

# Gate Post

Harrogate Rugby Union Football Club  
Founded 1871



## Gate Post No. 151 January 2024

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](mailto: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](mailto:brianforshaw4@virginmedia.com)

### What Happened in January?

**In the game against Skipton on 1st January 1986 Gary Bowe scored 26 points from 4 tries(try worth 4 points) and kicked 5 conversions which at the time was thought to be a club individual scoring record.** On 5th October 1991 Ralph Zoing scored 30 points in the 50 - 13 victory against Maidstone with 2 tries(try worth 4 points), 5 conversions, 3 penalties and a drop goal. During the 1995/96 season he scored 27 points in one match against Fylde when tries were worth 5 points. On 15th December 2001 Lee Cholewa scored 28 points in a match against Preston Grasshoppers at Claro Road. Steve Wilkins scored 7 tries in a game against Sunderland when tries were worth just 3 points, 3/2/1968 Harrogate 36 - 5 Sunderland.

Coming on as a replacement at No.8 Steve Baker scored 5 tries in the match against Lichfield 14/11/1992 when Harrogate won 53 - 6. On 3/11/2012 in the 57 - 8 victory against Birkenhead Park, Noel Minikin scored 4 tries for 20 points.



### The Harrogate Rugby Club Dinners

The earliest record of a Harrogate Rugby Club Dinner is the **16th January 1874** held at the Alexandra Hotel. Following various name changes over the years the Hotel currently uses the same name as it used in 1874. For the last two decades, at least, of the 20th century and until 2009 the club dinner was successfully organised by club member Norman Hesp with help from other members particularly Simon Corner and Tony Edwards. From 2010 the dinner was organised by Julian Tatlow.

### RFU Founded 26th January 1871

Interest in rugby must have been considerable in the 1860s and 1870s as many clubs were established during this period and this culminated in the formation of the Rugby Football Union. **On 26th January 1871**, 32 representatives of 21 rugby clubs met at the Pall Mall Restaurant in London and founded the Rugby Football Union (RFU). Algernon Rutter was elected as President and a committee was formed. Their first task was to agree a set of laws and they used the version adopted at Rugby School. Until 1863 there had been one single game, which incorporated aspects of both the games we now know as soccer and rugby, and this included hacking and tripping. Some of those attending the meeting wanted to remove the hacking and tripping along with the handling and this became the basis of the game we now know as soccer.

The Blackheath Club attended this meeting and refused to agree to these changes as they wished to retain both hacking and handling which was very much in line with the laws used at Rugby School.

On the 27th March 1871 the newly formed RFU accepted a challenge, from a combination of leading Scottish Football Clubs, for an international rugby match to be played at Raeburn Place, Edinburgh. Clubs playing what we now call rugby continued to be known as football clubs.

Refereeing of the game in the early years was done by the captains of both teams, which meant that 'disputes' were common. Later, non-playing umpires were introduced. Referees with whistles were first seen in 1885/86 in addition to the umpires who eventually became linesmen and carried sticks which were later to become flags.

In 1876 the method of scoring was amended and results were now decided by a majority of goals and tries and in some games by a complicated system including 'minors' which appear to be like near misses such as touch in goal, dead balls and missed drop goals. Scoring by points became the norm in 1886, a try one point, conversion 2 points and a dropped goal 3 points. In these early days the number of players and the laws to be used would be discussed and agreed before the start of play.

### **Yorkshire v Cheshire Played at Claro Road 19th January 1901**

The Yorkshire v Cheshire game was played at Claro Road **19th January 1901** with Cheshire winning 3 - 0 in a rain affected match. The incessant rain affected the crowd which was reduced to 500. Harrogate's N. Haigh played well for Yorkshire and the after match meal was provided at the North Eastern Hotel. During the speeches there was great emphasis on the fact that all the players were true amateurs as there was still considerable turmoil in the game following the formation of the Northern Union in 1895 playing rugby league football. The Claro Road ground was now referred to as 'The County Ground.'

