward to what promises to be an exciting season for our Under-12s.

We have a large and enthusiastic squad of around 20 lads, all eager to develop their skills, build their confidence and enjoy their rugby together.

We have a challenging fixture list ahead of us this season, which will test the boys and bring out the best in them. Our focus will be on continuing to develop as a team, improving our skills and game understanding, and building on the progress made so far.

Most importantly, we want the lads to enjoy their rugby, support one another and continue to develop the teamwork, commitment and sportsmanship that make rugby such a great game.

We're also looking forward to our end-of-season tour to Bridlington, where the lads will take part in the Bridlington Under-12s Rugby Festival. It promises to be a fantastic experience for the squad, both on and off the pitch, and a great way to round off the season together.

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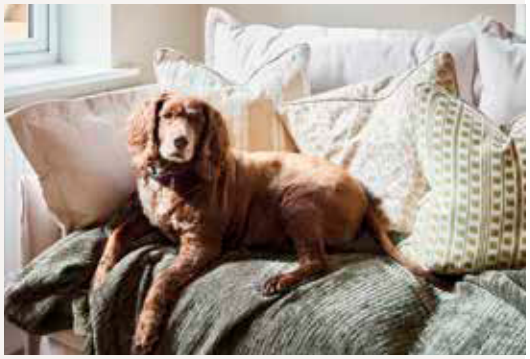

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MEET YOUR GREENS!

Each week we ask a current player some probing questions, in the hope of revealing the inner workings of their minds. In the psychiatrist's chair this week is Ed Harrison.

WHAT'S YOUR HIDDEN TALENT?
Drumming

WHAT'S THE LEAST-LIKELY WORD SOMEONE WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOU?
Dogmatic

DO YOU COME FROM A RUGBY OR SPORTING FAMILY?
Not really, just farmers pretty much.

WHAT WOULD YOUR SUPERPOWER BE?
Teleportation, too handy not to pick

IF YOU WEREN'T PLAYING RUGBY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING?
Working, then sensible few. Nawt daft.

WHAT'S THE MOST OVERRATED THING IN LIFE?
Coleslaw

WHAT'S THE DAY JOB?
Farming (dairy)

WHAT WAS THE DREAM DAY JOB GROWING UP?
I did fancy being Spider-Man.

IF YOU COULD BE AN ANIMAL, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
Sensible choice obviously a dog, but maybe a bird of prey... it'd be pretty gnarly darting about the sky.

IMAGINE YOU'VE GOT TO WAIT 30 MINUTES FOR A BUS WITH ANOTHER DALE PLAYER: WHO, AND WHY?
Alfie Weston, known him the longest. Probs not a sensible choice .

WHAT'S A WASTE OF MONEY?
Designer clobber

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE POWER TOOL?
Angle grinder. No explanation needed.

WOULD YOU RATHER TRAVEL TO THE PAST OR TO THE FUTURE... WHEN AND WHY?
Probably just nip back to late 2000s for nostalgia

WHAT WORLD RECORD DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A SHOT AT BEATING?
Amount of VK down myself in Kooky.

WHAT'S THE BEST PHOTO YOU HAVE OF YOURSELF?

WHAT'S THE WORST PHOTO YOU HAVE OF YOURSELF?

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Omari running at the Tigers defence.

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PLAYERS' PLAYERS

This is the place where anyone who has played for Wharfedale can write a tribute to someone they played with. If you ever pulled on the Green shirt, who stood out in your team? Have a think, and enjoy reminiscing as you type away. Send your piece to: ***programme@wharfedalerufc.co.uk****.*

John Lovell on Mick Greenwood

The first thing to get out of the way is that the man who I'm going to write about will be absolutely mortified to be the centre of attention. My player's player is the one and only Mick Greenwood. In the heyday of player participation in the early 90s, when Wharfedale ran 5 sides each week and 6 at Christmas when University students returned, Mick was the beating heart of the legendary 5th team. Captain, chauffeur (more of that later), team manager, recruiter/press ganger of players but first and foremost a fearless, grafting, gritty and honest player. His rugby philosophy was simple - run straight, run hard and sometimes run over the opposition. Mick defined leading from the front and it was impossible not to follow. He gave 100% and expected all his players, young and old, (it was often an eclectic mix), to play with the same full bloodied commitment. This was repaid with unflinching loyalty.

