

TYNEDALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

75th BIRTHDAY

Souvenir



1876-1951

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A. Derek Post

TYNEDALE DOWN THE YEARS

1876-1951

Foreword

SEVENTY-FIVE years of continuous playing, save for war-time interruptions, is a rugby history that any club might flaunt with pardonable pride. The more so when the club is not one of the big Metropolitan organisations, not even a big city club, but one which is centred on a small market town in the centre of an almost wholly agricultural area, 17 miles from its nearest opponents in the east and 38 miles in the west.

Such a body is the Tynedale Rugby Football Club, and the work to which this is a foreword is an attempt to compile its record for rugby posterity, as well as for the interest and possible edification of the present generation of rugby enthusiasts. For despite its 75 years of rugby history, its ups and downs, its vicissitudes and its triumphs, there is not in existence anything remotely resembling a complete history of the club, save in newspaper files, in fragmentary records and personal reminiscences remembered spasmodically by some of the stalwarts (alas, now ageing), who played their part in making the club what it has been and is today.

As the Tynedale club's name implies, it has always drawn, and still draws, its members from the whole area of Tynedale, and its playing strength is recruited from among men in all walks of life, embracing all creeds and all classes. In that fact has lain its strength in the past, as it lies today. If the bulk of its members have always been farmers, that need occasion no surprise considering the nature of our countryside.

The club has given generously of its man-power in two world wars. Plaques in the club pavilion commemorate the names of 49 members who died in the 1914-18 war, and a further 27 who fell in the second world war. The club pavilion itself, indeed, is a memorial to the dead of the first world war, as is the Broadclose ground a similar monument to the victims of the second—76 Tynedale men in all who served their country as wholeheartedly as they served their club.

The club's playing members of other days include the names of men illustrious in the fighting services of the country; men such as Major-General W. Robb, Air Chief Marshal Sir James Milne Robb, Major-General

R. C. O. Hedley, and Brigadier T. Brodie, whose exploits with the 29th Brigade in Korea have brought him so much into the public eye in recent times.

Strange, perhaps, that a club of Tynedale's standing and long history should never have produced an International player direct, but such is the case. N. F. Humphreys, however, toured with the British Isles team in South Africa in 1910, while F. H. R. Alderson captained England after his days with Tynedale. W. Nanson, in addition, got an England Cap before joining Tynedale.

While to many readers of this record of the club's achievements, the names of the "lights of other days" who figure so prominently in it will be names and little more, there are still those living who played with the bearers of those names. While this book was being prepared for the press an "S.O.S.", if one might call it that, was received from Dr. John Cowper, now living in Shanklin, Isle of Wight, who played for Tynedale in his young days, way back in the eighteen-seventies. He asked for news and gossip for the men who played for the club in his time. Dr. Cowper, who is over 90 years of age, in his letter described in detail the movements which led up to a try that he scored against Northern in 1880.

For him, and for others like him, whether old or young, who follow the doings of the Tynedale club, it is hoped that this brief history will be received with pleasure, and the exploits of the men it enshrines, as well as the stirring rugby battles it describes all over again, be remembered with much affection and not a little pride.

Perhaps this preamble might be fittingly ended on the note of a report culled from the history of Durham County Rugby, 1876-1936. It is stated that the first International match (quite unofficial) between England and Scotland, took place in the 17th Century. The contestants were 20 Tynedale men against a like number from Liddesdale, the Southrons winning 3-2. A "return" was played on the "Haugh" close by Kielder Castle. Five games were played, after four of which the tally stood two-all; the North Tyne lads won the fifth, and were declared the winners.

No score is given, nor details of the duration of the battle, for "battle" it assuredly was. Several players were so exhausted by the intensity of the struggle that "a few who died soon afterwards dated the beginning of their illness at that memorable day."

Was this, think you, the spirit of the yet unborn Tynedale Club manifesting itself in the breasts of lads to whom the modern rugby game was unknown? It is nice to think so.

HEXHAM.

October 1951.

The Formative Years



THE original foundation of the Tynedale Club may almost be termed fortuitous. On October 2nd, 1876, a letter was received in Hexham addressed to the "Captain of the Hexham Football Club." As no-one could be found answering such a description, the letter was handed about from one person to another, with the result that a meeting was called and duly held on October 11th, 1876, under the chairmanship of Mr Bowker, headmaster of the Grammar School, and the Tynedale Football Club came into existence. Officers elected were:—H. J. Baker, captain; H. Kirsopp, secretary; E. Shield, treasurer; the committee members elected being Messrs. Bowker, Welford, Lishman, Montgomery, Richardson, Shield, Bell, and Isaac Baty.