### **Harrogate v West Hartlepool 4th January 1902**

Harrogate played West Hartlepool on Saturday **4th January 1902** at Claro Road. The Harrogate team, Back: G. Tattersall, threequarters: Hainstock, Batley, Wilkinson, Supple, Hatfield, half backs: Vincent, Mutrie, forwards: Midgeley, Sellars, Simpson, Chapman, Wood, Jennings, Cawthorn, reserves: Lodge and Barker. Harrogate lost 18 - 0. At this stage of the season the local newspaper reported that the club's playing record was: won 8, lost 4. Following the game the Harrogate club reported West Hartlepool to the Yorkshire RFU complaining about their rough play. Harrogate defeated Castleford 8 - 6 on 18th January 1902 at Claro Road, the Harrogate team was as above with the addition of Devine, G. Inman, Jennings and K. Imart.

25/1/1902 West Hartlepool 23 - 0 Harrogate

21/2/1902 Wakefield 0 - 24 Harrogate

### **Harrogate v Canada 5th January 1903**

Having played against Hawick on the **1st January 1903** and Jedforest on the **3rd January** and with a match scheduled against Cardiff on **7th January** the Canadians must have been looking for a game somewhere between these two destinations where they could also find accommodation. A game against Harrogate on the **5th January** proved to be a huge attraction in the town. The Canadians fixture list included 23 matches in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales with games every 2 or 3 days including Christmas Day. Canada won the game against Harrogate 5 - 0 on a very wet pitch. The Harrogate Advertiser **10/1/1903** reported the game at length.

### **Canadian Tour 1902/1903**

The photograph below shows the Canadian Touring Team before their game against Cardiff on **7th January 1903**.

### **Canada to the British Isles 1902/1903**

(Compiled by Doug Sturrock, Fort Langley)

#### **The Touring Party**

Manager: Dr. A.C. Jack (Montreal),

Captain: J.H.S. McClure (Montreal)

Backs: D.S. Bauld (Halifax), R.H. Britton (Toronto), J.P. Craig (Montreal), C.W. Darling (Toronto), G.W.M. Farrell (Halifax), A. Gillespie (Victoria), N.C. Ogilvie (Montreal), J.J. Powers (Ottawa), K.A.S. Scholefield (Victoria), J.S. Tait (Vancouver).

Forwards: S.S. Du Moulin (Hamilton), H.L. Fenerty (Halifax), W.R. Marshall (Hamilton), C. Macdonald (Halifax), J.H.S. McClure (Montreal), E.M. Phillips (Ottawa), J.G. Purvis (Revelstoke), O. Randle (Nanaimo).

#### **Tour Record**

Played: 23 Won: 8 Drawn: 2 Lost: 13

Points for 114 against 243

#### **Scoring Details**

For: T 30 C 10 PG 0 DG 1 Pts 114

Against: T 64 C 20 PG 1 DG 2 Pts 243

#### **Match Details**

<b>1902</b>	<b>Opponents</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Result</b>
13 December	Ulster	Belfast	W 11-8
15 December	Dublin University	Dublin	L 3-23
17 December	Leinster	Dublin	L 6-13
20 December	Glasgow	Glasgow	L 3-11
25 December	Edinburgh Academicals		L 3-4
27 December	Edinburgh Wanderers		D 0-0
29 December	North of Scotland	Dundee	W 5-0

#### **1903**

January 1	Hawick	Hawick	L 0-11
January 3	Jed Forest	Jedburgh	W 8-3
January 5	Harrogate	Harrogate	W 5-0
January 7	Cardiff	Cardiff	L 3-29



January 12	Mountain Ash	Mountain Ash	L	0-25
January 15	Llanelli	Llanelli	L	9-11
January 17	Swansea	Swansea	L	0-18
January 19	Bristol	Bristol	W	8-0
January 21	Devonport Albion	Plymouth	L	4-34
January 24	United Services	Portsmouth	D	0-0
January 26	London Welsh	London	W	5-0
January 28	Oxford University	Oxford	L	3-11
January 29	Richmond	Richmond	L	8 - 14
February 2	London Scottish	Richmond	W	8-3
February 4	Cambridge University		L	6-14
February 7	Berkshire Wanderers	Reading	W	16-11

### **Harrogate Old Boys becomes Harrogate RUFC 1946**

It was agreed at the Special General Meeting on the **14th January 1946** held at the North Eastern Hotel that the name of the club should be changed from Harrogate Old Boys RUFC to Harrogate Rugby Union Football Club.