Mick had a distinctive and colourful array of rugby accessories including a weightlifting belt, an ancient leather scrum cap and carpet shin pads. Yes, you did read that right; no modern plastic pads for Mick, just two shin size pieces of finest Axminster. He also may well have had a sponsorship deal with Deep Heat. A gum shield was not required. From start to finish Mick was a whirl of encouragement with his 'Come on Dale' exhortations and tireless work. A total nuisance at the breakdown, he was an expert in slowing down the opposition's ball whether it be in a ruck or maul. He could and often did play in most forward positions. His skills didn't end there. He would occasionally offer his first aid expertise and once stemmed our American prop's bleeding/broken nose with a clump of grass. We were all pleasantly surprised that it worked. His patient, Brad Bates, remained bemused to the game's conclusion.

We often played on Wood Lane and Mick used his truck to transport the players. One of the most iconic Wharfedale photos shows the finale of a First Team game with Mick's truck, full of both sets of players, as the backdrop on the Avenue. He believed that the game should be played hard but it was first and foremost a game to be enjoyed by all that took part. He continued playing much longer than I did. It was at least a decade before he gave up asking if I'd 'brought my boots'. I occasionally used to remain in the clubhouse until I knew he was out conducting one of his full bloodied warm-ups. A genuine legend.

John started playing as a mini in the late 70s and graduated to the Colts, reaching the heady heights of the 3rd team (twice), before finding his feet in the Rams (4th team) and 5th team in the late 90s. He 'retired' in 2005 after spending many years hiding from Mick in various locations in the clubhouse.

Mick Greenwood driving the team charabanc.

Spencer Davies

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TALE OF THE TABLE

If the results of the first two rounds of matches were more or less predictable, by the third round there were signs of how the season was likely to turn out.

By then, Sedgely Park, newly relegated after three seasons playing in National One, were showing that they would be a formidable force, not least having in the opening match beaten Darlington Mowden Park. (I have my own name for this club: details available on request.)

Fylde seem to be a club with problems, in 11th place with only two wins to their name, but on the other hand, Preston Grasshoppers, equal fourth alongside Chester, seem to be overcoming repeated annual disappointments with only two defeats, one of which was of course here. Although we sit in bottom place, if scrumpox hadn't stopped Otley playing last week, it's likely that we'd have surrendered that indignity to Otley, who would surely have lost by more than 7 points.

The newly-promoted H-force clubs, Harrogate, Heath and Huddersfield, have all made starts which will encourage them to believe that survival is more than Haspiration.

Who will win the single promotion place? It is possible that the season will run to the very last match at the (inevitably named) Northern Echo Stadium, where DMP will host Sedgley, each club having won every match since that opening day. In that case, if DMP win, it will come down to points difference, where the Mancunians already have established a 70-point advantage. At the moment the record points difference is held by last season's champions at 574; my bet is that this will be broken by these two clubs this season.

Gordon Brown

New faces... Epi Rokodrava.

