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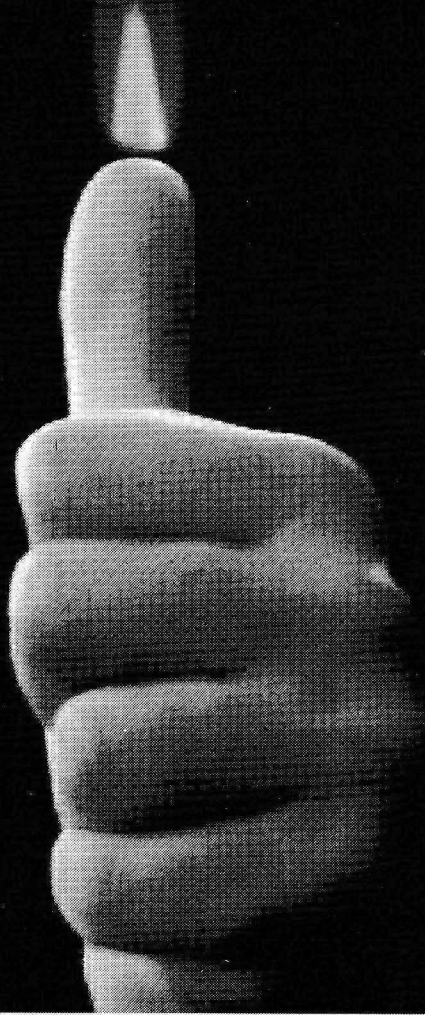


Souvenir Programme  
& Brochure

Sunday, 10th April 1994



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## Centenary Playing of the First Sevens in England Souvenir Programme/Brochure

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Cover Photograph by courtesy of Save & Prosper*





## FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, Sunday 10th April 1994, all the mixed metaphors come home to roost. Congratulations John Suddes, you've pulled it off with vision, hard work, a sense of humour and the support of a small experienced Committee. Let's mention them as well - John Robinson, Peter Robertson and Tony Sisterson.

Thanks are also due to the Melrose Committee for their outstanding support and patience in guiding Tynedale through the pitfalls of organising an International Sevens Competition. After all, its the fault of earlier missionaries from the Melrose Committee way back

in the nineties, 1890s that is, that Tynedale are able to celebrate the Centenary Sevens. How the child has matured and conquered the world. . .

### "ENGLAND, MURRAYFIELD 1993"

But without our sponsors today Tynedale RFC certainly could not have mounted such a spectacular sporting occasion. Thanks to Distillers plc, Bell's Whisky in particular, Kimberly-Clark and British Gas Northern for their support.

The distinguished panel of referees and touch-judges deserves applause for turning out on a Sunday after some hard games yesterday. The club and the spectators salute your enthusiasm and dedication.

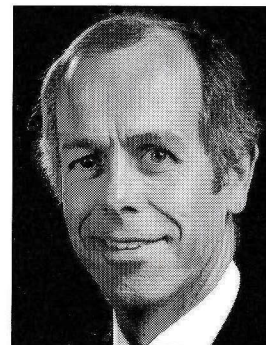
I hope that the visiting teams from Home and Overseas have found the journey worthwhile. This is the first time many of the players have visited England let alone Northumberland. They are most welcome and assured of a warm 'Dale Reception'. Their presence has ensured a great day of Rugby.

We are proud and delighted that Danie Serfontein, Immediate Past President, The Rugby Football Union, has agreed to present the Tynedale Centenary Sevens Cup and medals to the winners.

My thanks to the doyens of the press for their entertaining articles and to my friends in the Tynedale Club and Committee for their wholehearted support. Thanks also to the ball boys for providing a professional service which surpasses any other Club in the Northern Division, and to the Ladies' Committee for their outstanding dedication under fire !

Finally, welcome to our visitors. You are the most important people today. Make yourselves at home in the beautiful surroundings of Tynedale Park. To everyone, please enjoy a great day at the Bell's Tynedale Centenary Sevens. Perhaps we may see you back next year?

John Saunders, President  
Tynedale R.F.C.



## SPONSOR'S MESSAGE BELL'S

### Welcome to the Bell's Tynedale Centenary Sevens.

As many of you will know, Bell's has been associated with rugby for several years - starting in 1988 when we first became involved with the Melrose Sevens, and more recently at Twickenham, where Bell's is proud to be an Elite sponsor of the RFU. Including Tynedale in our programme this year, therefore, was a natural step for us, extending the link of the UK's favourite Scotch Whisky with some of the most popular venues and events in rugby.

I am delighted to be able to welcome the teams here today who will all compete for the prestigious trophy. Some of these teams competed yesterday at Melrose - how I admire their stamina! Such is the attraction of Tynedale that these players from overseas chose to play again before returning home. I am sure you will make them all welcome and that we will witness a spectacular display of rugby.

Those of you who arrived early today would have been able to see some of our top rugby personalities put some of Tynedale's juniors through their paces. A clinic of this type provides a unique opportunity for youngsters and we are indebted to David Sole, Finlay Calder, Sean Lineen, Dougie Morgan, Malcolm Young and Alan Old who have given up their time to be here.

However, this tournament would not be taking place were it not for a team of people, names too many mention, whose vision it was to repeat the first great Tynedale Sevens which took place in 1894. They have worked tirelessly over the past months and our thanks and congratulations must go to them all.

Finally, our thanks go also to you for supporting both Bell's and Tynedale. On behalf of my colleagues at Bell's I wish you all an enjoyable and memorable day.

Graham Thompson,  
Managing Director, United Distillers UK





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***Bill McLaren -***

*the voice of Rugby Union, not just in his native Borders but on the world stage. For as long as many of us can remember, he has communicated a combination of unparalleled knowledge of his sport, pithy humour and warmth of spirit. We thank him for this contribution to our programme.*

**WHAE THE HELL'S TYNE DALE?**

“Whae the hell’s Tynedale?” was the query that echoed around the Scottish Border seven-a-side circuit all those 109 years ago when the North of England club had the impertinence to cross the border and win the first-ever sevens tournament staged by the Hawick Club. Borderers soon found that success was no fluke because, in the very next season, Tynedale took the honours at the Melrose event and what is more, they beat the holders Melrose, in the final by two tries to nil.

Seven-a-side rugby means a lot to the Scottish Border clubs and it is not surprising that suggestions that the Five Nations championship should be contested later in the season so as to benefit from better weather, has not gone down too well in the Borders, for such a change would have a detrimental effect upon the Border sevens circuit that has been in operation with few alterations to the format since the 1880’s.

It was in 1883 that the Melrose Club found itself in some financial difficulty and, in order to boost income, a local butcher called Adam “Ned” Haig had the idea of an abbreviated tournament to be played off in one afternoon and contested by smaller sides. There were sceptics but, to their eternal credit, Melrose went ahead with the first-ever sevens tournament in which seven teams took part from Melrose, Gala, Selkirk, Hawick and Innerleithen. That first final was fought out between Melrose and Gala and, when they were tied at the end of normal time (15 minutes), it was agreed to play a further 15 minutes. However after only 10 minutes, Melrose scored a try and promptly walked off with the trophy despite Gala protestations that another five minutes remained! Thus was instituted that distinctive feature of the sevens game - sudden death by which the first team to score in extra time are declared the winners. The other Border clubs quickly followed suit with their tournaments thus establishing the current programme in which tournaments are held by Gala, Melrose, Hawick, Jed-Forest and Langholm during five Saturdays in April and May and other senior events are staged at Selkirk, Earlston and Kelso at the beginning of each season.