### **Committee meeting 3rd January 1949**

#### **Revenue Not Sufficient**

A familiar element to committee meetings across the years is summarised in this minute from the 1949 meeting. '.....ordinary revenue was not sufficient to finance the day to day expenditure of the club.' It was felt that this was an unsatisfactory state and various recommendations were made with a view to rectifying the position. Chiefly they involved a general increase in subscriptions all round, a drive for increased membership and various economies.

### **New Zealand All Blacks Play at Harrogate's Yorkshire Show Ground**

On the **11th January 1964** the world famous All Blacks played a North Eastern Counties team at the Yorkshire Show Ground. Harrogate player, Stephen Hipps, was called in at the last minute to play for the North Eastern Counties.

#### **The Gate Post**

From 1966 the club produced a regular newsletter known as 'The Gate Post' which was printed by Ken Butler-Smith's West Yorkshire Printing Company. The programme notes for 11th February 1967 refer to the fact that the first edition of the Gate Post Magazine was published during the 1966/1967 season. The first editor of the Gate Post was Tim Tugman followed by Peter Turner and in August 1969 Victor Melling took over. The first five editions of the Gate Post are missing from the club's archives. Bryan Watson compiled the **January 1970** edition and in August 1975 Brian Forshaw became the Gate Post editor.



### **First XV Ties Awarded**

On Tuesday **21st January 1975** the club President, Ken Butler-Smith presented 1st XV ties to 21 current players who had made 25 first team appearances in a single season or 35 overall.

The recipients were: Frank Booth, Frank Carter, Peter Clegg, Alan Everson, Brian Forshaw, Ralph Frankland, Derek Helme, Tony Hill, Stephen Hipps, Keith Jones, Gordon Meadows, Mike Newport, Harry Nicholson, Paul Roberts, Chris Rotherham, Peter Squires, Brian Swales, John Thompson, John Trevorrow, Steve Wilkins and Glyn Williams.

### **Harrogate RUFC Member Awarded an M.B.E.**

Long time servant of Harrogate RUFC, John Milton, was awarded an M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List in **January 1982**.

### **Yorkshire U19 v Lancashire U19 at Claro Road**

This game was played at Claro Road, Harrogate on **8th January 1983**. The programme lists W. Carling of Sedbergh playing at centre and Simon Croft of Harrogate Grammar School for Yorkshire.

### **Captains Honours Board**

The boards above the bar in the clubhouse listing the names of Harrogate club Captains were donated in **January 1993** by Geoffrey Handley who played for Harrogate from 1922 to 1925 under the captaincy of F.A. Ledgard.

### **Simon Easterby Debut**

Simon Easterby made his 1st XV debut for Harrogate when he came on from the replacements' bench as a No.8 in the 8 - 10 defeat against Rotherham on **15th January 1994**.

### **Terry Crystal Appointed England Doctor**

In January 1994 Dr. Terry Crystal, a former Harrogate player, was appointed as Doctor to the England Squad.

### **New Scrummaging Machine**

**January 1994** saw the arrival of a new Rhino scrummaging machine.

### **Harrogate on the Net**

It was announced in the programme for **22nd January 2000** that Harrogate Rugby Club would soon have an internet address at [www.harrogaterugby.org.uk](http://www.harrogaterugby.org.uk).