1st XV - Fixtures/Results 2026/2027

Date	Opponents	Comp	Venue	W/L	Results
08 Aug 26					
15 Aug 26	Sandbach	Tourn	Away	Cancelled	
22 Aug 26	**Kendal**	**Friendly**	**Away**	**Cancelled**	
27 Aug 26	Keighley	Friendly	Away	W	7 - 14
5 Sep 26	Chester	N2N	Away	L	35 - 7
12 Sep 26	**Otley**	**N2N**	**Home**	**L**	**29 - 37**
19 Sep 26	Billingham	N2N	Away	L	47 - 36
26 Sep 26	**Preston Grass'**	**N2N**	**Home**	**W**	**45 - 35**
03 Oct 26	Hull Ionians	N2N	Away	L	32 - 22
10 Oct 26	**Sheffield Tigers**	**N2N**	**Home**	**L**	**31 - 40**
17 Oct 26	Darlington M.P.	N2N	Away	L	61 - 13
24 Oct 26					
31 Oct 26	**Tynedale**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
07 Nov 26	Huddersfield	N2N	Away		-
14 Nov 26	**Heath**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
21 Nov 26	Fylde	N2N	Away		-
28 Nov 26					
05 Dec 26	**Harrogate**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
12 Dec 26	Sedgley Park	N2N	Away		-
19 Dec 26	Otley	N2N	Away		-
26 Dec 26					
02 Jan 27					
09 Jan 27	**Billingham**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
16 Jan 27	Preston Grass'	N2N	Away		-
23 Jan 27	**Hull Ionians**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
30 Jan 27					
06 Feb 27	Sheffield Tigers	N2N	Away		-
13 Feb 27	**Darlington M.P.**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
20 Feb 27	Tynedale	N2N	Away		-
27 Feb 27					
06 Mar 27	**Huddersfield**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
13 Mar 27	Heath	N2N	Away		-
20 Mar 27	**Fylde**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
27 Mar 27					
03 Apr 27	Harrogate	N2N	Away		-
10 Apr 27	**Sedgley Park**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
17 Apr 27	**Chester**	**N2N**	**Home**		-
20 Apr 27					

National League Division Two North

NEXT HOME GAME AT THE AVENUE

vs HEATH

Saturday 14 NOVEMBER 2026

Kick Off 2.00pm

League Table 2026/2027
National League Division Two North

	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Sedgley Park	7	7	0	0	387	84	33
2	Darlington Mowden Park	7	6	0	1	367	134	29
3	Preston Grasshoppers	7	5	0	2	268	200	25
4	Hull Ionians	6	5	0	1	240	179	25
5	Chester	7	5	0	2	290	193	24
6	Tynedale	7	5	0	2	224	201	23
7	Harrogate	7	3	0	4	173	297	16
8	Sheffield Tigers	7	2	0	5	194	208	13
9	Heath	7	2	0	5	175	232	12
10	Billingham	7	2	0	5	181	316	12
11	Huddersfield	7	2	0	5	171	331	11
12	Fylde	7	2	0	5	148	240	10
13	Otley	6	1	0	5	162	261	8
14	Wharfedale	7	1	0	6	183	287	8

This Week's Fixtures
National League Division Two North

Billingham		v		Hull Ionians
Chester		v		Darlington Mowden Park
Fylde		v		Heath
Harrogate		v		Huddersfield
Otley		v		Sheffield Tigers
Preston Grasshoppers		v		Sedgley Park
Wharfedale		v		Tynedale

