



Gate Post No. 137 July 2022

This newsletter is sent to all the supporters, current and past members of Harrogate Rugby Club for whom we have an email address. Please forward the newsletter to anyone else who may be interested. If you would like to be added to our database for future copies please send your email address to brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com. Your contributions would be most welcome along with your feedback. If you would like copies of previous editions please contact brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com.

Event: 'Race the Sun' Lake District 2022, Saturday 10th September 2022



On Saturday 10th September 2022 teams of four will be setting off at sunrise on this Triathlon-style adventure challenge aiming to finish before the sun sets! Teams will cycle, hike and canoe around the breath-taking Lake District.

Harrogate Rugby Club members, Chris Wilson, Aarin Yorke, Tim Heaton and Steve Maycock will be taking part in this event to raise money for **Action Medical Research**.

Action Medical Research are the leading UK charity funding vital research to help defeat the diseases that devastate the lives of sick and disabled babies, children and young people. By supporting Action Medical Research, you are helping to find ways to reduce premature birth, to support children facing a lifetime of challenges caused by disabilities, and to develop cutting-edge therapies for rare and incurable diseases.

Teams of four are taking part in this extremely tough dawn to dusk event in the Lakes where they will cycle 40 miles around the imposing Skiddaw mountain, canoe a two mile course on Derwent Water and finally summit Skiddaw on an 11 mile round trip to an altitude of 931m to raise money for this incredible cause.

It is a full day event, beginning at sunrise on a Triathlon-style adventure challenge aiming to finish before the sun sets!

You can help raise funds for this charity by donating on their 'justgiving' website.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/Just4ofus?invite=true>

With 16 years of service to Harrogate Rugby Club and over 900 first team caps between them, Chris, Aarin, Tim and Steve are appealing to the club's members for support. They understand times are financially difficult for some at the moment, but if those that can are able to make a donation it would be massively appreciated.

Statistics

Our club statistician, Tim Thorley, has produced some Harrogate 1st XV statistics from September 2018 to April 2022 showing the number of games played by each player. During this period HRUFC played 101 players for the 1st XV. The notable records from this period are listed below.

Total Number of Appearances 2018 - 2022

251	Aarin Yorke
102	Andy Boyde
99	Connor Ward
171	Danny Matthews
66	David Doherty
79	Guy Coser
102	Harry Barnard
143	Jonny Coser
155	Luke Edwards
77	Martin Dodds
121	Noel Minikin
86	Oli Rosillo
166	Phil Wickham
191	Sam Brady
206	Steve Maycock
239	Tim Heaton
157	Tom Harvey
55	Tom Larder

Season 2022/2023

Next season promises to be as exciting as ever with a new management teams in place, new coaching, new visions for the future. Please help us to move forward as a Club by considering any help you can offer!

Membership for 2022-23 is now open - all sections

For full details on rates and how to pay, go to the harrogaterugby.com

Website, choose 'information' and then 'membership.' Simply follow the instructions. Officially, membership should be paid by 1st September, but earlier helps the club a lot.

National League 2 North Home fixtures

We would like sponsors and lunch bookings for all of these home fixtures.

10-Sep-22	Harrogate v Wharfedale
24-Sep-22	Harrogate v Sedgley Park
15-Oct-22	Harrogate v Sheffield
29-Oct-22	Harrogate v Otley
12-Nov-22	Harrogate v Preston Grasshoppers
10-Dec-22	Harrogate v Blaydon
07-Jan-23	Harrogate v Fylde
21-Jan-23	Harrogate v Huddersfield
18-Feb-23	Harrogate v Sheffield Tigers
04-Mar-23	Harrogate v Chester
25-Mar-23	Harrogate v Tynedale
01-Apr-23	Harrogate v Hull Ionians
22-Apr-23	Harrogate v Rotherham

- Very reasonable match sponsorships and lunches are available, please email the club to book or enquire – get in early – First come, first served!
- Do you have a local business? Contact us for information on perimeter advertising boards and match programme adverts.
- Corporate inclusive packages are available.
- HRUFC is set up as a charity to improve our facilities, can you help?
- We're hoping to have a couple of working parties during August, some gardening, painting-type duties, please email your name if you could spare a couple of hours. Dates TBC.
- All offers of help gratefully received, we have a very small band of people doing an ever growing list of jobs.
- For any enquiries or queries on the above please email:
mike.cowling@ntlworld.com

New Personnel

This year we have welcomed several new members both on and off the field.

Gary Mercer (Defence Coach)



Gary Mercer has been appointed Defence Coach at Harrogate RUFC to work with newly appointed Men's Director of Rugby, Martyn Wood and Chair of Rugby, Roger Shackleton.

Mercer said: "I'm very much looking forward to taking on the new role of Defence Coach with the Aces. I am very confident about the team's future. An excellent plan has been put in place and things are certainly happening at the club."

Men's Director of Rugby, Martyn Wood, said: "Gary Mercer has incredible experience in both codes at club and international level, and we will be drawing upon his knowledge to produce the required step-change in our defence. Having Gary join us will add a new range of skills to our coaching set-up. Working alongside our existing Head Coach Sam Fox, we are expecting great things."

Mercer will remain as Head of Rugby and tutor at Ashville College, who are also one of the club's main sponsors. Mercer played for Leeds, Bradford, Warrington, Halifax and New Zealand in rugby league and had a spell as coach at Halifax before switching codes to union. His coaching career in rugby union includes time at Yorkshire Carnegie, as defence coach for Glasgow Warriors and in charge of Scottish National Two outfit, Biggar, as well as working with the Scottish Rugby Union Academy.

