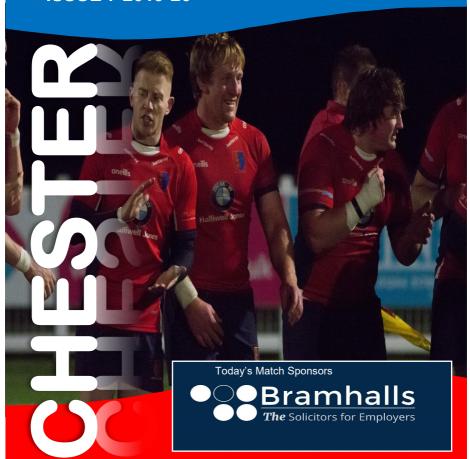


THE OFFICIAL CHESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB PROGRAMME

ISSUE 7 2019-20





v CALDY

National 2 North Saturday 21 December 2019, Kick Off 3pm





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As always we offer a warm welcome to our match officials today. It's possible you won't agree with every decision they make during the course of the game, but please remember this is Rugby Union, not Association Football – if you're the type who enjoys berating or even abusing officials, I would respectfully suggest this is not the place for you.

Please respect the match officials.

Dave Maloney Chairman

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League

The views expressed in the programme by contributors are not necessarily those of Chester Rugby Football Club



President's Welcome...

fter leaving it until the last minute to take the win against Hinckley last week, today we welcome the players, officials and supporters of all-conquering Caldy to Hare Lane for the pre-Christmas derby. The history between our two clubs goes back a long, long way and there are players on both sides today who have played for both teams, as I'm sure have some of those sitting down at our VPs' lunch.

Having dropped down from National 1 last term, Caldy seem determined to return in style and are unbeaten at this halfway stage in the season, at the top of the league and with a game in hand. Last Saturday they hammered Stourbridge 54-7, a score that seemed likely for Chester after 25



minutes against the same opponents two weeks ago, but somehow didn't happen. Today's game will without doubt be a stern test for the Chester boys. Perhaps Jan 'has a plan'?!

Elsewhere in the league Sheffield Tigers continued their strong season with a win against promotion contenders Fylde at Dore Moor while Sedgley Park stayed in the race with a nine try trouncing of seemingly doomed Scunthorpe. Also at the bottom, Luctonians took a welcome four points at home against Huddersfield and Grasshoppers came away from Otley with two points from a 0-0 draw (to quote the Rugby Paper - 'a drab affair').

In the European Champions Cup Exeter sealed Sale's fate and confirmed their qualification for the knock-outs whilst Leinster, Ulster, Racing 92 and Toulouse are all sitting pretty at the top of their pools.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and successful New Year and look forward to seeing you for our first home game of 2020, Luctonians on 11 January.

Enjoy the afternoon everybody.

Mike Dangerfield President



Chester 1st XV

Date	Opponent	Venue	For	Against	Match points	Total points	Tries
07.09.19	Sheffield Tigers	Α	19	25	1	1	3
15.09.19	Caldy	Α	10	18	0	1	2
21.09.19	Loughborough Students	Н	29	23	5	6	5
28.09.19	Luctonians	Α	24	20	5	11	4
05.10.19	Hull	Н	14	5	4	15	2
12.10.19	Otley	Α	17	18	1	16	3
19.10.19	Sedgley Park	Н	24	28	1	17	3
26.10.19	Fylde	Α	17	42	0	17	3
09.11.19	Preston Grasshoppers	Α	27	10	5	22	5
16.11.19	Wharfedale	Н	26	14	5	27	4
23.11.19	Huddersfield	Α	27	27	2	29	3
30.11.19	Tynedale	Н	36	17	5	34	6
07.12.19	Stourbridge	Α	33	27	5	39	5
14.12.19	Hinckley	Н	19	18	4	43	3
21.12.19	Caldy	Н				43	
04.01.20	Loughborough Students	Α				43	
11.01.20	Luctonians	Н				43	
18.01.20	Hull	Α				43	
25.01.20	Otley	Н				43	
01.02.20	Sedgley Park	Α				43	
08.02.20	Fylde	Н				43	
15.02.20	Scunthorpe	Α				43	
29.02.20	Preston Grasshoppers	Н				43	
07.03.20	Wharfedale	Α				43	
21.03.20	Huddersfield	Н				43	
28.03.20	Tynedale	Α				43	
04.04.20	Stourbridge	Н				43	
18.04.20	Hinckley	Α				43	
25.04.20	Sheffield Tigers	Н				43	
TBA	Scunthorpe	Н				43	
			322	292	43	43	51