Those tournaments are the focal point of town interest on each special day. They are family affairs with picnics round the ropes and on the terracing as backdrop to the keen competition fought out on the playing area. They also provide each club’s best “gate” of the season which



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is boosted by sponsorship so it is hardly surprising that Borderers are reluctant to permit interference with their traditional programme.

Of course the early tournaments enjoyed popular acclaim because the fuller version of the game was contested by 20-a-side and consisted of a series of moving mauls and melees in which hacking was permitted, hacking being the description of an act in which players were allowed to create bruising on an opponent's shins! So sevens proved a form of attractive, fast-moving relief in which players had opportunities to run and handle the ball far more. Sevens increased in popularity in England in the twenties. Indeed Selkirk beat Melrose in the tournament held in at Percy Park at North Shields in 1921. Rockcliffe and Northumberland events followed in 1922 and the famous Middlesex tournament was first staged in 1926.

In the early days of sevens, prizes were awarded to the finalists such as tea-sets, rosebowls, silver egg-cups and carvers, but the Scottish Rugby Union fearful lest its strictly amateur status would be eroded, decreed that only medals could be presented!

Seven-a-side lore is littered with astonishing feats of derring do, with dramatic long range, run-away tries, with extraordinary feats of stamina and resilience and tortuously long ties that seemed likely to have no ending. On one famous occasion in the 1880's Melrose played Hawick in the Melrose final, the ties lasted 57 minutes into semi-darkness and the players were so fatigued that a Hawick player, Dr Cullen leaned over a scrummage and pleaded with someone, anyone, to score! G Mercer of Melrose obliged to vast general relief. I have vivid recall of playing for Hawick against Kelso in the Kelso sevens semi-final of 1948. We changed ends seven times before Sandy Charters scored for Kelso. Once I managed to cover back to a Kelso kick and was upbraided by our gnarled, little stand-off, Jimmy Lumsden, for not running back fast enough. Run? I could barely walk! It was the only time that I can remember Hawick players being almost grateful that an opponent had scored. Of course in the final, Kelso, leg weary, were hammered by Melrose.

The Border sevens circuit has spawned many memorable feats of which Hawick's record of winning ten tournaments in a row in 1966 and 1967 stands supreme. They won 39 ties on the trot and three players, Rob Welsh, Colin Telfer and Peter Robertson took part in every single tie. Peter Robertson was a Scottish trials tight head prop and a gifted sevens artiste and hooker as well as being the former coach and current mentor of the Tynedale Club.

Old Ned Haig would be astonished at the spread of the game, that he founded, to all corners of the world with even a World Sevens tournament, deservedly won by England, at Murrayfield in 1993, and every year the Hong Kong sevens in which 24 countries take part in a superb event

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that encapsulates all that is good in the game - sportsmanship, mighty physical endeavour, and an ideal two days format, with enlivened audience participation, thrilling contests and a universal willingness to accept the rough and the smooth of Rugby's fortunes.

Nor is there any doubt that the seven-a-side game will continue to provide huge enjoyment for supporters and players alike - as Tynedale's Celebration Tournament today will prove - supporters because of the attraction of the running and handling game and the drama of extra time, players because of the joyous relief in wide open spaces from the claustrophobic defences and "use it or lose it" of the fuller version. Ned Haig did Rugby Union a big service and deserves all our thanks.

*Price Waterhouse*



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# GREGGS

T H E B A K E R S

congratulate Tynedale Rugby Football Club on their initiative 100 years ago and look forward to their continuing success in the future.

We also wish all the players today an enjoyable and competitive celebration of the occasion.

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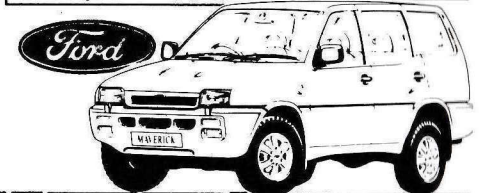
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**John Pargeter** -  
*one of the most reassuring and familiar faces on the rugby scene in the North East. John was the rugby and golf correspondent for the Newcastle Journal for many years and still files columns as a freelance journalist on a regular basis. An impartial observer but a good friend of Tynedale.*

## This was and is Tynedale!

Hexham is often referred to as "The Heart of all England", and while the Tynedale Club have never actually claimed that, they can perhaps expand even more, for there is no doubt that Rugby-wise, they figure prominently in the best of two worlds, in that their association with the Rugby Football Union is no greater than their historical connections with the Scottish RFU. Or perhaps to be more accurate, to the Border Country.

Still a force in the game, although frustrated by their failed attempts to go higher in the National League System in England, they may be excused on occasions for turning back the clock and basking in the reflected glory of their forebears!

Today, surely is the right and proper occasion as they celebrate their Centenary "Sevens", after all, no other club in England can do that! To prove that historical point, the date was Whit Monday, May 21st in 1894.

Scotland of course, rightly claim the first "Sevens", which were on April 28th in 1883, and Tynedale run them a close second, in that they won tournaments at Gala and at Hawick in 1885 and Melrose in 1886. Moreover, their players travelled on horse-back, once, returning the following day for a replay!

Let us rest "our" story of seven-a-side Rugby there; leave the intriguing details to Bill McLaren and concentrate upon Tynedale and their relationship with the game in Northumberland.

## SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Yet, even here, the connection with Scotland is most marked, though the writer must hasten to add, it was all long before his time!

It would appear however, that the first recorded match between England and Scotland, quite unofficial of course, was played in the 17th Century. Comprising 20 from Tynedale against an equal number from Liddesdale; the Southerners winning by three goals on two. More detail appears in a report of 1790 when sides from these dales met again on the "Haugh" close by Kielder Castle.

It would appear five games were played, and after four, the tally was 2-2. The North Tyne lads

won the 5th. Sadly there is not a happy note to end this victory, for it was reported several of the players being so exhausted by the intensity of the struggles that a few who died soon afterwards dated the commencement of their illness from that date.

"Battles, skirmished, reiving, raiding and feuding" have gone on in the Border Country since time immemorial, but Rugby has managed perhaps more than anything else, to bring about peace and an almost natural individual sport!

Perhaps too, the fact that so many youngsters from the North East, especially from the Tynedale and Hexham area, have been educated across the Border has helped. In this respect, Tynedale by no doubt, hold the top place through the families of the Robsons of Byrness, the Dodds of Catcleugh, the Elliots of Hindhope and the Halls of Lauriston.

Both Redewater and Bellingham have boasted Rugby teams, built as they said, around the "Four Graynes of North Tynedale" - the Charltons, the Robsons, the Dodds and the Milburns; and on one occasion, another North Tyne Club Border Rovers, took over a Christmas fixture from Tynedale against Hawick.... and beat them.

By 1883, Tynedale had reached the final of the Northumberland Cup only to be beaten by Tynemouth, but success came in 1887 and by the outbreak of World War I, there was a basis of what we all know now as Tynedale. The early history makes fascinating reading in the Centenary Book of 1976, so let us jump forward to more modern times, certainly to the memories of those more likely to be reading today's stories.

