

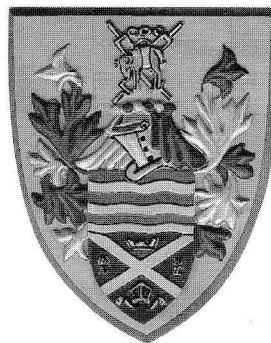
Tynedale Rugby Football Club

A History 1876-2001



TYNEDALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

A TYNEDALE HISTORY 1876 - 2001.



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CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the Northumberland Rugby Union may I congratulate Tynedale on this your 125th Anniversary Year.

A founder member of the Northumberland Rugby Union back in 1880 you have played a major role throughout our history.

During my years with the County Colts and the Senior County sides, I have always enjoyed great support from the Tynedale players and officials

If anyone ever asks how a Rugby Club should be run, I say visit Tynedale.

I wish you every success for the season at all levels.

Long may you continue to prosper.

Danny Hodgson
PRESIDENT
NORTHUMBERLAND RUGBY UNION

September 2001.

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TYNEDALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB THE 125-YEAR STORY OF A RUGBY CLUB (1876-2001)

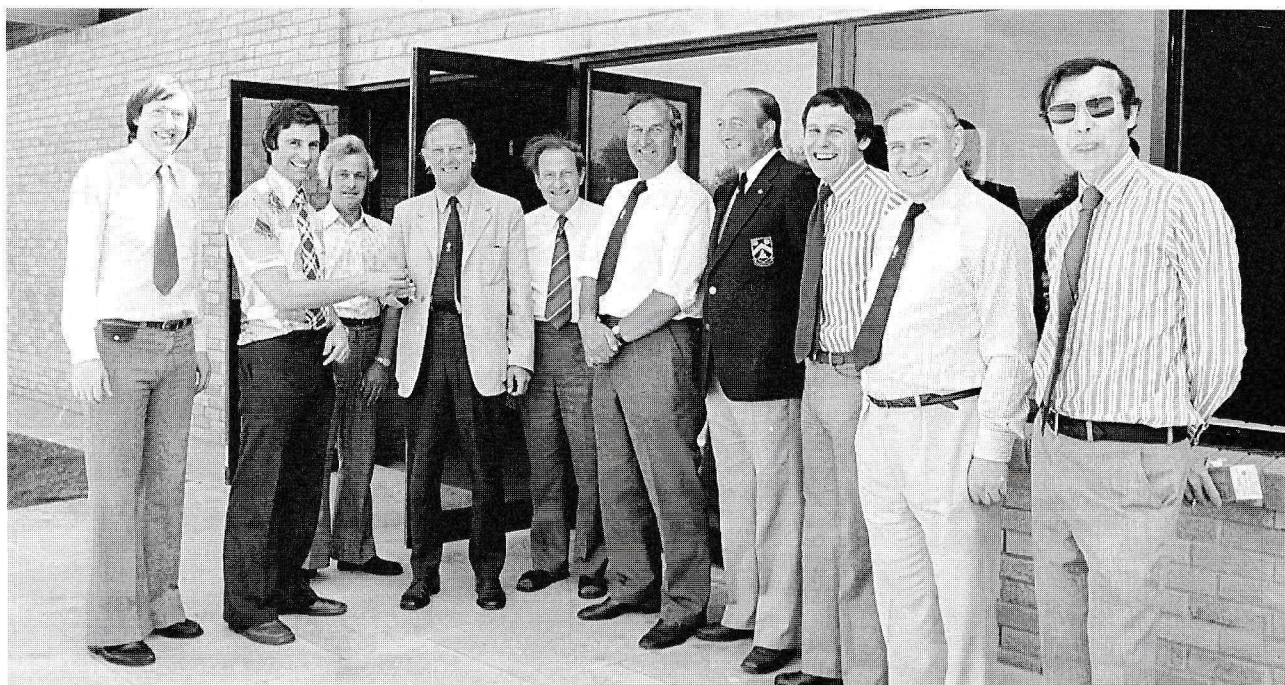
INTRODUCTION

When Michael Sharman, who died in 1984, wrote his excellent Centenary History of Tynedale Rugby Football Club, and the Souvenir leaflet in 1976, he wrote of Tynedale "Compared with some it is not a big club, nor a particularly famous one. Its fixture list is attractive, but scarcely glamorous. It has not had a single international, not a solitary RFU President, in a hundred years. But in the hearts of those who play for it, those who work for it and those who follow its fortunes, Tynedale Rugby Club is a very special club indeed."

A further 25 years on, and Michael would still find good grounds for those sentiments, but the scene has changed dramatically and in ways which would delight him. Since 1976 the club has expanded and developed. Its fixture list is now determined by the RFU following the introduction of league rugby in 1987. The club's promotion to the National league 3 North has produced much more attractive fixtures, and national exposure. The club has provided a Tongan international - not to mention the English and Scottish internationalists who have been on our books. The club has enjoyed considerable success in the John Player and Pilkington cups with famous victories over Wakefield, London Scottish, Sheffield, Vale of Lune, and others. The clubhouse has been extended and the ground boasts a fine new spectator stand. The club has still not provided a RFU president - but otherwise Mike would be proud of developments in the last quarter of a century, and would, we hope, still regard Tynedale as a very special club.

Apart from these obvious and visible successes, however, much more important and valuable changes have taken place. The development firstly of colts rugby, which has been the basis for much of the club's playing success and the maintenance of high standards, and then the explosion of mini and junior rugby at the club in the last 25 years has been a source of major satisfaction. So, too, has the fact that, in times of declining adult participation in rugby union countrywide, the club has been able to offer playing opportunities to large numbers of players at all levels. For whilst it is pleasant to win county cups, supply county players and win tournaments, it is more important to imbue young people with the spirit of rugby and provide the facilities to enable them to enjoy playing, have fun and make friends.

For 125 years Tynedale Rugby Football Club has been doing just that. It has been a focal point for sportsmen of West Northumberland and beyond, but not always at Corbridge! Indeed, the club's base has, like its history, moved through three distinct phases. The first 25 years - the nomadic phase, when, as will be described later, the club's base moved regularly from one Hexham site to another, covered the period up to 1901 when the club settled at Dene Park, Hexham. The next 75 years, until 1976, was a period of stability at that site, though with numerous developments including the acquisition of the adjoining Broad Close. Then the final 25 years up to the present time, a further period of stability and development at Tynedale Park, Corbridge - the boldest and most far-sighted step which the club has taken in its 125 year history.



Principal Officers 1876 - 2001.

Season	President	Captain	Secretary	Treasurer
1876-77	Major Nicholson	H.J. Baker	H. Kirsopp	E. Shield
1877-78	Major Nicholson	G.J. Bell	H. Kirsopp	G.H. Bell
1878-79	I. Baty	R.H. Robb	J.M. Wilson	J.M. Wilson
1879-80	I. Baty	R.H. Robb	J.M. Wilson	J.M. Wilson
1880-81	I. Baty	R.H. Robb	J.M. Wilson	J.M. Wilson
1881-82	I. Baty	G.S. Brown	R.W. Catherall	R.W. Catherall
1882-83	I. Baty	R.H. Robb	M. Robson	M. Robson
1883-84	I. Baty	R.H. Robb	T.J. White	T.J. White
1884-85	I. Baty	T.R. Robson	T.J. White	T.J. White
1885-86	I. Baty	T.R. Robson	T.J. White	T.J. White
1886-87	I. Baty	T.R. Robson	W. Byron	W. Byron
1887-88	I. Baty	T.R. Robson	F. Thompson	W.A. Riddle
1888-89	I. Baty	T. Anderson	W. French	W.A. Riddle
1889-90	I. Baty	D.N. Jackson	G.A. Dixon	W.A. Riddle
1890-91	I. Baty	I.J. McIntyre	J.R. Burn	J.R. Burn
1891-92	I. Baty	W. Turner	W. Byron	G. Byron
1892-93	I. Baty	W. Turner	W. Byron	G. Byron
1893-94	I. Baty	W. Turner	W. Byron	G. Byron
1894-95	G.H. Bell	T. Robson	T. Charlton	T. Charlton
1895-96	G.H. Bell	J.E. Fell	T. Charlton	T. Charlton
1896-97	G.H. Bell	J.E. Fell	A. Emerson	A. Emerson
1897-98	G.H. Bell	T. Robson	A. Emerson	A. Emerson
1898-99	G.H. Bell	T. Robson	A.G. Richardson	A. Emerson
1899-00	C.W.C. Henderson	J.E. Fell	J.A. Baty	A.J. Charlton
1900-01	C.W.C. Henderson	J.A. Baty	W. Patterson	A.J. Charlton
1901-02	C.W.C. Henderson	T.F. Lancaster	J.W. Robson	A. Emerson
1902-03	C.W.C. Henderson	J.E. Murray	J. Stobart	A. Emerson
1903-04	C.W.C. Henderson	J.E. Murray	J. Stobart	A. Emerson
1904-05	C.W.C. Henderson	W. Stevenson	T. Oliver	A. Emerson
1905-06	C.W.C. Henderson	G.E. Spencer	I.A. Patterson	A. Emerson
1906-07	C.W.C. Henderson	G.E. Spencer	I.A. Patterson	A. Emerson
1907-08	C.W.C. Henderson	F.G. Spencer	I.A. Patterson	A. Emerson
1908-09	C.W.C. Henderson	F.G. Spencer	I.A. Patterson	A. Emerson
1909-10	C.W.C. Henderson	M.M. Snowball	J. Patterson	A. Emerson
1910-11	C.W.C. Henderson	W. Robb	J. Patterson	A. Emerson
1911-12	C.W.C. Henderson	W. Robb	J. Patterson	C.R. Noble
1912-13	C.W.C. Henderson	W. Robb	L.D. Plummer	W. Armitage
1913-14	C.W.C. Henderson	S.J. Newman	W. Robb	W. Armitage
1914-19	FIRST WORLD WAR			
1919-20	G.R. Gibson	B.D. Plummer	J. Patterson	J. Summers
1920-21	G.R. Gibson	B.D. Plummer	B.D. Plummer	J. Summers
1921-22	G.R. Gibson	B.D. Plummer	G. Nicholson	TR. Fenwick
1922-23	R.H. Robb	B.D. Plummer	G. Nicholson	TR. Fenwick
1923-24	E. Shield	B.D. Plummer	G. Nicholson	TR. Fenwick
1924-25	D.K. McComb	B.D. Plummer	G. Nicholson	TR. Fenwick
1925-26	R.H. Robb	D. Forster	G. Nicholson	TR. Fenwick
1926-27	J.A. Baty	D. Forster	(G. Nicholson (TR. Fenwick	TR. Fenwick
1927-28	J.E. Gibson	F.C. Jessop	(G. Nicholson (TR. Fenwick	TR. Fenwick
1928-29	J.E. Gibson	J.S. Bentham	(G. Nicholson (TR. Fenwick	TR. Fenwick
1929-30	J. Patterson	J.E. McComb	TR. Fenwick	TR. Fenwick
1930-31	J. Patterson	J.E. McComb	T.B. Bland	TR. Fenwick
1931-32	J. Patterson	S.G. Irving	T.B. Bland	TR. Fenwick
1932-33	J. Patterson	K.W.D. Hodgson	T.B. Bland	TR. Fenwick
1933-34	J. Patterson	K.W.D. Hodgson	T.B. Bland	TR. Fenwick

Season	President	Captain	Secretary	Treasurer	Chief Executive
1934-35	J. Patterson	K.W.D. Hodgson	C.A. Hastie	T.R. Fenwick	
1935-36	J. Patterson	K.W.D. Hodgson	C.R. Armstrong	W. Shield	
1936-37	J. Patterson	K.W.D. Hodgson	C.R. Armstrong	W. Shield	
1937-38	J. Patterson	A. Brogdon	C.R. Armstrong	W. Shield	
1939-45	SECOND WORLD WAR				
1945-46	J. Patterson	W. Rutherford	T.L. Robertson	R. Robson	
1946-47	J. Patterson	W. Rutherford	T.L. Robertson	R. Robson	
1947-48	J. Patterson	W. Rutherford	T.L. Robertson	T.L. Slater	
1948-49	J. Patterson	J.E. Cousin	T.L. Robertson	B.D. Plummer	
1949-50	J. Patterson	J.E. Cousin	T.L. Robertson	B.D. Plummer	
1950-51	J. Patterson	W.C. Rutherford	T.L. Robertson	B.D. Plummer	
1951-52	J. Patterson	J.D. Robb	T.L. Robertson	B.D. Plummer	
1952-53	B.D. Plummer	W.A. Dinning	T.L. Robertson	B.D. Plummer	
1953-54	B.D. Plummer	W.A. Dinning	G.L. Wood	B.D. Plummer	
1954-55	B.D. Plummer	J.E. Charlton	G.L. Wood	B.D. Plummer	
1955-56	B.D. Plummer	J.A. Newlands	G.L. Wood	B.D. Plummer	
1956-57	Dr. J.J. Hurley	J.A. Newlands	G.L. Wood	B.D. Plummer	
1957-58	Dr. J.J. Hurley	C. Fox	G.L. Wood	B.D. Plummer	
1958-59	Dr. J.J. Hurley	B. Hunter	A.A. Hunter	B.D. Plummer	
1959-60	B.D. Plummer	H. Hastie	A.A. Hunter	L.D. Bouckley	
1960-61	A. Brogdon	R. Lymburn	S.T. Enevoldson	L.D. Bouckley	
1961-62	A. Brogdon	N.A. Charlton	S.T. Enevoldson	K.T. Bell	
1962-63	E.R. Blench	A. Charlton	S.T. Enevoldson	K.T. Bell	
1963-64	E.R. Blench	A. Charlton	S.T. Enevoldson	K.T. Bell	
1964-65	L.D. Bouckley	D.F. Hamilton	S.T. Enevoldson	K.T. Bell	
1965-66	L.D. Bouckley	J.R. Scott	S.T. Enevoldson	K.T. Bell	
1966-67	G.L. Wood	A. Charlton	S.T. Enevoldson	K.T. Bell	
1967-68	G.L. Wood	D.F. Hamilton	S.T. Enevoldson	K.T. Bell	
1968-69	J.A. Barker	D.F. Hamilton	S.T. Enevoldson	K.T. Bell	
1969-70	J.A. Barker	W.I.F. Blyth	S.T. Enevoldson	A. Charlton	
1970-71	R.L. Blackburn	W.I.F. Blyth	J. Chapman	A. Charlton	
1971-72	W.A. Dinning	W.I.F. Blyth	J. Chapman	D.F. Hamilton	
1972-73	L. Holliday	P. Thorburn	J. Chapman	D.F. Hamilton	
1973-74	L. Holliday	A. Stokoe	J. Chapman	D. Annan	
1974-75	A.L. Richardson	W.I.F. Blyth	J. Chapman	K.T. Bell	
1975-76	A.L. Richardson	J.S. Smart	J. Chapman	K.T. Bell	
1976-77	S.T. Enevoldson	W.I.F. Blyth	J. Chapman	K.T. Bell	
1977-78	S.T. Enevoldson	I. Greener	J.D.L. Robinson	A.W. Coates	
1978-79	K.T. Bell	S. Hurst	J.D.L. Robinson	A.W. Coates	
1979-80	K.T. Bell	A. Pye	J.D.L. Robinson	A.W. Coates	
1980-81	J.A. Suddes	W.A. Cousin	J.D.L. Robinson	A.W. Coates	
1981-82	J.A. Suddes	W.A. Cousin	J.D.L. Robinson	R.E. James	
1982-83	J. Chapman	W. Robson	J.M. Milne	R.E. James	
1983-84	J. Chapman	T.A. Gledson	J.M. Milne	R.E. James	
1984-85	D.F. Hamilton	T.A. Gledson	J. Chapman	R.E. James	
1985-86	D.F. Hamilton	T.A. Gledson	J. Chapman	R.E. James	
1986-87	E. Robson	M. Richard	J. Chapman	R.E. James	
1987-88	E. Robson	T.A. Gledson	J. Chapman	D.F. Hamilton	
1988-89	J.M. Clark	T.A. Gledson	J. Chapman	D.F. Hamilton	
1989-90	J.M. Clark	T.A. Gledson	J. Chapman	D.F. Hamilton	
1990-91	P.C. Robertson	R.W. Parker	J. Chapman	D.F. Hamilton	
1991-92	P.C. Robertson	R.W. Parker	J. Chapman	D.F. Hamilton	
1992-93	J.H.G. Saunders	R.W. Parker	J. Chapman	D.F. Hamilton	
1993-94	J.H.G. Saunders	R.W. Parker	A. Smith	D.F. Hamilton	W.A. Dinning
1994-95	A.W. Coates	R.W. Parker	A. Smith	D.F. Hamilton	W.A. Dinning
1995-96	A.W. Coates	J.C. Johnston	A. Smith	D.F. Hamilton	J.D.L. Robinson
1996-97	W.I.F. Blyth	J.C. Johnston	A. Smith	D.F. Hamilton	J.D.L. Robinson
1997-98	W.I.F. Blyth	J. Fletcher	N.S. Foster	A.J. Cuthbertson	D.F. Hamilton
1998-99	R.R. Halford	S. Clayton-Hibbott	N.S. Foster	A.J. Cuthbertson	D.F. Hamilton
1999-00	R.R. Halford	S. Clayton-Hibbott	N.S. Foster	A.J. Cuthbertson	J.K. Laidler
2000-01	J. Austin	K. Johnson	N.S. Foster	A.J. Cuthbertson	J.K. Laidler
2001-02	J. Austin	K. Johnson	W.D. Stewart	A. Briggs	A.P. Deacon



Club Honours, 1876-2001.

Northumberland Senior Cup

1887, 1906, 1911, 1914, 1927, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1948, 1988, 1992, 1993 (shared), 1996, 1999, 2000.

Northumberland Senior Shield

1904, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1947, 1975, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1995, 1998

Northumberland Junior Cup

1904, 1906, 1922, 1925, 1948, 1956, 1988, 1991, 1993, 1999, 2000.

Northumberland Junior Shield

1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1933, 1965, 1991, 2000

U20 Cup

1996

Northumberland Colts Cup

1963, 1964, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1982, 1984, 1995, 1997, 1998(shared)

Other Trophies

Gala Sevens, 1885; Hawick Sevens, 1885; Melrose Sevens, 1886; Northumberland Sevens, 1930, 1992, 2000; northumberland Colts Sevens, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1989, 1993, 2000

Northumberland County Cups Junior and Mini

Under 15: 1995, 2000; Under 14: 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1999. Under 13: 1989, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1998. Under 12: 1990, 1995. Under 11: 1987, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000. Under 10: 1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999. Under 9: 1991, 1993, 1996, 1998. Under 8: 1991, 1994, 1995, 1996. Under 7: 1999, 2000.

Individual Honours, 1876 - 2001.

County Championship Appearances (all for Northumberland, except where stated).

1876-1901.

F.H.R. Alderson, T. Anderson, I. Baty, R.J. Baty, W.G. Baty, G. Bailey, G.H. Bell, J. Cowper, J.T. Dodd, J. Douthwaite, J. Elliot, T. Elliot, W. Hamilton, C.W. Harrison, T. Hedley, F.F. Hobson, J.J. McIntyre, W. Pattinson, R.H. Robb, G. Robson, T. Robson, T.R. Robson, T. Rogan, F. Thompson.

1902-1926

W. Adamson, R. Armstrong, T. Armstrong, P. Braidford (Cumberland), W. Braidford (Durham), T.M. Catcheside, R.O. Darlington, A.E. Emerson, J.S. Emerson, D. Forster, J.W. Forster, R.A. Goodall, F.R. Hedley, J.G. Holmes (Durham), N.F. Humphreys (Durham), D.S. Jackson, O.L. Jessop, M.H. Jones, W.M.B. Nanson (Cumberland), G. Nicholson, N. Oakland (East Midlands), I.A., Patterson, B.D. Plummer, W. Robb, G. Robson, T. Robson, J.P. Scott, W. Short, W. Sinclair, M.M. Snowball, F.G. Spencer, G.E. Spencer, J.E.C. Strang, G.G.C. Taylor, J. Thompson, G.A. West (Cumberland).

1927-1951

T.B. Bland, E.R. Blench, A. Brogdon, H.P. Brogdon, T.A. Carr, J.E. Cousin, W.A. Dinning, L.H. Garrett, R. Graham, K. Hall, K.W.D. Hodgson, B.X. Jessop, E.W.I. Johnson, B. Liddle, J.K.K. Morrison, A.B. Morton, J.A. Newlands, A.R.B. Polson, A.A.O. Redpath, J.D. Robb, W. Rutherford, W.C. Rutherford, J.C. Suddes, M. Thompson, R.M. Waugh.

1952-1976

D.A. Carr, A. Charlton, J.E. Charlton, W.E. Cousin, R. Cunningham, G.W. Fairlamb, H.G. Fletcher, P.J. Langley, A. Milburn (Durham), A. Pye, J.S. Smart, P. Stonehouse, C.E. Thompson, M. Young.

1977-2001.

J. Birkett (Cumbria), S. Bowen, A. Blyth, S. Clayton-Hibbott, C. Dixon, G. Dodd, I. Donkin, S. Dunn, N. Enevoldson (N'land & Yorkshire), P. Enevoldson, S. Ferguson, J. Fletcher, M. Fletcher, V. Fox (Cumbria), T.A. Gledson, I. Harris, C. Hewitson, S. Hurst (Durham), J.C. Johnston, M. Lee, C. Leslie, P. Leonard, E. Lowe, N. McDowell (Cumbria), T. McGarrigle, P. McGuinness (Cumbria), A. Moses, J. Murray, A. Oglethorpe, M. Old, S. Otuvaka, E. Parker, R. Parker, R. Parker II, J. Paton, J. Ponton, A. Pye, S. Ricketts, M. Richard, A. Robson, J. Rutherford, P. Sharman, G. Sturgeon, E. Taione, R. Taylor, S. Turnbull, M. Whinham, J. White, M. White, P. Winder (Cumbria), P. Winter, G. Yates.

North of England appearances (Since 1976)

C. Dixon, J. Fletcher, T.A. Gledson, R. Parker, M. White.



INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

"The first recorded International match between England and Scotland, of course quite unofficial, was in the 17th Century. It was composed of twenty from Tynedale against an equal number from Liddesdale, the Southerners winning by 3 goals to 2. We are unable to record this as an annual fixture; however, in 1790 the youth of these same dales were playing a return on the "Haugh", close by Kielder Castle. Five games were played, no times stated; after four games the tally stood at two all; the North Tyne lads won the fifth and were again declared the victors. No score is given, no details of the duration of the battle, for battle it certainly was, several of the players being so exhausted by the intensity of the struggle that 'a few who died soon afterwards dated the commencement of their illness from that date'."

(From the History of "Durham County Rugby Union" 1876-1936).

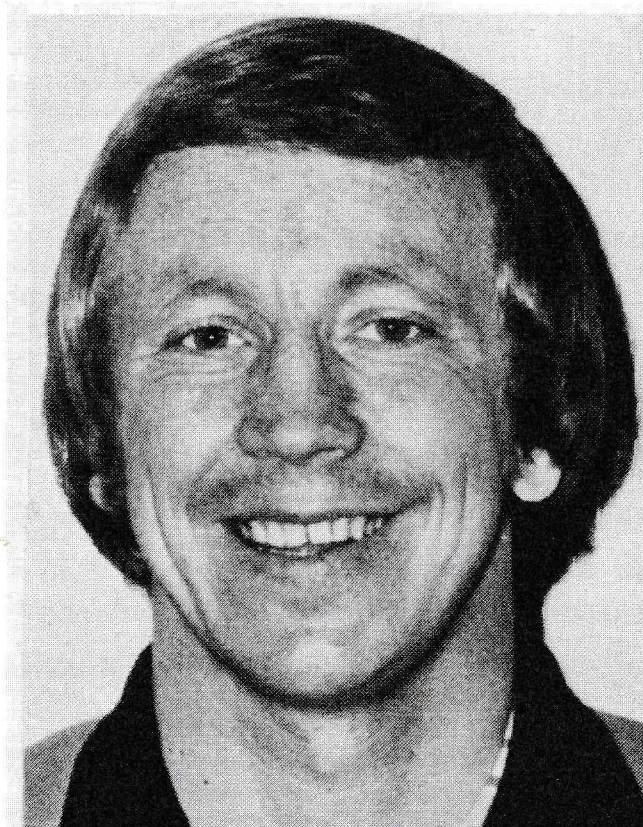
In the 1880's Fred Alderson, of Tynedale, Hartlepool Rovers, England and the Barbarians played briefly for Tynedale.

In 1906 Bill Nanson represented England against Wales and France when with Carlisle, and the next season played for Tynedale.

Noel Humphries toured South Africa with the British Isles in 1910, but joined Durham City on his return.

In recent years international honours have been earned by the following who have represented the club:

England Schools/Colts	A. Blyth, N. Enevoldson, P. Enevoldson, I. Harris, P. Winter.
England U21	A. Blyth
Scotland U21	I. Harris.
Scotland A	R. Cunningham
England A.	A. Blyth, J. Fletcher, N. McDowell.
Tonga	E. Taione
Scotland	R. Cramb
England	M. Young



Malcolm Young

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

FORMATIVE YEARS 1876-1887.

The Tynedale club was formed on 11th October 1876, and it came into being almost by accident.

On the second day of that month a letter had arrived in Hexham addressed simply to the "Captain of the Hexham Football Club". Unfortunately, after extensive inquiries, it became apparent that there was no one in the town answering such a description.

"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" records. The outcome was an exploratory meeting of a group of enthusiasts on Wednesday 4th October, followed by another at the Town Hall (now the Queen's Hall) a week later. It was chaired by Mr. Bowker, headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, Hexham.

By the end of that historic meeting, Hexham had itself both a football club and a captain. The Tynedale Football Club was in being.

The names of those who launched the club are engraved in Tynedale history. The three principal officers appointed at the meeting were Henry J. Baker as captain, Henry Kirsopp as secretary and Edward Shield as treasurer, soon to be joined by Major Nicholson as the club's first president.

The committee comprised Mr. Baty, Mr. Bell, Mr. Bowker, Mr. Bulman, Mr. Lishman, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Shield and Mr. Welford.

"We have only to add on our own part that we wish the undertaking long life and prosperity, and we have a pleasant anticipation of seeing many a well contested game crowned by the victory of the 'eximii juvenes' of Hexham."

(From the Hexham Courant of 7th October 1876, commenting on the inaugural meeting which led to the formation of Tynedale Football Club four days later).

Just before the turn of the year, on 20th December 1876, a Tynedale side took the field for the first time, when they entertained Elswick at Hexham. The venue, as the "Hexham Courant" recorded that morning, was "in Mr. Cook's field, in which the flower show was held, at the top of Skinnersburn." And the further observation was added: "The game will commence at two o'clock in the afternoon and, unlike cricket, it is quite possible that it may be over in little more than an hour."

The visitors, who changed their name to Northern a year or two later, included in their ranks a future RFU and Northumberland president in Robert Henzell, while the Tynedale team comprised: R.H. Robb (back); H.J. Baker

(three-quarter back); Tully, H. Kirsopp (half-backs); G.J. Bell, F. Shields (quarter-backs); Benson, G. Bell, T. Kirsopp, Temperley, Wilson, Richardson, Beadle, W. Shields, Lishman (forwards).

The weather was unfavourable, but the result made up for it, "*a very pleasant and well-contested game*" ending in a home victory by a goal and two tries to nil. The Tynedale "infant" was not only born, it was already shouting lustily!

The fixture list expanded quickly the following season, and Tynedale soon found itself playing the likes of North Durham, Northern, Gosforth, Redewater, Tynemouth, Northumberland, Carlisle and the College of Science.

Within a couple of seasons, too, the club's strength had grown to a point where it was able to field more than one team, a Tynedale 2nd XV taking the field for the first time on 28th February 1880, against the Royal Grammar School, Hexham. The match was played on the Seal, the school winning by a goal and a try to nil.

Two days later Tynedale became one of the six founder clubs on the Northumberland Rugby Football Union at a meeting in Newcastle also attended by representatives of the Northumberland, Tynemouth, Northern, Gosforth and Percy Park clubs.

Two Tynedale players, Harry Robb, and William Pattinson, were included in the first county side to take the field, against Cumberland at Whitehaven, during a victorious three-match run in that first season.

The first Northumberland Challenge Cup competition was held the following season, in 1881, the trophy itself comprising an old hundred guinea racing cup weighing over 100oz., and largely paid for by public subscription. It is a cup on which the name of Tynedale has since been engraved sixteen times, and the prize to which every Tynedale 1st XV, in any season, has always aspired.

Though narrowly beaten by Gosforth in their first-ever cup-tie in that inaugural season, Tynedale soon began to shape their cup-fighting traditions by reaching the final in 1883. And it is some indication of the fervour which cup football has always generated in Tynedale that the first special train ever run anywhere in the North-East for a football match was from Hexham to Newcastle for this very game.

Unhappily for the team and its contingent of supporters, however, victory went to Tynemouth by two tries to nil. The same happened the following year when Tynedale again reached the final and again went down to defeat, this time at Northern's hands by a try to nil.

