



## Gate Post No. 140 November 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 or past copies please send your email address to [brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com](mailto:brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com). Your contributions would be most welcome along with your feedback.

## Harrogate RUFC 1st Team Squad 24/9/2022



Back row left to right: Charlie Irish, Sam Fenn, Andy Musyaburi, Campbell Swanson, Rory Worzal, Louis Neal, Cam Bainbridge, Jack Kennell, Jack Hall, Sammy Breen, Lawrence Richmond, Sandy Ibbotson, Aidan Miller, Connor Spence.

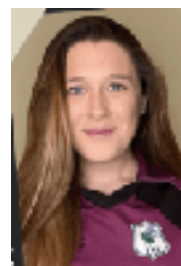
Middle row left to right: Aled Jones (Georgians Coach), Tom (physio), Marcus Mercer, Will Hill, Gregory Jones, Martin Dodds, Rupert Scrase, Seif Elsayed, Kurtis Booth, Chris Jackson, Connor Miller, Thomas Spencer-Jones, Daniel Troup, Peter Olley, Tom Baxter (Scrum Coach), Mark Garrett (Chairman).

Front Row left to right: Martyn Wood (Director of Rugby), Gary Mercer (Defence Coach), Richard Wade (Forwards Coach), Sam Fox (Head Coach), Rory MacNab, Oliver Pearson, Sam Brady (Captain), Will Yates, Jacob Percival, Ross Tudhope, Jonny Hassleden, Dean Fawcett.

## Nia Parsonage - Referee

On Saturday 15th October 2022 the Assistant Referee for the game between Harrogate and Sheffield was Nia Parsonage who is one of a growing group of female officials for rugby union. She is a qualified referee and has built a

career in sport working for Umbro UK and Irwin Mitchell's relationship with the RFU. The first time she refereed a match was in Vancouver, Canada. She was asked by her club, Capilano RFC, to referee an U14 boys 7s tournament – one week after doing her referee certification.



Rugby Canada wanted to increase the number of female officials across the country, so all clubs with a women's team were told they needed a female referee

associated to the club. Her coach selected her as a suitable candidate. Following a car accident she couldn't play rugby any more, and found that she preferred refereeing to coaching. She was an Assistant Referee to Joy Neville for the England Women v Scotland Women Six Nations match in 2018 at Twickenham. She has also refereed a Women's Varsity Match in 2021.

Women's Varsity Match referees since 2015:  
2015: Sara Cox; 2016: Claire Hodnett; 2017: Sarah Toll; 2018: Nikki O'Donnell; 2019: Laura Pettingale; 2021: Nia Parsonage

### **Finn Baker England U18**



On Saturday 29/10/2022, Harrogate Rugby Club Chairman, Mark Garrett, presented Finn Baker with a framed England shirt to celebrate his selection for the England Under 18 team. Finn is the son of former harrogate player, Steve, and learned his rugby at Harrogate from the age of six. he attends Sedbergh School and is currently playing as a lock forward for the Newcastle Academy and played for England as part of the U18s, 16 man squad touring South Africa in August 2022.

### **Ten Years Ago**

**2012/2013**

#### **Club Officials**

President: John Finnegan  
Chairman: James Smithies  
Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Press Officer: Bill Barrack, Treasurer: Chris Nunn  
Chair of Rugby: Graham Siswick,  
Chair of Junior Rugby: Des Cullen,  
Commercial Chair: Clive Wright

Membership Secretary: Clive Wright.  
Yorkshire Representative: Trevor Kent-Jones,  
Ground Chair: Frank Carter,  
Security: Stuart Young,  
Members Representatives: Brian Croft and Kevin Ellis.

Programmes and Archivist: Brian Forshaw,  
Admissions: Phil Castle,  
Webmaster: Peter Kitching,  
Groundsman: Keith Johnson,  
Administrator: Sandra Tinker,  
Club Doctor: Dr.Jim Woods,  
4th officials: David Spackman, David Swainston, Brian Forshaw, Bill Lowe.  
Head Coach: Mike Aspinall.

1st XV Captain: Ed Smithies

#### **Harrogate Triumph at Yarnbury Sevens**

Harrogate won the Yarnbury 7s Competition on Sunday 29th July 2012 as part of the preparation for the forthcoming season. Gate remained undefeated as 7s skipper Robbie Almond lifted the impressive Yarnbury 7s trophy. The team recorded substantial winning margins in all their games. Steve Maycock was the unanimous choice as man of the tournament.