Chester 1st XV

Chester RUFC Appearances & Points 2019-20								
Player	Apps	Subs	Tries	Cons	Pens	Drops	Pts	
Shay Owen	8	2	6	14	2		64	
Alick Croft	10	2	7				35	
Harrison Vare	9	2	7				35	
William Du Randt	6		5				25	
Guy Ford	11	1	4				20	
Mike Craven	9	2	4				20	
Callum Bennett	7	1		9			18	
Mark Dixon	12	2		6	1		15	
Harry Wilkinson	9	2	3				15	
Kyle Joseph	8	2	3				15	
George Baxter	11	1	2				10	
Tom Holloway	8	1	2				10	
Sean Green	14		1				5	
Rhodri Rhys Parry	13	1	1				5	
Colin Campbell	12	1	1				5	
Tom Foden	11	1	1				5	
Jimmy Lloyd	7	3	1				5	
Andrew Oakden	6	2	1				5	
Scott Robson	3	11	1				5	
Anthony Bingham	3		1				5	
Ric Cottrell	8	2	•				0	
Macca Van Sertima	7						0	
Johnny Charmley	4	6					0	
Josh Morris	4	2					0	
Alex Reed	2	8					0	
Oliver Buckley	2	1					0	
Dan Matthews	1	3					0	
JJ Broberg	1	2					0	
Charlie Craven	1	1					0	
James Hattersley	1	•					0	
Dan Pemberton	1						0	
James Robins	1						0	
Josh Woods	<u> </u>	4					0	
Wade Williams		2					0	
Sam Farrar		1					0	
Tom Gregory		1					0	
Tom Gregory		<u>'</u>		 			0	
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Daniele Tite	1			-			0	
Penalty Tries	210	70	51	29	3	0	322	
TOTALS	210	70	51	29	3	U	322	





Courtesy of https://caldyrfc.rfu.club/

At a glance...

President Graham Armitage Secretary Rachel Woolley Director of Rugby Gareth Davies

Local rivals Caldy reached the highest level in their history two years ago when they were promoted to the National League 1, a season in which they also won the Cheshire Cup for the sixth time.

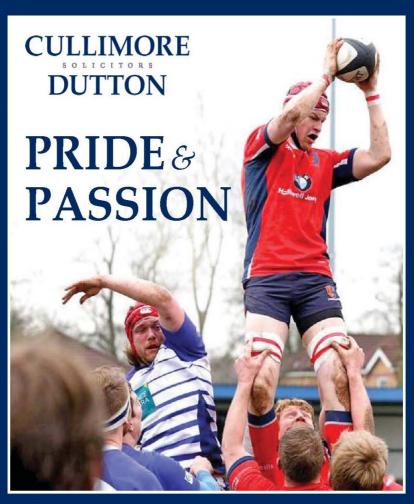
The Wirral club were relegated last season, but look ready to rebound as they lead the league with 14 wins in 14 matches, including a 18-10 win over Chester in September. In retrospect that looks a relatively reasonable result for Chester as Caldy have averaged more than 40 points in their other games..

Formed in 1924, they play their matches at Paton Field in Thurstaston, which has a capacity of 4,000. The highest gate in more than a decade, 1,432, came when they beat National League 2 North promotion rivals Sale 28-26 in 2017 to clinch the title.

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Trivia fact

Thurstaston gets its name from Thorsteinn, an old Norse name, and tun, farm or village. So it means village of Thorsteinn.



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League Update

Caldy 54-7 Stourbridge

Caldy marked the halfway point in the National Two North season by securing a 14th successive victory of the campaign.