Twice Tynedale had scaled the heights; twice they had had the flag snatched from them at the very summit.



Perhaps it is little wonder that, after all the heady excitement of the first decade, life began to turn a little sour on Tynedale.

Certainly, by the time the 1886-87 season opened, membership had dwindled to such an extent that a sparsely-attended general meeting felt it had no other option but to instruct the club secretary to cancel all fixtures for the season. The Tynedale club looked in imminent danger of disappearing before it had really begun.

Happily, some of the club's members felt otherwise. Unwilling to let matters rest where they were, they called a further meeting the following month at which several junior rugby clubs in the town offered their help, as did a number of players from the North Tyne.

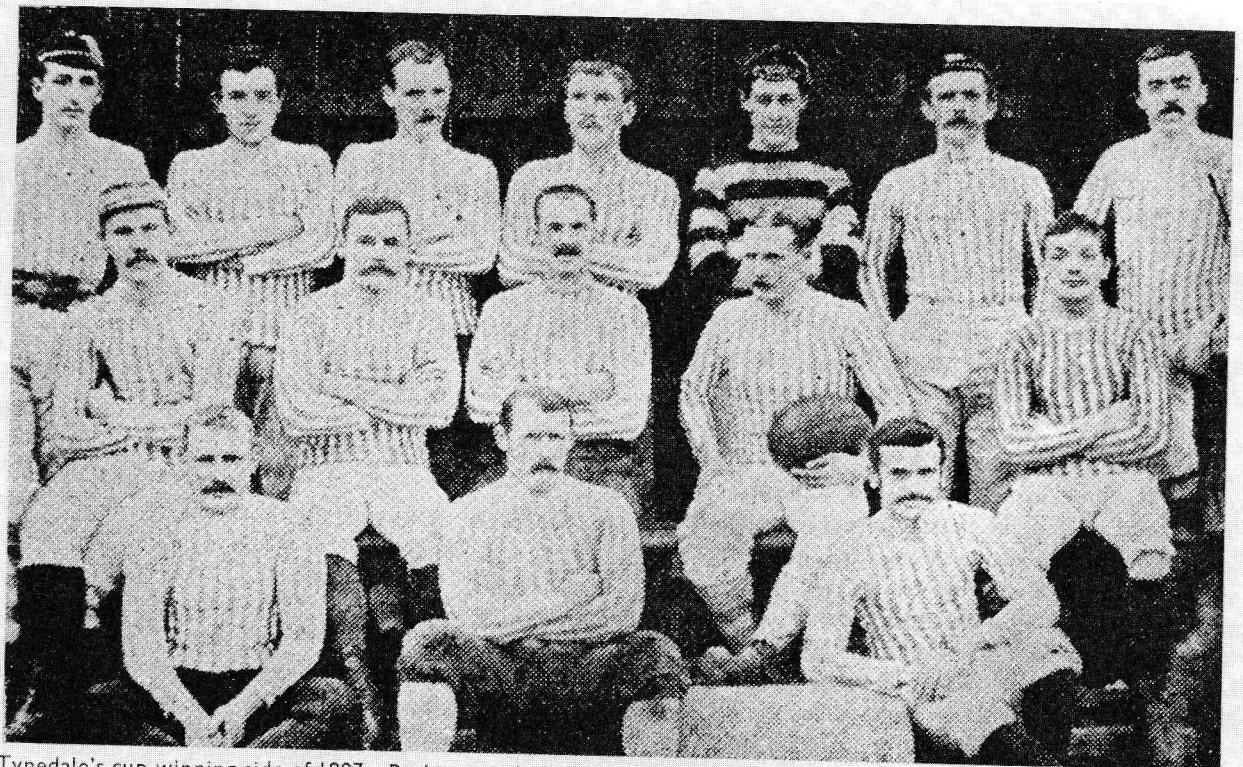
The club was back in business, and the team promptly responded in the most encouraging way possible by holding the powerful Hawick side to a single try in their opening match of the season - and by going on to bring the Northumberland Challenge Cup to Hexham for the first time in the club's history the following April.

The uncertainties were over; the flag, at last, was flying from the summit. And Northumberland, as well as Tynedale, rugby was the richer for it.

"Football seems to be rapidly coming to the front as a popular winter game, and once the 'danger' element is carefully

eliminated, its popularity, I have no doubt, will steadily increase. The game of football, it is allowed by the best judges of athletic exercise, is one of the most invigorating and beneficial pastimes that an adolescent youth can engage in, as it brings every joint, muscle and fibre of his body into action, is eminently calculated to give expansion and elasticity to the lungs, to develop and enlarge the chest, and give a healthy tone to the physical constitution generally; and if fairly played, and judiciously indulged in, involves no particular danger to any person of sound stamina or robust health. But, I need scarcely remark, it brings also the brain into vigorous action, by requiring at almost every instant nice calculations of distance, exact decisions of cause and effect, and by demanding prompt action when the enemy exhibits a weak point, or an opportunity of fouling him occurs. It should not be forgotten, however, that by foul play, it is susceptible of being made one of the most dangerous of athletic pastimes, and therefore in selecting teams of players any person whose temper and disposition does not permit him to bear, good humouredly, rebuffs and jostlings, or even wrestlings, in a sudden collision, ought to be vigorously excluded from either side, especially when the game is intended to be played in earnest. As formerly played, it was simply a wholesale pell-mell, inartistic scramble of throwing, tripping up, and kicking the shins of opponents, ending not unfrequently with a 'set-to' of fisticuffs..... Now that the game is being made not only safe, but respectable, I take this opportunity of cordially wishing it every success at Hexham."

(From Local Notes and Comments, by "Ariel" in the "Hexham Courant" of 6th January 1877, a week after Tynedale Football Club's first game.)



Tynedale's cup-winning side of 1887. Back row : J. C. Robertson, J. J. McIntyre, T. Elliot, C. W. Harrison, F. H. R. Alderson, R. H. Robb. Centre row : W. Pattinson, G. Bailey, T. Rogan, T. R. Robson (capt.), Dr. McKie. Front row : I. Baty, J. T. Dodd, W. Farthing.

FORMATIVE YEARS 1876-1877 - CONQUERING HEROES.

There had been a vast crowd at the game itself - around 5,000 so they said. Now there was another one thronging the narrow street outside the White Hart to welcome the players home.

The Mechanics Band had been there to greet them at Hexham railway station as the special train steamed in, spilling hundreds of jubilant supporters on to the platforms. To the strains of "See the Conquering Hero Comes" the procession set off up the hill and wound its way into Priestpottle, with the crowd growing steadily thicker along the route until, as they turned into Fore Street itself, it stood so densely packed that the team could scarcely force a way through to the White Hart entrance.

Now the captain, Tom Robson, was hoisted aloft and carried shoulder-high into the hotel, with the crowd cheering itself hoarse. Another huge cheer greeted the first glimpse of the cup, brandished triumphantly from an upstairs window. And yet another rent the night sky as the captain himself appeared at the window to address the excited crowd below.

For two more hours they stood there in the darkness while, inside, the players toasted their triumph "with three times three" at the celebration supper. It was only at eleven o'clock as the singing of the National Anthem brought the festivities to a close, that, reluctantly, they began dispersing to their homes.

Yes, it was quite a night in the little market town of Hexham when Tynedale Football Club brought home the Northumberland Senior Cup for the first time on 2nd April 1887.

Dame Fortune, it is true, had smiled on the team that year. Not only had Tynedale secured a first round walk-over through Bellingham's failure to raise a side, but, after producing a brilliant display at Hexham to dispose of the cup-holders, Percy Park, on a pitch cleared of snow on the morning of the game, a further bye saw them through into the final against their old rivals, Northern.

They lacked nothing in encouragement and advice from every quarter, not least from the "Hexham Courant" columnist, "Ariel", who urged the team on thus: *"Let me remind each one of them that the Northern have held the cup three years out of the six, and that they have one of the best clubs in Newcastle to meet. Players, don't forget this! At the same time, I hope each and every forward lining out will always mark his man, and keep cool, and never cease playing in case of an appeal until they hear the sound of the referee's whistle."*

The stage was set for a memorable encounter - and so it proved. On a beautiful spring day at the Northern ground behind Jesmond Church, a large crowd witnessed what the "Newcastle Weekly Examiner" described as "one

of the finest exhibitions of modern football there has ever been seen in the North of England", a fast and courageous Tynedale team eventually emerging victorious by a goal and a try to one try by Northern.

As one match report noted, *"what they apparently lacked in weight, they made up for in activity, strength and coolness"* and, playing for the first time in the blue and white jerseys that have remained the club colours ever since (they had hitherto worn dark blue with a woven broad red belt), Tynedale took the lead through a superb dropped goal by wing three-quarter John Dodd, *"the tally-ho of Tynedale from every part of the field proclaiming the fact."*

Although Northern replied with a try before half-time, a second half try by the staunch Border forward, Tom Elliot, sealed a pulsating match in Tynedale's favour. Observed a satisfied "Ariel": *"They never played a better game, their passing, dribbling, running and tackling being really a treat to witness."*

And another commentator, in praising *"the combination and unselfishness of the Tynedale back team"* declared that half-back Alderson in particular had done *"heaps of clever dashing things."*

As the referee signalled the end of the game, the large Hexham contingent in the crowd shouted their delight. So, too, back in Hexham, did the crowd standing outside the Post Office in Beaumont Street, where the news of victory was quickly relayed.

It was quite a team, too. In the forwards there were five Northumberland County players in Isaac Baty, Elliot, Bailey, Rogan and Harrison. In the backs there was a future England captain and founder-Barbarian in Fred Alderson, a 20-year-old Cambridge University "Blue" who, with Hartlepool Rovers, was to become perhaps the outstanding centre three-quarter of his day and one of the pioneers of the four man three-quarter line. There were also four more county men in Robb, Pattinson, Dodd and the captain, Tom Robson.

Already these players had done much to make Tynedale one of the most formidable sides in the county. But the winning of the Northumberland Challenge Cup was, for all of them, the crowning achievement. As Tom Robson told the elated crowd gathered outside the White Hart later that night, it was "a great encouragement to football in Hexham". Had he been able to look forward another one hundred and fourteen years, he would have known just what an "encouragement" that moment of sweet success in Queen Victoria's Jubilee Year was to prove.....



ALL UNDER ONE BANNER - CLUB MERGERS

The fact that, right from the earliest days, Tynedale eyes should have looked northwards to Scotland owes not a little to history. The men of Tynedale and Liddesdale, Hexham and Hawick, had been reiving and raiding and feuding backwards and forwards over the Border since time immemorial.

But it owes even more, perhaps, to the rugby passion of a number of North Tyne and Redewater families, who renewed ancient rivalries on the rugby field, the North Tyne men rallying to the time-honoured cry of "Tarset and Tarreyburn, yit, yit, yit."

The Robsons of Byrness, the Dodds of Catcleugh, the Elliots of Hindhope and the Halls of Lauriston had been educated at famous Edinburgh public schools, where the free-masonry of sport was instilled into them from boyhood, and the way of life for many of them in those days was hunting in the morning, playing football in the afternoon and hacking home on horseback in the evening.

If Tom Robson was the most notable of them all, both for his length of service as a player and for his four seasons as captain of the club, he was but one of many players from the North Tyne and Redesdale who, at that time, put their considerable abilities at the disposal of the Tynedale club. Two of Tom's brothers, George and Will, also played for Tynedale, Will later emigrating to New Zealand where he is reputed to have had "not a little to do with the development of the rugby game in that dominion".

Son Tommy also followed in Tom Robson's footsteps by playing for both club and county and, in 1914, in a Senior Cup-winning team. So, too, did a couple of his nephews - sons of his other two brothers, John and Jacob, the latter of whom became a near-legendary figure as Master of the Border pack for half a century.

Apart from the Robsons, the Redewater area produced another great servant of club and county in the person of John T. Dodd, who hailed from a neighbouring farm, at Catcleugh.

For him match day meant a long horseback ride from Upper Redewater to the nearest railway station a good many miles away. And even for an expert horseman like Dodd, who with his fellows hunted with the Border pack, and whose brother, "Si", indeed, was the Master of Fox Hounds, a ride home of sixteen to eighteen miles on a dark, cold and, possibly, snowy winter's night after a gruelling game for Tynedale spoke volumes for his enthusiasm.

The Elliots had even further to travel than the Dodds, for they lived on the other side of the Border at Hindhope, near Jedburgh. Jim Elliot was a fine three-quarter, while brother Tom was one of the greatest forwards Tynedale

ever had, with numerous county appearances to his credit and even one, in 1881, for the North of England against the South at Manchester, making him Tynedale's first international trialist. A third Elliot brother, Will, also played for Tynedale at a later date.

Both Redewater and Bellingham boasted rugby teams at different times, built 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, distinguished itself by taking over a Christmas fixture from Tynedale against Hawick, and giving them a good beating. In 1908, too, the Rovers reached the final of the Northumberland Senior Shield, serving to underline the enthusiasm that the men from these parts have always had for the rugby game right from the earliest days.

Tynedale rugby, indeed, was indebted to the Borderers during these formative years. When the club emerged back into the sunlight from the dark shadows cast over it at the start of the 1886-87 season, it was not a little due to the support so readily volunteered by the men of the North Tyne and Redewater that it felt sufficiently encouraged to soldier on.

With this sort of example to uplift them, and with their momentous victory in the Northumberland Senior Cup at the end of that season to enthuse them, Tynedale now set about the task of broadening the club's foundations with a view to ensuring that never again would its future be called into question simply through lack of numbers.

Up to this point of time, five or six different clubs in the town of Hexham had been competing for players and for support. The time was ripe for amalgamation.

And this was quickly borne out when, three weeks after the cup final victory, the Tynedale committee took the initiative in calling a meeting of the town's clubs in the White Hart on 26th April 1887. So crowded was the hotel's Long Room that many found themselves unable to gain admittance as the chairman, Mr. Harry Robb, explained the reasons for calling the meeting and outlined Tynedale's plans for a merger with Hexham Wanderers, Hexham Rovers, Hexham Excelsior and the Heart of All England to form a single, united club.

The idea was greeted with enthusiasm and, as each delegate in turn signified his own club's approval of the amalgamation, he was roundly cheered. The motion "that a united club be formed and that the name of the club be Tynedale" was carried with acclamation - and the annual subscription for each member fixed at one shilling per annum!

The strength of the newly-enlarged club was certainly

impressive, with a total of 181 members drawn from the five constituent clubs - 72 from the Rovers, 35 from the Wanderers, 30 from Excelsior, 24 from the Heart of All England and 20 from Tynedale itself.

On a temporary basis a ten-strong committee was set up to look after the club's interests, and first and second team secretaries were appointed to organise a programme of matches for the coming season.

Then, at the annual meeting some four months later, on 6th September 1887, Mr. Isaac Baty and Tom Robson were re-elected president and club captain respectively, and two of the temporary officials appointed in April, Mr. F. Thompson and Mr. W.A. Riddle, were made secretary and treasurer. The committee appointed to help steer Tynedale on its newly-chosen course comprised: Mrs. R.H. Robb, Mr. William French, Mr. W. Farthing, Mr. James

TRIPLE SEVENS 1883-1894

It could be argued that, during its first decade, Tynedale rugby commanded more respect outside England than in it.

For, even before it had established itself as a force to be reckoned with in Northumberland by virtue of that momentous Challenge Cup victory of 1887, Tynedale's unique achievement in winning three Border seven-a-side tournaments had earned the club a considerable reputation throughout the South of Scotland.

The first of those historic "sevens" successes came in 1885 at Galashiels, followed by a second victory, a fortnight later, at Hawick. Tynedale completed the hat-trick the following season by winning the "sevens" at Melrose - a club which, like Tynedale, had been founded exactly ten years earlier in 1876.

In the Galashiels tournament, staged on 11th April 1885, in front of a crowd of 3,000, Tynedale were the only side from England among the eleven clubs competing. Having disposed of the favourites, Melrose, in the first round by scoring the only try of the game, they repeated the dose at the expense of the host club in the semi-final, thus gaining quick revenge for their defeat at Gala's hands in the final of the same tournament the previous year.

This left the Hexham side confronted by formidable opposition in the shape of Hawick in the final. However, as it was now too late to play the game in the gathering gloom, it was decided to hold it over until the Monday, Tynedale agreeing to stay on for the weekend in Scotland and play off the final at Hawick.

To allow the Tynedale men time to make the long journey back over the Border that day - some of them on horseback - the game kicked off at the very odd hour of eight o'clock in the morning. Tynedale must have woken the fresher and brighter-eyed of the two sides, because

Scott, Mr. Thomas Anderson, Mr. M. Green, Mr. J.J. McIntyre, Mr. F.J. Guthrie, Mr. John Thompson and Mr. M. Thompson.

There were other clubs in Hexham, of course, either around that time or later - just as there were to be clubs at various times elsewhere in the surrounding district, at places like Bellingham (up to the First World War), West Wylam (in the Twenties), Haltwhistle and Allendale.

But they all faded away, as did Hexham clubs like the Unionists and the Church Lads Brigade, while teams such as Tyneside Rovers, Tyne Green Juniors, Parkend Rangers and Hexham Violets (first winners of the Northumberland fourth teams cup in 1890), were eventually swallowed up in the Tynedale club to make it, by the outbreak of the First World War, or not long thereafter, a club at last truly representative of the town in which it was centred.

not only did they trounce Hawick on their own midden to the tune of a goal and three tries to a try but, in the process, turned in a superb display of "sevens" rugby never previously equalled in these Border competitions.

Clutching their gold medals, Tynedale's victorious seven rode back over the Border in triumph. For William Pattinson, Tom Robson, John Dodd, Harry Robb, William Robson, Tom Elliot and Gus Bailey it had been a weekend to remember.

A fortnight later, with two or three changes among the forwards, Tynedale did it again when they carried off the Hawick club's own seven-a-side trophy, this time with victories over Pilmuir Wanderers, Buccleugh Union, Hawick St. Cuthbert's and, finally, Gala by a try to nil. Just for good measure, John Dodd also won the individual drop-kicking contest, as George H. Bell had done at Galashiels the previous season.

On 17th April 1886, came Tynedale's third Scottish seven-a-side success, this time at the Melrose Sports at the Greenyards. Their victims included Abbotsford in the first round, Gala Waverley in the next, and Gala Thistle in the semi-final. Once more, however, darkness prevented the final from being played the same day, Tynedale's scheduled opposition this time being the host club, Melrose. But, when it was eventually played off the following Friday, Tynedale again carried off the medals after running in the only two tries of the game. And this time it was the turn of the club captain, Tom Robson, to win the individual competition for place-kicking.

Five of the victorious seven from the Gala tournament of the previous year were still in the team, making it probably one of the strongest combinations ever to be fielded by any club in the long history of the seven-a-side games. Tynedale, indeed, had been the only English club to take

extra ten minutes each way, Tynedale touched the ball down over the opposing line and claimed both the tie and the cup.

But it was not to be that easy. Rockcliff, predictably, protested that there should be a replay, whereupon Tynedale offered to play them again at Hexham or Newcastle - so long as their expenses were guaranteed. The county committee ruled that the game should be played at Hexham, with Tynedale taking all the proceeds of the "gate", and, as a bonus, the committee also handed over to the club as a donation the guinea deposited by Rockcliff, who were further required to pay their own travelling expenses.

After all that, the outcome was something of an anticlimax as, once more, the game was drawn at two tries and a penalty goal apiece at the end of extra time. A second replay was needed - again at Hexham - and this time Rockcliff narrowly scraped home by a goal to a try to deprive Tynedale of the satisfaction of winning the Senior Shield at their first attempt.

But it was to be satisfaction not long denied for, in 1904, Tynedale carried off the trophy, which had so narrowly eluded them two years earlier, by virtue of an 11-6 victory over Northern 2nd XV in the final at Jesmond. Though trailing by a try to nil at the interval, they came back strongly in the second half, with Hamilton, Clemitson and

Watson scoring tries and Matt Catcheside kicking a conversion.

However, if they were worthy winners in the end, Tynedale almost went out at the semi-final stage when they lost 17-5 to Percy Park at Preston Avenue, only for their objection at the dimensions of the playing area to be upheld.

The game was replayed on neutral territory and Tynedale this time won by 11 points to nil.

The number of senior clubs in Northumberland having been reduced to as few as three the previous season, Tynedale's Senior Shields success automatically qualified them for a place in the Senior Cup competition the following year.

Even more importantly for the longer term development of the club, its finances were now back on a sounder footing, and, starting with the 1902-03 season, it had begun renting the ground at Dene Park which had for many years been used by Hexham Cricket Club. After long years on a variety of pitches including the Seal, Halliwell Dene, Tyne Mills and the Brewery Field at Bridge End, it was now to be the club's "home" for the next seventy-five years.

Tynedale Football Club was on its way again.



TYNEDALE 1st XV.: 1899 - 1900. Back row: E. Jameson, J. Scott, J. Robson, F. E. Sutcliffe, J. A. Baty, J. White, J. W. Forster, W. Patterson, T. J. White. Middle row: G. Pearson, A. E. Emerson, T. Robson, A. G. Richardson, J. Nixon, J. Shepherd. Front row: T. W. Nixon, A. Emerson, W. Hamilton, T. M. Catcheside.

TYNEDALE FOOTBALL CLUB.	
SEASON 1894-5.	
President - GEO. H. BELL, Esq.	
Vice-Presidents -	
Rev. Canon Barker.	W. G. Harrison, Esq.
W. C. B. Beaumont, Esq.	C. W. Henderson, Esq.
N. G. Clayton, Esq.	C. R. Kendal, Esq.
J. T. Dodd, Esq.	T. Oliver, Esq.
Thos. Ellis, Esq.	R. H. Robb, Esq.
J. Fisher, Esq.	T. Robson, Esq.
W. Fell, Esq.	D. Stewart, Esq.
J. C. Straker, Esq.	
Captain:	Vice-Captain:
T. ROBSON.	R. J. BATY.
Second Team Captain - A. EMERSON.	
Committee -	
W. Baty.	W. French.
J. Byron.	J. Porteous.
J. Cornish.	Geo. Robson.
A. Emerson.	J. W. Robson.
T. J. White.	
County Representative - WM. BYRON, Jun.	
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer -	
T. CHARLTON, 14, Hall Gates, Hexham.	

FIRST TEAM.			
Dates.	Opponents.	Ground	Result.
1894.			
Sep. 15	Brampton	Home	
22	Ryton	Away	
Oct. 6	Northern	Away	
13	So. Vale, Carlisle	Home	
Thr. 18	County Trial M'ch	H'xh'm	
20	So. Vale, Carlisle	Away	
27	Wallsend	Home	
Nov. 3			
10	Blaydon	Home	
17	<i>Tyne Dock</i>	<i>Home</i>	
24			
Dec. 1	North Durham ...	Away	
8	Prighton	Home	
15	North Elswick ...	Away	
22	Brampton	Away	
29			
1895.			
Jan. 1	H'rt'ep'l Old Boys	Home	
5	Brighton	Away	
12	Northern	Home	
19	Gosforth	Away	
26	Rockcliff	Away	
Feb. 2	North Elswick ...	Home	
9	North Durham ...	Home	
16	Wallsend	Away	
23	Ryton	Home	
Mar. 2	Rockcliff	Home	
9	Blaydon	Away	
16	Cup Tie (R'keliff)	<i>Home</i>	
23	Gosforth	Home	
30	Cup Tie (2nd r'nd)		
Apr. 6	Cup Tie (Final)		

20 Tyne Dock Away.

A club fixture card of the last century, showing Tynedale 1st XV's thirteen opponents for the 1894-95 season. [Four of those clubs, Blaydon, Gosforth, Northern and Rockcliff, appear on its fixture list for the centenary season.

Only Blaydon now survive for 2001/2002.

GOLDEN YEARS 1905-1914

It was not to be Tynedale Football Club for very much longer. As if in recognition of the fact that, after thirty years, the club had now acquired the strength and maturity to take its rightful place among the county's senior rugby clubs on a permanent basis, the club fixture card for the 1905-06 season for the first time bore the title, "Tynedale Rugby Football Club".

It heralded the dawn of arguably the most successful decade in Tynedale's history.

During the period from 1904 to 1914, the club carried off the Senior Cup three times, the Senior Shield for second teams five times, and the Junior Cup for third teams twice. Nor does that count the victories of Parkend Rangers in the third teams' cup of 1907, or of Tyne Green Juniors in 1905 and Tyneside Rovers in 1906 and 1907 in the fourth teams' cup - all Hexham teams which were absorbed into the Tynedale club.

It all began modestly enough. Following the Senior Shield victory of 1904, Tynedale regained senior status in the cup but, in their first year back, lost in the first round to Rockcliff, not helped by the fact that three of their players had been suspended following an incident in a match at

Carlisle in which a Tynedale player, on being ordered off, refused to give his name. His captain also declined to supply the name and another player who, according to a newspaper report, "represented himself as captain of the team but whose name has not yet transpired" was also suspended for a fortnight.

Meanwhile, Tynedale's ordinary club fixtures continued to be at second team and junior club level, a feature of one of those games being that no fewer than thirteen of the fifteen members of the Tynedale side comprised five sets of brothers - three Spencers, three Emersons, three Pattersons, two Bates and two Ritsons.

It was George Ritson, a character among characters, who reputedly went off to play rugby against Hawick with a gold sovereign in his pocket - and returned a week later with the sovereign still intact!

By the 1905-06 season Tynedale were finding their feet again at senior level, as a visit to Dene Park by the Durham Cup-holders, Hartlepool Rovers, then at the height of their power and embarking on a run of eight Durham Cup successes in nine seasons, bore witness. "Tyne" waxed steadily stronger as the season progressed

and, after defeating the holders, Rockcliff, who had won the trophy twelve times in the previous sixteen seasons, found themselves at the season's end facing up to Percy Park in the final of the Northumberland Senior Cup at the North Road ground in Newcastle.

A keenly-contested game ended in victory for Tynedale by 11 points to nil, the two tries being scored by Jackson and Jack Batey who had played for the Barbarians while with Percy Park four seasons earlier. The other points came from a conversion by Andrew Richardson and a penalty goal by Matt Catcheside.

Once more the scenes last witnessed in 1887 were repeated as jubilant Tynedale supporters, starved for so long of Senior Cup success, harnessed themselves to the team's brake on their return to Hexham railway station and hauled it up the hill into the Market Place. There, in front of a cheering crowd, the popular 1st XV captain,

George Spencer, made the speech of his eventful lifetime.

Sharing the glory with him were the rest of his victorious team: A.G. Richardson; G.E. Spencer, T.M. Catcheside, W. Stevenson, W.C. Clemitson; M.M. Snowball, T. Jackson; J.S. Emerson, A.E. Emerson, W. Short, R. Moore, F.G. Spencer, J.E. Murray, G. Ritson, J.A. Baty. All were later presented with gold medals subscribed for by one hundred and thirty-seven supporters of the club.

Nor was the Challenge Cup the only trophy which Tynedale won that year, because victory over Ashington and Hirst United in the final earned the third team the Junior Cup, while the second team only went down in the semi-final of the Challenge Shield against Northern after three replays!

All this gave a big fillip to rugby in the district. Besides finishing fourth the following year in the newly-created Northumberland and Durham Inter-Counties Club



TYNEDALE 1st XV: Winners of the Northumberland Senior Cup, 1906. Behind: A. J. Charlton, J. Patterson, G. E. Emerson, R. H. Hutchinson. Back row: J. S. Emerson, A. E. Emerson, W. Short, R. Moore, F. G. Spencer, J. E. Murray, G. W. Ritson, J. A. Baty. Middle row: W. H. Fenwick, A. Emerson, W. Stevenson, T. M. Catcheside, G. E. Spencer, W. C. Clemitson, A. G. Richardson, I. A. Patterson. In front: M. M. Snowball, T. Jackson.

Championship, Tynedale twice more reached the final of the Senior Cup in the next three seasons, though losing to Percy Park on each occasion, while a dozen of its players earned county recognition during this period. One of them, in the 1907-08 season was the great Cumberland forward, Bill Nanson, who had played for England against Wales and France the previous season while with Carlisle.

Another notable player who was to join Tynedale briefly a couple of years later was Noel Humphreys, one of the finest half-backs ever to pull on a blue and white jersey, and, like another brilliant Tynedale player of a quarter of a century earlier, Fred Alderson, an Old Boy of Durham School. Unfortunately for Tynedale, after bringing distinction to the club by touring South Africa with the

British Isles in 1910, Humphreys joined Durham City on his return. He therefore graced Dene Park with his skills for only the one season.

That there were other skilful players, too, on Tynedale's playing strength at this time, however, was amply demonstrated by their achievement in winning the Northumberland Senior Cup twice and the second teams' cup four times in the six seasons leading up to the First World War.

In 1911, on the Royal Grammar School ground at Newcastle, a tremendous second half rally against Percy Park brought a 7-6 victory for a gallant fourteen-man Tynedale side that had trailed by two tries at half-time and

lost wing three-quarter William Braidford with a shoulder injury. First, Sep. Emerson pulled back one of the tries, and then stand-off Jack Scott, later to be carried shoulder-high into the club's "headquarters" in the North Eastern Hotel, dropped the four-point goal which saw Tynedale home.