## CUP TRIUMPH

Tynedale's junior sides began the eventual triumphs with a string of cup victories during the 20's, with the Second XV carrying off the Senior Shield five times in a row (1920 to 1924), a feat which earned them a special flag from the county, which flew over the grandstand for many years.

The fourth XV took the Junior Shield every year between 1924 and 1928 and then in 1927, the First XV brought home the Senior Cup which had not been seen in Hexham since 1914. It marked the start of Tynedale's prominence in Northumberland, despite the tremendous blow of the 30's, when they lost the pitch they had used for 27 years because of the new Corbridge to Hexham road.

Undaunted, the club continued with their clubhouse marooned on a triangle of ground across the road, with the pitch switched from East to West rather than North to South, as so many of the current supporters and officials recall. How fitting too, that their cup winning Captain of



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1906, George Spencer, was now the Northumberland President and was able to select a side to play the club.

Indeed, his dominant leadership and that of skipper KWD Hodgson, helped the club to reach the peak they have rarely lost since, for they won the Northumberland Cup four years in succession just before the war, with outstanding players like hooker Jack Suddes, Lock Rex Graham, Flanker Ronnie Heron and his brother, Harry at prop; Full-Back Teddy Blench, with Threequarters "Hoot" Gibson and Chris Armstrong, plus the superb mid-field triangle of Angus Brogdon, Basil Liddle and Tommy Bland.

Remarkably, until just two years ago, Tynedale had won the Northumberland "Sevens" only once (1930) and the names of the first victors will revive memories: Bland, Brogdon and Liddle (as mentioned above), Dave McComb, Jimmy McComb, Sid Scott and Geoff Holmes.

In their four Senior Cup triumphs of the 30's, Tynedale scored 240 points against just 64 and in all matches during these triumphant four years, their record read:

P	W	D	L	F	A
121	85	11	25	1659	620

Remember, a try was then worth only three points!

## PROUD DAYS

It was a remarkable coincidence that on each of those four years, the man who presented the cup to Tynedale, was not only the County President, but also a Past Captain of Tynedale :- Anthony Emmerson, George Spencer and "Mally" Snowball. Proud days for the Club!

Ben Plummer then came on to the scene - he had made his senior debut at 15 in 1908 when at St Bees - made his county debut in France against Stade Bordelais on Easter Monday 1913 - became a County Referee after retiring - the Tynedale President (1952-6) and the County President (1947-9), so was in office when he unveiled the Tynedale Club memorial to the 27 members who gave their lives in the war.

A word too, for Tommy Robertson, who did such great work keeping the club going during the war, and held office for eight years after the war!

With the war over, Tynedale again began to surge forward, taking the Cup in 1948, when,

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although Harry Brogdon scored the winning try, the man of the match award went to current stalwart Ken Hall, who stamped his authority on the game with a thoroughly accomplished all-round performance.

Walter and Willie Rutherford - the latter earlier an England trialist - were a formidable pair. Jimmy Newlands was a Hooker of note, Bill Dinning and John Cousins are still active stalwarts and be it noted, that never-to-be-forgotten stalwart, Drew Richardson, captained the team that won the Junior Cup (his farewell match incidentally), and Bobby Blackburn led the second team to win the Senior Shield for what was the 12th time in the club history.

Willie Rutherford, incidentally, followed in the footsteps of Angus Brogdon when he was given an England trial (Sunderland 1946), but while only two Brogdons had played for Tynedale, three Rutherfords succeeded in doing so, Hector joining Walter and Willie!

No reference to Tynedale, however can be made without mentioning the Robb family. A Robb figured in their first ever XV and steered them through their 50th anniversary, while Derek Robb, a great nephew, captained them in their 75th year.

The year 1955, saw that great Cornish stalwart, Prof G.G.T. Tregarthen, now President of Northumberland, open the "new" clubhouse which was a tremendous stride forward and for which the club owed a great deal to the energetic work of Laurie Bouckley.

Eddie Robson and Stuart Enevoldson, John Suddes (the longest-serving fixture secretary in the county) and Jim Chapman also deserve great praise for the developments to follow and for their determination to see it all happen, while the youngsters who have so supported the club, owe a great debt to the enthusiasm .... and to the untiring encouragement and devotion of John Clark.

George Haldane then appeared as a tremendously enthusiastic coach and who can possibly fail to note the wholehearted almost fanatically keen John Shotton of the modern era?

All these people and many more, have seen Tynedale rise to their present eminence, brought to the boil no doubt, by the decision to move out of Hexham ... and what a decision that was:

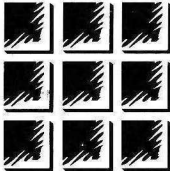
Stalwart Bill Dinning, through his agricultural roles, was the first to hear the possible acquisition of appropriately named "Tynedale Park" at Corbridge, but once it was learned, it was all go and in what seemed no time at all, the Tyneside Agricultural Society showground became the Rugby arena now known far and wide.

The cost was £12,000 and the property committee comprised Bill Dinning (Chairman), Jim Chapman (Secretary), Alan Charlton (Treasurer), David Barker (Assistant Treasurer) and three leading committee men in Stuart Enevoldsen, Ken Bell and John Clark.

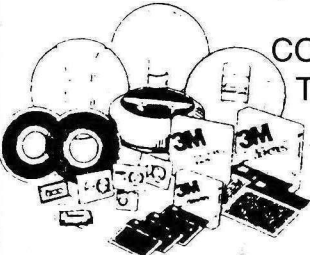


The breakthrough came by 1975 when the Hexham ground was sold for £75,000 and the clubhouse and car park for £27,500. By July 1976 the new abode was ready. The building cost - some £108,000 ... but what an asset!!

By the time Tarn Bainbridge (Darlington), then the President of the RFU, opened the Clubhouse, the entire project had cost £154,000, but those responsible - the majority of whom are here to enjoy this occasion - are able to reflect on the glories of the past. In praising how the club has developed since, one has only to look at the feats of the Mini-Rugby members over the years, so guaranteeing the future and also to note that Tynedale won the Northumberland Cup in 1992 and 1993, to realise what a proud occasion it is today ... when they produce this Centenary Sevens Souvenir Programme.



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## COMPETITION RULES

1. Each team should report to the Senior Steward, Mr. K. Laidler, in the Club House before their tie commences with a nominated pool of 10 players.
2. Each tie will be 7½ minutes each way excepting the Final which will be 10 minutes each way.
3. Clubs must turn out punctually as directed by the Senior Steward or risk disqualification.
4. The referee's decision on all matters arising during the playing of any tie will be final.
5. Each competing club can nominate a pool of 10 players from which seven will be selected to play in any tie. A club may alter its team selection from within the pool for any tie, provided that the selection is in the hands of the Senior Steward 15 minutes before commencement of the tie in question.
6. In the event of a player being injured during any tie, the tournament organisers may permit replacement by another player from within that Club's nominated pool subject to the following conditions :
  - a) Injured players may be replaced during all ties by approval of the Tournament Medical Officer.
  - b) Clubs requiring the advice of the Tournament Medical Officer may apply to the Senior Steward.
  - c) ANY PLAYER REPLACED THROUGH INJURY ON ADVICE OF THE TOURNAMENT MEDICAL OFFICER WILL BE DEBARRED FROM TAKING ANY FURTHER PART IN THE TOURNAMENT.