The table toppers had eight different try scorers at Paton Field, with John Parker, Cameron Davies, Tom Sanders and Adam Aigbokhae all going over in the first period.

Rhys Hayes, Ed Stagg, Ben Jones and Nick Royle wrapped up another superb display by Caldy, while Dan Rundle's effort was the only response Stour had to the relentless league leaders.

Sheffield Tigers 16-10 Fylde

Fylde's top two aspirations were dented after they fell to a defeat away at Sheffield Tigers.

Warren Spragg's side are now eight points behind leaders Caldy, but the Lancashire club are only four points clear of third-placed Sedgley Park.

First half tries from Tom Grimes and Ben Gregory had given Fylde a 10-6 advantage, but the Tigers fought back in the second period.



Harrison Vare gets the decisive try in Chester's 19-18 win over Hinckley last week.

Photograph by Keith Lock

They did have to wait until the final 10 minutes to complete the turnaround, though, as Jamie Broadley capitalised on yellow-cards shown to Ben O'Ryan and Gregory to dot down before Mark Ireland landed his third penalty of the afternoon to seal the win for the Yorkshire outfit.

Sedgley Park 59-7 Scunthorpe

Ollie Glasse and Ben Black scored twice as Sedgley Park hammered Scunthorpe to strengthen their top two ambitions.

Glasse's first try came on 27 minutes after Elliot Crowe had opened the scoring before Leon Simpson touched down before half-time.

Black (2), Rob Holloway, Bob Birtwell and Callum McShane completed a dominant display from Sedge, who profited from two Scunthorpe yellow-cards and a red shown to Jacob Hardy in a six-minute window during the second half.

Ethan Heath-Dury scored Scunthorpe's only try to make it 7-7 in the first period, but the division's bottom club had no answer to Sedge and remain without a victory this term.



Loughborough Students 46-14 Tynedale

Loughborough Students bounced back from their defeat to Huddersfield in style as they thrashed Tynedale in the Midlands.

Both Will Brown and Bamidele Fadahunsi scored hat-tricks for the Students while Will Kaye grabbed the other for the rampant hosts.

Fly-half Owen Waters kicked 11 points whilst Tynedale's tries came via replacements Ben Haigh and John Clarkson in the final 12 minutes.

Hull 12-9 Wharfedale

Hull secured their fourth victory on the spin with this battling win over Wharfedale.

Jack Blakeney-Edwards kicked two first-half penalties for Dale to leave it 6-0 at the break, but the home side hit back after the restart.

A brace from Latu Makaafi inside eight minutes turned the game in Hull's favour, but the boot from Blakeney-Edwards kept Dale in the contest.

However, Hull decided to the turn the screw and went close on a couple of occasions and despite Wharfedale's best efforts to hit back, the hosts held on for another triumph.

Otley 0-0 Preston Grasshoppers

Otley and Preston Grasshoppers played out only the second 0-0 draw in the history of the National Leagues at Cross Green.

Otley looked the most likely to break the deadlock in the first quarter, but even when Hoppers were reduced to 13 men at one stage, Preston's excellent defence refused to be breached.

The visitors put pressure on their hosts in the final 10 minutes, but their patience was not to be rewarded as both sides shared the spoils in Yorkshire.

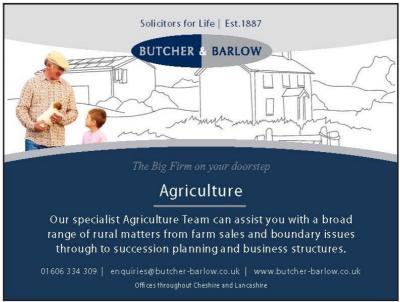
Luctonians 15-10 Huddersfield

Luctonians have once again moved out of the relegation zone in National Two North as they edged past rivals Huddersfield.

Tries by Drew Cheshire and Aiden Cheshire were enough for Lucs to leapfrog Huddersfield and the win leaves them one point clear of the drop.

Field had led this contest 10-8 as Will Milner's penalty was added to by Josh Crickmay, but after an excellent win over Loughborough at the start of the month, the Yorkshire club were unable to back it up in Round 15.







Did You Know?