League Fixtures/Results 2026/2027
National League Division Two North

National League Rugby

	Billingham	Chester	Darlington Mowden Park	Fylde	Harrogate	Heath	Huddersfield	Hull Ionians	Otley	Preston Grasshoppers	Sedgley Park	Sheffield Tigers	Tynedale	Wharfedale
Billingham	▪	16 Jan	14 Nov	5 Sep	19 Dec	10 Apr	7-17	31 Oct	43-31	13 Feb	12-73	6 Mar	20 Mar	47-36
Chester	66-26	▪	31 Oct	5 Dec	10 Apr	20 Mar	14 Nov	69-45	9 Jan	23 Jan	13-32	13 Feb	6 Mar	35-7
Darlington Mowden Park	12 Mar	20 Feb	▪	45-10	5 Feb	16 Jan	61-19	3 Apr	7 Nov	21 Nov	17 Apr	12 Dec	19 Dec	61-13
Fylde	17 Apr	3 Apr	23 Jan	▪	13 Mar	31 Oct	13 Feb	9 Jan	12 Dec	12-31	6 Mar	27-19	29-41	21 Nov
Harrogate	41-31	12 Dec	0-72	14 Nov	▪	6 Mar	31 Oct	21-47	17 Apr	9 Jan	20 Mar	23 Jan	13 Feb	3 Apr
Heath	12 Dec	21 Nov	33-47	20 Feb	7 Nov	▪	49-24	14-28	3 Apr	17 Apr	13 Feb	9 Jan	23 Jan	13 Mar
Huddersfield	3 Apr	13 Mar	9 Jan	40-24	20 Feb	6 Feb	▪	17 Apr	21 Nov	12 Dec	23 Jan	42-36	15-38	7 Nov
Hull Ionians	20 Feb	6 Feb	5 Dec	57-29	16 Jan	19 Dec	31-24	▪	17 Oct	7 Nov	14 Nov	20 Mar	10 Apr	32-22
Otley	23 Jan	28-50	6 Mar	10 Apr	21-24	5 Dec	20 Mar	13 Feb	▪	38-47	7-68	31 Oct	14 Nov	19 Dec
Preston Grasshoppers	50-15	26-31	20 Mar	19 Dec	52-33	27-26	10 Apr	6 Mar	6 Feb	▪	31 Oct	14 Nov	5 Dec	16 Jan
Sedgley Park	6 Feb	19 Dec	47-26	7 Nov	21 Nov	40-3	92-7	13 Mar	16 Jan	20 Feb	▪	3 Apr	33-16	12 Dec
Sheffield Tigers	7 Nov	29-26	10 Apr	16 Jan	27-28	24-26	19 Dec	21 Nov	20 Feb	13 Mar	5 Dec	▪	19-28	6 Feb
Tynedale	21 Nov	7 Nov	12-55	6 Feb	47-26	42-24	16 Jan	12 Dec	13 Mar	3 Apr	9 Jan	17 Apr	▪	20 Feb
Wharfedale	9 Jan	17 Apr	13 Feb	20 Mar	5 Dec	14 Nov	6 Mar	23 Jan	29-37	45-35	10 Apr	31-40	31 Oct	▪

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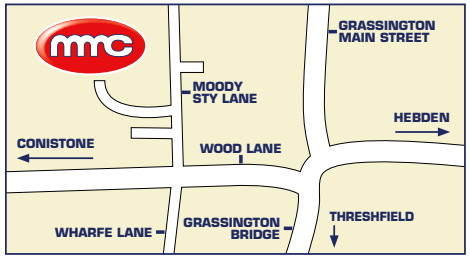

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

For those not at the Fylde v. Wharfedale match at the end of February, having read the Rugby Paper report you would have believed it was a one-sided affair. Yet for the Dale supporters there, even if from a one-eyed view, the Green Machine were on the wrong side of a number of decisions in the first 30 minutes which had they gone the other way could have affected the result. However, we move on and those "travesties" are consigned to history.

What instead I would look to focus on is an incident when Fylde were two tries to the good. Out of nothing, catching all players and officials off guard Callum Trees broke clear in midfield and only a desperate defensive tackle stopped him just short of the line. As the tackle was made, and before he hit the ground, Callum passed the ball backwards towards a fast-approaching Ollie Riddiough. The ball hit a retreating Fylde defender on the knee and bounced kindly for Ollie to touch down. The quickness of the break meant the ref was behind the play and partially unsighted. The ref determined that Callum had probably knocked on in the tackle. To be fair to him, when the faithful in unison rose up, shouting that it was the wrong call, he consulted with the line judge. But ultimately the decision stood. What was particularly galling was that the Fylde team then high-fived the player who had kicked the ball backwards. They knew that they had got away with one.

The question that has been on my mind all summer is... should Fylde have owned up? There is no requirement under the laws of rugby union to do, and the ref is the final arbiter. In rugby league there is a code of conduct which encourages players to be honest and respect the laws. Strangely, there isn't in union. In golf and tennis, players are required to self-police, but golf and tennis aren't team games.

I am not saying for one moment that if the ball had been on the other foot (so to speak) Dale would have owned up and admitted "guv it wasn't a knock-on". But what does all this tell us – and in particular youngsters – about the values of rugby? There was a sizeable junior crowd at the match.