- **WHO reported the formation of Tynedale Rugby Football Club in 1876?**
- **WHO was among the crowd of 3,000 to see Tynedale win their first Border Sevens tournament at Galashiels in 1884?**
- **WHO saw them complete the hat-trick with further sevens wins at Hawick and Melrose over the next year?**
- **WHO devoted half a column to the first-ever sevens tournament in England at Hexham on Whit Monday, 1894?**
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## **OUR GUESTS**

### **VILLAGER FOOTBALL CLUB**

We welcome today Villager Football Club, founded in 1875, South Africa's oldest club. Only Stellenbosch University has produced more than the thirty-five "Springboks" who have sprung from the Villager's Brookside ground which lies in the shadow of Table Mountain.

Many of these world-famous stars of yesteryear are still active within the Villager Club, including Club President Dave Stewart, Coach H O de Villiers; Doug Hopwood, John Gainsford, Morne du Plessis and Lionel Wilson; with prop-forward Keith Andrews a member of the current international side.

Dave Stewart and H O de Villiers will be here when the team is expected to include Stewart's nephew Christian, who played for Canada in the last Rugby World Cup and Andrew Kirsten who played scrum-half for the Western Province development side at Melrose last year.

Villager's team manager, Chris Shutte says, "We are looking forward to this historic tour by our Club and are truly most privileged indeed to have been invited".

Villager finished fourth (from twenty clubs) in the Western Province Premier Division last season and were winners of the Stellenbosch Sevens.

### **MANLY RFC INC**

One of the premier clubs in Australia, Manly, are most welcome and have brought a formidable side to the Sevens competitions in Melrose and Tynedale. They have recently won Sevens competitions at home in Kcama and Bathurst. Among their players are world-rated Australian back-row stars Willie Ofahengaue, and his Australian Sevens' colleagues Graeme Beal and Manly's top try scorer Kevin Reber. We are honoured to welcome them as the first Australian side to visit Tynedale and trust they enjoy their stay.



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## THE REFEREES

### **J M (JIM) FLEMING**

A forty-two year old Chartered Quantity Surveyor from Edinburgh, Jim started refereeing in 1973 after a serious head injury cut short his playing career.

In 1983, he became one of Scotland's top ten referees and in the following year he was elected to the International Referees Panel. He made his International debut in 1985 when he refereed Ireland v England in Dublin and now holds the Scottish record for a referee having refereed 20 major Internationals.

Jim officiated in both the 1987 and 1991 World Cups and at the 1991 tournament, refereed the opening game between England and New Zealand as well as the second half of Argentina v Western Samoa, the quarter-final between Ireland and Australia and the Australia v New Zealand semi-final.

Over the past year Jim has refereed New Zealand v Western Samoa in July, France and Romania in October and France v Ireland in January.

Refereeing has taken Jim all over the World. He has been to Australia and New Zealand three times each. His travels have also seen him referee in Hong Kong, Dubai, Portugal, Romania, Poland, Sweden, Holland and France as well as all the Home Countries.

Married to Linda with two children Lorna and Euan, Jim enjoys most sports and in his spare time plays the bagpipes.

### **JIM COULSON**

Jim is a widely respected and well known local referee, who decided to become a referee after playing for London and Surrey Universities and Bedford and Bracknell and a stint as a RFU coach at the Novocastrians Club in Newcastle.

He was rapidly promoted to the National A List and RFU Panel in the early 1980's. At his peak he spent two years as one of the six referees on the International Exchange Panel. Jim has refereed top League games within all the Home nations as well as games at National Cup, County Championship, Divisional, Inter-Services and International Schoolboy levels.

Jim's rugby travels have allowed him to fulfil invitations to officiate in France, Argentina, Canada, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

In between Rugby matches Jim runs his own business, specialising in food and ingredients manufacturing and the analysis and biological treatment of waste-waters.

### **CHARLES (CHUCK) MUIR**

Aged 44, Chuck Muir played until 1971 for Hawick, both at full-back and stand-off half. He then moved to Langholm until 1982, coached for two years and then started refereeing in 1984.

He has been a Scottish Rugby Union Top Grade referee for two seasons. His major games include amongst others, The Students World Cup in 1992, Wales B v The North of England and Auckland, New Zealand v Wasps.



As the programme goes to press Chuck will be in charge of the match between Wales A and France B at Cardiff.

### KENNY McCARTNEY

Kenny retired from playing at the age of 28 after a distinguished career in the five Hawick championship sides of the 1970's.

Now aged 41 he has been refereeing since 1980/81 and became a Scottish panel referee in 1990. His first International game was between France and Ireland in Paris. He has officiated at five International Matches, including New Zealand v Australia for the Bledisloe Cup. His score to date is the All Blacks twice, and Australia three times.

He is a Hawick man to the core, a tennis coach of repute and when he's not fishing or refereeing he is the proud Father of three daughters.

### ED MORRISON

Lives in Bristol and became a referee after suffering a rugby injury at the age of 30.

Ed has experienced a rapid rise through the ranks from 1980 when he joined his local Bristol Society until his first appointment to what is now the A list in 1987, and to the International panel the following season.

He was in charge of his first International in Paris between France and Scotland in the 1990/91 season. Together with Fred Howard he was selected to represent England at the World Cup Finals in 1991. Here he officiated at two games, and ran touch in three, including a semi-final and third place play-off.

Up to now he has refereed twelve major Internationals which included visits to Argentina, South Africa and Australia.

### JOHN PEARSON

Hales from Yarm in Cleveland where he works as an Adviser/Inspector for Physical Education and Health with the Cleveland Local Education Authority.

He has served 6 years on the RFU panel, appearing twice in the top ten and has been established as a Division 1 referee since 1979.

John has experience of International exchange with all the five nations and also controlled the final of the Argentinean Championship in 1992 and the Maccabiah games in 1993.

Having officiated in the semi final of the Pilkington Cup between Harlequins and Leicester in 1992, as well as being given charge of ten junior International Matches, his final ambition remains to become a member of the full International Squad.

## THE TEAMS

### ALNWICK

Blue

1. A. Proctor
2. M. Gourty
3. D. Roulston
4. A. Wilson
5. S. Manners
6. G. Robson
7. T. Cumming
8. M. Bromham
9. A. Moses
10. D. Turner

### BLAYDON

Scarlet & White Collar

1. S. O'Neill
2. D. Hayes
3. C. Hall
4. D. Morley
5. M. Jones
6. P. Hails
7. C. Nunn
8. A. Savory
9. N. Wade
10. D. Lowes

### DUNGANNON

Blue & White Stripes

1. J. Haistings
2. G. Taylor
3. G. Spark
4. J. Haistings
5. A. Gallagher
6. T. White
7. D. Humphreys
8. S. McDowell
9. R. Carey
10. T. Howe

### GALA

Maroon

1. M. Moncrieff
2. G. Keen
3. M. Dodds
4. G. Townsend
5. J. Maitland
6. G. Farquharson
7. J. Amos
8. I. Corcoran
9. N. Crooks
10. T. Weir

### GORDONIANS

Blue & Gold Hoops

1. A. McLean
2. L. Dow
3. D. Love
4. S. Driscoll
5. B. Doney
6. G. Gibb
7. S. Whyte
8. G. Zimmerman
9. S. MacPherson
10. S. Smith