Tynedale's team was : R.O. Darlington; W. Braidford, J.W. Stephenson, W. Robb, E.A. Averell; J.P. Scott, W.H. Warburton; A.E. Emerson, J.S. Emerson, I.A. Patterson, G. Potts, J. Short, T. Ritson, S. Kent, G.L. Bradley. The win completed a clean sweep of victories against the other Northumberland clubs for the first time since Tynedale

had last won the cup in 1906.

But the match of the competition - and one of the most memorable games ever played by any Tynedale side before or since - came in the semi-final when a last minute try by Averell, magnificently converted from the touchline by William Robb, gave "Tyne" a dramatic victory over a powerful Northern side containing five internationals from England, Scotland and Ireland, including J.A.S. Ritson, who himself lived in Hexham.

Of the 1911 cup-winning side, however, only four remained to do battle again with Percy Park in the Senior Cup final of 1914: Willie Robb and William Braidford in



Tynedale's cup-winning side of 1911. Back row : E. Averell, I. A. Patterson, R. O. Darlington, T. Ritson, J. P. Scott, W. Robb (capt.), G. L. Bradley, J. Short, S. H. Kent. Front row : W. Braidford, J. S. Emerson, W. H. Warburton, J. W. Stephenson, A. E. Emerson, G. Potts.



TYNEDALE 1st XV.: Winners of the Northumberland Senior Cup, 1914. Back row : F. Nevison, P. Braidford, G. P. Walton, G. Potts, P. Gibb, T. Armstrong, D. Forster, R. Summers, J. W. Forster. Front row : Mr J. Thompson, President Northumberland R.U., W. Hulsen, W. Robb, T. Robson, I. A. Patterson, S. J. Newman (capt.), J. Thompson, W. Braidford.

the backs, and George Potts and Armorer Patterson in the forwards.

The game, at the County Ground, was a disappointment, producing a scoreless draw and a lot of extremely dull play. But, in the replay, a Tynedale side captained by Sid Newman, and greeted on to the field by lusty shouts of "Now Tyne", gave an altogether brighter display and won 9-6.

Fittingly the first try came from William Braidford, the man who had missed most of the 1911 final through injury, with the scoring pass coming from his brother, Percy, who gained his first Cumberland cap while still at school. Tynedale's other scorers were Robb, with a well-judged penalty goal, and wing three-quarter Jimmy Thompson, with a splendid second half interception try. At full-back in the Tynedale side, which fielded a seven-man pack and an extra half-back, or "five-eighth", was Paul Gibb, whose son was later to become wicket-keeper for England.

The full team which brought the Senior Cup back to Hexham for the fourth time was: P. Gibb; W. Hulsen, W. Robb, W. Braidford, J. Thompson; P. Braidford, S.J. Newman; F. Nevison, I.A. Patterson, G. Potts, D. Forster, R. Summers, T. Armstrong, T. Robson, G.P. Walton.

A good many of them were among the fourteen Tynedale players who represented Northumberland, Durham or Cumberland during this golden era from 1909 to 1914, and no fewer than seven - Patterson (captain), Hulsen, Thompson, Nevison, Robson, Armstrong and Robb - were selected for the Northumberland side which defeated the Stade Bordelais Universite Club from France 27-12 at Gosforth in that same year of 1914.

Sadly, however, five of that great team were never again seen in a Tynedale jersey. They were among forty-nine past and present players from the club who gave their lives for their country in the First World War.

For a small club it was a massive toll. Eloquent testimony in itself that, in terms of loyalty to country as well as to club and to county, Tynedale Rugby Football Club has few peers in the land.

1914 In Memoriam 1918

W. Adamson	N. Oxland
W. Alder	A. Patterson
B. Alexander	L. D. Plummer
R. E. Atkinson	G. Potts
J. A. Bagnall	R. Rayner
E. Batey	M. Reed
W. Braidford	A. G. Richardson
P. Braidford	C. N. Ridley
J. Brydon	John W. Robinson
T. Burn	G. S. Robinson
T. W. Burn	Jos. W. Robson
T. Cathrae	John Robson
W. Coulson	James Robson
W. Elliott	W. J. Robson
J. M. Emerson	J. R. Robson
B. D. Gibson	A. Snowdon
J. Grierson	H. J. Spencer
N. F. Humphreys	W. Summers
W. Jefferson	W. R. Thew
S. H. Kent	A. Thompson
D. Little	D. T. Turner
F. O. Mail	E. Walton
A. Morrison	G. P. Walton
W. M. B. Nanson	I. Whittaker
F. Nevison	

YEARS OF VICTORY 1919-1939. BACK FROM THE TRENCHES

From the bloodstained years of the Great War Tynedale emerged a weakened club but a proud one. Practically every 1st XV and 2nd XV player had joined the colours on the outbreak of war, and it had cost the club many lives, including those of a number of its finest players - as well as that of "Sammy", the half-bred Border terrier who had become the mascot of the 1914 team and gone off to the war with them.

The gallantry of those who served, however, had been rewarded by no fewer than thirty-five medals, including five DSO's, fourteen Military Crosses, two DCMs and, not least, the Croix de Guerre, Croix de Chevalier and Medaille Militaire awarded to Tynedale men as battle honours by the French.

The club itself honoured the Fallen in fitting style. Not only did it endow a cot at Hexham War Memorial

Hospital but, in January 1921, it opened a new pavilion at the north end of its Dene Park ground as a memorial to those who had lost their lives. Consisting of a former Army hut, it had been bought out of the proceeds of a subscription list launched the preceding year and erected by voluntary labour.

At the opening ceremony, performed by the president of the Northumberland Rugby Football Union, Mr. Harry Welford, a brass tablet bearing the names of the forty-nine men who had given their lives in the war, presented by the club president, Mr. George Gibson was dedicated by the Rector of Hexham, the Rev. J.V.C. Farquhar.

The ceremony was followed by a match against Mr. Reuben Hodgson's XV in aid of the War Memorial Hospital and, in the evening, by a dinner attended by at least one representative from the team of every year since

the club's inception in 1876. Among the speakers was the former England International, Fred Alderson, who told members and guests that, although he had played all over the country and against Scotland, Ireland and Wales, he had "never played with a finer body of sportsmen than that comprising the Tynedale team of 1887".

Meanwhile, on the field of play, Tynedale won their first post-war game by defeating Old Novos 10-0 on Easter Saturday 1919, and they went on to have four or five players selected for the first post-war Northumberland sides which, apart from traditional county opposition, also took on British Army and Canadian Army teams and both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Tynedale marked that first post-war season, too, by scoring a record 424 points.

There was plenty of colour about the game as well. At many of the first team games in the early 'Twenties the Acomb Brass Band or Hexham Excelsior Band regaled the crowd with a selection of music at half-time, while on the field the spirit of the club's earliest years was carried on by one member of the Tynedale pack who, according to the weekly magazine, "Rugby Football", was "known to have danced at a local hunt ball until 6 a.m. on the Saturday, then ridden home on horseback, changed into hunting garb, hunted until mid-day and finished the day by playing in a cup-tie for his club, and incidentally proving to be one of the best forwards on the field."

In Hexham, the growing enthusiasm for the handling code was underscored by the introduction of the game at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School while, at either end of the Tyne Valley, new clubs were formed at West Wylam and Haltwhistle during the mid-'Twenties.

The West Wylam club, founded after a meeting at which Dr. George McCoull presided, lost its opening match 11-0 against Consett but rounded off its first full season with a flourish when it beat Tynedale 3rd XV with a try in extra time to win the Northumberland Junior Cup. The following season, the newly-formed second team reached the final of the same competition, only to lose 6-5 to Seghill following a last minute try.

The Haltwhistle club, revived after a lapse of thirty years

in 1926, began with a Boxing Day match against Mr. John Clark's XV before a big crowd in Bellister Parks.

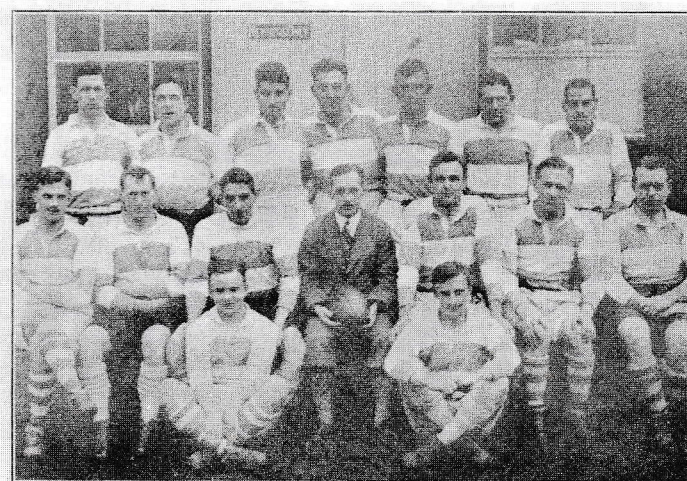
Tynedale 1st XV, too, took part in a piece of history on September 3rd 1921, when a "seven" comprising J. Harding, E.S. Davidson, J.E.C. Strang, W.R. Baty, F.C. Jessop, D. Forster and G. Nicholson took part, at Percy Park, in what was billed as the first seven-a-side competition to be held under Rugby Union Rules, - although, as the "Hexham Courant" went to some pains to point out, a similar event had in fact been held on the Seal at Hexham some twenty-seven years earlier. Meanwhile, Tynedale 2nd XV were continuing to compensate amply for any lack of cup success on the first team's part with a marvellous run in the Senior Shield competition, which brought them the second most prized trophy in Northumberland rugby five times in succession between 1920 and 1924, thus completing a marvellous run stretching either side of the First World War.

Playing at hooker in several of those finals was that legendary Tynedale character, "Tudda" Baty. But the man to whom the team were really indebted was the former 1st XV stalwart, Tom Ritson, who after nearly two decades of rugby, elected to spend the twilight of his playing career leading and coaching the second team. Rarely can such unselfish service by a player to his club have reaped so satisfying a reward.

There was cup success, too, at third team level, with the 3rd XV carrying off the Junior Cup in 1922 and 1925 as well as the Tyneside and District Junior League championship in 1923, after drawing the first of their twenty-one games and winning the remaining twenty.

Some sixteen Tynedale players also earned county selection during the six years immediately following the war, including the Durham County forward J.G. Holmes, who achieved the rare feat of scoring five tries in one game against Westoe in 1924, while in 1925-26 the 1st XV won nineteen of its twenty-five games and finished at the top of the North-East Clubs' Table.

It all made a fitting build-up for the great moment now at hand in the club's history: the golden jubilee year of 1926.



TYNEDALE 1st XV.: 1924-25. Back row: J. E. C. Strang, R. Bell, K. G. C. Robinson, J. G. Holmes, G. Nicholson, J. S. Bentham, O. L. Jessop. Middle row: J. E. Dobbie, G. Robson, D. Forster, B. D. Plummer (capt.), R. A. Goodall, A. Williamson, S. Pick. Front row: R. R. M. Barr, H. Charlton.

YEARS OF VICTORY 1919-1939 - TYNEDALE JUBILEE.

The Tynedale jubilee was quite a year. At an extraordinary general meeting held in the Royal Hotel on 8th February 1926, members decided by a large majority that the most tangible way in which the club could commemorate its jubilee would be to purchase its own ground.

For the past twenty-three years it had held an option on the Dene Park field, and that option was now to be exercised, at a cost to the club of £1,550 - or 1s. 91/2d. a square yard. At the same meeting, the club also took over the tenancy of the adjoining Broad Close field at an annual rental of £35.

A contemporaneous report commented: "In view of the fact that quite recently similar land in the immediate vicinity has been sold at prices varying from 4s 6d. to 2s. a square yard, the meeting felt that they were taking no hazardous risk in making the purchase as, though the field is not perfect as a playing field, it has served its purpose for twenty-three years and is, at the moment, the only field available.

"It was therefore felt that, should a more suitable field be available in the future, there was a strong probability of the club being able to dispose of the present field at a profit, and an almost certainty that no loss would accrue."

How right, half a century later, that forecast was to prove!

Tynedale being a club which has always prided itself on its sturdy self-reliance, the money required for the purchase of Dene Park was raised by donations, special efforts and a loan from the Rugby Football Union which was repaid within a dozen years or so. As a result of this far-reaching decision, Tynedale Rugby Football Club now had a permanent home for the first time in fifty years.

On the field of play, the fiftieth anniversary was officially commemorated on 13th March 1926, with a match at Dene Park against Waterloo - although, given that the club had not been formed until the October of 1876 and the first match played some two months thereafter, it could be argued that the jubilee celebrations were, in fact, a little premature.

Be that as it may, the match drew a good crowd and, under the leadership of David Forster, Tynedale did justice to the occasion by winning 12-3, thanks to tries by Carr (2), Dobbie and Hedley. Tynedale's team, including nine county players, was: R. Bell; J.E. Dobbie, R.A. Goodall, T.A. Carr, A. Williamson, B.D. Plummer, R.R.M. Barr; F.R. Hedley, G. Robson, R. Wilkinson, G. Nicholson, K.G.C. Robinson, J.S. Bentham, D. Forster, J.E.C. Strang.

The same evening a jubilee dinner was held at Hexham Hydro under the chairmanship of the club president, Mr. R.H. Robb, who had himself played in Tynedale's

inaugural match against Elswick in 1876. The tickets cost 7s.6d. each (exclusive of wines), and one hundred and ten members and guests sat down to dinner, including no fewer than twenty members of Tynedale's four cup-winning sides up to that time. A special welcome was given to the five members present from the original 1887 cup-winning side, John Dodd, William Pattinson, W. Farthing, T. Rogan and Harry Robb himself.

The toast to "The Tynedale Club" was proposed by a former president of the Cumberland Rugby Football Union and of Carlisle Rugby Club, Mr. T.H. Hodgkinson, who, in recalling some of the battles between the two clubs right from Tynedale's earliest days, declared "the old game to be not a patch on the new one."

Where once the game was largely a succession of scrummages and line-outs, he asserted, "now every player seems imbued with the idea of giving the ball air, and quite rightly." During his own playing career, in the course of some six seasons with Cumberland, added Mr. Hodgkinson, he could only remember ever receiving two passes - one was not intended for him, and the other was behind him!

The icing on the cake in jubilee year would have been the winning of the Senior Cup, but that was not to be. A narrow defeat in the semi-final by the eventual winners, Northern, meant that Tynedale's fifth Challenge Cup victory had to wait another year.

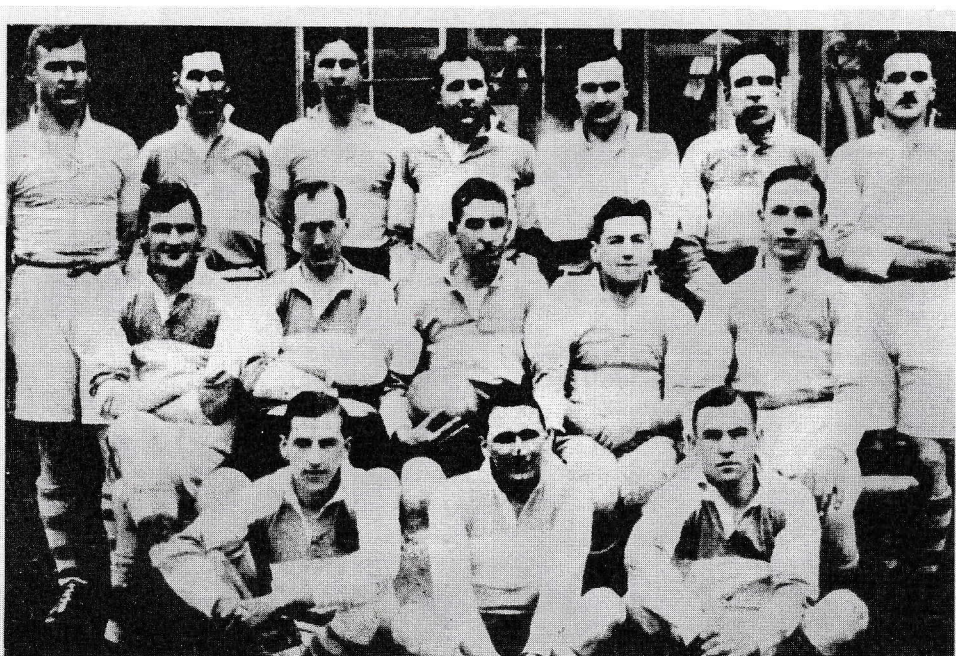
That year of 1927 was to prove the harbinger to the second of Tynedale's "Golden Ages".

The junior sides had been linking the first and second of these magical eras with a string of cup victories during the "Twenties, with the 2nd XV carrying off the Senior Shields five years in a row between 1920 and 1924 - a feat which earned them a special flag from the Northumberland Rugby Football Union which flew over the grandstand for many years.

Not to be outdone, the 4th XV emulated that achievement by winning the Junior Shield every year between 1924 and 1928.

Now, in 1927, it was the turn of the 1st XV to once again bring home the Northumberland Senior Cup which had not been seen in Hexham since 1914.

Shrugging off widely-expressed doubts about a lack of speed in their back division and playing to their strength up front, with the Jessop brothers at half-back shrewdly directing affairs behind, they disposed of both Seghill and Gosforth before meeting the holders, Northern, in the final at the County Ground.



Tynedale's cup-winning side of 1927. Back row : G. Nicholson, J. E. C. Strang, J. K. K. Morrison, J. S. Bentham, R. A. Goodall, R. Bell, D. Thornton. Centre row : F. R. Hedley, G. Robson, D. Forster (capt.), T. A. Carr, J. C. Suddes. Front row : F. C. Jessop, N. C. Fairlam, B. X. Jessop.

"Tyne" were given a large and noisy backing by their supporters, many of whom wore blue and white "golliwogs", sold in aid of Hexham War Memorial Hospital. Although the cup-holders led by a try at half-time, a torrential downpour in the second half really suited Tynedale's ten-man rugby and heavy pressure on the Northern line eventually brought a try for hooker Geoff Robson which David Forster, captain of the team and sole survivor of the great 1914 cup-winning side, stepped up to convert.

It was enough to give Tynedale a famous 5-3 victory and to spark off the now-customary scenes back in Hexham that evening, with the band playing and a big crowd turning out to greet the victorious team in the Market Place, before they adjourned for a celebration supper in the Royal Hotel. As was his wont, the try-scorer, Robson, no doubt left his horse tethered somewhere nearby, all ready for his long night ride home to Bellingham!

The team which this time left its mark on the club record books was: R. Bell; D. Thornton, R.A. Goodall, T.A. Carr, N.C. Fairlam; F.C. Jessop, B.X. Jessop; J.K.K. Morrison, G. Robson, J.C. Suddes, F.R. Hedley, G. Nicholson, D. Forster, J.S. Bentham, J.E.C. Strang.

After the euphoria of this unexpected cup success, anti-climax followed. That fine forward, J.G. Holmes, having his second spell with the club, had the distinction of playing for Northumberland and Durham against the "Waratahs" from New South Wales in November 1927, but several other leading players, including the captain, Forster, promptly retired and the 1927-28 season started catastrophically with six defeats in a row.

Tragically, too, the 1st XV lost one of its most accomplished forwards in the October of that year when

Jimmy Strang died following an accidental injury in a game at Durham the preceding month. Though only twenty-five at the time of his death, he had played in the cup-winning second teams of 1921, 1922 and 1923 as well as in the 1927 Senior Cup side and, for three seasons, he also represented Northumberland.

Tynedale could ill afford the loss of players of such quality and, while they continued to play some good rugby, the next few years were to be lean ones indeed for all the club's sides in the county cup competitions.

Tynedale, though were simply gathering their strength for the triumphant years that were to follow.



In this 1926 cartoon, three disconsolate Northern players (bottom left) look on as Davie Forster and his Tynedale team begin to celebrate their cup final success.

YEARS OF VICTORY 1919-1939 - THIRTIES

The 'Thirties opened with quite a shock. Preliminary plans for a new trunk road between Hexham and Corbridge revealed that it would neatly bisect Tynedale's Dene Park ground somewhere around the 25-yard line at the northern end of the pitch. The playing field, as it had been known for twenty-seven years, would be no more.

Negotiations were quickly set in train with Northumberland County Council, the upshot of which was that the club acquired a portion of the adjoining Broad Close field with a view to laying out a full-size pitch running east to west instead of north to south as hitherto. The pavilion, however, was left "marooned" on a triangle of ground on the opposite side of the new road.

Work started on re-modelling the ground in the summer of 1931, and, for the whole of the 1931-32 season, all 1st XV and 2nd XV matches were switched to Broad Close, the third team being required to play most of their matches away from home. In fact, Tynedale soon began to run not just one third team but two, following the amalgamation into the club of the Hexham Boys Scouts rugby section whose various games included one celebrated match on Boxing Day 1932, against an "Old Crocks" XV comprising Dr. W. Sinclair, T. Weavers, Col. J. Ridley Robb, T. Armstrong, A.V. Bland, G. Robinson, B.D. Plummer, Revs. W.H.S. Wood, Rev. W.R. Tymms, D. Forster, J.E. Murray, G. Nicholson, W.R. Baty, A.E. Emerson, J.S. Emerson. With half a dozen former county players in their ranks, the "Old Crocks" won 14-13, but at the cost of a broken ankle for Forster and a cracked rib for Plummer.

Meanwhile, the new ground had been officially opened a couple of months earlier in October 1932, when Tynedale

played a team selected by their cup-winning captain of 1906, George Spencer, now president of the Northumberland Rugby Football Union.

It proved to be a happy augury. For within a matter of months Tynedale were embarking on a magnificent Northumberland Senior Cup run that was to last unbroken for the next four years.

And, just as that 1906 cup-winning team had owed much to Spencer's personal inspiration as captain, Tynedale's great cup sides of the 'Thirties were to be indebted in equally large measure to the dominant leadership of their own new captain appointed in 1932, K.W.D. Hodgson.

Around him David Hodgson gathered a squad of players who were soon to weld themselves into the most formidable force in Northumberland rugby - players like hooker Jack Suddes, lock forward Rex Graham, wing-forward Ronnie Herron and his brother, Harry, at prop, full-back Teddy Blench, win three-quarters "Hoot" Gibson and Chris Armstrong and, not least, the superb midfield triangle of Angus Brogdon and Basil Liddle at half-back and, at centre, Tommy Bland, who had been reserve for Durham and Northumberland against the South African "Springboks" at Sunderland in 1931.

Three of them, Bland, Brogdon and Liddle, had played, along with Dave McComb, Jimmy McComb, Sid Scott and Geoff Holmes, in the Tynedale "seven" which, in April 1930, won the Northumberland county seven-a-side tournament, not to be repeated until 1992, with a 16-13 win over Sunderland in the final. And more trophies were soon to follow.



Tynedale's cup-winning side of 1933. Back row : R. A. C. Herron, J. C. Suddes, R. Graham, R. H. C. Herron, J. E. McComb, G. J. B. Bell, W. P. Gibson. Centre row : W. Sharp, A. R. B. Polson, E. R. Blench, K. W. D. Hodgson, (capt.), C. R. Armstrong, T. B. Bland. Front row : B. Liddle, A. Brogdon.



Tynedale's cup winning side of 1936. Bywell Avenue in the background just being built.



Tynedale's cup-winning side of 1935. R. H. C. Herron, R. A. C. Herron, R. Graham, E. B. Young, D. C. Armstrong-C. R. Armstrong, J. C. Suddes, W. P. Gibson. Centre row : J. Morris, A. Brogdon, K. W. D. Hodgson (capt.), E. R. Blench, T. B. Bland. Front row : B. Liddle, E. W. I. Johnson. Standing behind : three members of past Tynedale cup, winning sides, T. M. Catcheside (1906), D. Forster (1914 and 1927), J. J. McIntyre (1887).



For four successive years the Senior Cup was to find a resting-place in Hexham, and in 1936, sixty years after its formation, the Tynedale club reached the very pinnacle of its power when it supplied, in Bland, Blench and Suddes, a fifth of the combined Northumberland and Durham side which put up such a stirring performance against Jack Manchester's Third "All Blacks" at the County Ground, Gosforth, before going down 10-6. Moreover, later that same season, Blench, Bland, Brogdon, Liddle, Hodgson and Suddes all played in the Northumberland side which took on Hampshire in the final of the County Championship, also at Gosforth. All that marred the

occasion for Tynedale men was the result, the Southerners winning 13-6.

The club's diamond jubilee year of 1936 also produced the last and most thrilling of all Tynedale's cup final victories during its magnificent four-year run. In the memories of some, indeed, it was perhaps the best game ever seen on the County Ground as both Tynedale and Gosforth eschewed normal cup-tie tactics and gave as brilliant an exhibition of fast, open rugby as those privileged to watch it could ever remember seeing.



BACK ROW:- H.G.Owen-Smith (St.Mary's Hospital & England). J.McD.Hodgson (Northern). J.P.Evans (Aldershot Services). J.C.Oldroyd (Northern). S.I.Howard Jones (Aldershot Services). K.W.D.Hodgson (Tynedale). C.R.Owen (The Army). J.C.Suddes (Tynedale).
MIDDLE ROW:- W.T.Anderson (Harlequins). C.H.Errington (Gosforth). R.J.L.Hammond (United Services). A.C.Barker (Old Novocastrians). J.R.Rawlence (Cambridge). R.Robinson (Northern). N.J.Newton (Bournemouth). C.R.Wood (Gosforth).
FRONT ROW:- R.B.Hunt (REFEREE). E.R.Blanch (Tynedale). R.E.Lauder (Trojans). G.Swallor (Blackheath). D.T.Kemp (CAPT) (Trojans & England). T.B.Bland (Tynedale). Rev. V.J.Pike (The Army & England). G.H.Bailey (Old Novocastrians). A.Boast (Salisbury & The Army). E.Paulin (Old Novocastrians). P.C.Hordern (Gloucester & England).
SEATED:- B.Liddle (Tynedale). K.P.P.Goldschmidt (Trojans). A.Brogdon (Tynedale). T.G.V. Stephenson (Aldershot Services).

Six Tynedale players in the Northumberland XV which played Hampshire in the Final of the County Championship 14 March 1936.

Ten minutes into the second half, despite having once led 6-0 through tries by Brogdon and Young, Tynedale found themselves trailing 6-15, with Gosforth playing like men inspired and key man Suddes hampered by a cracked rib. Even when Ronnie Herron scored an unconverted try, a penalty goal by Wood promptly restored Gosforth's nine-point lead.

Now, with the game standing at 9-18 to Gosforth, the "Hexham Courant" of 11th April 1936, takes up the story:

"Minutes were passing. It was felt that Tynedale couldn't do it. In fact, for a time it looked as though they might crack. The game was all Gosforth's at this stage and Tynedale supporters were beginning to resign themselves to the fact that the cup was going east! Suddenly Brogdon found himself with the ball, and, with an inspired effort, he broke through the Gosforth defence with a dummy here, a swerve there, and stormed between the posts. It was a magnificent effort, and the crowd - Tynedale, Gosforth, and neutral - rose to him. Blench kicked a goal and Tynedale were now full of fight (14-18).

"Anti-climax, however! Horsley snapped up a loose ball about halfway, and by sheer strength and determination scored a try for Gosforth which seemed to clinch the game (14-21). Many sides would have cracked under the strain. Not so Tynedale. For the first time in the game they began to get the ball in the tight scrums, and their passing machinery became better. They pressed hard for several minutes before Hodgson got over in the corner. You could have heard a pin drop as Blench took the kick for goal. Everything depended on it. Straight and true and over the bar, and Tynedale were only two points behind (19-21).

"Gosforth had shot their bolt, but could Tynedale score in the four minutes left for play? One doubted it and gave mental credit to Gosforth for their victory and to Tynedale for their plucky fight against a big deficit. Suddenly the Tynedale backs were into action, and Johnson was speeding like a hare for the line. Someone tapped his ankles and down he came. A moment afterwards, however, Bland got the ball, half-turned as if to make for the corner, balanced himself and dropped a perfect left-footed goal (23-21).

"The impossible had happened : Tynedale had pulled the match out of the fire, and pandemonium broke loose....."

For eight of the triumphant Tynedale side victory had never tasted sweeter; captain David Hodgson, vice-captain Angus Brogdon and team-mates Bland, Blench, Graham, Ronnie Herron, Liddle and Suddes were celebrating their fourth cup final win in as many years.

But, if these were the players to whom Tynedale were indebted most as they were played into Hexham that

night by the Excelsior band, all twenty-six of those who had played in one or other of the four finals of 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1936, together with those who had helped carry them through the earlier rounds into the final itself, carved their names indelibly in Tynedale history.

During those four years of victory Tynedale won fifteen successive Senior Cup matches, scoring 240 points against 64. Hodgson scored nine tries and Brogdon, Bland and Armstrong seven apiece, while Bland finished as top scorer overall, his seven tries, six conversions and three dropped goals totalling 46 points.

Altogether, in all matches during this four-year period, Tynedale's playing record read: P. 121, W. 85, D. 11, L. 25. Pts. For 1,659, Pts. Against 620.