On the one hand it is good that the ref is always right. On the hand, if translated into life, does that mean one is encouraged by sport to not own up to one's mistakes? The moral dilemma of rugby.

Robin Johnson

Dear Sir,

The scrum has come under intense scrutiny recently. Referees have contributed to the doubts expressed about it because of the constant resets which so affect the flow of a game. Whatever the pros and cons, rugby union has evolved over many years and stood the test of time. I agree with David Flatman when he says that the game does not work without the scrum. It separates rugby union from any other sport in the world and makes rugby league look rather pathetic, a game in which the so-called scrum might as well be abandoned. It is up to referees in our game to insist that there is a quick and fair formation and, if there isn't, to penalise the offending team. Putting the ball down the middle of the tunnel is essential, but in order to speed up the game referees are not strict enough about this. Feeding appears to be acceptable. The obvious answer is to penalise the scrum-half responsible.

On the plus side lineouts now seem to be a great way to restart after the ball has gone out of play, and that hasn't always been the case. It is also good to see the average age of referees dropping, as well as the increasing involvement of some excellent women, at least one of whom has officiated impressively at our club during the last year.

John Clark

New faces... Ben Farrow.

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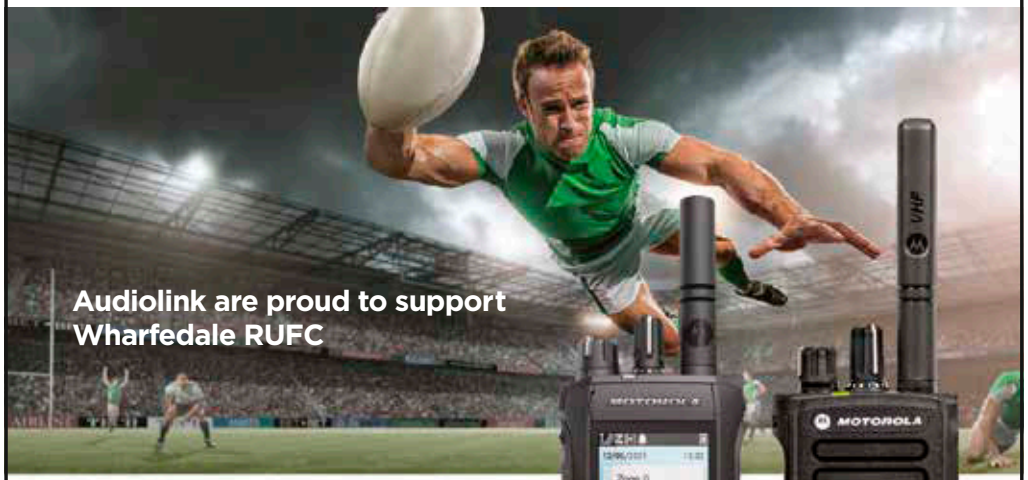

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Wharfedale Foresters Fixtures/Results 2026/2027

Date	Opponents	Comp	Venue	W/L	Results
08 Aug 26	**Old Rishworthians**	**Friendly**	**Home**	**W**	**50 - 12**
15 Aug 26					
22 Aug 26					
29 Aug 26					
05 Sep 26					
12 Sep 26					
19 Sep 26	Heath II	Friendly	Away	L	26 - 14
26 Sep 26					
03 Oct 26	Beverley	Yorks 2 A	Away	L	48 - 5
10 Oct 26	**Harrogate II**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Home**	**W**	**26 - 7**
17 Oct 26	**Leeds Corinthians**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Home**	**W**	**50 - 19**
24 Oct 26	Leodiensian	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
31 Oct 26	**Northallerton**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Home**		**-**
07 Nov 26	Hull Ionians II	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
14 Nov 26					
21 Nov 26	**Ripon**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Home**		**-**
28 Nov 26	Driffield II	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
05 Dec 26	**Malton & Norton II**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Home**		**-**
12 Dec 26	Harrogate II	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
19 Dec 26	Ilkley Barbarians	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
26 Dec 26	North Ribblesdale	Friendly	Away		-
02 Jan 27					
09 Jan 27					
16 Jan 27	**Beverley**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Away**		**-**
23 Jan 27	Leeds Corinthians	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
30 Jan 27					
06 Feb 27	**Leodiensian**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Home**		**-**
13 Feb 27	Northallerton	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
20 Feb 27	**Hull Ionians II**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Home**		**-**
27 Feb 27					
06 Mar 27	Ripon	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
13 Mar 27	**Driffield II**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Away**		**-**
20 Mar 27					
27 Mar 27					
03 Apr 27	Malton & Norton II	Yorks 2 A	Away		-
10 Apr 27	**Ilkley II**	**Yorks 2 A**	**Home**		**-**
17 Apr 27					
24 Apr 27					