### NEWCASTLE GOSFORTH

Black, Green & White

1. G. Clark
2. P. Smith
3. J. Nicholson
4. S. Owen
5. M. Dungait
6. T. Penn
7. J. Ashworth
8. D. Cusado
9. I. Chandler
10. I. Williams

### HAWICK

Green

1. P. Stanger
2. D. Grant
3. S. McRae
4. K. Reed
5. J. Graham
6. J. Hay
7. A. Imrie
8. J. Gray
9. G. Allott
10. A. Gray

### JEDFOREST

Royal Blue

1. K. Amos
2. H. Hogg
3. A. Douglas
4. G. Scott
5. G. McKechnie
6. C. Brown
7. K. Armstrong
8. K. Liddle
9. L. Patrick
10. P. Douglas

### KELSO

Black & White

1. J. Jeffrey
2. C. Millar
3. A. Roxburgh
4. I. Fairley
5. G. Aitchison
6. S. Lang
7. I. Macarthur
8. B. Cassie
9. D. Baird
10. M. Wright

### LANGHOLM

Crimson

1. D. Jeffrey
2. C. Cottrill
3. A. Warwick
4. A. Jeffrey
5. M. Grieve
6. C. Turk
7. A. Beattie
8. B. Middleton
9. D. Johnstone
10. N. Basnett

### MANLY

Royal Blue

1. M. Reber
2. K. Reber
3. R. Gallacher
4. S. Fenn
5. W. Ofanengaue
6. T. Ashby
7. T. Tuipulotu
8. D. Reen
9. B. Kennedy
10. G. Beal

### MELROSE

Yellow & Black

1. C. Hogg
2. C. Redpath
3. R. Brown
4. G. Parker
5. G. Shiel
6. C. Chalmers
7. N. White
8. G. Weir
9. B. Redpath
10. A. Purves







## THE TEAMS (cont . . .)

### MORPETH

Scarlet & White

1. B. Dale
2. M. Robson
3. D. Clark
4. N. Phillips
5. S. Prescott
6. M. Speake
7. R. Mather
8. W. Monroe
9. M. Lishman
10. S. Taylor

### NORTHAMPTON

Green, Black & Gold

1. J. Thompson
2. N. Knowles
3. C. Golding
4. D. Bailey
5. A. Heffer
6. P. Jerrams
7. B. Mounesdon
8. N. Lane
9. D. Seeley
10. S. Gross

### NORTHERN

White

1. D. Purvis
2. I. Sutherland
3. N. Gandy
4. P. Collins
5. R. Thomson
6. N. Collinson
7. S. Kingston
8. S. Bowen
9. G. Watson
10. A. Leithead

### NORTHUMBERLAND

Green, Red & Yellow

1. M. Carr
2. K. Westgarth
3. A. Marwick
4. S. Randle
5. J. Pollock
6. R. Coulson
7. P. Singleton
8. D. Walker
9. S. Gibbs
10. M. Old

### RICHMOND

Red, Black & Old Gold

1. P. Della-Sartina
2. M. Hutton
3. G. Taylor
4. T. Chicken
5. D. Clift
6. D. Elliott
7. P. Greenwood
8. D. Hawkes
9. I. Grisewood
10. N. Dontoh

### TYNEDALE

Blue & White Hoops

1. J. Ayton
2. E. Parker
3. G. Yates
4. N. Fearon
5. I. Donkin
6. G. Fleming
7. C. Johnston
8. W. Robson
9. D. Stephenson
10. P. Oakenfold

### VILLAGER

White

1. R. Britton
2. W. Swanepoel
3. A. Laros
4. C. Richardson
5. J. Stransky
6. W. Redman
7. C. Stewart
8. H. Gibbs
9. A. Chait
10. J. Meyer

### WATSONIANS

Maroon & White

1. S. Aitken
2. G. Boardman
3. D. Gray
4. G. Maxwell
5. A. Garry
6. J. Kerr
7. J. Anderson
8. P. Bell
9. G. Inglis
10. G. Jessop

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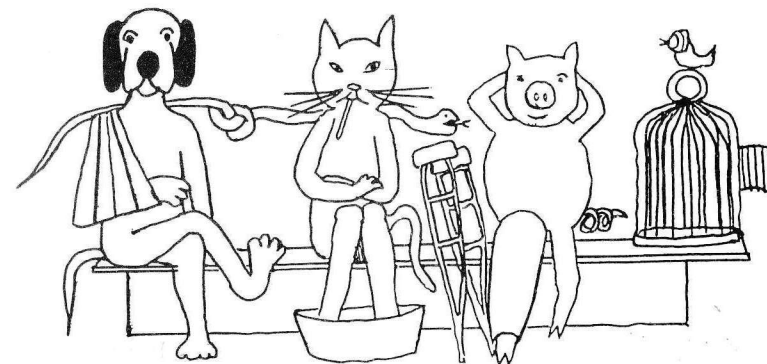
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*D. D. Serfontein, President, The Rugby Football Union with John Saunders, President, Tynedale RFC at the opening of the new Grandstand in September, 1993*

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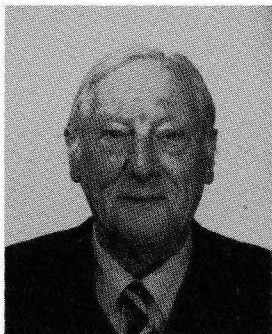
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## AFTERTHOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

A commemorative occasion such as we are enjoying today makes it easy to drift into sporting nostalgia and, as I heard someone say recently, to recall the days when footballers used their feet and not their elbows, when George Best drank Coca Cola and Bobby Charlton still had hair, when the Australians were sunk by Peter Jackson's try from the wing, or when the definition of sports did not include ballroom dancing in it.

*Jim Chapman - Tynedale's longest serving Secretary, recognized by his honorary life membership of the Club and a recent recipient of the Tynedale Sports Personality of the Year Award. Jim has long been recognized as the leading scribe within the Club.*

William Robb - (later to become a Major-General) - James Milne Robb - (later to be knighted and become an Air Chief Marshall), Ridley Robb, Derek Robb and most recently, Duncan Robb, all played for Tynedale at one time or another.

In these days of easy travel it is difficult for us to appreciate the dedication to the game of those who played in the days before the motor car - the likes of Tom Robson who skippered Tynedale sides for four seasons to win the Northumberland Senior Cup in 1887 - and we must stand in awe to admire those who, to play their games in Scotland, travelled to and from across Carter Bar - on horseback! Even in 1994 we admire Campbell Hewitson, living as he does in that Northern nether region of Northumberland - but he has the benefit of four wheels as opposed to four legs to get himself down here to training and to games on a Saturday.

Strange it is that a Club of our standing should never have produced an International player direct, but such is the case. N.F. Humphries, however, after leaving Tynedale toured with the British Isles in South Africa in 1910 while F.H.R. Alderson captained England after his days with us and, in more recent times, Malcolm Young achieved his honour after leaving us for Gosforth as they then were. Angus Brogdon at fly half, Will Rutherford at wing forward, followed much later by David Carr at wing three-quarter were all England trialists. Ben Plummer was a Barbarian against the first Canadian

national side to tour England. Brothers Nigel and Peter Enevoldson both propped for England school-boys at Under 15 and Under 19 and were in the England Under 23 squad.