In 1933, on their way to the final, Tynedale beat Northern 9-5, Gosforth 14-0 and Seghill 13-0. In the final itself they then gained a handsome victory by 17-0 over Old Novos, the try-scorers in a fast and entertaining game being Chris Armstrong (2), Bland, Liddle and Hodgson, with Blench kicking a conversion.

It was, with the 1887 and 1914 sides, possibly one of the greatest of all Tynedale teams. Averaging 5ft. 11 1/2ins. in height and 13st. 11lb in weight, it set up a new club record of 425 points in the season. And it so enthused one Hexham sportsman with the manner and margin of its cup final victory at the County Ground that he there and then offered his debenture rights to the County Union for cancellation "to celebrate in an unobtrusive way the fact that Tynedale won the cup."

In 1934 Tynedale scored all their cup victories on "foreign" soil, winning 8-7 at Northern and 8-5 at Rockcliff before once more meeting Old Novos in the final.

For the occasion the railway company ran a special two-shilling excursion from Hexham to West Gosforth - and centre three-quarter Jack Heppel conscientiously contented himself with riding no more than the first race in the Braes of Derwent point-to-point before dashing by car to join his team-mates at the County Ground!

This time, however, Novos proved a considerably tougher proposition than the previous year and held "Tyne" to a 3-3 draw before going down 9-6 in the replay. Tynedale's scorers were Bland with a dropped goal, Ronnie Herron with a try and Blench with a penalty goal, the points in the first match having come from a Hodgson try near the posts.

Just for good measure, apart from winning twenty-five games and scoring a record 434 points that season, Tynedale also claimed victories over both the Durham cup-holders, Durham City, and the Cumberland cup-holders, Cockermouth. They were truly "Cocks o' the North."



This is a copy of the photograph which now hangs in the Lounge area in the Tynedale Park clubhouse at Corbridge.

In 1935, Tynedale went through the first three rounds of the cup without conceding a single point, and scoring 72 points themselves. They defeated Ashington 23-0, Seghill 32-0 and Armstrong College 17-0 before meeting and beating Northern in the final, thanks to two penalty goals by Billy Gibson, a dropped goal by Basil Liddle and a try by Chris Armstrong. Once more a big Hexham contingent, sporting blue and white favours sold in aid of Hexham Boys Club at twopence each, shouted their heroes home.

It was a fine way in which to celebrate the Royal Silver Jubilee, just as another Tynedale team, forty-eight years earlier, had marked Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee by winning the Senior Cup for the first time. Just to point up the coincidence, Mrs. Tom Robson, widow of the 1887 captain, was invited by the club president, Mr. John Patterson, to take the first drink out of the cup at the traditional celebrations afterwards in the Royal Hotel.

Earlier, as the Excelsior Band played the team into the Market Place where several of the welcoming crowd had perched themselves on the fountain, Mr. Patterson had begun his speech by apologising to the Salvation Army for disrupting their usual Saturday night open-air service. But, as he reminded the crowd, it was not every club that had a "hat-trick" of cup successes to celebrate. And, on the following New Year's Day, that achievement was recognised in more tangible form by the presentation of inscribed tankards to the twenty-five players who had taken part. The tankards were presented by Mr. Tom H.

Scott, on behalf of the seventy-nine people who had subscribed to them.

But more was yet to come. For, in 1936, Tynedale beat College of Commerce 30-3 and Old Novos 21-3 to reach their fourth successive final. And their fourth successive victory duly followed when that marvellous late rally saw them squeeze home by 23-21 against Gosforth, their try-scorers being David Hodgson (2), Ernest Young, Ronnie Herron and Angus Brogdon, Blench kicking two conversions and Bland dropping the winning goal.

By a remarkable coincidence, in each of the four years, Tynedale's joy was made complete when the task of presenting them with the trophy fell to a former captain of the club.

Following in the footsteps of Anthony Emerson in 1930-31, the president of the Northumberland Rugby Football Union in 1933 and 1934 was Mr. George Spencer, who had himself led Tynedale to Senior Cup success in 1906, while, in 1935 and 1936, the honour belonged to another Tynedale player turned county president, Mr. Malcolm Snowball, who had captained Tynedale in the 1909-10 season.

These were proud days indeed for Tynedale Rugby Football Club.



Triumphant after winning the Northumberland Senior Cup for the fourth time in as many seasons, the Tynedale side of 1936, with captain David Hodgson being chaired aloft. Left to right : R. Graham, R. A. C. Herron, T. B. Bland, D. C. Armstrong, R. H. C. Herron, K. W. D. Hodgson, E. R. Blench, B. Liddle, A. Brogdon, E. W. I. Johnson, D. E. Murray, J. C. Suddes. Hidden behind are W. Armstrong, W. R. Forrest and E. B. Young.



A feature of the "Hexham Courant" sports pages in the 'Twenties and 'Thirties were cartoons like this one, pointing up Tynedale's magnificent four year cup run from the pen of Jack Hedley.

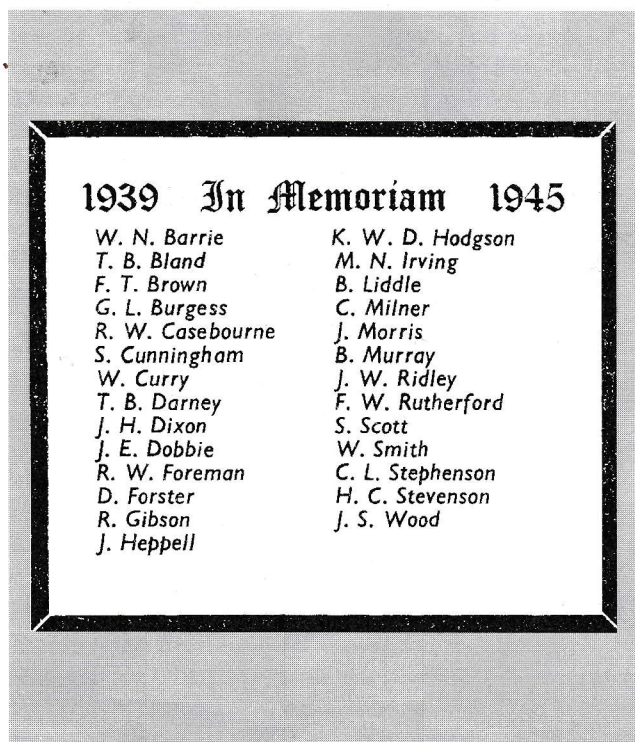
CONSOLIDATION 1945-1959

After the feast, the famine. The great Tynedale team of the mid-Thirties never again attained the same heights and, for the moment at any rate, cup glory was to be Tynedale's no longer.

Ronnie Herron died quite suddenly; Suddes and Liddle took their considerable talents into the Rugby League game; Hodgson, Bland and Johnson suffered recurrent problems with injuries; illness kept Brogdon out of rugby for quite some time. One way and another, fortune no longer smiled on Tynedale. The dark clouds of war were once again rolling across the skies and casting a long shadow over the rugby fields of England. And, once again, Tynedale Rugby Club was to pay a heavy price.

In all, twenty-seven Tynedale players, past and present, were to be seen no more after the Second World War of 1939-45, among them great names like Bland, Forster, Hodgson and Liddle.

On Easter Monday 1949, another memorial plaque was duly unveiled in the pavilion by the county president, Mr. Ben Plummer - yet another former Tynedale captain, and dedicated by the Rector of Hexham, the Rev. A.G. Hardie.



In Memoriam

The real memorial to those who had fallen, however, was the acquisition of the Broad Close field adjoining the first team pitch. A fund for the purpose had been started while the war was still in progress, and the purchase was finally completed in 1948.

Indeed, in marked contrast with the First World War, rugby at Tynedale had this time been kept alive and flourishing during the war years. Off the field, some excellent work had been done on the administrative side by the secretary-treasurer, Mr. Tommy Robertson, to ensure that the club was a "going concern" when rugby re-started in the county in September 1945, and it was to be the club's good fortune that this hard-working official was to remain as its secretary for a further eight years after the war's end.

On the field, the club's changing rooms had been promptly taken over as an ARP post on the outbreak of war, while the floodlit training sessions, started in February 1939, had had to be abandoned.

Nevertheless, a makeshift Tynedale side, drawn from the farming community, the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and Servicemen back on leave or stationed nearby, and captained by Walter Rutherford, had played a varied programme of matches, chiefly against opposition from Army and RAF units stationed in the area, beginning with four successive victories in as many weeks over an Army XV including the former England Rugby league tour captain, Troop. A number of these games were staged for the benefit of war charities.

So, by the time those players who had survived the war had been welcomed back at a re-union dinner held at the Royal Hotel (entertainment by the Haltwhistle Vocal Union Quartette and the "Crazy Gang" of Rolls, Royce and Walter), Tynedale were able to put a very useful side indeed into the field. Five players turned out for Northumberland in unofficial county matches in that first post war season, and the two Rutherford brothers played in a combined Northumberland, Durham and Cumberland side against the "Kiwis", a New Zealand Army team of international strength, as did Will Rutherford, Ken Hall and Bill Dinning against the "Wallabies" from Australia the following year.

The Northumberland Senior Cup competition re-started in 1946-47 and, although Tynedale that year lost in the semi-final to the eventual winners, Percy Park, their tenth cup success was not to be long denied them.

On 2nd April 1948, having beaten King's College and Seghill in the earlier rounds, Tynedale defeated Northern 15-13 in a thrilling final at the County Ground, in which Northern came back from 6-15 down after "Tyne" had lost wing three-quarter Harry Brogdon with concussion.

It was Brogdon, indeed, who had scored what turned out to be the winning try, but the "man of the match" tag went to stand-off half Ken Hall, who not only converted the try

to add to his two earlier penalties and a dropped goal, but stamped his personality on the game with a thoroughly accomplished all-round display.

The Tynedale side, captained by Will Rutherford, were spurred on throughout the game by a vociferous body of supporters, bedecked in blue and white favours and rallying to the sound of a hunting horn.

Only Will Armstrong still remained of the celebrated 1936 cup-winning side but, by the oddest of coincidences, as had happened with all four cup wins in the "Thirties, it yet again fell to a former Tynedale captain to present the trophy in his capacity as president of the Northumberland Rugby Football Union. This time Mr. Ben Plummer, the 1st XV captain from 1919 to 1925, did the honours.



Just for good measure, the third team, captained by "Drew" Richardson in his farewell match, captured the Junior Cup a fortnight later when Bobby Dodds kicked a last minute penalty goal to give them a hard-fought 11-8 victory over Ashington 2nd XV.

This completed a notable hat-trick of cup successes for the club as, a year earlier, the second team, captained by Bobby Blackburn, had carried off the Senior Shield for the twelfth time in Tynedale's history.

Indeed, these had been two successful seasons in every respect for the Tynedale club. Three cups had been won, eight players had represented their county and, even though the following three seasons were to prove largely unproductive in terms of trophies won and honours gained, the Tynedale star was now shining bright, ready for the next prestigious occasion in the club's history - the 75th anniversary year of 1951.



Tynedale's cup-winning side of 1948. Back row : W. C. Rutherford, H. P. Brogdon, S. Short, R. G. Christer, W. Armstrong, J. E. Cousin, W. A. Dinning, W. Luke. Front row : J. E. Charlton, J. D. Robb, R. M. Waugh, W. Rutherford (capt.), J. A. Newlands, K. Hall, K. T. Bell.

Forging the link between past and present in Tynedale's 75th anniversary season was the name of Robb. For just as a Robb had figured in the first team ever to represent the club in 1887, and the same Robb had steered the club, as president, through its jubilee season fifty years later, so now did another member of the Robb family, his great-nephew Derek Robb, leave his mark on club history by assuming the 1st XV captaincy for the anniversary year.

On the field, the highlight of that season of 1951-52 was the official 75th anniversary match on 11th October 1951, against a South of Scotland XV containing several internationals, in which Tynedale put up a fighting display before going down 23-12. One of the touch judges was Tynedale veteran Davie Forster, who had captained the 1st XV in their golden jubilee match against Waterloo a quarter of a century earlier.

Off the field, the principal event was the commemorative dinner staged in the Royal Hotel after the game with Darlington R.A. on 1st December at which the club president, Mr. John Patterson, presided. The toast to the Rugby Football Union was proposed by the club chairman, Dr. J.J. Hurley, who urged "stern, surgical and radical" measures to speed up the game with particular reference to reducing the amount of touch-kicking and scrummaging. In reply, the vice-president of the R.F.U., Mr. Joseph Brunton, reminded those present that only 150-200 clubs in the whole of England dated back as far as Tynedale. Other speakers included the vice president of the Northumberland Rugby Union, Mr. Eric Watkin, former Northumberland president Mr. Broderick Thompson, former Tynedale president Mr. Jack Baty, Tynedale 1st XV captain Mr. Derek Robb and former captain Mr. Ben Plummer, and Tynedale committeeman Mr. J.L. Dodd.

Yet another notable event, and one of possibly even greater significance so far as the club's overall development was concerned, came some four years later when Tynedale marked the opening of their new clubhouse by the Northumberland president, Dr. G.G.T. Tregarthen, on 22nd September 1955, with a game against the County President's XV.

Up to this time the ex-Army hut erected as a war memorial thirty-four years before had continued to do yeoman service as a make-shift clubhouse, providing the most spartan of changing accommodation for the players. Facilities were, by any yardstick, primitive in the extreme: three antiquated house baths fed by a coke boiler of elderly vintage.

There was no bar. Instead, following time-honoured tradition, the players continued to assemble for their post-match pint in the Globe, the latest in a long line of Hexham public houses to double as Tynedale's unofficial "headquarters" - a line which, at various times, included the Black Bull, the White Hart, the North Eastern, the Old Grey Bull and the Royal.

So, in every respect, the opening of the new clubhouse, with its changing rooms, bar and social room, represented a notable milestone in the club's history. It was the product of several years of intensive fund-raising by the special efforts committee, led by Mr. Laurie Bouckley.

From a playing viewpoint, however, the 'Fifties could scarcely be described as a vintage era for Tynedale Rugby Club. With the gradual break-up of the sides which had won the Senior Shield in 1947 and the Senior Cup the following year, the first team inevitably struggled for quite some years, although this did not prevent some attractive fixtures being secured towards the end of the decade against leading Border clubs like Hawick, Kelso and Gala.

One fixture, indeed, brought opposition from even further afield when, in 1959, the Irish side, Malone, visited Dene Park on an Easter tour. A hard and exciting game ended in a 6-3 victory for a Tynedale team including Ken Bell, Colin Fox, Rufus Hall, "Dai" Hopkins, Jack Kent, Gordon Richardson and Eddie Robson - all later committee stalwarts, and the shillelagh hanging behind the clubhouse bar remains to this day as a memento of that Easter Monday visit by the Ulstermen nearly two decades ago.



Tynedale's 75th anniversary was celebrated by a match against a South of Scotland XV. Back row : J. E. Charlton, J. Grant, L. Holliday, R. W. T. Chisholm, D. Henderson, R. Naylor, J. Pickworth, A. K. McRae, J. B. T. Ritson, J. King. Centre row : J. Fox, D. Forster, (touch-judges), W. Rutherford, H. F. McLeod, R. G. Christer, W. Reid, J. E. Cousin, T. Brown, W. Stonehouse, J. M. Inglis, W. Luke, J. Trail (referee). Front row : R. G. Powell, G. Burrell, P. Stonehouse, J. Wright, J. D. Robb, R. Notman, W. A. Dinning, J. Thompson. In front : J. J. Hegarty, P. J. Langley, W. M. Hogg.

THE SIXTIES

And so to the 'Sixties. Although the club had a lean time in the cup competitions - the Northumberland Junior Cup won by Angus Hunter's 3rd XV in 1956 and the Northumberland Junior Shield won by Edward Robson's 4th XV in 1965 being its solitary successes since the 1948 Senior Cup victory - the 1st XV playing record was generally better than average. Despite a bad year in 1966-67, when twenty-one games were lost, there were clear indications that things were on the upturn.

This was confirmed the very next season when Tynedale lost only seven of their thirty-five games and scored over 500 points. It was perhaps no coincidence that that season also marked the arrival at Dene Park of Tynedale's first-ever club coach in the person of Scottish international trialist Peter Robertson, from Hawick. Under his aegis

Tynedale rugby has flourished ever since - and training come a long way since the pre-season paper chases of the early 'Thirties!

Another notable "first" that same season was Malcolm Young's record-breaking achievement in scoring 204 Points for the club. Sadly, however, he was to become one of several very good players to leave Tynedale over the next few years to further their ambitions in new surroundings - among them two future England players in Young himself and wing three-quarter trialist David Carr, joint holder, with Phil Stonehouse, of the club record of seven tries in a game. It was a disturbing, if perhaps inevitable, by-product of the "new look" rugby which, during the 'Seventies', was to totally transform the game.



Tynedale 1st XV Season 1969-70: Back row T. McCreedy, A. Pye, R. Adamson, R. Mann, E. Robson, A. Philpotts, D. Carr, A. Stokoe, N. Robson. Middle M. McGloughlin, J. Johnson, H.G. Fletcher, W.I.F. Blyth (capt.), K. Docking, J. Smart, J.R. Scott. Front row P. Dixon, P. Jarvie.

JUNIOR RUGBY EXPLOSION

For more than half a century Tynedale Rugby Club's principal "nursery" has been the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Hexham.

Had Hexham Grammar School, in 1920, not made the far-reaching decision to switch from Association to Rugby Football, it must be wondered how far the Tynedale club would have developed over the past fifty years, or whether it would have stayed the course at all, notwithstanding the fact that it had managed well enough without Grammar School players up to 1920.

The man who must take more credit than any other for the school's "conversion" is Mr. Bill Dix who, with the backing of his headmaster, Mr. Charles Rogerson, worked hard and enthusiastically in those early days to ensure that the foundations of rugby within the school were properly laid.

The club, too, played an active role. Not only was the school allowed full use of Tynedale's ground and other facilities at Dene Park, but club stalwarts like Ben Plummer, who was 1st XV captain at the time, and Geoff Nicholson, who was secretary for most of the Twenties besides appearing in the 1927 cup-winning team, helped stimulate interest among the boys by taking part in practice matches. Those pioneering days at the school were exciting ones, with improvisation often the order of the day - as on the occasion when a school team travelled to Keswick in a laundry van.

But, as the rugby game gradually took root at the Grammar School, it began to make an increasingly significant contribution to the Tynedale club. As early as 1921, indeed, a Tynedale fourth team made up largely of Hexham Grammar School players contested the final of the Northumberland Junior Shield, losing only narrowly 11-9 to another Hexham side, Tyneside Rovers 2nd XV, at Dene Park, in a "pipe-opener" to the Tynedale - Wakefield game on Easter Monday.

And it was a measure of the success wrought in a relatively few years by those in charge of the sport at the school that the Northumberland Under-18 Cup was won in five successive seasons from 1924 to 1928 by a Tynedale fourth team consisting almost entirely of QEGS players.

From that time onwards, until the 1970's, a majority of players throughout the club in most seasons first learned their rugby at the Grammar School. Not that it has drawn from the Grammar School exclusively. The 1st XV in particular has always had a strong non-QEGS element, even in the great years of 1932-36. Without the Grammar School contribution, however, the club would have been much smaller, while the strong links between school and club helped ensure continuity and durability.

Goodwill on both sides had done much to conserve this happy situation. On the school's side, a succession of dedicated sports masters have imbued the pupils with their own enthusiasm for the game and eagerly supplied a stream of young players to Tynedale. David Hodgson will never be forgotten; nor will Bobby Blackburn, whose death during his presidential year in 1970-71 was such an enormous loss to both school and club; latterly, Harry Fletcher, Chris Davy and then Rob Macfarlane and Steve Mullins have held the reins at the school, while at the same time putting their own playing services at the disposal of the club.

Thanks to them, Tynedale has had a generous supply of gifted players from Hexham Grammar School over the years: Jack Suddes, Tommy Bland and the Armstrongs in the Thirties; the Rutherfords, Ken Hall and Bill Dinning at the end of the war; and then Ken Bell, Brian Hunter, Cecil Thompson, Gordon Richardson and David Coulson in the post-war years. Both Thompson and Coulson, like two other Hexham Grammar School players, Denis Williamson and Rex Patterson in the Thirties, were England schoolboy internationals.

In the mid-seventies for 10 years, when the number and influence of former QEGS pupils on Tynedale rugby visibly diminished, the likes of Ian Blyth, Ian Greener, Alan Pye, Roger Dinning and Wallace Cousin continued to make their mark at first team level, and since 1985 some notable players have moved to Tynedale, including Simon Clayton-Hibbott, Richard Cunningham, Andrew Cuthbertson, Gordon Dodds, Steven Dunn, Scott Ferguson, Iain, Michael, and Ranald Harris, Ed. Holmes, Mickey Lee, Edward Parker, Philip Sharman, Martin White and others.

The golden years of rugby at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School probably came in the Sixties when, in season 1963-64, and again in season 1968-69, the school 1st XV went through a considerable fixture list without incurring a single defeat. In addition, the Morpeth schools seven-a-side competition was won against strong opposition in both 1968 and 1970, and the Keswick "sevens" cup on no fewer than four occasions, while, playing under the Tynedale name, the school won the Northumberland Under-18 Cup six years out of nine between 1963 and 1971.

It was in the 1964-65 season that a Colts side was first introduced at Tynedale, under the guidance of Hexham Grammar School master Mr. Harry Fletcher, principally to provide a regular rugby outlet for pupils at non-rugby playing schools, notably Haydon Bridge Technical School, who hitherto had had to be content with occasional outings in the third or fourth teams.



But the early enthusiasm faded and it was not until 1971-72 that Colts rugby was started in earnest, with a fixture programme of some twenty-seven matches being played.

The first game against Morpeth was won 55-4, but that scoreline flattered only to deceive: the Colts were to be on the wrong end of some poor results before they really began to find their feet the following season. The big step forward came when the Colts' "mentor", John Clark, gave up playing to concentrate his energies solely on the Colts, and found a willing helper on the coaching side in John Cousin, a former 1st XV captain and county back row forward. Further assisted by the arrival of an outstanding young player in Stephen Eno, who went on to win a place in the final England Colts trial, Tynedale Colts enjoyed a much improved year, culminating in the winning of the Northumberland Colts Cup for the first time with victories over Ashington, Gosforth, and, in the final, Ponteland by 14-7.

In 1973-74, the Colts did it again, this time showing a great deal of character in defeating an older and bigger Northern side 12-10 in the final at the County Ground.

By this time, too, the original once-a-fortnight training sessions, with perhaps ten players present, had given way to regular weekly training sessions, attracting up to a couple of score of young players from all parts of the district. And the Colts "nursery" was now beginning to feed players into the 1st XV with players like Robin Murray, Peter Telfer, John Smith, Chris Dixon, Martin Lytollis and Ian Thompson all moving through into the senior side.

In 1975-76, with the former Alnwick and Northumberland scrum-half, George Haldane now adding his coaching expertise, Geoff Forman and Hamish Murray played throughout the season for the County Colts, David Pick turned out at scrum-half in the first team and another player with colts experience, John Hedley, also had several 1st XV outings. Tynedale thus continued to confirm themselves as the outstanding Colts side in the county.

The fixture list was further expanded, too, one trip being made as far afield as Edinburgh, and the season was rounded off in fine style when the team won the Northumberland Colts Cup for the third time in four years with a 26-15 victory over Ponteland in the final. They followed it up eight days later by winning the Northumberland Colts "sevens" Cup at Morpeth.

From a playing viewpoint nothing has had a greater impact on Tynedale rugby since the Seventies than the development of Colts rugby.

Meanwhile, however, the development of rugby at junior level had been given a further impetus in 1974 by the introduction of a Northumberland Mini-Rugby Tournament, aimed at eight to thirteen-year-olds. This was taken up enthusiastically by a number of clubs in the

county, including Tynedale, whose coaching organiser, Chris Davy, was also made chairman of the new county mini-rugby committee, and, after a trial period at the latter end of the 1973-74 season, mini-rugby began in earnest at Tynedale in season 1974-75.

Two trophies were won in that first season and, by the middle of the 1975-76 season, Tynedale had something like a hundred and fifty mini-rugby players on its books, drawn from over two dozen schools all over the district. The club ended the season by getting three of its five sides through to the finals of the Northumberland tournament.

In between the Colts and mini-rugby systems, the number of games organised for other sides of school age within the club was also stepped up considerably during those two seasons. So much so that, in one ten-day period at Easter 1975, Tynedale found itself fielding no fewer than fifteen sides at 1st XV, 2nd XV, 3rd XV, 4th XV, Colts, Colts 'B', Academicals, Under-19, Under-18, Under-16, Under-14, Under-13, Under-12, Under-10 and Under-9 levels.

Re-organisation of the education system in Tynedale along comprehensive lines between 1974 and 1977 could have been a death-blow to the club, and indeed the continued provision of the sport in some form in at least some schools will still be essential in improving the quality and experience of schoolboy players coming into the club.

The dedicated work put into developing the Colts and mini-rugby networks in the last 25 years has undoubtedly done much to cushion the blow caused by the changes at the Grammar School, in a way that would not have been possible before 1970, and the club shows every prospect of earning increasingly rich dividends from it as the years progress.

Boasting a successful team, a rapidly improving fixture list and a refreshing brand of rugby in the early seventies, all Tynedale needed now was the playing strength in depth to ensure consistency of performance from game to game and season to season, together with the right setting in which it could fully develop its gathering potential.

As the club looked ahead to its centenary season, these twin objectives were moving rapidly towards realisation.



THE DECISION TO MOVE

Although the successful development of junior rugby at Tynedale improved the flow of young players into the club, it placed a further strain on its already cramped playing and clubhouse facilities at Dene Park, Hexham.

Opened in 1955, the clubhouse had already been extended by the addition of a bar lounge in 1966, built at a cost of some £6,000, but if this had helped to ease the after-match pressures on the social side, the lack of pitches and changing rooms continued to present problems from a playing viewpoint.

In the autumn of 1970, however, the opportunity arose to purchase the former Tyneside Agricultural Society showfield at Corbridge - and, boldly and imaginatively, the club grasped it with both hands.

The first intimation that Tynedale Park, with its vast expanse of thirty-five acres, might be available for sale came to the ears of the club president, Mr. Bill Dinning, who, wearing another of his hats, was a leading figure in the local agricultural community. Tynedale were playing Northern that day and it was in the Northern clubhouse at McCracken Park that the idea was broached and several senior committeemen decided that, in view of the enormous scope which Tynedale Park might offer for the future if acquired and developed, a general committee meeting should be called as a matter of urgency.

Two evenings later, on Monday 2nd November 1970, the committee voted to make an offer of £12,000 for the ground, and also to form a property committee comprising Mr. Dinning as chairman, Mr. Jim Chapman (secretary), Mr. Alan Charlton (treasurer) and Mr. David Barker (assistant treasurer), along with three leading committeemen in Mr. Stuart Enevoldson, Mr. Ken Bell and Mr. John Clark.

As the Tyneside Show was registered as a charity, the purchase took several months to complete - and, in the meantime, the club itself had to buckle down to the immense task of raising the £12,000 required. Various loans and grants were eventually secured from outside bodies, notably the Sports Council and Northumberland County Council, but, at the outset, the club was indebted to the generosity of twenty-three people who, between the, subscribed no less than £10,000 of the sum required by way of personal loans.

At an extraordinary general meeting on 1st April 1971, members gave approval for the signing of the contract, the club newsletter written by first team stalwart Douglas Hamilton observing: "A vote in favour is a vote for the future players of Tynedale. It is also a vote for a lot of hard work. There is something in working for posterity, and didn't previous generations at Tynedale do just that for us?"

Although refusal of planning permission for building at Dene Park and Broad Close held up any development at Corbridge for several seasons, except for the provision of a couple of playing pitches, the breakthrough came when the Hexham ground was sold to Northumberland County Council for £75,000 in 1974 and the clubhouse and car park to the National Coal Board Opencast Executive for £27,500 the following year.

The property committee now approached a leading firm of Newcastle architects, Faulkner-Brown Hendy Watkinson Stonor, to prepare a scheme for the new ground and clubhouse at Tynedale Park, and the Hexham firm of J.H. Newman and Sons (Builders) Ltd. was subsequently engaged to carry out the clubhouse contract at a cost of over £108,000. Building work began in May 1975 - some four and a half years after the Corbridge project was first initiated.

Meanwhile, the Tynedale club spent the whole of the 1975-76 season shuttling backwards and forwards between the playing pitches at Corbridge and the changing rooms and clubhouse at Hexham three miles away.

Fortunately, however, even after Tynedale 1st XV had played its last official game at Hexham on Wednesday 16th April 1975, beating Northern 22-12 in a Senior Cup semi-final, the co-operation of Northumberland County Council enabled the Broad Close pitch to be used throughout the 1975-76 season for training purposes and for the Sunday morning mini-rugby sessions.