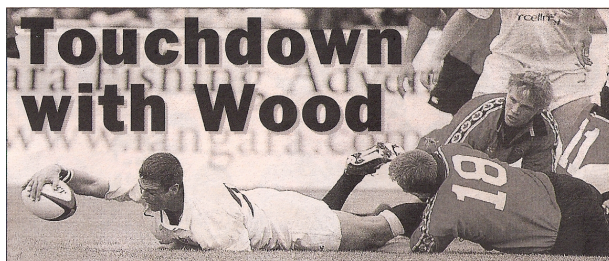
Martyn Wood (Men's Rugby Director)



Martyn Benjamin Wood (born 25 April 1977 in Harrogate) attended Harrogate Grammar School where he played for the school rugby team. He was also a junior player at Harrogate RUFC. He made 84 appearances at scrum-half for Wasps (1996-2003) and 44 appearances (2003-2005) for Bath. In 2001 he gained 2 caps playing for England against Canada(9/6/2001) and the USA(16/6/2001). He was the Director of Rugby at Yorkshire Carnegie for 2019 in the RFU Championship.

Other honours: Yorkshire Colts,

England U18(v Australia at Gloucester 20/1/1995). In 1995 he played for the North of England England Colts, England U21, and England A. The photo shows Martyn touching down to score on his debut for England against Canada in June 2001 at the Swanguard Stadium in Vancouver (Photo by Mike Hewitt Allsport). He was called out as England cover for the 1999 and 2003 World Cups. Martyn joined the



Harrogate Junior Section in 1985, where his dad was a coach, when he was eight years old and stayed with them for ten years. On Saturday 24th September 1988 Martyn was the ball boy for the 1st XV game against Birkenhead Park. Whilst attending Harrogate Grammar School he was selected for the England Schoolboys team. He progressed to the England U-19 squad whilst at Newcastle University then into the U-21 squad. After University Martyn was offered a contract with Wasps under the direction of Nigel Melville. In 1995 he played for the North of England.

Roger Shackleton (Chair of Rugby)



Ian, Roger. Shackleton(D.O.B. 17/6/1948) Stand off. Born in Shipley, attended Bradford Grammar School. Roger played for Yorkshire U19s in 1967 when he was a student at Bradford Grammar School. He first played for Harrogate during the 1967/1968 season and played for Cambridge University from 1968 to 1970. He played 9 times for Yorkshire, in 1967 against Durham, Cheshire and Lancashire, in 1981 against Ulster,



Cheshire, Durham, Cumberland, Lancashire and Northumberland. He played four times for England in 1969/1970. On 20/12/1969 he played against South Africa at Twickenham, 14/2/1970 against Ireland at Twickenham, 28/2/1970 against Wales at Twickenham and 21/3/1970 against Scotland at Murrayfield. The first two games were won and the second two lost. He was elected Captain of Richmond RFC for the 1976/1977 season. He worked in France for a while and played for the French Team Lavelanet and organised a tour to Harrogate.



Mark Garrett (Club Chairman)

Mark has been involved with the Harrogate Juniors since 2011 and became Chair of Junior Rugby in 2014. He was elected as Club Chair in June 2022. He organised the 2016 Junior Rugby Festival.

Harrogate Junior Rugby Festival 2016

Harrogate Rugby Union Football Club held its annual Junior Festival on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April 2016, for the first time at the Rudding Lane ground.

Chairman of Junior Rugby, Mark Garrett said, “The Festival is the absolute highlight of the season and to host it in this wonderful setting with so many people enjoying rugby makes the time we all give up to junior rugby worthwhile. It is a great opportunity for the whole club to come together.”

The weekend saw over 1600 children take part in the festival with ages ranging from 6 to 16. With spectators, the Rudding Lane Ground welcomed well over 2500 people to enjoy a feast of junior rugby from local sides such as Wetherby, Roundhegians and York as well as touring teams from the North East, Lancashire and Derbyshire.

As this is the first season Harrogate Junior sides have played at the new Rudding Lane Ground the festival proved a massive test for the new facilities and army of volunteers who give up their valuable time delivering rugby to almost 500 children on a weekly basis. Feedback from the visitors was unanimously positive and Harrogate hopes to build on the success making next year’s festival bigger and better.

Saturday saw the U13s to U16s compete with teams from Sheffield, Wetherby and Stockport taking the cups home but Harrogate’s own U16s secured the trophy in their competition. Sunday’s format, which covered the U7s to U12s, was designed under England Rugby’s New Rules of Play Guidelines which ensures every player gets as much time on the pitch as possible meaning all attendees received a participation medal and prizes were given for teams that demonstrated the best attitude. This year also featured an U15s Girls competition on the Saturday featuring teams from Harrogate, Wetherby, Ripon and Barnsley.

In 2021 Mark took part in the Sizzy/Finners match to remember two Harrogate RUFC legends.

Sizzy/Finners Annual Marie Curie Charity Match, 19th June 2021.

Team Finners: Current and former Colts: Eoin Harrison, **Mark Garrett**, Aiden Miller, Arron, Will Dennis, Paul Townend, Milnes, Ben Pettitt, Kit Keith, Ben Irvine, Benny Horberry, Jack Whiting, Mason Knowles, Connor Miller, Haycock, Sam Fox, Cail Cookland, Harry Barnard, Danny Cooke.

Team Sizzy: Nick Cutting, Aarin Yorke, Ben Reaveley, Rob Johnson, James Spencer, Sam Brady, Nathan Smith, Tom Harvey, Mike Aspinall, Dickie Davies, Luke Edwards, Kyle Dench, Lewis Minikin, Sam Bottomley, Callum Irvine, George Stuffins, Ed Spackman, Joe Rowntree, Danny Matthews, James Audsley-Beck, Ben Hardy, Chris Harris, Rhys Silverwood.