If we were short on Internationals, we never lacked the odd character - the person for whom rugby is almost a source of life itself, who can while away hour upon happy hour in a corner of the bar in endless reminiscences of games, players and incidents in years long past; the person whose respect for history, whose memory for the minutest of detail, appear awesome to the mere mortal who finds difficulty in sharing his all-consuming passion, his total commitment to the game and the club he loves. Space prohibits many examples; two will suffice. One of the Ritsons mentioned above, George, a character among characters, reputedly went off to play against Hawick with a gold sovereign in his pocket; he arrived home a week later with the sovereign still intact! More recently and still in loving, living memory, Andrew Lovat Richardson ('Drew') - in cahoots with our then groundsman Will Young - together the bane of every Referees' Society. No official was ever spared their stentorian criticism -equally for blowing the whistle as for not blowing it. These two, of course, were not unique in this regard - all clubs have them. I do not suppose that the President of the RFU had our two worthies particularly in mind when in a speech he made to referees some years ago, he said:- "Your chief trouble lies in the scattered few misguided excitable - the "grandstand critics" - with the penetrating voices - whose knowledge of the game is as biased as it is limited and whose vocabulary of the game is confined to one or two ejaculations - "Offside" and "Play the game referee" (a curious combination of extremes). The only advice I can tender is "be deaf".

We almost expected to hear Drew's voice shouting in pure disbelief from above when one of the reasons given for the compulsory closing of our old stand was that there was not an adequate means of exit. He would have recounted, with relish, the occasion when, admittedly adequately fortified by the compulsory pre-match tincture or two, he was in his Presidential year, entertaining a visiting President in the back row of the stand. Rising from his seat the more forcibly to indicate his presence to the referee, he missed his footing and thereupon produced irrefutable evidence that the stand could in fact be vacated in somewhat less than ten seconds flat.

The two World Wars had a debilitating effect on Tynedale as they had on practically every other Club. 49 of those who had played for the Club gave their lives for King and Country in the First War and 27 in the Second. Who knows what contributions they might have made had they survived.

In the Thirties and Forties, in addition to the Lishmans, Robbs, Rutherfords and Brogdons, the flag was kept flying by the likes of John Cousin, Bill Dinning and Jack Suddes. Now, in 1994, to keep the family theme flowing, Walter Rutherford and John Cousin still contribute as our all-weather gatemens; Bill Dinning is our Club Chairman and his son Roger is a selector; John Cousin's son Wallace is our Chairman of Selectors and Jack Suddes' son John is the Chairman of the committee responsible for the mounting of this Tournament.

It is always an invidious task to decide in an article as short as this, who to mention and who to leave out. There are so many worthy of mention. It would be equally invidious, however, not to mention the service given to the Club in the 1960s by Stuart Enevoldson and Ken Bell. As Hon. Secretary and Hon Treasurer respectively they played a vital and crucial part in keeping this Club alive and getting it back on to an even keel again when, in just about every way, it was in a parlous state.



In looking around Tynedale Park today - our 35 acres of green, our Club house and our spanking new stand - we must also acknowledge that or is doubtful whether an event such as today's could have been remotely possible but for the foresight and perseverance of Bill Dinning and those few he gathered round him in 1970 to share with him not a few sleepless nights in the ensuing years in carrying out our move from Hexham to Corbridge.

Elsewhere in this programme are recorded details of Tynedale's involvement with the seven-a-side game but there is one other event which makes our contribution to Sevens unique among English Clubs. Up to 1920 the Rugby Football Union had not permitted seven-a-sides to be played where gate money was taken. However at its A.G.M. in that year an application was approved for matches to be played between sides of less than fifteen players at any enclosure where gate money was taken. The applicants for that approval? - Cumberland Rugby Union and Tynedale RFC.

On the lighter side for a moment. Grateful thanks have been given to all our Sponsors elsewhere in this programme, but our main Sponsor, Bell's Whisky, were good enough to entertain, a few weeks ago, a disparate group of Club member and associates with a discourse given by their chief blender Ian Grieve. Disparate because the audience comprised a collection of whisky drinkers, beer swillers, possibly one oenophile and certainly one teetotaler. Whatever his preference no one present could fail to have been enthralled by Mr Grieve's description of his craft in producing the final product. Furthermore, some long standing beliefs of some of the whisky drinkers were shot down - not least by his assertion that the taste of a majestic single malt, God knows how many years old, was definitely enhanced by the addition of water. He would, I believe, have had difficulty in so persuading the American comedian W C Fields. When asked if he would like water in his glass of single malt he is reputed to have given the classic reply - "water? I wouldn't touch it. Millions of fish f... in the stuff every day". We offer this to Mr Grieve to supplement his otherwise excellent reputation.

Last of all a very personal recollection. Tynedale, having taken part in the original Melrose Sevens in 1883, a century on from then, as the President at the time, I was invited to attend the Sevens Centenary Dinner. The hotel at Melrose at which I was staying happened to be the collecting point for the various National Presidents and Secretaries prior to the dinner. One of their number, with whom I was having a wee dram at the bar, was kind enough to offer me a lift in their coach to the dinner venue. Thus it was that this illustrious company of nine being transported to the dinner hotel comprised (in addition to the four Secretaries of the various Unions) five Presidents - those of The Rugby Union, The Scottish Rugby Union, The Welsh Rugby Union, The Irish Rugby Union and alone in the back in splendid isolation, Tynedale Rugby Football Club.

And so, long may it continue to proper - this most fascinating of all our winter team games - this game now played world-wide, arguable no longer solely by gentlemen, but by all sorts and conditions of men "with odd shaped balls".