By July 1976, the club's magnificent new headquarters at Corbridge (home of the celebrated Corstopitum "Lion") was ready. The development on the green fields of Tynedale Park, bordering the River Tyne, envisaged the eventual provision of five rugby pitches, a sixth floodlit training pitch, and a football pitch. At its heart lay a large, single-storey clubhouse, covering some 7,000 sq.ft. (650 sq.metres), built in Mitford Pressed Silver Grey Rustic brick which, like the timber used in the construction, had been exposed throughout. The building was set on a low podium to allow for the provision of stepped concrete terracing on the east side, sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds.

The clubhouse accommodation comprised ten spacious changing rooms, tiled plunge baths and showers, a separate referees' changing room with showers, an attractive entrance foyer, a large wood-floored social room, a carpeted, elegantly-lit lounge bar, a well-equipped modern kitchen, a committee room, and a full range of ancillary facilities, including toilets and storage. The windows were of tinted glass, and the interior furnishings to a high standard, with blue, green and beige the predominant colours. Around the clubhouse, parking

provision had been made for some three hundred and fifty cars, while the comprehensive landscaping scheme had involved the planting of nearly a hundred hardwood trees. Including the initial purchase of the ground, the total project had cost in the region of £142,000 by the time the new clubhouse was officially opened at the beginning of the 1976-77 centenary season.

Apart from the official centenary dinner planned for Langley Castle on 14th October 1976, the opening of the new clubhouse was to be the principal event of the centenary season. The occasion chosen for it was Tynedale's match against the Scottish First Division champions, Hawick, on the first night of the season, Wednesday 1st September 1976, with the immediate past president of the Rugby Football Union, Mr. Tarn

Bainbridge, being invited to perform the ceremony.

And so the centenary season began, with a new ground, a new clubhouse, an infusion of new young blood and, following the annual meeting in July 1976, a new thirty-four strong team of officers and committeemen led by the new centenary president, Mr. Stuart Enevoldson.

Compared with the modest list of eleven names making up the first club committee in October 1876, it was a committee of formidable size, but one whose composition amply reflected both the growth of the Tynedale club over the past century and the increasing complexity of its administration in modern times. Life may have been hard in the old days, but it was also immeasurably simpler.



Right wing Willie Rutherford on another powerful run, with Chris Davy and Alan Stokoe in support, in Tynedale's 31—10 victory over Melrose at the Greenyards in 1975.

A TYNEDALE CENTENARY 'FIFTEEN'

In the club's 'Centenary History' Michael Sharman listed fifteen of Tynedale's most outstanding personalities of that first hundred years. Edward Robson will later look at a similar team for the last 25 years - but those original centenary greats were:-



R.H. Robb played full-back in Tynedale's first-ever game against Elswick in a field at the top of Eastgate on 30th December 1876.

Five times club captain from 1878 to 1884, he was a member of the side which first won the Northumberland Senior Cup in 1887. Harry Robb later served two terms as president, in season 1922-23 and again in the golden jubilee year of 1926.

The name of Robb has been linked closely with the club since those days. Willie Robb captained the club from 1910 to 1913, played rugby and hockey for Northumberland and captained Tynedale at cricket. His brothers, Milne and Ridley also played rugby for Tynedale in that period.

Derek Robb, great nephew of Harry and nephew of Willie Robb, captained Tynedale in the 75th anniversary season of 1951-52, represented Northumberland and played in the cup-winning side of 1948, before polio cut short his rugby career.



During its formative years, the Tynedale club owed an enormous debt to the men of the North Tyne and Redewater - the Dodds, the Robsons and the rest - who travelled long distances to put their considerable playing abilities at the club's disposal.

None of them gave greater service than **Tom Robson**, who captained Tynedale for four successive years in the Eighties, and whose enthusiasm for the game was such that he once hired a relay of horses to get him from Otterburn for one game in Scotland.

One of the most popular captains in Tynedale's history and an all-round sportsman who later became Master of the North Tyne Hunt, organiser of the Border Sports and a more than useful shot, Tom Robson had his first game for Tynedale in 1880 and, seven years later, had the distinction of captaining the 1st XV to their first-ever Northumberland Senior Cup success. On the team's urn to Hexham after the game, he was hoisted

shoulder-high by jubilant team-mates and supporters and carried in triumph into the White Hart Hotel for the victory celebrations.

Robson's ability earned him numerous county appearances, and his son, Tom, later followed in his footsteps by playing for both club and county, and also, in 1914, in a Tynedale cup-winning side.



Not all Tynedale's great names are remembered for their playing achievements along. One such is **Anthony Emerson**.

Though not a player to match his brothers, Arthur and "Sep", both of whom played in the Northumberland pack, Anthony Emerson was nevertheless a skilful enough half-back in his time to have captained the 2nd XV and been vice-captain of the 1st XV.

His principal contribution to the club, however, was as an administrator. Appointed secretary-treasurer in 1896, he served in one or other of those capacities for most of the next fifteen years, and then took on the combined role once again to keep the club going during the Great War.

It was his work as treasurer at the turn of the century which largely rescued the club from a parlous financial plight, and it was while he was in this post in 1902 that Tynedale first rented the Dene Park ground at Hexham which was to be their home for the next seventy-five years. It was Emerson, too, who was the moving spirit when, in 1926, the club went on to purchase the ground outright to mark its golden jubilee.

Made a life member of Tynedale in 1911, an honour next bestowed on the club's longest-serving treasurer, Tommy Fenwick, in 1935, Anthony Emerson did not confine his services to rugby to the club alone. Tynedale's county representative for many years, he went on to become president of the Northumberland Rugby Football Union in 1930-31 and, for his services to the county as secretary-treasurer during the Second World War, was elected an honorary life member of the Union - a signal honour indeed.

It is arguable that, but for the foresight and financial prudence of Anthony Emerson, the Tynedale club would not this year be celebrating its 125-year life.



The name of **B.D. Plummer** first appeared on a Tynedale team-sheet during the Christmas holidays of 1908 when he was still a fifteen-year-old schoolboy at St. Bees. He went on to become one of the most accomplished half-backs ever to represent

Tynedale and Northumberland, and such was his dedication that, even at thirty, he was fit enough to play eleven matches in eighteen days during one hectic holiday period.

The period from 1910 to 1914 was a "Golden Age" for Tynedale rugby, and Ben Plummer was one of fourteen players from the club to represent their counties during this period. Curiously, he played his first game for Northumberland in France - against Stade Bordelais at Bordeaux on Easter Monday, 1913 - and he went on to gain further county honours after the war, including two seasons at scrum-half.

Although his playing career was interrupted by the First World War, during which he was awarded the Military Cross, Ben Plummer resumed playing immediately thereafter and he was selected as reserve for the first International trial at Bradford in 1920.

He went on to play a number of games for Northumberland, at both scrum-half and stand-off, and captained Tynedale for six seasons in succession in the immediate post-war years, a club record then and since. In 1926, he played at stand-off half in Tynedale's golden jubilee match against Waterloo.

After retiring from the game in 1927, he took up refereeing and handled a number of county matches before turning his attentions to the administrative side of the game, becoming a county selector in 1932.

At club level, he was treasurer of Tynedale from 1948 to 1959, and its president for four successive seasons from 1952 to 1956. At county level, after many years as Tynedale's county representative and eight years as county vice-president, he became president of the Northumberland Rugby Football Union for the two seasons 1947-48 and 1948-49.

It was a fitting honour to crown a model career as player, referee and administrator.



Like Ben Plummer, under whom he served as 1st XV vice-captain during the six seasons immediately succeeding the First World War, **Davie Forster** was a brave man. As Pte. Forster, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, he

served as "batman" to one of Tynedale's greatest pre-war players, Lieut. Col. Willie Robb, and, for his conspicuous gallantry in saving the latter's life on the Somme, after carrying his severely wounded C.O. under heavy fire to a place of safety six hundred yards away, he was decorated with the Military Medal.

But he gained honours in plenty too, on the field of play, for both club and county. It is not every player who can claim, as Forster could, that he played in two cup-winning sides thirteen years apart. Moreover, in the second of those cup finals, in 1927, Davie Forster not only captained his side to victory but himself kicked the conversion which gave them a 5-3 win over Northern.

It was his second season as captain. The previous year the player who had begun his career in junior rugby with Tyneside Rovers had had the honour of captaining Tynedale in their 50th anniversary season, leading them out for their jubilee match against Waterloo on 13th March 1926.

Twenty-five years later, Davie Forster was still holding an official position within the club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, as one of the most respected and longest-serving members of Tynedale's general committee.

It must have been a proud moment for him, marred only by the fact that his son, David, was no longer there to share it with him. For, after playing for the club before the Second World War, he was killed while escaping from a prisoner-of-war camp in Italy. In the matter of bravery, it was like father, like son, with the Forsters.



Of the many fine players to join the Tynedale club from the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School at Hexham the greatest name of them all was Kingsley **S.D. Hodgson**, who was games master at the school during the Thirties.

He joined Tynedale at the beginning of the 1931-32 season with an established reputation, having already played for both Durham County and Yorkshire, and he rapidly became the dominant personality within the club, captaining the 1st XV for five successive seasons with an infectious enthusiasm for the game which transmitted itself to all who played under him.

It produced a famous era in the club's history - one of which brought Tynedale the Northumberland Senior Cup for four successive seasons from 1933 to 1936. Hodgson himself led the side in all four of those cup finals, scoring four of Tynedale's thirteen tries, and he was also one of six members of the 1936 side to represent Northumberland against Hampshire in the final of the County Championship.

Although he officially retired from the game the following year, David Hodgson was still turning out on occasion for the 1st XV at wing three-quarter in 1938-39 - and scoring tries when the situation demanded. In that same season he also refereed the England Under-14 international trial at Hexham.

Sadly, however, David Hodgson was one of the casualties of the Second World War, which also cost Tynedale the lives of two others of the "Super Six" of 1936, Tommy Bland and Basil Liddle.

But his place in Tynedale history was already assured. In any side made up of all-time Tynedale "greats" very probably the first name to go down on the list would be that of K.W.D. Hodgson.



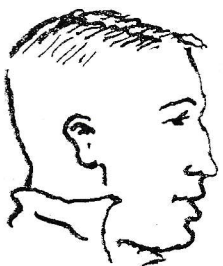
Another of the personalities of Tynedale's cup-winning side of the mid-thirties was **Jack Suddes**, a tough all-round forward and one of the finest hookers ever to pull on a blue and white jersey.

He holds two unique distinctions within the club : he

is the only Tynedale player ever to have played five times in a Northumberland Senior Cup-winning side - in 1927, 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936, and he is the only man to have played in a cup-winning 1st XV, 2nd XV, 3rd XV and 4th XV.

Father of John Suddes, who as fixtures secretary was principally responsible for Tynedale's much improved fixture list in the 1970's and 1980's, and was president from 1980 -1982, Jack Suddes made a string of county appearances and was one of six players from Tynedale to represent Northumberland in the County Championship final of 1936. He also had the distinction, that same year, of playing for Northumberland and Durham against the New Zealand "All Blacks".

It was the crowning moment of his Rugby Union career for, not long afterwards, he followed the path of several other leading Tynedale players over the years and went into the Rugby League game with the newly-formed Newcastle club where, coincidentally, he again found himself playing against the New Zealanders - this time at the thirteen-a-side game. In December 1938, he moved to Bramley and, though by now in the twilight of his career, still retained sufficient of his skills to be chosen as reserve hooker for England for a French tour.



Angus Brogdon, a running fly-half, would surely have been in his element in the modern game. He was a prolific

points-scorer whose skills earned him an international trial in December 1936. The match, coincidentally, was held at Workington, where Brogdon also won the first of his two dozen Northumberland caps in 1930, against Cumberland.

Having started his 1st XV career as a scrum-half in 1927-28, Angus Brogdon earned himself a regular first team stop at stand-off a couple of seasons later and, during the victory years of the Thirties, went on to become David Hodgson's able lieutenant - not only his vice-captain for five years running, but the mainspring of the back division.

His seven-season partnership with Basil Liddle at half-back became almost legendary and, together, they played in the Northumberland side which took on Hampshire in the final of the County Championship in 1936, as well as in all four Tynedale cup-winning sides. Brogdon it was who turned the match in the last of those four finals in 1936 when he set the whole ground alight with a brilliant solo try between the posts. With the conversion that followed, it brought Tynedale back from a seemingly hopeless position of 9-18 down to 14-18, with all to play for.

After so many years as "bridesmaid", Angus Brogdon was himself appointed captain of the 1st XV for the two seasons immediately preceding the Second World War, and, in 1960-61, crowned a long period of distinguished service to the game, including a spell as chairman of Tynedale's general committee, when he was elected president of the Northumberland Rugby Football Union.



Will Rutherford followed in Angus Brogdon's footsteps by winning an international trial at wing-forward at Sunderland in 1946. The previous season, along with brother Walter at prop, he had played for Northumberland, Cumberland and Durham against the New

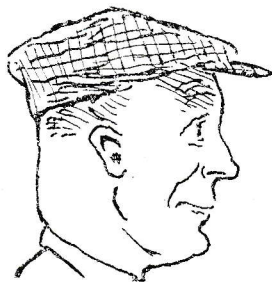
Zealand Army side, the "Kiwis", and he was also one of three Tynedale players in the Northumberland and Durham side which took on another side from "Down Under", the 1947-48 "Wallabies" from Australia.

Later that same season Will Rutherford captained the Tynedale side which carried off the Northumberland Senior Cup for the tenth time. Once again brother Walter played alongside him in the pack. Elder brother Hector also played a number of first team games, earning the nickname of the "Gentle Giant".

Although he retired from the game for business reasons soon after being re-elected captain for the 1948-49 season, Will Rutherford had already done more than enough to ensure his place among the greatest of all Tynedale forwards.

And his name lived on through his sons Willie and John who kept up the family tradition as 1st XV stalwarts, both being strong running three-quarters who served Tynedale for many years.

During the past 125 years the Tynedale club has had several long-serving presidents, including Isaac Baty for sixteen seasons from 1878 to 1894 and Chris Henderson for just one season fewer from 1899 to the outbreak of the First World War.



But the longest serving of them all was **John Patterson** who, for seventeen seasons spanning either side of the Second World War, held with distinction the highest office that any rugby club has to offer. He was first elected president in 1929 and, remarkably, despite a six-year break during the war, continued in that position right up to 1952. The following year he was made a life member of the club.

The Patterson family have done much for the Tynedale club and, perhaps uniquely in Northumberland rugby, no fewer than three of them, all brothers, have served as secretaries of the club.

First came William Patterson who played for Tynedale at the turn of the century and was appointed secretary for the 1900-01 season. He went on to represent the club on the county committee for many years and, as a respected chartered accountant in Hexham, was honorary auditor to both Tynedale and Northumberland for some forty years.

His younger brother, Armorer Patterson, was an outstanding Tynedale forward before and after the First World War, making over thirty appearances for Northumberland and playing in Tynedale's cup-winning sides of 1911 and 1914.

He took over as secretary from 1905 to 1909 and, like his elder brother, later became county representative, following Anthony Emerson's election as Northumberland vice-president.

Armorer's immediate successor as club secretary in season 1909-10 was his other brother, John, whose playing career had unfortunately been cut short by injury. He, too, went on to serve four years as secretary before and after the Great War, and then became chairman of committee right through the Twenties before being elected president in 1929.



If ever anyone could be dubbed "Mr. Tynedale", it is surely **Andrew Richardson!**

There was a Richardson (possibly a relative) on the first-ever Tynedale committee in 1876, and the name has been

linked with the club almost ever since. "Drew" Richardson's father was secretary in 1898-99 and 1st XV vice-captain the following year, and played at full-back in the cup-winning side of 1906. "Drew" himself captained the third team to Junior Cup success in 1948, and his son, Gordon, earned county recognition as a hooker in the late Fifties.

Although his job before the war entailed Saturday afternoon working and precluded him from official selection most of the time, "Drew" would nevertheless contrive to turn up somehow on match days, carrying his bag in the hope of getting a game.

After wartime RAF service (subsequently the source of many a lengthy tale in the bar), he at last managed to find a job which got its priorities right in giving him Saturday afternoons off, and he and his fellow prop, Bobby Dodds, rapidly became the twin terrors of the 3rd XV circuit.

He played just once for the 1st XV, but ended his playing career on the highest of notes by captaining his side to Junior Cup glory in 1948.

A long-serving member of the general committee, and a selector for several years, "Drew" Richardson saw his devotion to the club recognised in 1974 by his election as president. And, while this elevated position within the club somewhat inhibited him in his other vital role as Tynedale's most vociferously partisan supporter on the touchlines, his two-year term of office proved outstandingly successful in every respect.

"To me it is a privilege to be a member of Tynedale, never mind president," declared Andrew Richardson on his election to the club's highest office. No words ever summed up better a true clubman.

Though neither a player nor an administrator with the Tynedale club, **Bill Dix** nevertheless had a profound influence on its development in Tynedale's second half-century.



For he it was who, in season 1919-20, introduced the game of rugby football to the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School at Hexham. It was a move which was to shape both the school's fine sporting tradition and the composition of many a future Tynedale team.

At the time there were no other schools in Northumberland playing rugby, and the only schoolboy opposition was provided by Newcastle's Royal Grammar School. But, as Tynedale 4th XV, the school side quickly proved itself a formidable enough force to win the Northumberland Junior Shield several times within the next decade.

The youngest master in the school at 23 when he first joined the staff in 1911, he went on to serve for 41 years as geography master under six different headmasters, until his eventual retirement in 1952.

Throughout that time, he sustained a wide variety of sporting interests outside the school, playing hockey and tennis for the Tynedale clubs at Prior's Flat and, for a number of years, being an active member of Hexham Golf Club.

But rugby was his first love and, during his twelve years as rugby master at Hexham Grammar School, he never missed a single school 1st XV game. He was the first in a long line of school rugby masters to forge a link between school and club, and Tynedale Rugby Football Club has been indebted to him ever since. Fittingly, it marked his retirement in 1952 by conferring on him honorary life membership.



As player and administrator, **K.T. Bell** has few, if any, equals among post-war Tynedale personalities.

A much better player than he was often given credit for, he might well have proved it had he been played continuously in his best position at stand-off

half, rather than at centre or wing.

While a National Serviceman in 1948, Ken Bell had the unusual distinction of playing in two Tynedale cup-winning sides in the space of a fortnight, replacing the injured Maguire in the 1st XV which carried off the Northumberland Senior Cup and helping "Drew" Richardson's 3rd XV win the Junior Cup.

Although Ken Bell later went on to become 1st XV vice-captain in the mid-Fifties and, indeed, captained the side for a dozen games or so when Jimmy Newlands fell ill, his major contribution to the club has been off the field rather than on it.

Having served his "apprenticeship" under the late Laurie Bouckley on the special efforts committee in the late Forties and early Fifties, which culminated in the opening of the Dene Park clubhouse in 1955, he became assistant treasurer in 1960 and treasurer a year later. Apart from a five-season break between 1969 and 1974 it is a position he held until 1977.

A valuation surveyor by profession, Ken Bell's keen financial brain and total dedication to his job during one of the most crucial periods in the club's history made him not only a quite outstanding club treasurer, but probably the most competent Tynedale official of the past quarter of a century. With the club secretary Jim Chapman, he played a key role in the protracted negotiations involved

in the sale of the Hexham ground and the acquisition of Tynedale Park at Corbridge, and, fittingly, both men were made honorary life members of the club in 1976 in recognition of their work.

Tynedale's county representative from 1961 to 1975, Ken Bell also attained the ultimate honour in Northumberland rugby in 1975-76 with his election as president of the Northumberland Rugby Football Union. No clubman ever deserved it more.



There are few better-known figures in Northumberland rugby today than **Bill Dinning**.

Having played his early game for the club during the war years, often against Services sides, Bill Dinning was selected for the county immediately after the war, initially in the unofficial matches of 1945-46, and, the following season, in the championship side. He then played for Northumberland virtually without break right up to 1953, missing only one game and setting a new record for county caps.

It was quite a remarkable achievement, and a tribute not merely to his ability but to his fitness and his total dedication as a player.

Along with his brother-in-law, Will Rutherford and another team-mate, Ken Hall, Bill Dinning played for Northumberland and Durham against the "Wallabies" in 1947-48 and, later that same season, was in the second row in the Tynedale side which carried off the Northumberland Senior Cup.

Vice-captain of the 1st XV in the club's 75th anniversary season of 1951-52, he continued to play regularly up to the mid-Fifties, and, even when appearing on only an occasional basis in the junior sides in 1956, was still the driving force in the pack in the Tynedale 3rd XV which, that year, won the Northumberland Junior Cup.

From then until 1970, Bill Dinning concentrated his attentions on his growing family and his many farming commitments, but since that time has been one of its most influential figures, besides having the added pleasure of seeing his son, Roger, carry on the family name as 1st XV No.8 for many years.

Bill Dinning took over the club presidency following the sudden death of Bobby Blackburn in 1970 and served a second term in 1971-72. Among other posts, he has also been chairman of the property committee, as well as being one of the prime instigators behind the introduction of mini-rugby at Tynedale.

As the originator of, and the main driving force behind,

the acquisition of Tynedale Park, Bill Dinning's place in club history is forever assured, as was formally acknowledged in 1976 by his election as an honorary life member of the club.



Prior to his arrival in Hexham in the spring of 1952, **Stuart Enevoldson** had played most of his rugby in Yorkshire and Lancashire. He went on to play for several years in the Tynedale 1st XV front row, followed by a spell in the junior sides, before hanging up his boots.

It was to be prelude to a busy career as one of Tynedale's most valuable administrators.

Having served for some five years on the general committee, "Ene" became secretary in 1960 at a time when the club's finances were in a distinctly shaky state and, along with treasurer Ken Bell, was primarily responsible for getting it back on an even keel, the huge deficit of 1959 being turned into a credit balance by 1961. He went on to retain the secretaryship right through the Sixties, during which period the lounge bar extension to the clubhouse was completed.

FARMING CONNECTIONS

Farmers have provided the backbone of Tynedale Rugby Club's teams for many years. The physical nature of their work, whether it's wrestling with recalcitrant tups, heaving bales of hay about or tramping round endless fellsides, makes farmers ideal candidates for the rugby field, and over its 125-year history, Tynedale Rugby Club has had the benefit of the skills of many members of the farming community.

Few clubs have stronger links with agriculture, and over the years, the farmers have rendered sterling service in all areas of the game. For the last two seasons the club has been led by Keith Johnson, farming at Wolf Hills, Coanwood.

The club has always had strong links with the Redesdale area, and back in the 1920's, the Redeswater farmers used to come by horseback to Redesmouth, where they caught the train to Hexham to play at Dene Park, the club's old headquarters.

Amid all this, "Ene" still found time to involve himself in the playing side at a point in Tynedale's history when results were often little short of depressing. As a member of the selection committee for seven years, and its chairman for four, he did as much as anyone to encourage the new and more positive approach to the game which, by the end of the decade, was producing vastly improved results.

Made an honorary life member of the club in 1972, he was an active member of the property committee responsible for the purchase and subsequent development of Tynedale Park, and indeed, right from the outset, proved one of the project's most enthusiastic supporters.

Not the least of the many benefits that "Ene" bestowed on the club however, were his two rugby-playing sons, Nigel and Peter, both of whom played at prop forward in Tynedale 1st XV, in England schoolboy teams at Under-15 and Under-19 level, and in the England Under-23 squad.

There was no better choice to link Tynedale's past and future, as centenary year president, than Stuart Enevoldson.

Just looking at the post-war years, is it any coincidence that when Tynedale have lifted the Northumberland Senior Cup, they have had a farmer as captain, and all the sides have had a heavy leavening of agricultural stock?

Back in 1948, the side was led by the rugged Will Rutherford, of East Mill Hills, Haydon Bridge, a player of such class that he was given an England trial when it was unfashionable to pick players from the North. In the side with him were his brother Walter, a former captain and also a formidable forward, now living in Canada. Playing alongside them was another of Tynedale's distinguished captains, Bill Dinning, then of Highfield, Catton, who was a county player on nearly 30 occasions, and one of the most respected figures in the game. Joining this powerful trio in the pack was Bill Luke, from Hedley Park, Hedley on the Hill, and in the centre was another farmer, Dickie Waugh, who was quite a character. He rented a farm from Roy Charlton, of the Linnels, Hexham, and lived in

FARMING CONNECTIONS

Patterdale in the Lake District, but travelled across every Saturday to play rugby.

In that 1948 final, widely regarded as one of the best finals ever, Tynedale just pipped Northern by 15-13.

Tynedale had to wait another 40 years for their next Senior Cup win, but when it came there was another farmer at the helm in the craggy form of Alan Gledson, then of Shortmoor, Wark.

One of the most inspirational skippers the club has had, Gledson inspired his side to a 13-6 win over the old enemy Gosforth. The victory was based on a solid performance by the forwards, who had a heavy sprinkling of sons of the soil, including both props from Hexhamshire, Richard Parker of Spittalshields, and Martin White of Steel Hall, another Hexhamshire lad in Mickey Lee from Harewoodshield at flanker, and the amiable lock, Angus Murray from Sewingshields, up on the Roman Wall, father of Jamie and Andrew.

On the bench for that game was another of the club's great servants, the North of England prop forward Chris Dixon, then of Kellah in the South Tyne valley. Outside that pack, there was the familiar hunched figure of winger Johnny Rutherford, another of the Rutherfords of that ilk from East Mill Hills at Haydon Bridge.

Four years later, the cup was Tynedale's again, with several of the same farmers still involved, including Richard Parker, Martin White and Johnny Rutherford, as Tynedale defeated Novocastrians 15-3. Richard Parker was now captain, following the retirement of the legendary Gledson, and taking over as hooker was Richard's brother Edward. (Coincidentally, the Parker's farm at Spittalshields abuts Churchlands at Catton, where that 1948 cup winner and captain, Bill Dinning, was born).

Keeping up the family theme, Angus Murray had gracefully retired, but into the breach stepped his brother Hamish, a fiery flanker who played a key role in the victory. Also playing a major role was the indestructible Campbell Hewitson, a shepherd from the upper reaches of the Coquet Valley at Philhope, Rothbury, who learned his rugby at Border Park, but reached county standard at Tynedale.

Before the war, Tynedale also won the Senior Cup in 1927, when the winning try came from Geoff Robson, who farmed at the Newton, Bellingham.

But there's more to rugby than winning cups, and Tynedale's links with farming stretch back a long way. It's fascinating to see the same names cropping up, over and over again, and to realise that these were the names used by those rather less civilised scrummagers, the Border Reivers. The name Robson pops up frequently, for as well

as Geoff of the Newton, there was T.R. Robson, of Byrne Farm, who was captain for seven years. Tommy Robson of Bridgeford, Bellingham, J. Robson, also of the Newton, W.J. Robson of Snabdaugh, Tasset, and M. Robson of Otterstone Lee, now languishing beneath Kielder Water but in its day, the largest farm in England, at 9,999 acres

In modern times, there was Mick Robson, from Bardon Mill, ex-president Edward Robson who farmed at Row Head in Hexhamshire, and another of the club's great servants and former captains, Billy Robson, of Chesterhope, West Woodburn.

Rutherfords also abound, and as well as the Will, Walter and Johnny already mentioned from East Mill Hills, there was also Hector and another Will, all of the same address.

John Clark, of Featherstone Castle, has been responsible for introducing many farmers to rugby over the past 30 years, including Angus and Hamish Murray from Sewingshields, mentioned earlier, their brother Robin, and the four Telfer cousins - Roger and Peter from Brocksbushes at Corbridge, and Percy and Peter from Chapel Farm at Stamfordham.

And that's not to mention a host of others who never made first XV standard.

People still talk fondly of Si Dodd, from Catcleugh in the Upper Rede Valley - whose grandson, Simon Murray formerly from Coldtown, West Woodburn, was a fine centre - and of the Thompsons, Mike and Humphrey, from Beaumont House at Colwell. Playing for Tynedale was and still is a great privilege, and few took it more seriously than Adam Little, of Mousen, Belford.

Another long-distance traveller was Andy Bell, of South Charlton, at Alnwick, who had a couple of games for Tynedale before switching allegiance to Northern. Also maintaining his connections with the club after leaving the district was John Moffitt, who used to live at Low Barns, Wall, but moved to Penrith, from where he commuted on a Saturday.



The journeys from North Northumberland and Cumbria were mere cockstrides compared with the ones made by some Tynedale players, because the club at one stage had three New Zealand farmers in Don Jack, Graham Sturgeon and Hugh Gardner, and two Australians in Jack O'Sullivan and Joe Jeloffe. They also had another New Zealander in Jim Renwick, who liked the area so much he settled on a farm at Alston.

Others took the game less seriously, and many remember Jack Hepple, from Horsley, who rode in a point-to-point one morning and turned out for Tynedale in an important cup tie the following afternoon.

John Stephenson, from Cronkey was a useful player, as was Charles Harrison from Pia Troon at Allendale, and other fine players from farming backgrounds were Peter Dixon of Dilstonhaugh at Corbridge, John Horncastle from The Hope, Allendale, Tim Thompson from Hedley, Tommy Little from Blanchland and renowned friesian expert, John Moffitt of Peepy Farm, Stocksfield. Of the Stonehouse brothers from Hedley-on-the-Hill, Phil went on to become a member of Tynedale Council, as did two other fierce competitors, Ted Woodman, of Crow Hall, Bardon Mill, and Harold Forster, of Temperley Grange, Corbridge.