League Minutiae

Caldy are unbeaten so far — they have dropped only four try bonus points having failed to gain the maximum against the following sides: Loughborough Students and Wharfedale away from home and Fylde and, of course, Chester at home.

Like Chester they have had one match postponed, due to a waterlogged pitch at Sedgley Park.

They have scored 77 tries to date.

No team have scored a try bonus point against them... to date.

However, when they have conceded tries (23), they have then gone on to concede 17 conversions which gives them the second worst ratio of successful kicks from tries... only Scunthorpe have a poorer record.

They have been awarded one penalty try, against Huddersfield,

They have five ever present starting players: Ben Jones, Nick Royle, JJ Dickinson, Rhys Hayes and Mike Barlow, who have 14 appearances each.

They have used a league low of only 30 players to date.

As expected, Nick Royle is their leading try scorer with 15.

Gavin Roberts is their leading points scorer with seven tries, 43 conversions and 11 penalties – 154 points.



Not many people know that......



Chester v Hinckley



The gathering storm: Chester gain line-out possession en route to their last minute 19-18 victory last week.

Photographs by Huw Williams



Centre of excellence: Tom Foden tests the mettle of the Hinckley defence last time at Hare Lane



Chester v Hinckley



Stoops to conquer: Tom Holloway launches another Chester attack during last week's dramatic win

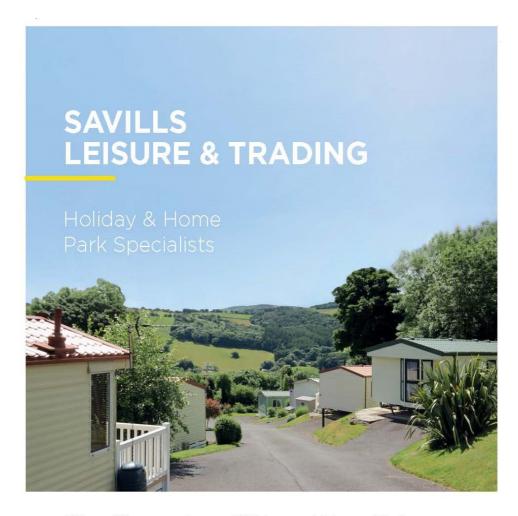


Forward momentum: Prop Rhodri Rhys (No. 3) makes a break as members of Chester's pack combine



National League 2 North

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Diff	Try Bonus	Losing Bonus	Pts
Caldy	14	14	0	0	553	188	365	10	0	66
Fylde	15	11	1	3	456	274	182	9	3	58
Sedgley Park	14	11	0	3	401	277	124	7	3	54
Loughborough Students	15	9	0	6	456	340	116	7	4	47
Sheffield Tigers	15	9	0	6	331	329	2	4	3	43
Chester	14	8	1	5	322	292	30	6	3	43
Hinckley	15	7	0	8	357	348	9	7	5	40
Tynedale	15	6	2	7	382	389	-7	6	4	38
Stourbridge	15	6	0	9	368	391	-23	7	6	37
Otley	15	6	2	7	279	295	-16	3	4	35
Hull	15	6	3	6	298	341	-43	2	2	34
Wharfedale	15	6	1	8	291	341	-50	2	3	31
Huddersfield	15	4	1	10	319	386	-67	5	6	29
Luctonians	15	4	3	8	316	417	-101	4	2	28
Preston Grasshoppers	15	3	2	10	253	371	-118	2	3	21
Scunthorpe	14	0	0	14	229	632	-403	4	2	6



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Backwards Pass



hristmas had an extra glow 60 years ago for Chester RUFC members as they contemplated the prospect of moving to the club's present home.

In 1959 Chester purchased a 16-acre piece of land that included a former American army camp site and adjoining fields in Vicars Cross. The site included concrete standings where barrack blocks and other buildings had been

Members helped clear the ground, hundreds of tons of sand were transported from Old Caldeans rugby ground, where the pitches were being excavated, and a former RAF officers' mess in West Kirby was dismantled and re-erected at Hare Lane to form the clubhouse.