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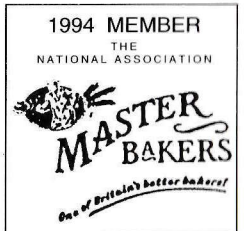
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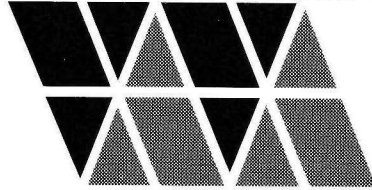
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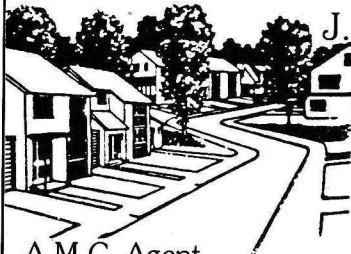
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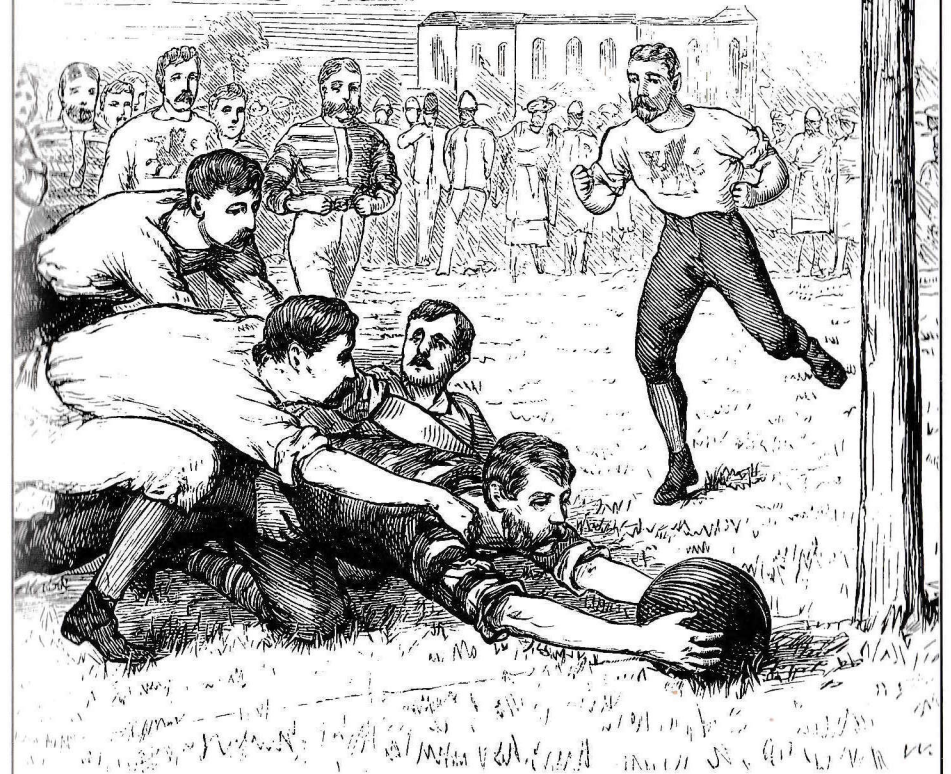
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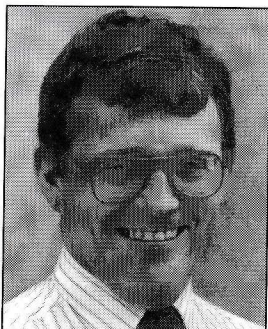


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**Brian Tilley** -  
*brought up in Cheshire, Brian played rugby for his school and club in Macclesfield. He has worked for the Hexham Courant for twenty years and ensures extensive and colourfully described coverage for Tynedale.*

## SWINGING THE LAMP

My possibly glittering career in the world of rugby was brought to an end by a Sevens tournament.

It was the Oxford Sevens, back in 1967, when I was a member of the King's School, Macclesfield septet doing battle with the cream of school sides from around the land.

I'd been a little slow to take to rugby, as a result of an unfortunate experience in my very first match, some years earlier, against a XV from one of the less distinguished - some might say rough - schools in the area.

I received the ball, and was immediately enveloped in what I now know to be a maul, as the home team demonstrated their anxiety to prove what secondary modern types lacked in brain power, they more than compensated for in venom.

Grimly, I managed to hang onto the ball - only to hear the dreaded words: "Drop his kecks!"

Within seconds my shorts were round my ankles, and the ball whisked from my grasp as I struggled to cover my dignity - after all, it was a mixed school - and the opposition trotted away to score at the other end.

Thankfully, the damage to my psyche was only temporary, and eventually I became one of the less able members of a useful squad, actually earning a county trial on one occasion.

The side bristled with county players, including one who went on to become England's most capped scrum half, the ebullient Steve Smith - or "Miff" as he was universally known.

We swept all before us for a number of years, culminating in the trip down to Oxford for the sevens.

That's where it all went wrong. We lost in the first round, well beaten by a hulking side of Southern Softies.

I was propping, and became distinctly disturbed when at every scrummage, my opposite number insisted on rubbing his cheek against mine with such relish, before giggling to himself.

The answer became apparent a couple of days later, when I developed an itch, and then a scab on my cheek - the swine had deliberately infected me with impetigo, a particularly unpleasant skin disease!

I never played again .....

It would never have happened at Tynedale, which for well over a century, has epitomised all that's best about the sport of rugby football.

Tynedale may never have had a full international, but players from the area were extending the spirit of friendly cross border rivalry before William Ellis's granddad was born.

The clashes in the 16th and 17th centuries on the football field between the men of Tynedale and Liddesdale reputedly resulted in a number of deaths, and this seems to have discouraged the players, for the Tynedale Football Club wasn't formed until almost 100 years later, on October 11th 1876 - and then it was almost by accident.

The catalyst was the arrival of a letter, addressed to "The Captain, Hexham Football Club". The best efforts of the infant Post Office were unable to find anyone fitting that description on the town - and that was taken as an insult to the town's integrity.

"The younger and more spirited of our townsmen at once took this truth to heart, and considered it anything but a flattering compliment to the pluck and physique of young Hexham," the 'Hexham Courant' recorded.

The result was a meeting at the Queen's Hall, out of which came a lusty infant known as Tynedale Football Club.

The club's first game was on December 30th, 1876, in "Mr Cook's field" where the flower show was held, at the top of the Skinnerburn".

The opponents were Elswick - who changed their name to Northern a year or so later - and in a very pleasant and well contested game, Tynedale came out on top by a goal and two tries to nil.

The fixture list expanded rapidly, and Tynedale players were soon packing down against the likes of North Durham, Gosforth, Redewater, Tynemouth and Carlisle - some of which fixtures continue today.

In 1880, Tynedale was one of the six founder members of the Northumberland Rugby Union, along with Northumberland, Tynemouth, Northern, Gosforth and Percy Park, and the following year, they entered the first Northumberland Challenge Cup competition.

They reached the final in 1883, and the clamour to see the clash with Tynemouth was such that a special train had to be laid on to carry supporters from Hexham to Newcastle - first 'football special' anywhere in the North East.

Tynedale lost that day, and again the following year, this time to Northern, and the dual failure was so keenly felt that by 1886, the club was on the verge of extinction.

Membership had dwindled to such an extent that the secretary was instructed to cancel all fixtures, but a group of enthusiasts decided to give it another whirl, recruiting players from the North Tyne Valley.



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A fixture was arranged against a very strong Hawick side - and although Tynedale lost, it was only by one try to nil, and they were very much back.

The season which had started under such a dark cloud ended in triumph, when Tynedale lifted the Northumberland Senior Cup for the first time, defeating old rivals Northern by a goal and a try to a try.

It was the first time the club had shunned their original dark blue with a woven red band colours in favour of the now familiar blue and white hoops, and the 5,000 strong crowd was treated to "one of the finest exhibitions of modern football which has ever been seen in the North of England".

The team returned to Hexham in triumph, with the Mechanics Band greeting them at the railway station to the strains of "See the conquering hero comes" and the procession through the town was so densely packed that the team could hardly get into the White Hart Hotel for the celebrations.

The crowd remained outside for two hours, and only dispersed after the singing of the National Anthem at 11pm.

Despite the euphoria of the cup win, the memory of the struggle at the start of the season was still fresh in the minds of the club, so later that year, another meeting was held at the White Hart, at which it was agreed to amalgamate all the various rugby clubs in Hexham into one united club.

So, Hexham Wanderers, Hexham Rovers, Hexham Excelsior and the Heart of All England clubs were all swallowed up to make Tynedale even stronger - and all for a sub of a shilling (5p) per year !

After the peak of the cup triumph, there was only one way Tynedale could go, and that was down, and the 19th century ended with something of a whimper - although it was reported that after a semi-final defeat at the hands of Percy Park, "the crowd threatened to throw the referee over the bridge into the Tyne".

