

# Visiter Sports Extra



Hesketh Colts Junior Football teams have had a brilliant response from local companies sponsoring their team kits this season. The team would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring kits: Under 9s team sponsored by Yellow Tops Taxis and Bury Road Garage. Under 12's sponsored by J Howard Technologies. Under 11's blues sponsored by Glasplies of Crowland Street. Under 12's girls sponsored by The Fireplace. Under 8's sponsored by Churchtown Barbers. Under 7's sponsored by Paul Rimmer Builders. A special thank you also goes to Aductus Housing of Chorley who gave the teams a grant towards equipment

## Rain hits Hesketh

FOOTBALL

ALL three of Hesketh Bank's senior teams were postponed last weekend due to the recent bad weather leaving pitches waterlogged.

The first team match at Ambleside failed a pitch inspection early on Saturday morning and the reserves home team match and Sunday team fixture were also called off early.

Looking back to the last fixture of 2013 the first team recorded a 3-2 home victory over a plucky Wyre Villa side who gave them a few anxious moments late in the game.

Manager James Smith was without the unavailable Neil Hulme and suspended Josh Norgate but was able to replace them with Jordan Smethurst returning from injury and Richard Hill.

Heavy overnight rain made the pitch sticky in places but otherwise perfectly playable on a cold and blustery winters day. Hesketh Bank began with a lot of possession passing the ball well but they had to wait until the twelfth minute before a real chance was created when Richard Burns broke through on the right but his dangerous cross was well saved by the keeper.

Gradually the visitors got into the game and Paul Sergeant had to be quick off his line to thwart an attack. He was also relieved when his own defender Ian Dickinson headed clearance went just wide of the upright. Skipper Dan Birkby should have opened the scoring after 20 minutes but he shot wide from close range. Hesketh Bank took the lead eight minutes later when a deep cross from Jamie Dalton was headed into an empty net by striker John Stead as the keeper appeared to be jolted by one of his own defenders. This was Stead's 13th goal in just ten appearances since his transfer from Lytham Town.

Seven minutes into the second half the lead was doubled when a cross from the right by Smethurst was delightfully tucked into the corner of the net by Birkby for his 18th goal of the season. When Jamie Johnson added a third with a delicate chip over the keeper in the 68th minute the match looked to have been won comfortably.

However despite only conceding seven goals in their previous 17 league matches Hesketh Bank managed to give away two goals in just seven minutes. Wyre Villa's striker Dale Pattern gratefully took both chances and in doing so transformed his team from a side out of the match with a chance to look for an equaliser in the 10 minutes remaining. Despite a couple of dangerous dead ball crosses the Hesketh defence held firm.

## Tarleton's Bolton revenge



Brian Parsons on the break for Tarleton against Bolton. Image by JEFF GORDON

RUGBY

TARLETON SECOND XV opened their 2014 fixtures with a home game against Bolton RUFC, the only team to have beaten them this season.

They knew that any slip up would give Wigan the advantage in the league so a squad of 25 players made themselves available for selection.

The first few minutes showed that Tarleton needed to get rid of their nerves as they fumbled balls and conceded possession in their own 22 for the Bolton stand off to put a drop goal over to give them a 3-0 lead.

Tarleton responded with a small period of pressure that saw them on Bolton's five metre line with a put in at the scrum, however this was turned over by Bolton but in the

resulting put in for Bolton in their scrum the Tarleton front five put them under intense pressure and won a penalty. Lee Booth put this over to level the scores.

For the rest of the first half all the pressure came from Tarleton and Bolton were defending well and putting in tackle after tackle. A Bolton clearance kick didn't find touch and was gathered by Lee Waddell who made good ground before passing to Lee Booth who cut inside and with a well-timed pass set up Tarleton's first try through Sam Bradshaw which was converted by Lee Booth to create a 10-3 lead.

A second clearance kick by Bolton was gathered by Klee Booth who powered down the wing drawing two Bolton defenders and creating a gap for Sam Tyrer to exploit with a try

after another good pass and added the extra points from out wide with a great kick.

At 17-3 Tarleton were in control and even a good attack by Bolton that ended with a penalty against them in Tarleton's 22 saw the Tarleton backs run the ball out and using their pace managed to free Sam Bradshaw again to score his second try and at half time the score was 22-3.

The second half started well with another good scrum seeing Matt Lewis taking the ball on and in a double pivot move with the backs released Aiden Miller to score a good try in the corner, Lee Booth scored the extra points from wide with a kick that came off the uprights to sail over.

29-3 ahead and Tarleton took their foot off the gas and started to give

away too many penalties resulting in two players being sin-binned and giving Bolton the chance to exploit the wide open spaces which, to their credit, they did scoring a try to bring the score to 29-8.

Tarleton had the last word and from a penalty in the last seconds of the match Tarleton took the three points and emerged 32-8 winners.

The First XV were surprisingly defeated at Fleetwood and will have to concentrate on trying to beat Littleborough at home next week to claw their way out of the relegation zone.

The Second XV are home again against local rivals Ormskirk and must continue winning to keep Wigan in their sights and set up a possible end of season match for the championship.