Cath Harrison Trophy 2026-2027

		P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1	Ladies XV	0	0	0	0	0	0	00.00
2	3rd XV	0	0	0	0	0	0	00.00
3	1st XV	0	0	0	0	0	0	00.00
4	Foresters	0	0	0	0	0	0	00.00

Yorkshire League Merit Tables

Premiership 2026-2027

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Leodiensian	4	4	0	0	188	69	20
2	Beverley	3	3	0	0	157	45	15
3	Hull Ionians Buccaneers	3	3	0	0	137	34	15
4	Ilkley Barbarians	4	2	0	2	103	119	11
5	Ripon	3	2	0	1	127	77	10
6	Wharfedale II	3	2	0	1	81	74	10
7	Leeds Corinthians	4	2	0	2	81	114	9
8	Driffield II	4	1	0	3	130	152	7
9	Malton and Norton II	4	1	0	3	51	133	5
10	Northallerton RUFC 1st XV Men	4	0	0	4	76	205	3
11	Northallerton	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	Harrogate II	4	0	0	4	64	173	1
13	To be arranged 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Trees off the tee.

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The company has been an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the club for a number of years, proudly sponsoring matches and supporting the club's continued success. The connection is a particularly personal one, with the directors' children having played for the club from a young age and progressed through the ranks to senior rugby. Oldfield Group is proud to support a club that means so much to the family and wider community, and is delighted to continue playing a part in helping local rugby thrive for generations to come.

See Oldfield's advertisement on page 19 and visit their website **www.oldfieldlsv.co.uk**. Even better visit the Oldfield showroom on Snaygill Industrial Estate in Skipton, where their trusted lighting and smart home designers will be able to assist with any upcoming projects you have. We trust Richard, Matthew, Andrew and all of their guests and friends have an enjoyable afternoon.'

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Respect opponents, referees and all participants.
Reject cheating, racism, violence and drugs.
Value volunteers and paid officials alike.
Enjoy the game.

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QUIZ - HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CLUB?

Q. *Name two countries apart from England that have fielded Wharfedale players at full international level?*

The first person to email **programme@wharfedalerufc.co.uk** with the correct answer will receive a prize – our very best wishes!

The question in the last issue was:

Q. *Name the Māori Under-20 international who played for Wharfedale?*

A. Dan Snee.

Winner: Neil Dickinson.

Dan Snee.

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

In charge of the whistle today is Cam Livingstone. Cam is originally from The Land of Adge, but studied at Newcastle University. He's in his first season as a National League referee, and this is his first visit to The Avenue. We offer Cam a special welcome. He's assisted on the lines by two familiar faces - Brendon Fitzmaurice and Don Helme. We thank them all for making our game possible.

TYNEDALE

Today we welcome the players, officials and supporters of the club we share most with.

Tynedale Rugby Club began almost by accident, following the arrival in Hexham of a letter addressed to the "Captain of the Hexham Football Club". There being no-one in the town answering to that title, a group of people decided it was high time there was. On 11th October, 1876, a meeting was called in Hexham Town Hall at which Tynedale Football Club was duly formed and a captain, officials and committee appointed. A Tynedale team took the field for the first time on 30th December, 1876, when they entertained Elswick at Hexham, winning by a goal and two tries to nil. The 'Hexham Courant' recorded: "the venue will be in Mr Cook's field, in which the flower show was held, at the top of Skinnersburn. The game will commence at two o'clock in the afternoon and, unlike cricket, it is quite possible that it may be over in little more than an hour".