He was also pelted with clay, and had to have the protection of a superintendent and four policemen as he left the ground, but it was also alleged that the official had struck "a half deaf and blind old fellow of 60" as he left the field, and during the game, had also punched one of the Tynedale players twice in the face!

The opposition was Rockcliff and the referee was William Cail, later President of the R.F.U., and thirty years treasurer of the R.F.U. and a British Lions team manager to South Africa.

By the club's silver jubilee season of 1901, things had come to such a low ebb that the first team was disbanded, and only second XV fixtures were being played.

They won the second XV cup in 1904, and perhaps more importantly, after playing on the Sele, Halliwell Dene, Tyne Mills, and the Brewery Field at Bridge End, began renting the ground at Dene Park which was to be their home for the next 70 years.

By 1906, the club was on the up again, lifting the senior cup again against Percy Park - and this time, jubilant supporters hitched themselves atop the team's brake, and hauled it up Hallstile Bank into the Market Place!

They won it again in 1911, again defeating Percy Park, and they defeated Percy Park again in 1914,

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before the dreadful bloodletting of the First World War put sport into perspective.

The Tynedale club lost 49 past and present players in the war, including five members of the cup winning team, but club members amassed a haul of 35 medals for gallantry.

The club had a lot of rebuilding to do after the war, and in the golden jubilee year of 1926, the decision was taken to buy the Dene Park ground, at a cost of £1,550 - or 1s 9 1/2d per square yard.

Anniversaries seemed to inspire Tynedale, for the following year, the Senior Cup once again returned to the club, by virtue of a famous 5-3 win over holders Northern, sparking off more scenes of revelry in the Market Place.

This cup win was merely a foretaste of the glory days of the 1930s, when Tynedale won the cup for four years in succession, inspired by the legendary K.W.D. Hodgson.

The first of the quartet came in 1933, with a 17-0 victory over Old Novos, and it was the same pairing in the 1934 final. Tynedale centre Jack Heppell actually rode in the Braes of Derwent point-to-point on the day of the final and Tynedale were held to a 3-3 draw, before winning the replay 9-6.

Northern were their victims in 1935, Tynedale winning by two penalties, a drop goal and try to nil.

The 1936 final against Gosforth was a classic, for after trailing by 18-9 midway through the second half, Tynedale fought back brilliantly to pull off a magnificent 23-21 victory.

After the glories of the 1930s, Tynedale again tasted despair, when the war clouds gathered over Europe again, and another 27 players gave their lives for their country.

However, the war had only been over for three years when the Senior Cup was back at Dene Park, thanks to a 15-13 victory over old rivals Northern.

It was a great win, but there followed a long, bleak period in the first XV's fortunes on the field, the only trophy successes in the whole club over the next 20 years being the Northumberland Junior Cup success of Angus Hunter's third XV in 1956, and the Northumberland Junior Shield win by Edward Robson's fourth XV in 1965. However not withstanding the lack of results they were very successful social years, which laid the foundation for the further development of the Club.

Off the field, though, great things happened during the 1970s, with the purchase of the Tyneside Agricultural Society's 35-acre showfield at Corbridge, leading to the opening of a £154,000 show-piece rugby complex at Tynedale Park in the club's centenary year of 1976.

It was a bold move, and while rugby was being dominated at first team level by Roger Uttley's superb Gosforth team for the next decade, Tynedale was pursuing a youth policy which was to bear glorious fruit in the 1980s.

The development of a colts team under John Clark, and an enormously successful mini-rugby section,

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saw Tynedale flourish again, with a host of home-grown talent coming through, just as the Courage League system came into operation.

The new Tynedale came good in the 1987 season, when the club had an epic run in the John Player Cup, defeating top class sides in London Scottish and Vale of Lune, before scaring the life out of First Division Coventry in a 7-6 defeat.

There were also wins against all the top Scottish first division sides, and it all came to a head in 1988, at the old County Ground at Gosforth, when Tynedale won the Senior Cup for the first time in 40 years, and the 11th time overall, with a superb 13-6 victory over mighty Gosforth.

Tynedale were unquestionably the top dogs in North East Rugby, but beating Gosforth again in the semi final the following year, only to lose to Northern in a replayed final.

Having lost to Gosforth 6-3 in the 1991 final, they beat the Green and Whites comprehensively in the 1992 semi final, and then beat Novos 15-3 to lift the cup for the 12th time.

And who could forget last year's epic final, when Newcastle Gosforth, newly promoted to Division One, were held to 6-6 draw, and the two clubs decided to share the cup ?

But despite these cup glories, and further epic runs in the Pilkington Cup, Tynedale has not had the success it deserves in the Courage League.

Tynedale regularly defeat clubs from higher divisions, and frequently start the season as favourites to go up, but at the time of writing, promotion from Courage League North Division One has proved as elusive as the Holy Grail.

But rest assured, Tynedale will keep on trying .....

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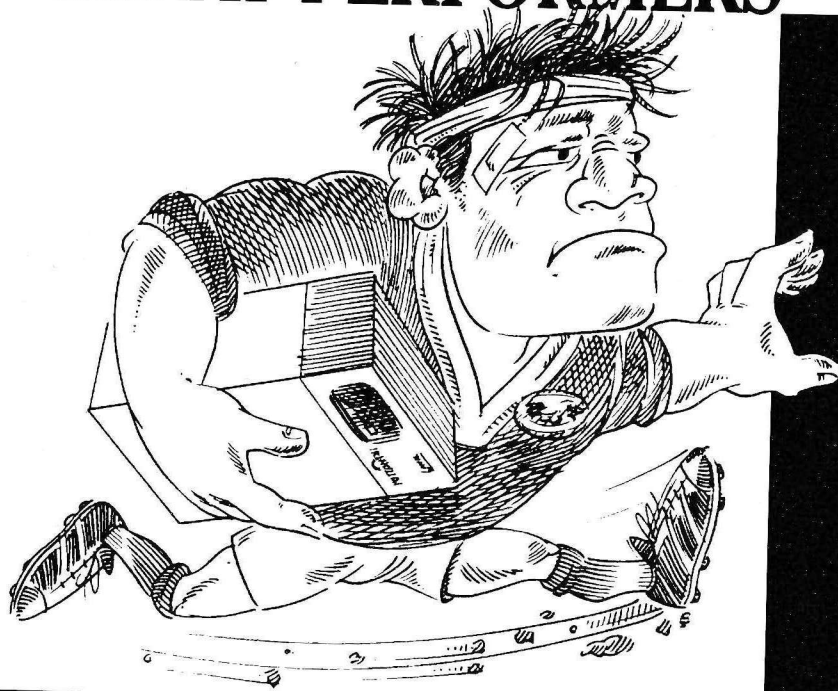


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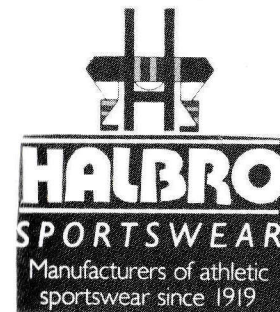
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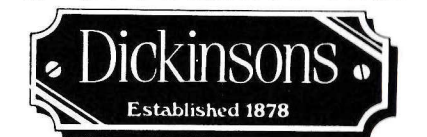
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