(Above) Manager Graham Siswick, and Jo Rowntree with the 7s trophy plus Chris Wilson. The squad also included; Noel Minikin, Rob Almond, Peter Wackett, Luke Edwards, Arnie Ellison, James Audsley-Beck, Mike Aspinall, Jimmy Browne, Tim Heaton, Steve Maycock. The other teams in the competition were; West Leeds OB, Baildon, Ilkley, Yarnbury A and Yarnbury B.

### **Scrum Factory Workshop**

This event, organised by the club's Coaching Coordinator, Gerry Thomas, was held at the club on Tuesday 12th September 2012. 16 coaches attended and all age group coaches from U10's to colts were represented. The workshop was hosted by Peter Taylor from the RFU and North Yorkshire Sport. The evening provided the coaches with the knowledge and confidence to coach the scrum safely and effectively.

### **Golf Day Success**

The club's Annual Golf Day, organised by Doug Kendal, took place on Wednesday 29th



August 2012 at Oakdale Golf Club. The winners of the Frank Slade Trophy with 97 points were the Black Sheep Team captained by David Croft pictured on the right with teammates Chris Clarke, Mike Kernall, and James Marriott.

After an excellent dinner in the evening the rugby club's head coach Mike Aspinall gave a rousing rallying call to the assembled company. Former club President, Mike Cowling, won the 'nearest to the pin' prize at the ninth hole. The prizes were presented by club President John Finnegan.

### **Harrogate Ladies impress in first game of the season**

Harrogate Ladies entertained Sunderland in their first match of the season since they re-formed in 2011.

Watched by an enthusiastic crowd including Harrogate head coach, Mike Aspinall, both sides played entertaining running rugby. Sunderland squandered the game's first chance when their speedy winger Becky Robson was in the clear and lost the ball only 15 metres from the line. Sustained Harrogate pressure, going through several phases put Captain Laura Symmonds over to give them the lead,



converted by Gemma Webster.

Sunderland made a quick reply from the restart when Jenny Snowden scored out wide for an unconverted try. Both sides were keeping the ball in hands, and strong running Harrogate centre Casey Brockway pounced on a loose ball to force her way over for a try, converted by Webster.

Soon after, scrum half, Lindy Johnston showed great pace to race over from 30 metres for a try converted by Webster. Just before half time, centre Kirsty Patterson scored near the posts for Sunderland, converted by Katie White to make it 19-12 to 'Gate at half-time.

A second try from Brockway converted by Webster looked to have sealed the game for 'Gate, but Sunderland late tries by Patterson and Becky Robson, both converted by White made the final score 26-26. Harrogate:

L. Symmonds, S. Mokler, K. Davidson, A. Lambert, K. Rushton, C. Thomson, N. Revell, L. Johnston, G. Webster, K. Ray, J. Vosper, C. Brockway, S. Netherwood.

Sunderland: A. Stonehouse, L Robson, E. Hanson, A. Hilton, K Fraser, D Andrew, S. Bennett, J Snowden, K. White, L Henderson, K. Patterson, J Fraser, B. Robson.



### **Treorchy Male Voice Choir Visit Claro Road**

On Saturday 13th October 2012, to follow a concert at the Royal Hall in Harrogate, the Club had granted a request from the Treorchy Male Voice Choir for them to convene what they call an 'after-glow,' for food and drinks in the clubhouse.

### **Harrogate U15s Sponsor Yorkshire Air Ambulance**



Harrogate RUFC U15's were delighted to be supporting Yorkshire Air Ambulance for two

Tony Doveston, YAA's fundraiser for North Yorkshire, said he was delighted that this community based club, with a great team ethos, had decided to support YAA.

### **2012/2013 Harrogate 1st XV Squad (below)**

Back row left to right: James Audsley-Beck, Rob Johnson, Nathan Smith, Jacob Brady, Dan Metcalfe, Max Lewis, Sam Brady, Tom Harvey, Martin Seyres, Chris Wilson, Ben Reaveley, ? , ? , Rob Almond.

Middle row left to right: James Smithies (Chairman), Joe Rowntree, Aarin Yorke, Ben Innes, Harry Parrish, Noel Minikin, Steve Maycock, Callum Irvine, ? , Sophie Smith-Moore(Physiotherapist), Grahame Tasker(Coach), John Finnegan(President).

Front row left to right: Stuart Young(video), Kyle Dench, Sam Bottomley, Graham Siswick(Manager), James Browne(Captain), Mike Aspinall(Player/Coach), Tim Heaton, Phil Wickham.



seasons by having the YAA as the main shirt sponsor.