After more than a decade in North 1, Tynedale eventually gained promotion into the national leagues, cumulating in the club finishing in the top five of National 1 for three successive seasons between 2008 and 2011. From 2012 the club's playing resources were pushed to the limit, and after flirting with relegation for three successive years, the club was eventually relegated into National 2 North at the end of 2014-2015. Last season Tyne came within a hair's breadth of promotion back to National 1, only losing out in a play-off with Oundle. This season, after a shaky start, they have recorded five wins out of seven, to sit in sixth place in the league.

In matches between our clubs Tynedale have won 20 to our 11. A wide margin. But the average score is 23-27, which suggests something closer might be in the offing this afternoon.

A decade on - still Dale's best moment against Tynedale.

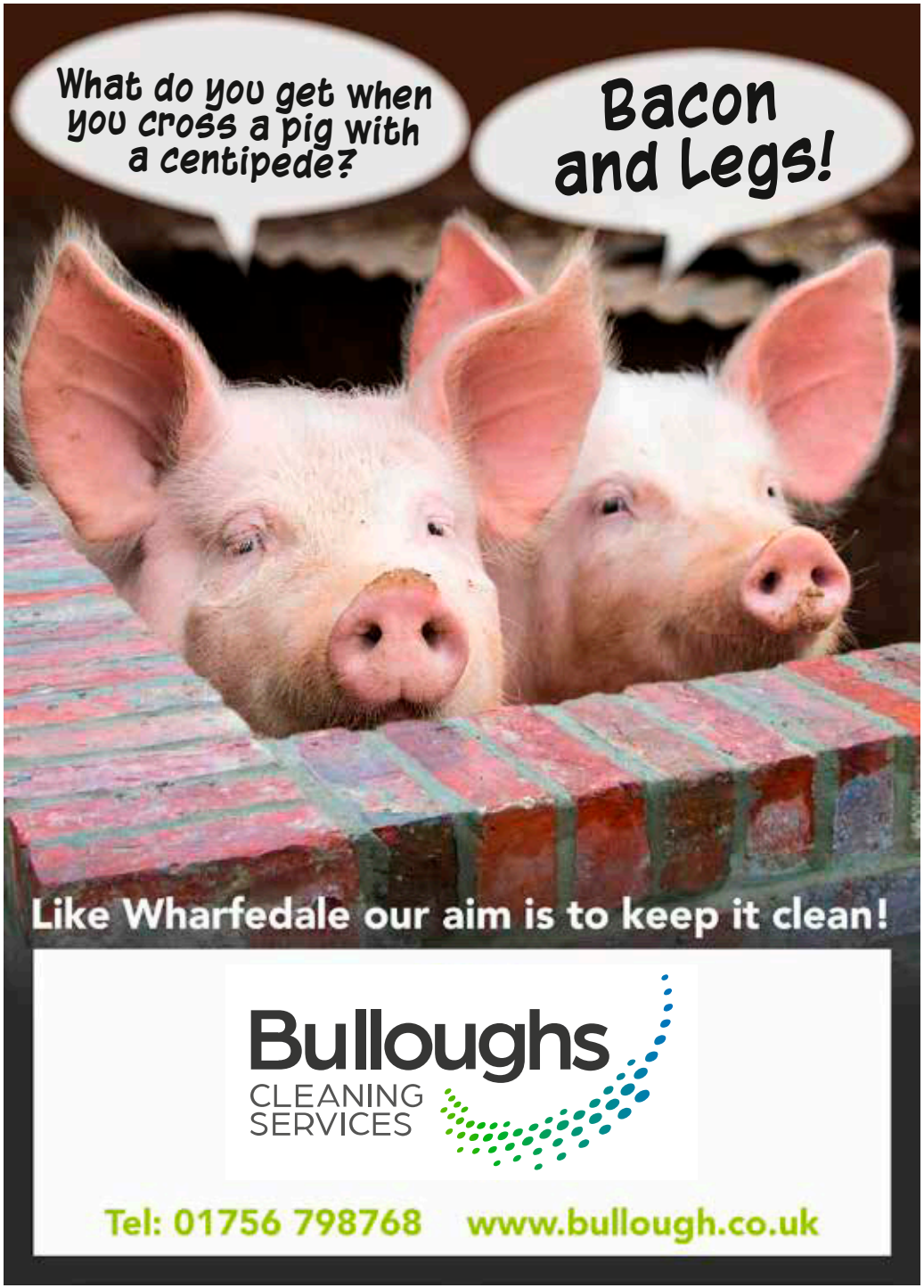
AROUND THE CLUB

With the new season now well underway the **Seconds** have risen to the challenges of Yorkshire 2A. The first league game was an away trip to Beverley where their seasoned campaigners showed the young Dales side what league rugby was about, with the Dalesmen running out second to a strong and well drilled outfit. However, not to be put off by their difficult league debut the young side galvanized together. Entertaining local rivals Harrogate, quick play gave us a 27-6 win, and got the team into winning ways. The second home fixture, against Leeds Corinthians, was a very physical encounter this saw the Greens run out victorious 50-19. Currently sitting mid table and with a full fixture list in front of them, this Wharfedale side are showing their worth.

Paul 'Cabbage' Marklew