The first match was played and won on the 30th December, 1876, at Hexham against Elswick, a club which changed its name to Northern the following year. The Tynedale team was:—

R. H. Robb, back; J. H. Baker, threequarter; Tully and H. Kirsopp, half-backs; G. J. Bell and J. Shields, quarter-backs; Benson, G. Bell, T. Kirsopp, Temperley, Wilson, Richardson, Beadle, W. Shields, and J. Lishman, forwards.

In the 1877/78 season Tynedale had home and away fixtures with North Durham, Northern, Gosforth, Tynemouth and Redewater, and single fixtures with College of Science, Northumberland and Carlisle, similar fixtures being fulfilled during the next three seasons. A second XV. came into being about this time, and the first recorded match was against the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, on February 28th, 1880. The following month was noteworthy for a victory over Northern by a goal to a try on the Sele, Hexham. Northern had been unbeaten until March 20th, and Tynedale's victory resulting from a brilliant try by Cowper converted by J. T. Dodd evoked great enthusiasm.

The Northumberland Rugby Union was founded in 1880, and the first Challenge Cup Competition was held in the 1880/81 season. From that date it is reasonable to say that Tynedale's success or failure in a season has been largely judged by its achievements in the cup-ties. Not perhaps an entirely just criterion, but Hexham and the Tynedale Club have always been very cup-tie conscious, and high-lights in Tynedale's story of three-quarters of a century are the seasons in which the Senior Cup was won.

In the first season in which cup-ties were played, Tynedale were defeated by Gosforth in the first round by two tries to one. The following

season they were defeated somewhat unluckily by Northern in the first round of the cup, but reached the final in 1883, when they were beaten by Tynemouth by two tries to nil. It is interesting to note that the first special train ever run in Northumberland or Durham in connection with football was run from Hexham to Newcastle for this match. In 1884, Tynedale reached the final again, but lost to Northern by a try to nil.

Hitherto Tynedale had played most of their matches at the Brewery Field, Bridge End, but had a couple of seasons at Halliwell Dene before returning to Bridge End in February, 1885, where Tynemouth defeated them in a cup-tie by a goal to nil.

In the 1884/85 season no fewer than six of the Tynedale side — R. H. Robb, G. Bailey, G. H. Bell, W. Pattinson, C. W. Harrison, and T. Rogan — played for Northumberland.

The season 1886/87 opened under a shadow. At a sparsely-attended meeting in September, 1886, it was stated that the membership had dwindled to such an extent that it was found impossible to carry on, and the hon. secretary was instructed to cancel the fixtures. A number of enthusiasts, however, decided not to let the club go down, and a further meeting was held on October 21st, when it was decided to carry on. Several players associated with junior clubs in the town offered their help and the assistance of a number of players from North Tyne was also promised. The optimism prevailing at the meeting was justified, for in the opening match against Hawick — a very strong side — Tynedale just went down by a try to nil.

The crowning achievement of the season was the winning of the Senior Cup. Tynedale reached the final by virtue of a bye in the first round and a victory over Percy Park in the second round by a try and 5 minors to 3 minors. The match was played at Hexham on a snow-covered ground, and snow fell heavily during the game. The final against Northern was played at Jesmond on April 2nd before a crowd estimated at 5,000, Tynedale appearing for the first time in blue and white jerseys. Tynedale's team was:—

R. H. Robb, back; W. Pattinson, T. Robson (capt.), J. T. Dodd, three-quarters; F. H. R. Alderson, W. Farthing, half-backs; T. Elliot, C. W. Harrison, T. Rogan, J. C. Robertson, Dr. McKie, G. Bailey, J. J. McIntyre, I. Baty, J. Scott, forwards.

Tynedale won a memorable game by a drop goal, a try and three minors to a try and three minors. Dodd dropped a goal for Tynedale in the first half, Northern responding with a try, and Elliot scored an unconverted try in the second half. To quote a contemporary press report:—

“ The scene following the match almost baffles description. The Hexhamonians cheered till they were hoarse. When the news reached Hexham Post Office it was greeted with rounds of cheering by the crowds assembled to await the result. The special train conveying the players and the trophy and hundreds of supporters arrived at Hexham about nine o'clock. The Mechanics' Band, with a great mass of townspeople, were in waiting at the Railway Station. The band struck up 'See the Conquering Hero Comes,' and a procession was formed which proceeded by way of Priestpottle to the White Hart Hotel. The crowd was so dense that it was with difficulty that the team could gain entrance to the hotel. The captain was carried shoulder-high into the hotel amid tremendous cheering. The exhibition of the cup at one of the upstairs windows was the



TYNE DALE : Winners of the Northumberland Senior Cup, 1887. Back row : J. C. Robertson, J. J. McIntyre, T. Elliot, C. W. Harrison, F. H. R. Alderson, R. H. Robb, Dr. McKie. Middle row : W. Pattinson, G. Bailey, T. Rogan, T. Robson (capt.), J. Scott. Front row : I. Baty, J. T. Dodd, W. Farthing.