Another member of the 'Shire mafia, Clive Nixon, from Stotsfold, hit the headlines a few years ago when he accidentally injected himself rather than a sheep before a game and put himself in hospital!

Some Hexhamshire farm boys were real all-rounders, like John Pickworth, from Whalley Thorn. As well as excelling at rugby for Tynedale, he also played cricket, and turned out as a respected if unconventional football referee.

Who could forget the battling performances from Cordon Cairns, of Gunnerton Fell, or Gordon Rowell, from Welton at Stamfordham, or Dick Powell from Dilston, or Dick

Johnson from Hexham?

There's Paul Walker, of Black Heddon, Stamfordham... Bill Dinning's son, Roger, from Whittle Farm at Horsley.... Chris Richardson, from Frankham Farm at Fourstones.... Bob Gibson, from Newham at Belsay.... Dennis Willey, of The Bridges, at Minsteracres. Then there's Felix Jessop and O.L. Jessop, from Clarewood at Corbridge.... Howard Forster, of Temperley Grange.... Mike Herdman of Robe Barn, Blanchland, his son Don.... Angus Herdman of Shildon Hill, Newton.... Johnnie Johnson of Lowgate.... Jimmy Johnson of West Wharmley.... Alistair Johnson, brother of club-captain Keith, Peter Southern (Bullet), Grant Rastall, son of Alex, Ron Horncastle, John's son, James Forster from Wharmley, Ed. Holmes from Highfield, Wittonstall, Cameron Batey from North Acomb Farm, John White, Alan Wancke of Thorngrafton..... the list goes on and on.

But farmers have suffered enormously recently, first with BSE and recently, of course, with the nightmare of Foot & Mouth Disease, which has affected many players directly with the culling of their animals and others marginally because of the drastic impact of animal movement restrictions and disease controls. Many will never recover. The disease has put rugby into perspective. From February 2001 onwards, until the end of the season, the club decided to cancel all fixtures and training sessions at all levels until the disease was defeated. With the livelihoods of so many members at risk this seemed the only acceptable course.

Rugby is but a game. Nevertheless, we trust that things will return to normal for our friends in the farming community - so that they can once again participate in the peripheral, but enjoyable game of rugby football.

Their contribution to the wellbeing of Tynedale Rugby Club has been immense - and long may it continue.



Dick Parker



Mickey Lee

TEAMS TO REMEMBER

In 1976 two imaginary Tynedale teams were selected; the first, by Michael Sharman, represented his choice from a playing membership stretching back over one hundred years from 1876-1976, based on reading and research - but discounting players still playing at that time.

The second team, selected by Andrew Richardson ex-president and notable Tynedale character, and Wilf Young, groundsman and club stalwart, covered the 50 years from 1927 - 1976. Their choices, in this impossible task, were:-

Tynedale XV 1876-1976 (Michael Sharman)	Tynedale XV 1927-1976 (Drew Richardson & Wilf Young)
Teddy Blench	Teddy Blench
Harry Robb Tommy Bland Willie Robb Tom Robson Sen.	# David Carr Tommy Bland Peter Dixon Alan Pye
# Angus Brogdon # Ben Plummer	# Angus Brogdon * Malcolm Young
Bill Dinning Jack Suddes Walter Rutherford	Bill Dinning Jack Suddes Walter Rutherford
Arthur Emerson Armorer Patterson	Rex Graham Jimmy McComb
David (KWD) Hodgson Davie Forster # Will Rutherford	David Hodgson John Scott # Will Rutherford
* International	# Trialist

Continuing this irresistible but futile game of team-picking, an exercise which is designed to lose friends, and generate scorn, astonishment or laughter, a "champagne" team of the last 25 years has been chosen by club stalwart John Shotton. John has been involved with the players as Chairman of Rugby, selector and 1st XV manager since the 1970's, and he has made his choice from players in the 1976-2001 era who played at least 30 games for Tynedale 1st XV. This rules out two players, Andrew Blyth and Jamie Murray who would have been in contention.

Tynedale XV 1976-2001. (John Shotton)
John Smith
David Carr * Richard Cramb * John Fletcher * Epi Taione
Jamie Paton Simon Clayton-Hibbott
Richard Parker Alan Gledson (Capt.) Martin White
Steve Dunn Ross Taylor
Wallace Cousin Graham Yates James Pontin
* International # Trialist (or equivalent)

John writes "The full-back position goes to John Smith who just edges out Iain Harris and Alan Stokoe. His exceptional pace gave him the 'nod' and any defensive frailties would be covered by the two wingers."

"At centre, John Fletcher picks himself, although quite a number of other players come into contention, but as an all-round footballer Richard Cramb, capped there by Scotland, gets the vote, with the excellent Jamie Paton slotting into the fly-half berth."

"At scrum-half Simon Clayton-Hibbott is selected, with only Neil McDowell coming anywhere near."

"The props fought off competition from Chris Dixon, Percy Telfer, and Paul Winter in particular."

"At lock, Ross Taylor gets in as the best line-out exponent and Steve Dunn fought off competition from Angus Murray, Andy Oglethorpe, Campbell Hewitson and Pat McGuinness."

"At No. 8 Graham Yates is picked for a high level of performance over many years, whilst the flankers, playing left and right, were both fast, hard and uncompromising. This meant leaving out Justin Smart, Stuart Hurst and Vince Fox."



"Alan Stokoe doesn't get in although, at his best, he was the best all-round "footballer" in my opinion, that I have seen in the backs at Tynedale - the best replacement for the back six."

"What an enthralling thought, the backs packed with internationals and a few who should have been - pace and skill all round!"

THE SEVENTIES - DECLINE AND REDEVELOPMENT

1st XV Record 1970 - 1980.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Win %
1970/71	39	29	2	8	621	293	76.9
1971/72	35	24	1	10	628	390	70.0
1972/73	37	25	1	11	814	429	74.3
1973/74	36	21	1	14	726	372	59.7
1974/75	34	22	4	8	716	412	70.6
1975/76	38	26	1	11	671	426	69.7
1976/77	38	25	1	12	726	353	67.1
1977/78	35	16	1	18	446	363	47.1
1978/79	31	16	3	12	367	294	56.5
1979/80	38	21	1	16	503	343	56.6
	361	225	16	120			Average Success 64.5%

Northumberland Senior Cup No. 1 Wins
(2 appearances) Nil

Senior Shield No. 2 Wins 1 1975

Junior Cup No. 3 Wins Nil

Junior Shield No. 4 Wins Nil

Tynedale opened this new decade in 1971 with another singularly successful season, winning twenty-nine games and reaching the final of the Northumberland Senior Cup by virtue of victories over Rockcliff and Morpeth. But, although they won abundant possession, they were unable to capitalise on it and the holders, Gosforth, ran out victors by 19-6.

So they did again in 1975 when, after beating Percy Park and Northern, Tynedale once more faced up to Gosforth in the final and once more went down to defeat, this time by 22-3 after missing a string of penalty kicks and dominating much of the first half. On this occasion, though, they did at least have the dual consolation of having seen Alistair Whitfield's 2nd XV carry off the Northumberland Senior Shield with a 24-4 victory over North Shields a few days earlier, and of winning a place themselves in the national knock-out competition for the John Player Cup the following season.

On 20th September 1975, they took the field against the Cheshire Cup holders, Sale, in a preliminary round tie, and, though hard hit by injuries, nevertheless gave a creditable account of themselves. In a storming finish, they went down only 16-15 to the eventual semi-finalists,

a national daily newspaper subsequently dubbing them the "Tynedale Terrors".

By this time, indeed, Tynedale were proving themselves a match for all but the highest quality opposition in the North of England and South of Scotland. Under the leadership of Ian Blyth, five times captain in the space of seven seasons, including the current centenary season, back play flourished as never before since the balmy days of the mid-Thirties.

Tynedale scored so freely that, in 1972-73, a year after the introduction of the four-point try, they set up a new club points-scoring record of 814 points, and they went on to average over 700 points in each of the ensuing three seasons. Individually, Alan Stokoe twice in successive seasons broke the club record by scoring 246 and 310 points in 1971-72 and 1972-73, while Tony Milburn went close to it with 297 points in season 1974-75.

The Tynedale game had been based for so long on solid forward power that this transformation to fast, open, fifteen-man rugby, founded essentially on teamwork but providing ample scope for individual flair, was as unexpected as it was entertaining.



DUDLEY HALLWOOD visited Tynedale on Saturday



AT THE PRE-MATCH CONFERENCE THE MODEST CIGARETTE OF TYNEDALE'S PRESIDENT DREW RICHARDSON WAS HEAVILY OUT-GUNNED BY THE PIPES OF

COUNTY PRESIDENT **KEN BELL**

SECRETARY **JIM CHAPMAN**

AND GROUNDSMAN **WILF YOUNG** NOW

STOKER WILF YOUNG WILL ADMIT UNDER PRESSURE THAT HE WON THE WAR (WITH A LITTLE ASSISTANCE FROM THE R.A.F AND

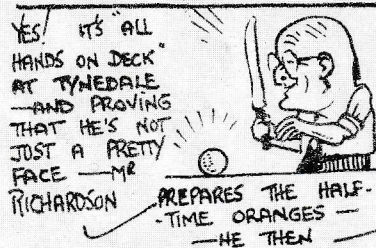


DAD'S ARMY!

AND HE REALISES THAT WHEREAS WATERLOO MAY HAVE BEEN WON ON THE PLAYING FIELDS OF ETON



ALL TYNEDALE'S VICTORIES MUST BE WON ON THE PLAYING FIELDS OF CORBRIDGE!



YES! IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK AT TYNEDALE AND PROVING THAT HE'S NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE MR RICHARDSON

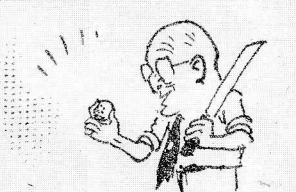
PREPARES THE HALF-TIME ORANGES - HE THEN



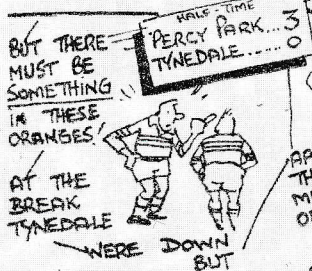
RESTS FOR HALF-AN-HOUR TAKES A



DOSE OF MEDICINE AND IS SOON READY TO



START THE SECOND ORANGE!



BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THESE ORANGES

HALF-TIME PERCY PARK... 3 TYNEDALE... 0

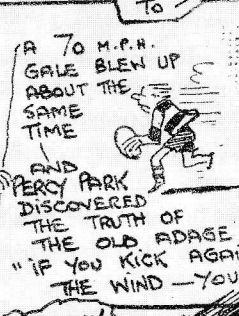
AT THE BREAK TYNEDALE WERE DOWN BUT



AFTER THEIR MEAL OF ORANGES THEY WERE

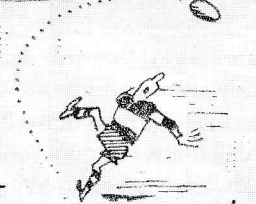


ALL OVER PERCY PARK - MIND YOU, THERE IS THE POINT THAT

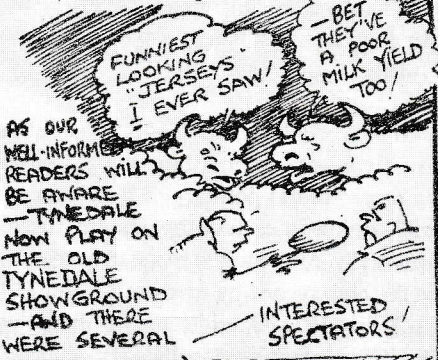


A 70 M.P.H. GALE BLEW UP ABOUT THE SAME TIME

AND PERCY PARK DISCOVERED THE TRUTH OF THE OLD ADAGE "IF YOU KICK AGAINST THE WIND - YOU



GET YOUR OWN BACK!



AS OUR WELL-INFORMED READERS WILL BE AWARE TYNEDALE NOW PLAY ON THE OLD TYNEDALE SHOWGROUND AND THERE WERE SEVERAL INTERESTED SPECTATORS

FUNNIEST LOOKING JERSEYS I EVER SAW!

BET THEY'VE A POOR MILK YIELD TOO!

IN THE BEST BRITISH TRADITION (AND BUSINESS BEING BUSINESS) TYNEDALE HAVE LEASED PART OF THEIR GROUND

BUT DADDY - IT'S A ROUND BALL!

TO A SOCCER CLUB!

THAT'S DEMOCRACY MY SON!

ROUND ORANGES TO -



THIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE PICTURE OF TYNEDALE'S NEW PAVILION - WAITING TO BE ASSEMBLED! (WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER DETAILS!)

BUT LET'S BE FAIR! - HOW MANY YEARS OF DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS DID IT TAKE BEFORE THE R.U. ALLOWED THE CHANGE FROM

ROUND ORANGES?!! Dudley Hallwood 1975

TYNEDALE COLTS 1976



Claiming Tynedale's third success in four seasons in the Northumberland Colts Cup in 1976 were this team. Back row : D. Ford, A. Johnson, R. Telfer, F. Dickinson, P. Walker, J. Self, A. Gledson, R. Parker. Front row : D. Pick, M. Fagan, H. Murray, G. Forman (capt.), R. Self, S. Tiffin, I. Dodds.

How many of these players went on to further senior successes? Which one played 1st XV rugby in 2001?

THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

THE FOREIGN INFLUENCE

To survive 125 years, any club, or business, needs incredible luck and fortitude. To survive and progress, as Tynedale has done, is testament to many facets of life in this Valley. Danes, Romans and Jacobites all had an influence, but the Reivers of Northumberland, and especially the two Tyne Valleys, bred a basic instinct for survival that has stood the test of time.

An introvert attitude can result in stagnation and even decline. Fortunately for Tynedale the infiltration of the club of several Celtic members kept Tynedale on an improving course. Travelling Tinkers, the Robbs and the Welch's, Irishmen like McMeekin and Thornton, Welshmen, Hopkins and Mainwaring, several Scots, notably Hastie, Harris, Robertson, Paton and Cramb, and finally two Tongans fitted the odd pieces of the jigsaw that eventually ended the Gosforth domination of Northumberland and helped Tynedale to the National Leagues. A New Zealander, Don Jack, made the Anzac connection and now a South African, Steve Olivier, can provide the 'Spur' to even greater glory in the 2000's.

CENTENARY YEAR - 1976

The Centenary Year meant perhaps more to those who had played before, than to those who actually played in 1976. Many on the touchline had played in seasons where wins were the exception rather than the rule.

Losing 76 players in the two World Wars would have been savage enough for city clubs, but for a club such as Tynedale, from a relatively sparsely populated area, survival alone was no mean feat. How fitting that Ian Blyth should be captain in Centenary Year having almost equalled the record appointments of Benny Plummer. Stuart Enevoldson, the longest serving Secretary in the history of the Club, was President, Ken Bell was Treasurer, all three serving Tynedale through the lean years as players and stewards of the Club.

How interesting that in our 125th year the appointment of Steve Olivier as Club Coach has resulted in an opening fixture with his previous club, Waterloo, unaware, I'm sure, that this great club also helped us celebrate our 50th and 100th years.

The side in '76 was:

Chris Davy

John Smith

Ian Greener

Ian Blyth (Captain)

Alan Pye

Peter Telfer

Tony Milburn

Peter Enevoldson

Rob Cunningham

Nigel Enevoldson

Angus Murray

Douglas Hamilton

Justin Smart

Stuart Hurst

Wallace Cousin

How proud was the Club President having both sons, Schoolboy Internationals, propping either side of Rob Cunningham.

A feast of rugby for the supporters, with 30 home games against prestigious opposition.

THE YEARS IN SCOTLAND

The Sixties and Seventies were a Fixture Secretary's nightmare, with all the so-called 'Fashionable' clubs trying to better their lists.

Tynedale were considered a 'Hiding-to-Nothing' Fixture. If they beat us - 'so what', if they lost - it would harm their cause.

The decision was taken to look North, with the help of Jock Robertson, the border Union Secretary and father of our coach, Peter, John Suddes took Tynedale over the Border.

The culture shock was more marked for the supporters as by now players were emerging from John Clark's colts for, abetted by Veterinary Grenville Harris, they had long played with success over the 'Wall'.

In 1986 Tynedale took their first overseas tour to Canada, based in Ontario. President Edward Robson, coach Steve Mullins and tour captain Billy Robson, raised a side to play five matches, winning three. With only one guest, Ian 'Paddler' Laidlaw, Tynedale played some serious rugby against sides of much better standard than the

referees! Man of the tour was Angus Murray, long written off at home. He and many others came home with a new appetite.

Notable matches of the period that spring to mind were against West Hartlepool, then in the ascendancy a 10-10 draw and Selkirk and their 'Lions', a 23 - 22 win.

TYNEDALE v. WEST HARTLEPOOL

Saturday, 4th February, 1984

Tynedale Park, Corbridge

TYNEDALE

15 D. MADDISON	Full Back
14 J. RUTHERFORD	Right Wing
13 M. RICHARD	Centre
12 P. SHARMAN	Centre
11 A. PYE*	Left Wing
10 G. TAYLOR	Fly Half
9 G. STURGEON*	Scrum Half
1 R. PARKER	Prop
2 A. GLEDSON, Capt.*	Hooker
3 C. DIXON*	Prop
4 T. HOLLIDAY	Lock
5 S. DUNN	Lock
6 M. LEE	Fik Forward
8 F. DICKINSON	No. 8
7 W. ROBSON	Fik Forward

* Northumberland

Referee: Mr. M. COMMON

WEST HARTLEPOOL

D. BOYD	15
A. MITCHELL	14
P. STACEY	13
R. SIGLEY	12
K. GARNET	11
J. STABLER	10
I. WATERSON	9
G. COOK	1
N. CROSBY	2
E. BELL	3
C. BENTLEY, Capt.	4
D. MITCHELL	5
M. BAGGS	6
B. MURDO	8
P. ROBINSON	7

SUPPORTERS' LAMENT

The boys went up to Murrayfield
And suffered in the rain,
Sitting helpless in their "Debentures"
As Hare missed, yet again!

The front row almost crumbled
As Toms put on the shove,
The Tynedale bus should have left then,
But no-one dared to move.

They sat there, in stoic silence,
As Rutherford showed his class,
While England's finest winger
Never received a pass!

Winterbottom went off injured,
A badly damaged hip;
Flasks came out in the "Debentures",
For an anaesthetising nip!

They scurried out of Scotland,
The whistle came too late,
Even a steak in Lauder
Was hardly worth the wait.

Drowning sorrows late in Otterburn,
It dawned, "wouldn't it have been best?"
To stay at Tynedale Park and see
Our brave boys holding "West?"

Extract from a Tynedale match programme with a poetic E. Robson getting in a few digs at the Murrayfield brigade, Tynedale's travelling supporters.

The learning curve continued with great games and hospitality at the likes of Ayr, West of Scotland, Heriots, Watsonians, Jedforest, Hawick, Kelso, Selkirk, and Galashiels. Then in the years before Scottish Leagues were formed, unbeaten against Scottish opposition. Some feat!

With the formation of the Scottish Leagues, these fixtures were lost at a stroke and so preparation for the English Leagues began.

TYNEDALE v. SELKIRK

Tynedale Park, Corbridge

Saturday, 7th February, 1987

TYNEDALE

15 R. HARRIS	<i>Full Back</i>
14 J. RUTHERFORD	<i>Right Wing</i>
13 G. TAYLOR	<i>Centre</i>
12 M. RICHARD, Capt*	<i>Centre</i>
11 A. CUTHBERTSON	<i>Left Wing</i>
10 S. RICKETTS	<i>Fly Half</i>
9 C. REAY	<i>Scrum Half</i>
1 R. PARKER*	<i>Loose Head</i>
2 A. GLEDSON*	<i>Hooker</i>
3 C. DIXON*	<i>Tight Head</i>
4 S. DUNN*	<i>Lock</i>
5 A. MURRAY	<i>Lock</i>
6 D. COPELAND	<i>Wing Forward</i>
8 G. YATES*	<i>No. 8</i>
7 M. LEE*	<i>Wing Forward</i>

* Northumberland

SELKIRK

R. POW	15
I. BALLANTYNE	14
K. JOHNSTON	13
W. RUTHERFORD	12
I. TUKALO*	11
J.Y. RUTHERFORD*	L 10
R. YOUNG*	9
S. McCOLM	1
I. JEFFREY	2
M. McCOLM	3
K. McCONNELL	4
R. BROTHERSTON	5
K. WRIGHT	6
I.A.M. PAXTON*	L 8
S. BUCKLEY	7

*Scotland L British Lion

Referee: Mr. R. HAYWOOD (Cumbrian Society)

SATURDAY LAST

The Murrayfield Car Park was empty,
Not a Jag or Range Rover in sight,
The Corbridge Debentures for other adventures
Flew to Dublin on Friday night.
While Weston and Green prepared their new Team
For the forecasted perious tasks,
Chapman and Jones left the chill in their bones
As they filled their anaesthsial flasks.
It's happened before, and I won't be a bore,
England lost at Murrayfield then,
The game of the year was played right here -
Tynedale 10, West Hartlepool 10,
British Lions were running round Tynedale,
'Till Mick Lee and Yeats cut them down,
The rub of the green returned to the Park
As the news filtered back from Landsdowne.
As Johnnie and Mark scored under the posts,
Richard and Graham further out,
England were loosing their footing abroad,
While Ireland chased on for a rout.
With Paxton and Rutherford trying their best,
Gledson's men fought like the "few",
Gary heard the Welshmen were losing in France,
So he kicked us some points, just for Huw.
Was it the taste of Dublin Prawns in defeat
That overloaded the plane,
The Lemmings escaping Jury's dear beer,
Two had to get off again!
The Moral dear Murrayfield Carparkers is
For all Tynedale watchers to see,
The ver / best games are played here at home -
Selkirk 21, Tynedale 23.

The same writer, President by then, was still eschewing prose and still lambasting the Murrayfield brigade in the club's match programme

THE JOHN PLAYER/PILKINGTON/TETLEYS BITTER CUP

Lymm, London Scottish, Coventry, Wakefield, Sheffield, Lichfield, Bridlington, Sale and Hereford.

Our introduction to the National Knockout Cup Competition began at Sale in September 1975, losing by one point to the eventual Semi Finalists by 16 - 15.

If that match whetted the appetite, and gave encouragement, because of the closeness of the score, it also served notice that naivety, and not playing until the whistle goes, can cost dear. Sale ran over in the corner in the final minutes; where a try was not enough to catch the Tynedale total, but the player was allowed to run round behind the post to score a converted try! End of Tynedale's campaign. Sale out of jail and on to the Semi Final.

Other forays into the Knockout Cup at Wakefield and twice to Lichfield, provided lessons that were learned the hard way. This was a big step up in commitment, game plans, finesse and the ability to finish off play, hard won by the forwards.

The lessons were learned and better things came. First Lymm fell in 1985; who can believe Mickey Lee's dribble over the line? Then, Season 1987/98 and Vale of Lune. Alan Hedley's match report in the Journal headed 'TERRIFIC TYNEDEALE' is shown on the next page:-

Then London Scottish; who can forget Chris Leslie's outrageous dummy? Who could have foreseen such a great club being sold down the river after 125 years? Take note - beware of professionalism.

As to the match, the Nationals gave good coverage.

Then the big one, Coventry, what a weekend! Eve of match training at Rugby with an evening meal provided by Brian Brain, pre-match breakfast with Nottingham Forest; Brian Clough and John Shotton being polite to each other, and then the game!

When Alan Gledson ran out with his forward roll, to lead his side into battle, 'Hessie's Army' began a cacophony of noise that drowned the 2000 Coventry support for ninety minutes (they weren't even stilled at half-time!)

Ian Robertson, commentating, called them the 'Village Choir'. Some village, some choir, some side! Even that great 'Lion' while extolling the efforts of brave Tynedale admitted that the referee was the only one unsighted when Tynedale 'scored' under the posts.

So we were denied the tie, but not the glory that day. Many a body was laid down for Tynedale and it is unfair to single out any of the men who played in that game, but everyone there will remember Derek Copeland and Gus Murray holding up the entire Coventry pack on our line to keep the score 7 - 6.

Better was to come that season, and ten years on, but more of that later.

Pros and Cons of the Knockout Cup will long be debated. While financially rewarding, injuries to Phil Sharman at Wakefield and Graham Yates at London Scottish cost us dear in other areas, and arguably the best result was when we lost at Bridlington in the Millennium Season!



Edward Robson and Jim Chapman celebrate the London Scottish victory with players Dick Parker and Mark Richard

Terrific Tynedale

Never say
die show
ends in win
to savour

RUGBY players turning cartwheels is not the norm. But at Corbridge Park, no-one cared when the Tynedale players indulged themselves.

Even the sight of chairman of rugby John Shotton leaping with delight across the field to hug skipper Alan Gledson was forgivable after Tynedale brought off a magical John Player Cup win in the tenth minute of injury time.

Tynedale skipper Alan Gledson said: "We left it late, but got there in the end.

"We don't want too many more games like that and now we'd like anyone at home in the next round."

Coach George Haldane echoed Gledson's comments and added: "I thought we cleaned them out in the line-outs and the pack were tremendous, they kept going right up to the end."

At 15-3 down, Tynedale's thoughts must have been on keeping the score down, especially with Vale of Lune in control just after half-time of the game sponsored by British Gas Northern.

But Tynedale clawed their way back to 15-10 and in a frenetic closing quarter shattered the Vale pack.

However, it looked like they would have to settle for honorable defeat until Iain Harris was hauled down just short and Vale were penalised.

The penalty was taken quickly and Gledson drove for the line, only to lose it a matter of inches away from an heroic score — and this was ten minutes into injury time.

Desperate

The Tynedale pack then destroyed the Vale put in at the scrum and another scrum was ordered with Tynedale to put the ball in and, inevitably, the Vale pack were shunted back.

Desperate to prevent a score, two of their back row and the scrum half broke off and then drove into the Tynedale back row which gave referee John Denham no option but to award a penalty try.

Less brave referees would have opted for a penalty to Tynedale, but Denham was perfectly correct.

Gary Taylor slotted the goal to give Tynedale an incredible 16-15 win and a place in the draw for the second round today.

Vale were naturally upset, but they may look back on a

**BY ALAN
HEDLEY**

Tynedale 16

Vale of Lune 15

game in which they had a myriad of minor injuries every time Tynedale were on a roll and the amount of injury time played was a direct result of that.

They will also rue not killing the game off just after half-time when they had several chances but over-elaborated and wasted their opportunities.

They had already shown what they could do with two searing tries through Ralston and Hamer after slick handling moves, Higgin converting both to a solitary penalty by Taylor.

Tynedale dragged themselves back into the game when Vale got themselves in a tangle in the threequarters and the ball was booted upfield and Hugh Mainwaring charged through to touchdown.

Taylor then added the penalty to make it 15-10 and the Tynedale pack set about dismantling the opposition and were rewarded with that dramatic late finish.

TYNEDALE: R Harris (replacement I Harris 40 mins), J Rutherford, G Taylor, H Mainwaring, M Richard, C Leslie, G Rutherford, R Parker, A Gledson (capt), C Dixon, S Dunn, R Cunningham, M Lee, G Yates, F Dickinson.

VALE OF LUNE: A Higgin (capt), I Ralston, R Taylor, P Hamer, M Nelson, M Kirby, C Mahon, W Forster, J Ashworth, S Gill, L Dent, A Hodgson, S Hodgson, M Brown, M Winterbottom.

REFEREE: J Denham (Durham).

Relief for Tyndale as Taylor shows mettle

FOLLOWING their last-minute success over Vale of Lune in the first round of the John Player Special Cup and the anxious moments their followers had to endure in this second stage, it would, perhaps, be appropriate for membership of the Tyndale club to carry a government health warning.

With just four minutes remaining, and trailing by the narrowest of margins, the Northumbrians were awarded a penalty, for obstruction at a maul, 30 yards out.

Alan Gledson, the captain, cast an anxious eye at senior goalkicker Ian Harris, but the centre was quite obviously the victim of concussion and without the slightest hesitation flung the ball to Gary Taylor.

The kick in itself was far from difficult, but I doubt there would have been many volunteers amongst the packed stand who would have traded places.

Nervously he placed the ball, walked back, ran up, struck it cleanly and the noise from behind the posts said everything. It would have been so easy to have become the villain of the piece, but as the silence erupted into a hysteria the Corbridge ground has never previ-

By **Graham Tait**

Tyndale..... 11pts
London Scottish..... 9

ously witnessed, Tyndale's progress was virtually assured.

Though Scottish managed one last raid through Renwick, the visitors bowed out of a fixture for which they seldom revealed much appetite.

Stuck in the northern half of the draw and left with just about the longest possible journey, they showed little relish or imagination for taking on a pack of wolves in their own lair.

Victory would have been theirs had they simply spun the ball along the line, for the Tyndale back division is hardly more than pedestrian, but the exiles too often opted to take on the home pack at close quarters, a cause not enhanced by a hand injury that restricted the effectiveness of Jeremy Campbell-Lammerton.