Wharfedale **Ladies** have started the 2026/27 season with two wins, despite a number of cancellations delaying the start of their league campaign. It has been a stop-start beginning to the season. The opening league fixture against Beverley was cancelled as they were unable to field enough players, while Ripon Bluebells' withdrawal from the league meant another fixture was lost. Darlington Ladies also withdrew from the first cup fixture, leaving Wharfedale with another weekend without a game. So our season began with a 79–10 friendly win away at Littleborough, followed by a 24–0 league victory away at York Ladies. The Ladies now travel to Wensleydale on Sunday 25th October for their next cup fixture. Wensleydale play in the league above, so it will be a chance for Wharfedale to see how they compare against opposition from a higher level. League fixtures resume on Sunday 22nd November with an away trip to Scarborough, before Wharfedale host Malton and Norton Ladies on Sunday 29th November for their first home league game of the season. Despite the cancellations, the squad have continued training and are looking forward to getting more games under their belts.

Kate Rollason



	WHARFEDALE		TYNEDALE
15	Callum **TREES**	15	Tom **MANN**
14	Epi **ROKODRAVA**	14	Will **AINSLEY**
13	Josh **PRELL**	13	Cameron **GRANT**
12	Oliver **CICOGNINI** [C]	12	James **LYTHGOE**
11	Owen **BULLOCK**	11	Seamus **HUTTON**
10	Robbie **DAVIDSON**	10	Joshua **LESLIE**
9	Idris **MORGAN**	9	James **TELFORD**
1	Sam **DICKINSON**	1	Sam **TURNILL**
2	Joe **CHARNLEY**	2	Will **GRAHAM**
3	Reece **WARD**	3	Alexander **DODDS**
4	Simon **BORRILL**	4	Joe **HANNING**
5	George **HEDGLEY**	5	Graeme **DUNN**
6	Ed **HARRISON**	6	Tom **CAMPBELL**
7	Joe **FAWCETT**	7	Archie **FLETCHER**
8	Tom **BERESFORD**	8	Archie **RATTRAY**
S1	Jimmy **MEEHAN**	S1	Charles **SMITH**
S2	Robbie **COLLINSON**	S2	Benjamin **HAIGH**
S3	Zeb **HEYS**	S3	William **NANKIVELL**
S4	Ryan **HODGSON**	S4	Jake **SCOTT**
S5	Archie **HADDON**	S5	Ted **FLETCHER**

REFEREE:

Cam **LIVINGSTONE**

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Brendon **FITZMAURICE**

Don **HELME**