## 1999/2000 January

Gate, now in eighth place, had, however, looked stronger in December and returned to the fray in confident mood against Rosslyn Park despite Worden and Norris being absent. Hoppy came on at No.8 and rolled back the years with a superb effort. He was just edged out of man of the match by an ebullient Mark Farrar as Gate recovered magnificently from 10-0 down to win 25 - 13. A visit to Surrey in **January** proved no hardship as Gate carried on where they left off and Rhys Morgan now firmly back as scrum half and skipper led his lads to a 28-17 win over lowly Camberley who fought hard. Preston, who were having a good first Season in Jewson One came to Harrogate looking to complete a treble and it seemed on the cards as sloppy defence allowed them to build up a four try 20-7 half time advantage. However, Gate tightened their game and produced some sparkling rugby to emerge 35-25 winners of a ten try thriller.

### Mark Farrar makes his 100th Appearance

On **Saturday 6th January 2001** Mark Farrar made his 100th appearance for Harrogate when he came onto the field as replacement in the game against Camberley. He had previously played for Otley and made over 100 appearances for them. During this season Iain Salkeld, Rhys Morgan, Matt Duncombe, Ed Smithies and Mike Worden made their 50th appearances for the club.

**First XV playing record 2000/2001:** Won 14, drawn 2, lost 10, points for 632, points against 462, leading points scorer Lee Cholewa 166(161 League points), leading try scorer Ed Smithies 18 tries (17 in the league). Lee Cholewa, Richard Wade, Ed Smithies and Rob Wilson appeared in every game.

Home : Won 8 / Drawn 1 / Lost 4

Away : Won 6 / Drawn 1 / Lost 6

At the end of the 2000/2001 season Harrogate finished in 5th place out of 14 clubs in National League 1.

During this season Harrogate twice achieved two hat tricks in one game both against West Hartlepool in National League Two. On **13th January 2001** both Peter Taylor and Matt Duncombe scored hat tricks in the away game which Harrogate won 70-14 and earlier that season on 4th November 2000 Richard "Dick" Wade and Ed Smithies scored 3 tries each in the home game which Harrogate won 60-0.

### Women's Rugby

Emma Cook was appointed as Chairperson of the Harrogate Ladies Rugby Section with Rob Cope as Manager and Pam Foster as Secretary. Laura Harris and Leah Bentham were selected for the North East Squad in **January 2002**.

### New Scrum Law

**Saturday 6th January 2007** saw the introduction of the new scrum law. 'The referee will use a four stage process for each scrummage:

1. Crouch: Take up the scrummaging position.
2. Touch: Each prop to put one hand on his opponent's shoulder.
3. Pause: Hold the crouch position.
4. Engage.

The purpose was to prevent front rows charging in from a distance and to make it easier for the referee to ensure correct body positions of the front row players.'

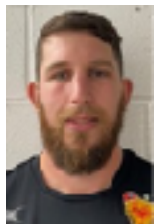
### Saturday 7th November 2009 Ed Smithies Reaches 100 Tries

On **Saturday 7th November 2009** Ed Smithies scored his 100th try in League games for Harrogate against Huddersfield at Claro Road in a game which Harrogate won 22 - 20. This was also Ed's 245th league game for Harrogate. He had also scored 3 tries in cup matches. On Saturday 16th January 2010 Ed played his 250th League game for Harrogate when they were defeated 25 - 13 by Loughborough Students who were top of the league at the time.

### Five Matches postponed

During December, January and February 2010/2011 five 1st XV matches were postponed due to the winter weather conditions.

### Sam Brady 155



On **11th January 2020** Sam played his 155th game for Harrogate in the game against Sandal. At the time he was also the leading try scorer for the season with 12 tries.

### Caldwell, Andy. (DOB: 10/8/1969) Centre.

Andy first played for Harrogate in the 1987/1988 season. He played for England Colleges from 1989 to 1991 and for Yorkshire in 1998. Andy had a short spell with Leeds and Leicester then returned to Harrogate for the 1998/1999 season. He played his 100th League game for Harrogate against Preston Grasshoppers on **22nd**

**January 2000.**