A report in the *Chester Observer* listed the facilities in what it described as a "handsome structure", including six changing rooms, three sunken baths and a shower. "Chester Rugby Club have every reason to be proud of their achievement," the report read, "and there is no doubt that this is one of the best grounds in the North West."



The cost was around £10,000, which is the equivalent of nearly £200,000 today and the first match, Cheshire President's XV versus Lancashire President's XV, was played on 5 September 1961. Cheshire won 14-11.







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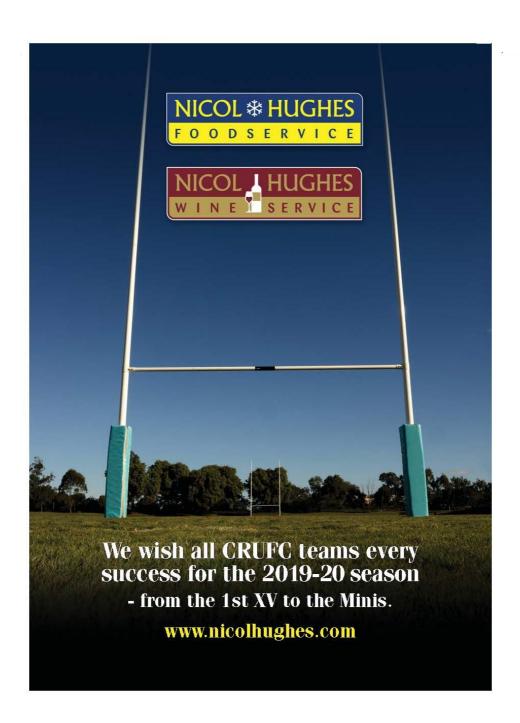
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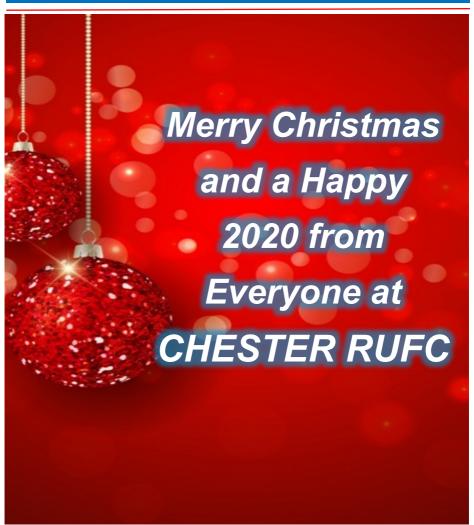
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Season's Greetings





Next home game - Saturday 11 January 3pm
CHESTER v LUCTONIANS





The Weekend's Other Games

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2ND XV







CALDY 2

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Friendly

National League 2 North

Hinckley v Loughborough Students

Huddersfield v Otley

Preston Grasshoppers v Fylde

Sheffield Tigers v Scunthorpe

Stourbridge v Luctonians

Tynedale v Hull

Wharfedale v Sedgley Park



Chester RUFC latest news:

https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/chesterrufc/

Today's Teams...



CHESTER v CALDY

Sean Green 15 Rhys Hayes

William Du Randt 14 Nick Royle

Tom Foden 13 Gavin Roberts

Shay Owen 12 Mike Barlow

Max Himbury 11 Ben Jones

Mark Dixon 10 Lewis Barker

Tom Holloway 9 Cam Davies

Colin Campbell (capt) 1 Jack Parker

Alick Croft 2 Ollie Hearn

Rhodri Rhys 3 Derek Salisbury

Jonny Charmley 4 Jack Collister

Rik Cottrell 5 Tom Sanders

Harry Wilkinson 6 Harrison Crowe

Mike Craven 7 Adam Aigbokhae

Guy Ford 8 JJ Dickinson (capt)

Scott Robson 16 Ted Stagg

Alex Parkes Reed 17 John Whittaker

Wade Williams 18 Martin Gerrard

Kyle Joseph 19 Dave Jones

Charlie Craven 20 Michael Cartmill



Ref Tim Allat
AR1 Richard Arthur
AR2 To be announced

NEXT GAME: Loughborough 4 January AWAY