TYNE DALE 1st XV : 1895 - 96. Back row : J. J. McIntyre, R. J. Baty, T. Anderson, G. H. Bell (president), T. White, D. Mulholland, J. Robson. Middle row : T. Charlton, J. Hamilton, J. F. Fell (capt.), D. K. McComb, T. Scott. Front : A. G. Richardson, J. Robson, J. Howe, T. Robson.



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 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.

signal for another demonstration. After repeated calls, Mr Robson briefly addressed the crowd . . . Supper was afterwards partaken of, and several toasts honoured. The crowd remained outside the hotel till eleven o'clock. It was truly a memorable and never-to-be-forgotten night in the ancient town."

Following the cup victory, the Tynedale committee set to work to effect an amalgamation of the various Rugby clubs in the town, and this was accomplished at a meeting held on April 26th, 1887, the net result being a club membership of 181. The adolescent period of the club's history was over — Tynedale had come into being and had grown up. They were to be known henceforward among the leading clubs of the North.

Many well-known players had worn the Tynedale colours during the period, and the names of such men as R. H. Robb, T. Robson, J. T. Dodd, W. Pattinson, J. Elliot, T. Elliot, G. H. Bell, C. W. Harrison, T. Rogan, G. Bailey, T. Hedley, and others were known and honoured beyond the confines of the Tynedale country. Perhaps the best-known of all Tynedale players about this time was F. H. R. Alderson, who, though Northumberland-born, was only a temporary Tynedale player, and Hartlepool Rovers and Durham County rightly claim him as their own. He captained England several times after his Tynedale days.

During this early period Tynedale owed much to their North Tyne and Redewater players, and no record of the club's history would be complete without a reference to their loyalty and ungrudging service throughout the years. Living miles from the nearest railway station in the days before motor-cars were heard of, these men travelled amazing distances on horseback in all sorts of weather to enjoy the thrills of the game and the companionship it offered. Tynedale is proud of these Robsons, Dodds, Elliots, and others, and of their descendants, and owes a great debt to the North Tyne.

It was largely due to the influence of its North Tyne players that Tynedale achieved a reputation in the early days of Seven-a-side football. They took part in the first such competition ever held — at Melrose in 1883 — and for over 40 years held the distinction of being the only English club to have won one of these competitions, winning at Gala in 1885 and again at Hawick the same year, and completing the hat-trick by a further success in 1886 at Melrose. In their first success at Galashiels in 1885 it was too dark to play the final on the Saturday, so the Tynedale team agreed to stay over and play the final at Hawick on the Monday. To enable them to get home (several of the Tynedale players are believed to have travelled on horseback) the kick-off was fixed for 8 a.m., Tynedale beating Hawick by a goal and three tries to a try, and the first English success went on record. According to contemporary press reports, Tynedale's play in the final had never previously been equalled in these competitions. Their team was:—

W. Pattinson (back), T. Robson (threequarter), J. T. Dodd (half), R. H. Robb, W. Robson, T. Elliot, G. Bailey (forwards).

Two weeks later they won the Hawick games, beating Gala in the final. The following season they were again frustrated by darkness in the final and returned the next week to defeat Melrose by two tries to nil.

The Years of Endurance



IT was to be nineteen years before the Senior Cup came to Hexham again, and during that period the club had many ups and downs, and it was largely due to the untiring efforts of a faithful band of officials that it kept going at all. Many of the original players had retired, and at the annual general meeting in September, 1887, it was announced that W. Pat-
tinson, one of the club's outstanding threequarters, was leaving for Canada and would no longer be available. However, it was still found possible to put three teams in the field, the second and third XV.'s being under the captaincy, respectively, of J. Craft and W. P. Thompson. Tynedale disappointed their supporters by losing to Tynemouth at Hexham in the first round of the cup, and in general the 1887/88 season was a poor one, two matches being won, two drawn and seven lost.