What they, perhaps, regarded as a matter of principle proved to be their own downfall, for the tenacious Tyndale pack never missed a tackle and certainly never suggested anything other than a forward confrontation as the key to success.

Their game plan was as simple as it was effective — roll it from the back row, where

Yates enjoyed an excellent game, or provide Leslie with the ammunition to test fullback Beazley with a series of high kicks.

Tyndale took the lead after 25 minutes when Yates instigated a forward rush and with the Scottish defence all over the place Tallantyre and Leslie found Jimmy Rutherford with a clear overlap.

Five minutes into the second half, Austin and Glen broke from a scrum and Batten squeezed over in the corner, Paton landing the conversion off the upright.

After Scottish had got themselves in yet another tangle from a high kick by Leslie, the stand-off waltzed round the blind side of a scrum and sold an outrageous dummy to put Tyndale into a lead that was to prove short-lived for Paton banged over a penalty, again via the woodwork.

But as Tyndale's dream seemed to be heading for a sad finale, up popped Taylor to take their cause a stage further.

Tyndale: A. Tallantyre, J. Rutherford, G. Taylor, I. Harris, M. Richard, C. Leslie, G. Rutherford, R. Parker, A. Gledson, C. Dixon, S. Dunn, A. Murray, F. Dickinson, M. Lee, G. Yates.

London Scottish: J. Beazley, L. Renwick, D. Caskie, T. Patterson-Brown, L. Batten, D. Paton, S. Glen, N. Weir, I. Kirk, T. Borthwick, I. Campbell-Lammerton, J. Campbell-Lammerton, I. Morrison, D. Buchanan, S. Austin.

Referee: D. L. Thomas (Midlands).



John Player Special Cup

Coventry

No.	Name	
15	Martin Fairm (C)	<i>Full Back</i>
14	Andy Parton	<i>Right Wing</i>
13	Jason Minshull	<i>Right Centre</i>
12	Jim Graham	<i>Left Centre</i>
11	Stu Hall	<i>Left Wing</i>
10	Mark Lakey	<i>Stand Off</i>
9	Steve Thomas	<i>Scrum Half</i>
1	Lee Johnson	<i>Forwards</i>
2	Andy Farrington	
3	Steve Wilkes	
4	Julian Hyde	
5	Tony Gulliver	
6	Paul Thomas	
8	Dick Travers	
7	Peter Rowland	

Replacements:

Andy Savage
Gary Colleran

Touch Judge:
Tony Sparks
(Warwickshire)

Referee

Mr. David Matthews
(Liverpool Society)

Tynedale

Name	No.
Adrian Tallantyre	15
John Rutherford	14
Gary Taylor	13
Gordon Dodd	12
Mark Richard	11
Chris Leslie	10
Gary Rutherford	9
Richard Parker	1
Alan Gledson (C)	2
Chris Dixon	3
Stephen Dunn	4
Angus Murray	5
Derek Copeland	6
Graham Yates	8
Michael Lee	7

Replacements:

Martin White
Mark Winham

SATURDAY, 23rd JANUARY 1988 Kick-off 2.15pm

This is an extract from the notes of the following week's programme:-

"Speaking of Glory, what more can be said of the Coventry game. Some recorded quotes were as follows: 'The best front row seen here this year', Phil Judd (British Lion). 'Your back row never let us play at all', Jim Broderick (Barbarian). 'Thank God your wingers couldn't find a dry bit to run on', Peter Jackson (British Lion). 'Your second row

defied us to go for a push over', Peter Robbins (England). 'Full Back, what a cool young man', Chris Rea (Scotland). 'Can we have your half-backs for the Sale game?', Lee Johnson (England 'B' Prop). 'Only the twist of the wind robbed Gary Taylor of more glory', Steve Thomas (Coventry Scrum Half). 'What a tremendous support, the whole village must have been there.', Darrell Giles (New Zealand Correspondent). Who?"

THE EIGHTIES - STRENGTH IN DEPTH

1st XV Record 1980 - 1990.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Win %
1980/81	38	22	2	14	477	368	60.5
1981/82	31	13	2	16	273	373	41.9
1984/85	33	14	5	14	405	445	50.0
1985/86	35	20	1	14	423	364	58.6
1986/87	32	17	1	14	466	334	54.7
1987/88	35	23	1	11	552	370	67.1
1988/89	38	29	3	6	800	384	80.3
1989/90	35	15	3	17	602	484	47.1
	277	153	18	106			Average success 58.5%

Northumberland Senior Cup (5 appearances)	No. 1 Wins	1	1988
Senior Shield	No. 2 Wins	6	1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989
Junior Cup	No. 3 Wins	1	1988
Junior Shield	No. 4 Wins	Nil	

The club's exploits in the eighties in Scotland have been recorded earlier (Page 48 and 50). So too have the cup successes on pages 56 to 58.

The club's great reserve strength, especially in the 2nd XV later to be called the Raiders, was a major factor, but other junior sides were also successful - especially in the 1987/88 season. The photograph on page 57 demonstrates the excellent playing strength at all levels at that time.

The club was also exporting players with 5 current Tynedale players captaining their University and college teams, as can be seen from this extract from the Programme notes for Saturday 4 April 1987, Tynedale v West Park:-

"During my travels with Tynedale round the North of England and borders of Scotland the commitment of players from our club when playing for Northumberland has been favourably mentioned and it gives me great pride to record that because of their dedication to training and rugby football at Tynedale the following had the honour of wearing the shirt of Northumberland this season: M. Richard, A. Gledson, C. Dixon, S. Dunn, R. Cunningham, E. Parker, C. Ayton, K. Marshall, A. Cuthbertson, J. Matthews, A. Hall, S. Clayton-Hibbott, J. Hudson, J. Fletcher and A. Herdman. Five players also had the distinction of leading their College sides: G. Dodd (St. Andrews), Ian Crawford (Liverpool), C. Ayton (Leeds), I. Harris (Loughborough), E. Saunders (Carnegie)."

THE COUNTY CUP

Well documented are the feats of the pre-war four timer, 1933, 34, 35 & 36, winning of the County Cup, still a record for Tynedale sides.

Regained in 1948, Tynedale thereafter were many times finalists, mostly against Gosforth, consistent winners of the trophy and back-to-back winners of the John Player Cup at Twickenham.

In 1988, after the heroics at Coventry, the mould was to be broken; the very last game was to be played at the County Ground, the Northumberland Rugby Union having sold the site to ASDA.

Alan Gledson led out his side, Martin White in for Chris Dixon, Fred Dickinson for Copeland, two yards faster on a dry County Ground, and ran the legs off the much-vaunted Gosforth XV. Banty Johnson (England Trialist), expected to dominate proceedings, was ignored and Gosforth rarely won the ball. The Tynedale back row tore into the centres. Gledson's pack out-jumped, out-ran and, more importantly, out-scrummaged their famous opponents, and won the game with a magnificent pushover try.

Below: TYNEDALE v ALNWICK 7 OCTOBER 1989



Above: THE CUP WINNING SIDE 1988



We are the champions! Three of Tynedale's successful cup winning sides display their silverware outside the Corbridge clubhouse. Club coach George Haldane is in the centre at the front, with president Edward Robson in the centre of the second row

Hexham Courant - Friday, May 13th 1988

SUPER TYNEDALE TAKE THEIR BOW

★ HEXHAM COURANT SPECIAL FEATURE ★

IN all its 112 year history, there can have been no more satisfying moment than when Alan Gledson lifted the Northumberland Senior Cup at the County Ground on that momentous night last month.

Not only was this the first time the handsome trophy had come to Tynedale for 40 years — the 11th in the club's history — but also, there is always something special about a victory over Gosforth, top dogs in North-East rugby for so many years.

It was a triumphant conclusion to the most successful season in Tynedale's history, which saw the club sweep aside so-called superior opposition in the shape of Vale of Lune and London Scottish in the John Player Special Cup, before failing gloriously

to get past Coventry in the fourth round.

Driven on by skipper Gledson, and inspired by the cajoling, coaxing and bullying of police inspector coach George Haldane, the first XV rose to every big occasion, and the self-belief spread right through the club.

Added to the Senior Cup success, four other major county trophies landed in the

display cabinet at Tynedale Park — the Northumberland Senior Shield, the Northumberland Junior Cup, the Northumberland under-16 Cup, and the Northumberland Under-13 cup.

It was the first XV who captured the imagination, however and memories were stirred in more than a few distinguished breasts among the Senior Cup final crowd.

As delighted as anyone were veterans Tom Lishman and Angus Brogdon, who knew all about Senior Cup success. They were both members of the squad which brought the cup to Tynedale in 1927, with a 5-3 win over Nothern.

Angus Brogdon didn't get a game, but he certainly made up for it later, playing in the cup winning side of 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1936!

Also watching proudly was former Tynedale president, John Suddes, whose father Jack, had played at hooker in all those cup winning sides and represented the county.

There were memories too for Mrs Hettie Hodgson, whose late husband, K. W. D. Hodgson, was the legendary captain of those great sides.

Perhaps the proudest man at the County Ground was Will Rutherford, who had captained the 1948 cup-winning side. He had the pleasure of seeing his son Johnny Rutherford, play his part in bringing back the trophy again.

Three other members of the '48 side were also there in the shape of Ken Bell, past president of Tynedale and the county who was a raw 19-year-old, Bill Dinning, another former Tynedale president who instigated the club's youth policy, and played a record number of times for Northumberland between 1945 and 1951, and John Cousin, whose son Wallace was a selector. Both captained Tynedale, and both played for the county.

Another stalwart unable to be present was Walter Rutherford, who was away in

Australia, but his wife Maud was there. Walter captained Tynedale, and played many times for Northumberland, and he sent the first telegram of congratulations.

Also unable to make it to the County ground was former Hexham store chief Derek Robb, the dashing scrum-half.

Thrilling

The 1948 final was a thrilling affair, with Tynedale apparently coasting to a comfortable victory over Northern when they led 15-6 with 10 minutes to go.

A try from Harry Brogdon — younger brother of Angus

— plus two penalties, a drop goal and a conversion from man of the match Ken Hall from Prudhoe had the game won, but Northern staged a tremendous rally, and the winning margin was eventually 15-13.

The 1948 team was J. Short, H. P. Brogdon, R. M. Waugh, K. T. Bell, J. Charlton, J. D. Robb, K. Hall, W. Luke, J. A. Newlands, Walter Rutherford, W. A. Dinning, G. R. Christer, Will Rutherford, W. Armstrong, J. E. Cousin.

The 1988 cup win was a poignant moment for Gordon Richardson, present selector and stalwart hooker for Tynedale, there with his son Lewis, of the North of England Colts Squad. How he wished that father Drew, past president and scourge of Gosforth, could have lived to see this day!

And what about Edward Robson, president of the club for the last two seasons? Few have done more for the club and no-one deserved the glory of the club's successes more. He too knows about cup success, having captained the club to the Northumberland Junior Cup in 1965.

While the first XV understandably got most of the limelight, let's not forget the successes of the junior sides, who all did their bit to make this a historic season.

There were some notable individual performances es-

pecially from Billy Robson, captain of the J. and B. Whisky Trophy winning second XV, who scored more than 40 tries.

And don't forget, too the trio of "double" cup medalists. These were prop Martin White, flanker Fred Dickinson, who both played for first and seconds, and scrum-half Simon Clayton-Hibbott, who played for the seconds and the Grasshoppers.

The senior cup winning squad was: Gordon Dodd, Johnny Rutherford, Mark Winham, Gary Taylor, Mark Richard, Chris Leslie, Gary Rutherford, Richard Parker, Alan Gledson, Martin White, Steven Dunn, Angus Murray, Micky Lee, Graham Yates, Fred Dickinson. Replacements, Chris Dixon, Aidan Tallantyre.

The Senior Shield winning second team was: Andrew Guthbertson, Rory Self, Derek Hunter, Craig Johnson, Graham Dodd, Ronald Harris, Simon Clayton-Hibbott, Kevin Marshall, Edward Parker, Martin White, Paul Walker, Angus Herdman, Jonathan Mathews, Billy Robson, Fred Dickinson. Replacements, Nick Barnes, Chris Richardson.

The Grasshoppers squad was: Andy Matthews, Roger Stockdale, Hugh Mainwaring, Nick Barnes, Alan York, Simon Ricketts, Simon Clayton-Hibbott, Clive Chadwick, Chris Richardson, Percy Telfer, Philip Caudle, Will Shields, Gordon Cairns, Tony Coates, Alec March. Replacements: Richard Bell, Nils Kristensen.

Also playing important roles in Tynedale successes in the new Courage League and John Player Cup campaigns were Iain Harris, Derek Copeland and Richard Cunningham.

While the spotlight has been focused on the adult sides, Tynedale's youngsters have been flying the flag proudly for the club too.

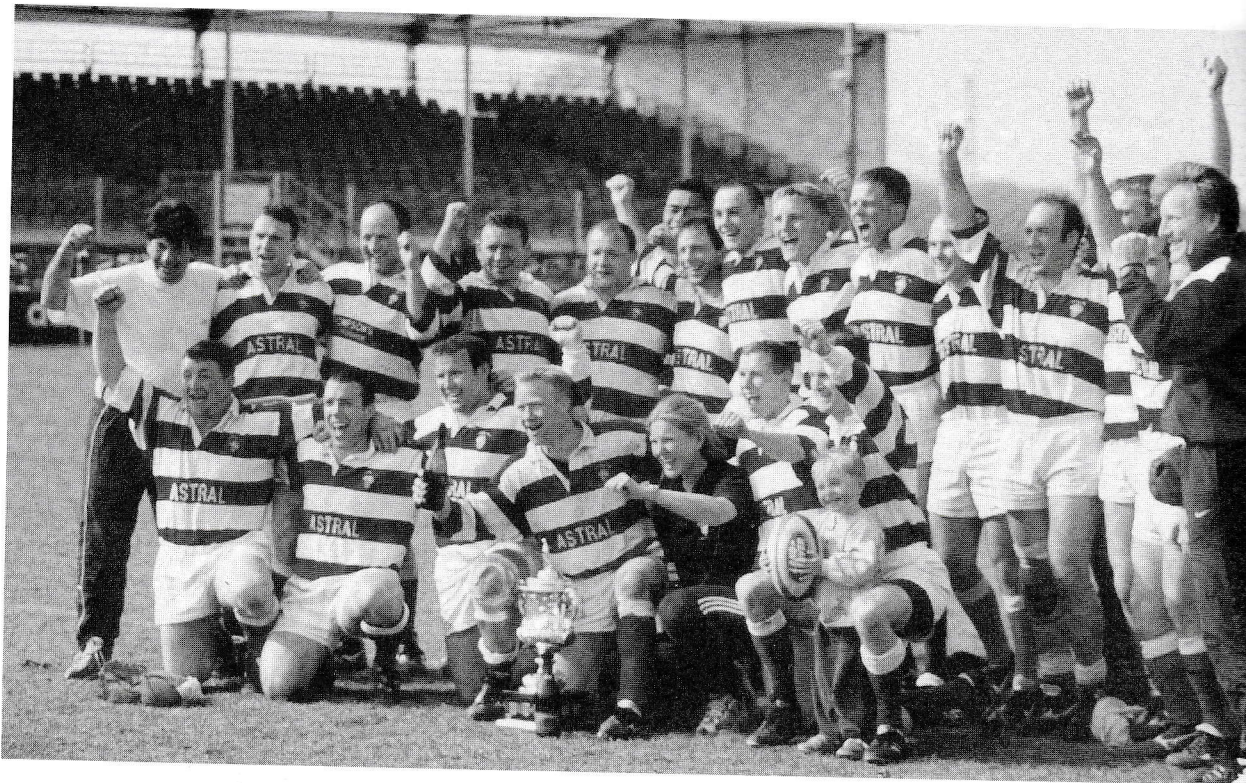
The Under-18s squad of Joe Hudson, Ian Greenitt, Gary Fleming, John Fletcher, Huw Buxton, Keith Simpson, John Ballantine, Gareth Gill and Guy Grey won the club's own sevens tournament, defeating old rivals Jethistle in the final.

The Under-16s squad also had an excellent season, both at 15 a side and sevens, winning the Under-16s County Cup, and adding the Dumfries Sevens to their success in the club's own tournament.

The cup winning squad was Michael Maddick, Scott Ferguson, Andrew Dalziel, John Laidler, Tom Buxton, Stuart Duff, Chris Jenkins, Declan Walsh, Jason Dalton, Paul Digby, Andrew Ledger, Ben MacLoughlin, Gary Foster, Ian Atkinson, John Robertson with Sean McCreadie, Andrew Duffy and David Hogg in the reserves.

Also playing their part in the cup successes were Patrick Smart, Nigel Carr, Sean Sisterson, Grant Dunlop, Gary Fleming and David Cogg.

The Under-13s played their part too, winning the county cup with a side comprising: Daniel Price, James Thorpe, Darren Tudemann, Richard Lamb, Andrew Kirkup, Daniel Clarke, Ben McKechnie, David Churton, Tim Batey, Alistair Gordon, Michael Thompson, Justin Blake, Glen Chapman, Andrew Lacey, David Carr, Simon Shannon, Simon Smart, James Reay, Anton Serbrook, and David Coates.



Top: The team, coaches Alan and Matt, physio Emma and mascot celebrate their cup success in 1999 .

Above and Right: Hibby quenches his thirst and displays the cup in true cup final style.

THE LEAGUES

The formation of the English League System was a protracted and complicated affair, but then what isn't where H.Q. is involved! Many clubs complained that the League they were in was not fitting to their previous stature.

Tynedale considered themselves both fortunate and perhaps unfortunate. However, the die was cast and as our representative, Douglas Hamilton, said, 'Over the years it will all settle down'. We just did not envisage just how many! In hindsight, our position was probably right.

Full of confidence from the previous season, our very first fixture gave fair warning; we crossed the Otley line three times and lost the ball. Otley punished us severely in the second half, running in a hatful through the middle.

For several years we battled on, winning games we had no business to, but losing to lesser opposition. With Alan Gledson leading the 1st XV and Billy Robson the 2nd XV, we came within a point of promotion in '88, only to be disappointed, even though winning the final game at West Park. The beauty of that season was the fact that the 2nd XV could supply seven players to the 1st XV on any given day, without losing their fixture - such was the club's strength in depth.

It became patently obvious that not only had the game become an athletic fifteen man game, but that you could not rely on other clubs' results, and so

PROMOTION

THE MILLENNIUM SEASON 1999/2000 - Pages 72-74



The squad that contested the opening league game at Otley

THE NINETIES AND BEYOND

1ST XV record 1990 - 2000.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Win %
1990/91.	32	18	2	12	644	373	59.4
1991/92.	29	26	1	2	748	311	91.4
1992/93.	33	26	1	6			80.3
1994/95	34	17	1	16	686	581	51.5
1997/98	33	22	2	9	849	456	69.7
1998/99	30	21	-	9	790	404	70.0
1999/2000.	30	28	-	2	975	365	93.3
	221	158	7	56			Average success 73.1%

Northumberland Senior Cup	No.1 Wins (9 appearances)	5	1992, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2000.
Senior Shield	No. 2 Wins	3	1991, 1995, 1998.
Junior Cup	No. 3 Wins	4	1991, 1993, 1999, 2000.
Junior Shield	No. 4 Wins	2	1991, 2000.

TYNEDALE v BIRKENHEAD 10 MARCH 1990.



It takes two Birkenhead Park players to stop the rampaging Tynedale lock Steve Dunn in his tracks, but help is at hand in the shape of (left to right) Simon Clayton-Hibbot, Martin White, Ed Parker and Campbell Hewitson,

Centenary Playing of the First Sevens in England

Souvenir
Programme/Brochure



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.

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

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

TYNE DALE

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

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 mentor of the Tynedale Club.

Sunday, 10th April 1994

PLAYERS

Robsons, Rutherfords, Taylors, Dixons, Forsters, Parkers, Telfers, Murrays, Bells, Blands, Fairlambs, Liddles and Littles.

If those names sound like the previously mentioned 'Reivers', they are probably descendants, but these are the bedrock families that have sustained Tynedale for 125 years.

Fathers and sons, groups of brothers, the very lifeblood of a country club. A favourite pastime on these occasions is to pick an all-time great side but I always feel different eras, different styles and pace, make comparisons unfair. John Shotton has attempted it (on page 44) but I wouldn't dare! Play anywhere, always training, can be as important to the team as silky skills when the chips are down.

Could you pick two from Robin Murray, Angus Murray, Fergus Mitchell, Paul Walker, Ross Taylor, Keith Johnson, McMillan and Campbell-Hewitson (60 miles round trip 3 times per week)?

Who would pick one from Rob Cunningham, Chris Dickinson, Richard Parker (2), Edward Parker, Aaron Charlton, Alistair Whitfield or Alan Gledson? Howay!!

Could you choose three from Fred Dickinson, Ken Little, Billy Robson, James Pontin, Andrew Robson, Justin Smart, Doug Hamilton, Stuart Hurst, Steve Turnbull, Mickey Lee, Jamie Murray, Graham Yates, Hamish Murray, Derek Copeland, Wallace Cousin, Soa Otuvaka, Vince Fox, Angus Herdman, Roger Dinning and Roger Telfer? Two of them, arguably the best, but cut down in their prime. I think not!

In the cauldron Percy Telfer, Martin White, Peter Enevoldson, Nigel Enevoldson, Dick Parker, Chris Dixon,

Paul Winter and Steve Clark.

Scrum Halves: Tony Milburn, Alan Pye, Peter Thorburn, Ed Holmes, Simon Clayton-Hibbott, Gary Rutherford and Mick Robson.

Fly Halves: Alan Stokoe, Peter Telfer, Simon Murray, Chris Leslie, Gary Taylor, John Robertson, Jamie Paton and Richard Cramb.

Centres: Ian Blyth, Ian Greener, John Fletcher, Gary Fleming, Mark Walton, Gordon Dodd, Ian Harris, Philip Sharman, Bert Suttie, Clive Nixon, Andrew Blyth, Peter Winder, John Birkett and Neil McDowell.

Wingers: Will Rutherford, John Rutherford, Alan Pye, David Carr, Mark Richard, Conrad Dickinson and Epi Taione.

Full Backs: John Smith, Chris Davy, Martin Lytollis, Remi Moses, Mike Herdman and Adrian Tallentyre.

Different players for different decades, but they all fitted the bill in their time.

In Defence: Thorburn, Fleming, Smart, Cousin, Andrew Robson and Roger Telfer - the cream.

In Attack: David Carr, John Fletcher, Ian Greener, Iain Harris, Alan Stokoe and Jamie Murray.

'The Rocks': Percy Telfer, Dick Parker, Alan Gledson and Campbell Hewitson.

The Spirit of Tynedale and Leaders: Alan Gledson, Dick Parker, Simon Clayton-Hibbott, Ian Blyth and Bill Robson led these and many, many more to the National Leagues



The 'Viet-Tyne'?

YOUNG BLOOD

Mini rugby began at Hexham, the driving force again the indefatigable Bill Dinning. Carried on at Corbridge by Elliott Ward, Richard Adamson and Tony Sisterson, hundreds of boys have been encouraged to play the game in preparation for school and University. Many ex-players, with or without sons, have given precious time to this end. Pye, Blyth, Mainwaring, Gray, Vipond, Douglas, Fieldhouse and Dunn to name but a few. Andrew Blyth being one famous 'Old Boy' to return and present trophies to awestruck mini players! (Page 64).

In the club's 125th year the mini/juniors are back in action and raring to go after the long lay off. The usual components are in place for the youngsters to have a great time. The fixture list is now set, the ever popular tours are on the drawing board and the squads have been coming down to the new Wednesday training nights during the summer holidays. There was another successful recruitment campaign, the popular Registration Wednesday in August just before the youngsters went back to school. The first Sunday morning session on 2nd September, held alongside the international schools competition, was also a success. The aim is to get membership back up to and beyond the 200 mark as the youngsters rediscover the joys of playing rugby.

Teams do not play fixtures until October so that plenty of time is spent concentrating on skills training throughout September.

At the beginning of February this year there will be an Active Sport initiative for Rugby aimed at helping youngsters join clubs. Tynedale RFC is at the centre of

this initiative and hope to gain from attracting new players throughout the age groups.

The Colts, as described in the 'Junior Rugby explosion' section earlier on pages 32-33, began life under the tutelage of Harry Fletcher, at that time a Grammar School Master at Hexham, of course, a Tynedale and Northumberland Centre, who also boasts of having two nephews!

John Clark, John Cousin, Grenville Harris, Dave Matthews, Graham Sinclair and Jim Bell took up the baton and produced players for these 25 years of history, more than 50% going on to play for Tynedale and Northumberland. Not least, John Fletcher, who is first to laud the system and the Chief Mentor, J.C.

The one constant over 25 years has been the total dedication of John Clark. Even when honoured with Presidency of the Club in '89, messages flowed to Tynedale, or wherever the 1st XV were, with progress reports of his beloved Colts. John trawled the Shires of Northumberland and West Allen for players; he and Jim Bell often getting home in the small hours having safely delivered his brood. A favourite story in the Shires being that as a land agent, if a farm needed a bathroom or inside loo, a trade was done for one or more sons with Tenant Right depending on how many seasons of rugby football were offered in exchange.

A thorn in the side of Northumberland Rugby Union, John's 'Philosophies' have stood the test of time. Few Colts sides have survived in the County and indeed for many years, Tynedale have honoured the fixture with the South of Scotland on behalf of Northumberland.



Above the current Tynedale Colts squad now being coached by ex-1st team and Colts stalwart Steve Dunn.

YOUNG BLOOD - TYNE DALE MINI AWARD CEREMONY



Andy Deacon (Chairman of Mini-rugby), Ian Blyth (President and former Captain of Tynedale), Andrew Blyth (Tynedale, Newcastle Falcons, Sale and England A), and Inga Tuigamala (Newcastle Falcons and New Zealand) with mini winners.

TYNEDALE GIRLS RUGBY

Nationally rugby has experienced a surge of interest from female youngsters wishing to step up from the ever popular but non-contact 'Tag rugby' to contact rugby at Junior and Senior level.

The contact rugby coaching initiatives at QEHS Hexham and Haydon Bridge High School succeeded in keeping the pot boiling but the clamour for more action became the roar in 2000 after the Tynedale girls attended the regional development squad sessions at Kingston Park.

The task was for Tynedale to set up an Under 16 district team that would train and have fixtures. Players would also be invited to representative trials at county and regional level. The team would draw players from the Tynedale district as per local authority boundaries and would be called the West Northumberland Girls U 16 team. The mini/juniors would set up the project with Andy Deacon as project co-ordinator and team manager

History was eventually made when the first ever girls contact rugby fixture at Tynedale Park took place against Westoe-based South Tyneside on the first team pitch on Saturday 13th January 2001. Blyth also provided players for the South Tyneside team.

The coaches had been impressed with the high calibre of players attending the training sessions, but on the day the players were truly outstanding, they produced a great team performance to win the game by 8 tries to 3.

And finally. These Tynedale girls are truly exceptional. The following day the majority of the players attended the trials for the North East Regional squad, 13 were selected out of a squad of 24 which is by any standards outstanding.



HOUSE AND GROUND

Since the Grand Opening by Tarn Bainbridge in 1976, the Club and Ground has evolved over 25 years in stages, some gradual and others quite dramatic.

The Taylor Report resulted in the old Show Society Grandstand built by Italian prisoners of war, being condemned; the present magnificent cover raised by the good works of Dave Thornton and Walter Rutherford. Finance raised by loans and subscription organised by Bill Dinning, the donors' names affixed to the benches. Claims for war reparations from the Italian government were mooted but never pursued!

The President suite hospitality room or 'Selectors' Parlour' was created and formally opened in '88. Named the 'Enevoldson Room', the ceremony was performed by son, Nigel, in the presence of Vera, Ene's widow.

At the same time, one of the changing rooms was re-designed, tiled and furnished as a medical room, opened in memory of Past Presidents G L Wood and A L Richardson - the gift of President, Edward Robson.

The Clubhouse, largely untouched bar preservative to the woodwork, has stood us well, if a little cramped on county match days, until a couple of years ago. Then the lounge bar was expanded, 'quite simply', by moving the wall and windows East, giving unbelievable extra room and extra cellar space. Major renewal of the roof covering came next of necessity, and when funds allow, the toilets and redundant entrance can be completed.

The field itself stands as testament to the early works of Bill and Roger Dinning and lately Jim Bell and John Lee. Several members wearing two hats have delighted in hosting the Northumberland County Show on Tynedale Park for several years. Jim Chapman was President and Secretary of Tynedale RFC while Treasurer of the Show Society and Life Member of both! Edward Robson was President and Secretary of the Show Society and President of Tynedale RFC.

A wonderful partnership has been sustained, but Tynedale must guard against total reliance, as outside forces may demand separate homes.



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

TYNEDALE AND REFEREES - 'BEST OF FRIENDS'

Up to 1874 there was only one club playing Rugby in Northumberland. By the year 1882 Northumberland and Durham had a total of five clubs out of 132 clubs connected to the Rugby Union.