Due to the generosity of a local supporter the U15s were able to promote the YAA throughout Yorkshire over a two year period. Head coach David Flook was delighted with the arrangement.

Harrogate U15's were a successful squad with players representing North Yorkshire, Leeds Carnegie and the Welsh Exiles.

### **HRUFC Annual Dinner February 2013**

Shaun Edwards was the guest speaker for the club's annual dinner held at the Majestic Hotel on Thursday 28th February 2013.

### **Harrogate 15 - 7 Chester 23/3/2013**

The Harrogate team (below) which defeated Chester 23/3/2013. Back row left to right: Kyle Dench, Noel Minikin, Sam Brady, Tim Heaton, Nathan Smith, Aarin Yorke, Sam Bottomley, Jake Brady, Chris Wilson, Mike

Aspinall,. Front row left to right: Jimmy Browne(Captain), Steve Maycock, Peter Wackett, Oli Denton, Phil Wickham. Lying down: Tom Harvey and Callum Irvine. Before the game could take place a huge operation to clear the pitch of snow was undertaken by club members for three hours before the kick off.



### **The Former Players Spring Lunch**

Simon Corner organised the former players lunch on Saturday 2nd March 2013 when the 1st XV had a home game against Lymm.

### **2012/2013 Harrogate Georgians Squad**



Back row left to right: Rob Johnson, Peter Corner, Guy Burroughs. Middle row left to right: Jessica Fisher (physiotherapist), Ben Innes, Martin Seyres, Ben Reaveley, James Ford, Tim Clough(Manager). Front row left to right: Danny Mathews, Arnie Ellison, Harry Parrish, Joe Rowntree, Ben Hardy(Captain), Lewis Minikin, Mathew Wood, Tom O'Sullivan.

### **U15s - Yorkshire vs Lancashire**

Yorkshire U15 A and B squads entertained Lancashire U15 A and B squads at Claro Road on Sunday 31st March 2013.

Yorkshire RFU expressed their grateful thanks to Harrogate RUFC who arranged all the details from a standing start on

Thursday morning due to Keighley's pitch being unplayable because of the snowy weather.

The weather for the game was cool but generally conditions were good for open rugby and the pitch was in remarkably good condition considering the recent atrocious weather. This was an extra reward for the snow clearing efforts of the previous Saturday. Anne Mitchell the Club Steward and her band of many helpers prepared what could only be described as a top quality two course dinner for around 100 players and representatives from the Yorkshire and Lancashire coaching and management staff. Although it was at very short notice and over a Bank Holiday weekend Anne very efficiently organised food and staff for the kitchen and bar and we had a very healthy take from food and drink sales in addition to revenue from the formal lunch so this has certainly helped our budget which has been hit by lost sales due to the January/ February bad weather.

Two Harrogate U15's Players represented Yorkshire in this Battle of the Roses. Ben



Bond, attends Ashville school and played outside centre scoring a well worked try which he duly converted and Sam Thomas who attends St .John Fisher's school played an assured game at loose head prop. This was a great honour and achievement by both of them to represent the county when the A team beat Lancashire 19-7. Both players play for Harrogate U15's. Harrogate coach Gerry Thomas said, "They can both be proud of what they have achieved today."

It was a clean sweep for Yorkshire on the day as Yorkshire "B" team beat Lancashire Presidents XV 39-0.

### **Harrogate Pythons Gain Promotion**



The Harrogate Pythons gained promotion from Yorkshire 4 to Yorkshire 3 with a 69 - 0 victory against Knaresborough in the final game of the season.

### **Harrogate Vets Round off Successful Season with Victory at Roundhegians Tournament (Saturday 27th April 2013)**



The Vets ended their season unbeaten after 8 games, 4 of which were won during this Tournament. The much coveted case of Peroni lasted two minutes and the Vets 'debarked' to an evening of carnage at the Hales Bar.

Back row left to right: Paul Day, Ian Binns, Jon Yates, Steve Jeffries, Dan Scott, Chris Wilson, Shaun Ledger, Mike Ruthen, Steve Beckett, Stuart Baronovski, Ian Gould, Simon Womersley. Middle row left to right: Jon Godfrey, Vinny Dunlop. Front row left to right: Craig Chisholm, Gareth Drane, Mark Dawson, Jim Saynor, Jon Oates, Dave Wheat.

### **Former Players Reunion Saturday 15th October 2022**

Twenty two former Harrogate Players assembled for lunch in the clubhouse at Rudding Lane before the 1st XV game against Sheffield on Saturday 15th October 2022 and were warmly welcomed by club chairman Mark Garrett.