The first real reference to referees came in November 1888 when a meeting was held at the Royal Exchange Hotel, Newcastle for the purpose of choosing referees for the Challenge Cup Ties.

The Gosforth v Tynedale game to be played at Gosforth was to be handled by J.F. Ogilvie and the ties between Tynemouth v Northumberland at North Shields and Northern v Percy park played on the following Saturday were both to be officiated by Mr. Wm. Cail.

Wm. Cail was undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with in Rugby circles. Not only was he a strong advocate for the game in sporting papers but he was a tireless worker for the administration being President and Treasurer for Northumberland County as well as a referee of renown. He achieved great success and honour by being elected President of the Rugby Football Union in 1892. It is interesting to note that 100 years later another 'Northumbrian' in the person of Davie Serfontein achieved the same honour. Yet Mr. Cail had his share of disasters which have already been described on page 13.

A newspaper reporter at the time commented upon the public's concept of the Rugby code in a conversation of one youth admiring an illustration of the passing game on a packet of cigarettes in a shop window.

*"Georgie lyok ear at this football match."
"That;s not football ye fouol, that's rugby."
"Wey that's football isn't it?"*

"Nowt liket, ye see when a chap has the baal, another chap can hoy him doon."

"Aye."

"That's not aal either, 'cos when a chaps doon and winnit get u ye can kick him till he drops the baal."

"Very rough like. Whats the referee dee?!"

"Oh nowt, he just blaase the whistle!"

It's a wonder that anyone volunteered to referee; perhaps they were masochists?

'I have the greatest respect and admiration for any individual who has the initiative, determination and motivation, for whatever reason, to take up the noble act of refereeing. Had the game of Rugby Union Football had to depend for its survival on my becoming the 31st player it would never have got off the ground!

In the knowledge that no game can take place without a Referee special qualities are required by such a person who not only finds himself at the mercy of the players but also those 'supremely qualified spectators'.'

D.D. Serfontein, President of the Rugby Football Union
Honorary Life-member of Tynedale RFC
Writing in the joint Centenary brochure of the Northumberland and Durham Societies in 1993.

Tynedale over the years have been well served by the Northumberland R.U. Referees Society. Charlie Pennock, Bill Blakey, Alan Christison, Mike Common, Jim Coulson, Rod Bramald, Frank Sheppard, Alan Brown, Ken Lockerbie and Doug Scratchard were always welcome appointments.

Perhaps the most respected were Ted Brough, Norman Sanson, and Chris Markham for their quiet authority, sense of humour, fairness and firmness.

Supporters can always see a knock-on, forward pass or 'squint' put in from 100 yards that a referee surely missed at 6 feet. As a player a decision against, in the heat of the moment, always seemed arguable but the smiling enquiry expressed by Captains Gledson and Parker always found more favour than 'What the hell's that for?'

GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS

Over the years Tynedale have been treated with kindly tolerance by the 'Press' Mike Sharman, Ronnie Turnbull and Brian Tilley have done us proud at local level, with the Hexham Courant, and we are indebted to them for a large proportion of this history.



Brian Tilley - Hexham Courant

Brian, brought up in Cheshire, played his 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.



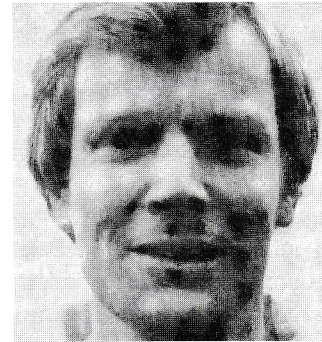
John Pargeter

A great friend to Tynedale over the years, the late John Pargeter of Journal and Telegraph fame, an ex-Seghill player, John encouraged our players at all levels and gave us a much wider readership. Bill McLaren graced our 'Sevens' Centenary Brochure with revelations our 'modest' Peter Robertson had never revealed (See Page 61).

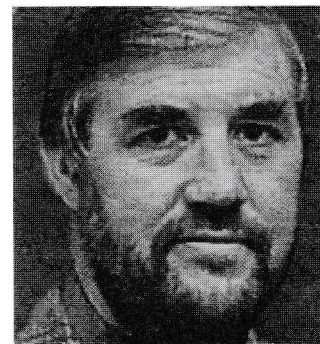
Peter Jackson, Chris Rea, Ian Robertson and Graham Tait writing in the Nationals all know about Tynedale and long may we make them take notice.

Referees in the National Leagues are now appointed by Twickenham. Let's hope they always relish the trip to Tynedale Park despite the closeness to the river, and are appreciated much more than was Mr. William Cail in 1889.

Alan Hedley and Scottish International Duncan Madsen, at the Journal and Chronicle, have treated us fairly, when not swamped with news of the Falcons.



Duncan Madsen,
The Chronicle, Newcastle



Alan Hedley,
The Journal, Newcastle

A TYNEDALE FIFTEEN

In the report of the first hundred years, Mike Sharman selected a fifteen-man team, not necessarily players, who were the backbone of Tynedale. His team is reprinted on pages 36-41. If you will indulge me, I would like to do the same for the last twenty-five years.

15. W.A. DINNING			
14. J. CHAPMAN	13. M. HASTIE	2. J. FLETCHER	11. J. SUDDER
10. G. HALDANE			
9. S. CLAYTON-HIBBOTT			
7. D.F. HAMILTON	8. J. BELL	6. W. ROBSON	
5. J.B. SHOTTON		4. T.A. GLEDSON	
3. R. PARKER	2. J. CLARK	1. C. DIXON	

1. CHRIS DIXON

Was it the rugged landscape of Kellah, where even David Carr and John Shotton blanched in a windswept, snow covered farm yard all those years ago, or the early loss of his father, that threw Chris into being the breadwinner with mother Ann?

Whatever it was that produced this 'teak-hard' man, Tynedale and Northumberland have much to be grateful for. Thrown into the 1st XV at the old Dene Park Ground, Chris soon earned the right to be first name on the team sheet.

Schooled by Peter Robertson, ex Hawick and South of Scotland, aided and abetted by Tom Jones of Gloucester and Royal Navy, Chris developed into a regular for Tynedale and Northumberland; on the bench when the county beat Gloucester on their 'midden' in the fog in 1981. Honoured by the Club in '87 with a trophy for 500 games played in the Blue and White, Chris must have played as many again.

A gentleman respected in all walks of life from Munster to Heriots.

2. JOHN CLARK

A rumbustuous second row forward whose enthusiasm far outweighed his ball skills, little did Tynedale realise the blessing when John Clark decided to hang up his boots.

As documented in 'Young Blood' on Page 63, this Pied Piper is one of the constants of Tynedale Rugby Football. Always prepared to stand his ground in committee, at Tynedale or County level, shouting (or rather quietly reasoning) against the wind, nothing fazed this champion of youth rugby.

Grudgingly respected in his own county, revered by his players and the border clubs, if only for his after training 'Picnics' or because he lives in a 'Caastle' as they say at Langholm.

Tynedale can never repay the selfless dedication to this Club.

3. RICHARD PARKER

I never have been credited with being the best judge of a player, but when, still a player, farming in the Shire, sitting on a settee alongside the Tynedale Cricket President, Frank Charlton and host Willie Parker one Old Years Night, the whole kit and caboodle was trundled across the lounge of Spittal Shield. 'Meck way for grub', said the little boy whose six-year-old shoulder had provided the power!

I told Annie Parker that night that even without the 'Grouse' encouragement; I had seen a future Northumberland prop. The rest, as they say, is history. Playing with or without his pal Gledson, captain of club and county, with as many games as 'Kong' for both, the name of Richard Parker will always be synonymous with the spirit of Tynedale.

Richard's Cup contributions are previously logged but the aplomb with which he coped with after-dinner speeches, post county match, beggar belief. On a scale with Gledson - 60-40 - I dare not say which way!

4. ALAN GLEDSON

Casting sheep in the pens with his father, at the time Parker was hurling settees, prepared Alan Gledson for the knockabout of the front row. Honed at Barnard Castle School, with Rob Andrew and the Underwoods (Tot



thought if it was good enough for Robson, Barker, Hamilton, Storey and Frater, well ...?), Alan came home to the North Tyne and Clarkie. Bound almost as much to Dick as Dick has been to Edward, they may as well have been brothers, as well as Brothers at Arms.

Binding the front of Roger Telfer's famous Colts XV, the legendary progress to the 1st XV, then county, joined at the hip with Dick, ended at Northern with Martin White, the other prop. The trio destroyed the Lancashire pack in front of Geoff Cooke, then England Coach. Bill Beaumont and Fran Cotton, then in charge of the North, penned in the whole front row but, unfortunately, Alan sustained a neck injury and that, as they say, was that.

Coaching came next at Northern, fortunately not appreciated by the city club, and so the appointment at Tynedale and Northumberland. The ability to encourage players to run through brick walls culminated in the millennium triumphs. A Tynedale hero for any fifteen.

5. J.B. SHOTTON

John Shotton exploded on to the field for Tynedale, as a player, at Penrith one Easter for ten minutes and then disappeared for some years, to the Metropolis.

Re-appearing at Dene Park with two sons, also to play their part in these twenty-five years. As a hot shot 'Firestone' sales executive and then as Sales Director for Agma PLC, a more balanced, quiet, family man, sitting on the sidelines at Tynedale, you couldn't wish to meet? As 'Ene' would say, 'You what, some hope!'

Sliding into selection on Sunday mornings, glancing over the shoulder of Dai Hopkins and leaving with a, 'You mustn't have been at the same game as me', caused consternation most weeks.

Many post selection and post match discussions with Ene, K.T. Bell and other notables, eventually resulted in K.T. throwing in, 'If you believe what you are saying, get on board'. As Baggage Man, Team Manager, Tour Operator (how Gloucester and Wales remember us) and finally as Director of Rugby, John Shotton ably assisted by Peter Robertson, George Haldane, Wallace Cousin, Alan Gledson and Dick Parker, dragged Tynedale kicking and screaming to win county cup finals and finally promotion to the National Leagues.

Stuart Enevoldson, a fair judge of character, and not one to suffer fools, recognised the rugby brain and the potential for Tynedale. A strong friendship and mutual respect was built up over the remaining years of Ene's life. Carried on with the sons, this relationship is celebrated each year by, of all things, a Cricket Match at Scorton!

Feasted by Dr Nigel's good wife, refreshed at the White Heifer, a cricket match played in the centre of a roundabout, is well remembered by many, with good cause. On one of those occasions, in '86, while asking

advice on being a President, the 'Great Man' just said, 'Shotton will look after the Rugby; Eddie, you take care of the Club'. Time will tell how we are judged on performance in those years.

As a judge of playing potential, Shotton is peerless, (with one exception); his ability to spot, and better still recruit, players to finish a jigsaw for Tynedale, is unmatched! When things were a struggle and good players scarce, John imported five Cumbrians and a New Zealand joiner to tide us over until the fruits of Clarkie's orchard ripened.

The notable exception was a legendary England back row, who then, as a tubby mini centre; his only 'Munch' was on a burger in the Clubhouse!

Peter Dixon, Roger Uttley and Laurence Dallaglio were all offered a side of beef to sign for Tynedale but, when their agents requested whole beasts, even the Blue and White Butcher President baulked!

Respect and friendship with this man are not easily won, but the rewards are irreplaceable, especially when the chips are down. Many thanks, John Shotton, from one who knows; don't go far away. 'You what, some chance'!!

P.S. - John, at the last count, is proud father of four sons, Justin, James, Henry and Felix, the last named by Karen in the fond hope that he would not enter a rugby establishment.

Little does she know of a precedent, former Tynedale stalwart, Felix Mark, a brother in-law of K.T. Bell, lives within sight of Sale RFC, the scene of John's first major triumph in Tynedale management!

6. BILL ROBSON

The commitment to Tynedale over 100 years of the Dodds, Robsons, Milburns and Elliots from that great tract of land from Chollerton to the Carter Bar is well documented. In the early '70's, another Robson, Billy, a young farmer from Chesterhope, emerged from the shadow of his father William, a Monte Carlo Rally driver of note.

Urged on by mother Sadie, Bill made his presence felt as a back row forward of great skill, determination and two philosophies; get over the gain line and if by chance the opposition have the ball, cut them down!

Many a colt, club and county player still limp from the 'Justin Smart' type tackles of this stalwart. Though a fine captain of the club, his greatest service to Tynedale was the ability to instil in his junior players the belief that they were good enough to push for 1st XV rugby.

Regaining the Northumberland Senior Shield and retaining it so many times was largely attributable to Bill Robson. That so many of the 2nd XV went on to 1st XV triumphs and Senior cups is down to his infectious enthusiasm.

7. DOUGLAS HAMILTON

A strange bedfellow you may think with the aforementioned; Douglas, a very private person but what a team player!

An uncompromising back row forward, press-ganged into the second row for five years up to the Centenary Year against Waterloo, Douglas played a season at Dene Park in the centre, alongside Alan Charlton, arguably the best hooker in Northumberland!

Such were the times that the few of us, who played on both parks, ran out in the position that Jack Kent carded for you. A mainstay player but more importantly, for Tynedale, our representative on the Northumberland Committee; a duty fastidiously carried out on behalf of the Club, rewarded by being elected President of Tynedale and later, Northumberland County.

An accountant by trade, a Captain of Industry and a sound No. 8, Douglas grasped opportunities for Tynedale and restrained breakaways! His stewardship of the Club as Treasurer and President, diplomacy with the Show Society and various League Committees, is a model for present times and the next 50 years!

8. JIM BELL

Jim Bell has been around Tynedale since Adam was a boy! At least his pipe has! Older than most, younger than some, Jim's roles at Tynedale have overlapped so many times that dates are irrelevant.

An uncompromising prop who would happily take on 'Pike' at Mowden Park or 'Muscles' Richardson at Gosforth; for no more reward than a pint and an ounce of Shag, Jim was best at being a corner flagging No.8 (remember them) who could knock down any or all of the opposing backs that filtered through.

Encouraged by Drew Richardson and Wilf Young, coached in the art of anything about grass rugby and the vagaries of ground management, Jim drifted into ground keeping. Grabbed by Bill Dinning at Corbridge, nurtured by John Robinson and coaxed by Edward Robson, the positions of pitches and stand at Tynedale Park are largely down to the graft of this yeoman.

Conned into being a 'Ferryman' by J.M.C., dropping Colts off on a Saturday night, nurturing Walter's beloved trees on the drive, then opening up for 'Minis', has been his constant service for 25 years.

9. SIMON CLAYTON-HIBBOTT

The term 'laying one's body on the line', for many years has been attributed to scores of forwards at Tynedale. Not since the days of 'Kettle' Thompson at Dene Park, was it fitted to a scrum half.

The old shout, 'on me', was not needed by Simon Clayton-Hibbott as most of his co-players knew, and probably more of the opposition, that wherever the 'carrot-top' was, so was the ball.

Fourteen years of 'shoeings' are enough for any player but this ebullient firebrand can retire satisfied with his contribution to cup wins and promotion to the National Leagues.

In 1991, Simon played in New Zealand for Okehoe ('Oh hi why' - to us!!), a team of Maoris containing the great Freddie Woodward, a full 'All Black' who instilled a discipline in Simon that came and went at Tynedale. Perhaps a refresher course in '96 would have been a good investment, but whether his host, Don Jack, a former Tynedale back row and Junior 'All Black', could have coped, let alone Flick, his long suffering spouse, 'Lord Knows'. Certainly more daughters and Ford cars would have been locked away!

Simon's contribution to Tynedale's fortunes can best be described by the fact that, in the season he broke his foot, had he not played some games, we could have been relegated. Had he played all games, we may have had promotion sooner!

Enjoy the Links! See you at the 19th. Who knows, after a rest you might follow the path of Gledson and Shotton into coaching and management.

10. GEORGE HALDANE

Former Melrose, Alnwick and County scrum half, George Haldane, made in the Border mould of 'Banty Cock' No. 9's, arrived at Hexham via the Northumberland Constabulary. A crisp Sergeant reminiscent of 'Mr McKay', George was made up to Inspector about the time he graduated to county colts coach.

Having been apprenticed to John Clark for some time and affiliated to Alnwick, both clubs made up the bulk of the county side. No favours were given, however, as George once locked a victorious team in the dressing room until every bit of kit was returned to the basket.

One or two 'Fletchers' and 'Godbers' must have appeared in the team at some time as county socks adorned many a washing line in Hexham. Almost as vociferous as his wife, many the screech of 'Squint Ref' on the opposition's put in. George Haldane was the motivator that wrested the Cup finally from Gosforth.

11. JOHN SUDDER

One of the non-playing wings of this XV, illness prevented John Suddes from playing the game, but not from making a substantial contribution to the fortunes of Tynedale. Son of Jack, No. 7 in the '100 Years personalities team' (page 43), John was steeped in both codes. Further compounded by marrying a gorgeous telephonist from Dublin, whose brother happened to captain Handsworth,



John followed Edward Robson as Tynedale's Fixture Secretary.

The agricultural approach having failed to woo the major clubs, John's suave tactics brought fruit at least over the 'Wall', as recounted on page 48-50 in 'The Years in Scotland'. Slowly but surely improving the opposition while diplomatically keeping 'Old Friends', John combined his presidential years with fixture duties until the Leagues began.

Keeping the Referees Society sweet was John's forté and largely due to his efforts, seldom were we caught short without a ref.

12. JOHN FLETCHER

Although John Clark tried to hide this talent in the Colts, talk of 'Too young, much to learn, another year'; almost brought about a major face out between the Haltwhistle 'Mafia' and the Senior Club; class will out. As the argument goes, 'If you're good enough, you're old enough', and so began the mercurial career of John Fletcher.

Tynedale, Northumberland, Newcastle-Gosforth and Northampton benefited from the skills of this quick witted centre, jumping off either foot, a dummy bewildering many an International, sadly his elevation cut short by a massive fracture. Sheer determination, swimming and cycling brought about rehabilitation, fortunately for Gary Fleming and Tynedale.

As Youth Development Officer for Northumberland, we hope he will inspire the same aspirations and commitment from others in furthering the interests of the county.

13. MARTIN HASTIE

Having been press-ganged into every position on the field, in every team in the club, Martin Hastie said 'Bxxxer this', and volunteered for the position of Team Secretary.

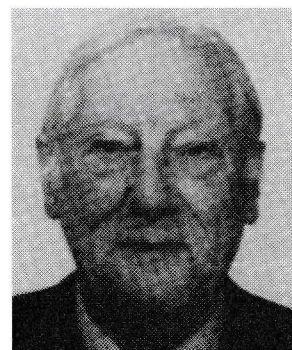
Invariably unavailable on a Friday night, ('If they can't contact me, they can't cry off, can they?'), but constantly on the phone come Saturday mornings, Martin has consistently turned out three or four junior sides every week, even if the last place was filled by himself.

Extracting tax from pigeon fanciers and greyhound trainers with a smile, it should come as no surprise that he could convince a whole pack to train at Tynedale while serving in the Armed Forces at Catterick!

A constant member of the Warriors Touring Side; Tynedale and Arthur Guinness owe Martin Hastie a great deal.

14. JIM CHAPMAN

George Boyle, our B.B.Q. King, introduced the other non-playing wing in this XV, Jim Chapman, a Duke's School soccer player, to Tynedale. A gentleman of the Old School, Jim was welcomed to Tynedale as a lover of sport and the 'Barley'.



Following Ene as Secretary of the Club in 1970 was an awesome task, but as a City lawyer, Jim took to the job as to the 'manor born', steering Tynedale through the transitional years and journey from Hexham.

He was Secretary for sixteen years, President of the club, and was appointed an honorary life member in 1976.

While admitting an ignorance of the finer points, Jim quickly appreciated the reasons for the game; a 'soupcon before, a smidgen after'.

As minder to Ken Bell, then County President, Jim Chapman was respected for common sense and stamina - a true ambassador for Tynedale RFC.

15. WILLIAM DINNING

The only surviving member of the '100 Years XV' (page 40); full back in this team, what a backstop!

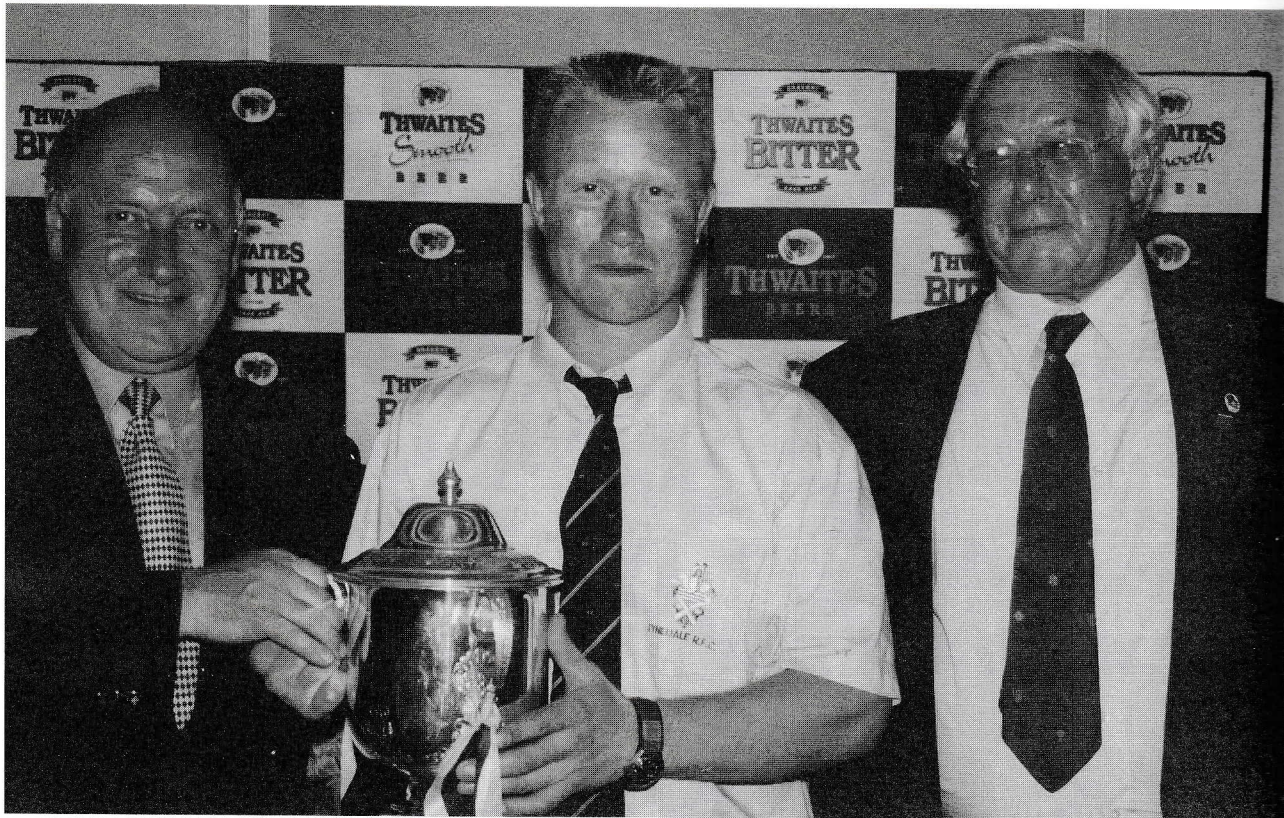
Bill Dinning is mentioned in most of these Chapters, for such is his experience and nous. Every member of every Committee has, at one time or another, gone to this 'Oracle' for advice or approval. Never can I remember Bill saying, 'It can't be done', or 'That's a daft idea'. With a tweak here and there he could always encourage an advantage for Tynedale RFC.

A towering man on and off the field, Bill could put a tiny 'Mini' at ease and charm a fortune from the Ladies Committee. Never one to ask any members to do a job he could not, or had not, done. His liaison with Douglas Hamilton and John Robinson raised thousands of pounds when capital sums were needed for purchase or maintenance of the fabric of Tynedale RFC.

How pleasing that Bill, with Jimmy Newlands, Walter Rutherford and John Cousin, were with us to celebrate the Millennium Triumphs.

WHAT A FIFTEEN AND

BILL DINNING WAS THE CAPTAIN!!



CHAMPIONS OF NORTH DIVISION ONE - PLAYED 22 WON 22

THE SUPPORT GROUP

All Clubs need the support of a back-up team and Tynedale are no exception. Well documented previously, various committees and sub-committees have steered Tynedale through the hundred years of ups and downs, to arrive at Corbridge with 37 acres of land and an excellent clubhouse.

The demise of others sometimes benefits those waiting in the wings. Such was the case when the Tyneside Agricultural Society fell on hard times and folded. Several Agricultural Society Members were also Tynedale supporters and pulled for the club. Tom Dixon of Dilston, Show Director for many years and sire of two 1st Teamers, Edward and Peter; Edward Robson, Chief Steward, sat on the Club Committee, chaired by Bill Dinning. The advice of Tom Dixon was invaluable in the design of the Clubhouse, then built on a flood plain. Sadly Tom died before the Grand Opening.

In 1990 a working party was set up to streamline the working mechanism of the Club. For eighteen months this Committee met at Summerods and reported back to the General Committee of Tynedale. Eventually, a fine honed framework was agreed on and fittingly the first Chairman and Chief Executive, Bill Dinning, began ten years of a new streamlined Management Committee.

In or out of office, match supporters are the bread and butter mainstay of any Club. The thousands who marched behind the Mechanics Band to the 'White Hart'

in 1887, the hundred that travelled to Hereford and 'Hessies Mob' who bussed to Coventry. Just as important were the few who supported at Whitchurch. The players will tell how important was the sound of locals on the touchline.



Belle Dunn at Lichfield

Players that *travel three times* a week from the top of Cheviot, while others will hardly cross the bridge. Spectators *who travel* to Nuneaton, while others only come to cup games at Corbridge.

You know where you fit in; the club is grateful and needs you all.

Astral Textiles
Clark Scott Harden
Dickinsons
Hexham and Northern Marts
Matthew Charlton
Patterson Ford
Robin Marshall
Thompson's of Prudhoe
Troynorth Ltd
Tynedale Agricultural Society

TYNEDALE - ITS FUTURE

It is 125 years now since the Tynedale club was formed by a band of enthusiasts in Hexham Town Hall. In that time, it has appeared in the national cup competition, won numerous Northumberland trophies at all levels, provided scores of county players and officials, and, above all, played the game of rugby in the spirit in which it was intended to be played.

This message, that *'For those to whom the game means so much it is not the result that matters, but the spirit in which the game is played'* was contained in the Tynedale RFC 75th Birthday Souvenir 1951, when the words of Grantland Rice in his 'Alumnus Football', often repeated by Jim Chapman were quoted:-

*'For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name,
He marks - not that you won or lost - but how you played the game.'*

The souvenir also suggested that the work should be dedicated to youngsters with their unquenchable enthusiasm for the game of rugby - *'who are just as vital to*

These are but some of the new phenomena of supporters that have helped in the survival of Tynedale Rugby Football Club. Such are the running costs, let alone maintenance of a modern day club. Travelling to such outposts as Bedford and Whitchurch on the Welsh Borders, the contributions of local firms and many private individuals have become a godsend.

In giving grateful acknowledgement, I must include our major sponsor over 25 years - Agma PLC of Haltwhistle. Coupled with the name of Rodney Mann of Sale and Northern (who packed down with yours truly for Tynedale), Andrew Philpotts of Lichfield and Tynedale; this Company has provided indefatigable back up.

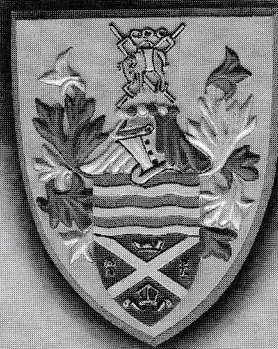
May Tynedale continue to have such friends.

a club as are the men who made rugby history by their exploits among the 'stars' of the sport.'

We would all say 'hear, hear' to that, and point to our colts as evidence. The club has never been in better heart than it is right now, with good numbers of teams on the field, a splendid ground and clubhouse at Tynedale Park, Corbridge, unsurpassed by any rugby club of similar size anywhere in the country.

From top to bottom, the club brims with confidence and potential: from a 1st XV in the National Leagues, to the Colts, schoolboy and mini-rugby sections which promise to yield ever richer dividends as the years roll by.

Tynedale Rugby Club goes forward full of zest, full of confidence, and full of optimism both for its own future and for the future of the game of rugby football, despite the many problems which the game and some clubs have encountered in the last decade.



TYNEDALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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Tel: 01434 632 997

Tel + Fax: Enevoldson Room: 01434 632 996

Website: www.tynedalerfc.co.uk.

A TYNEDALE HISTORY

Text E. Robson and D.F. Hamilton

Principal Source Material:

Tynedale RFC 75th Birthday Souvenir, 1951.

'Hexham Courant' 1876-2001.

'A Centenary History 1876-1976' Michael Sharman.

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Tynedale RFC ;Annual Reports 1977-2001'.

Brian Tilley 'Tynedale Farmer' April 1993.

Brian Tilley 'A view from the stand'.

Brian Tilley Hexham Courant Special Feature 1988.

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