In the semi-final of the cup the following season Tynedale drew with Percy Park on the latter's ground, but lost the replay the following Wednesday at Hexham in a match the end of which was marked by a hostile demonstration against the referee by a section of the spectators. The incident was exaggerated in the Newcastle press, it being stated that the referee "after a long series of anti-Tynedale decisions was deposited at the end of the game in the River Tyne." The facts were that the referee was subjected to a good deal of abuse on his way from the ground to Hexham Station, but was at no time in any danger. The County Committee took a serious view of the matter, and a resolution was passed to the effect that any further cup-tie matches for which the Tynedale Club won the choice of ground should be played on neutral ground at the discretion of the County Committee. This ruling does not appear to have been enforced.

As this referee incident has been the subject of misrepresentation, exaggeration, and adverse criticism through the years, it may be as well, even after the lapse of 52 years, to quote from a letter from the hon. secretary of the Northumberland Rugby Union dated April 11th, 1889, a paragraph which reads: "This Union never sought to connect the Tynedale team or club with the scene which occurred after the match at Hexham."

Dr. D. N. Jackson captained the first XV. the following season in which the club had a fair measure of success, though beaten by the Northumberland Club in the first round of the cup competition. The end of the season was marked by an extraordinary general meeting, at which resignations were received from half the members of the committee, including the cap-

tain and secretary, as a protest against the non-fulfilment of a fixture against Percy Park on Easter Monday. At the annual meeting in August a bitter reference to the resignations of the members concerned was contained in the annual report which was passed at the meeting, with the result that the chairman and other members left the room and a serious breach in the harmonious working of the club was caused.

In spite of this the club had by no means an unsuccessful season in 1890/91 under the captaincy of J. J. McIntyre, and following a cup victory over Northumberland after a drawn game, hopes ran high that the Senior Cup would come to Hexham again, but they were dashed by a defeat at the hands of Gosforth in the second round.

By the following season the internal differences in the club had been patched up, and three seasons under the capable captaincy of W. Turner followed, with W. Byron and G. Byron hon. secretary and hon. treasurer, respectively.

The period from 1890 to 1896 was noteworthy for Rockcliff's amazing series of victories in the 'Senior Cup'—seven in a row! Tynedale met them in 1892 for the first time in a cup-tie and were defeated at Whitley Bay by the narrow margin of two tries to nil in a snowstorm. W. Pattinson, who had returned from Canada some time previously and was now playing county football for Somerset, made a special journey from Bath to play in the cup-tie. The following season Tynedale had an easy victory over Gosforth in the first round of the cup, but failed badly against Rockcliff in the semi-final and lost by 32 points to 3. R. J. ("Casey") Baty was showing great form as Tynedale's full-back about this time.

The annual general meeting in August, 1894, reported a somewhat gloomy state of affairs, the club having finished the previous season over £10 in debt. Both the secretary and treasurer had resigned, and for a time there was some difficulty in filling the vacancies. The joint position was taken over by T. Charlton, the captaincy being in the hands of T. Robson, a sterling forward who represented his county on many occasions. The team had by now undergone a complete transformation from its earlier days, only W. Pattinson of what might be termed the Old Brigade still playing.

Players who rendered yeoman service to the club about this period, in addition to those already mentioned, were:—J. F. Fell, H. S. Graham, A. G. Richardson, D. Mulholland, W. Hamilton, J. W. Robson, M. J. Thompson, A. Young, R. S. Philips, T. Scott, T. Suddes, T. Nixon, F. Hobson, D. K. McComb.

The annual general meeting of 1895 reported a great improvement on the previous season, the deficit of £10 having been turned into a balance in favour of the club of over £8. The first team had won eight matches out of fifteen, and, though not succeeding in winning the cup, had put up a great performance against Rockcliff, the winners, and could reasonably claim to have been the second best side in the county. A county trial match was played at Hexham, and three of the Tynedale side played for Northumberland against Yorkshire.

The following season, under the captaincy of J. F. Fell, was even more successful, thirty 1st XV. matches being played, of which 11 were won and 12 lost. W. G. Baty, T. Robson, F. F. Hobson, W. Hamilton, and R. J. Baty all played for Northumberland in County Championship matches.

Early in the season 1896-97 Tynedale lost their full-back, R. J. Baty, to the Northern Union game, while their captain, J. F. Fell, left for the South of England. A further drain on the club was the departure to Yorkshire of T. Charlton, their secretary and treasurer. The dual vacancy was filled by Anthony Emerson, who thus began his long and honourable career in the administration of the Rugby game. From the playing point of view, the season was only a moderate one, 9 matches being won, 17 lost, and 5 drawn. The visit of Jed Forest on Christmas Day was a big attraction, and unusual visitors at the end of the season were Douglas, Isle of Man, whom Tynedale defeated by 25 points to nil.

The years between 1896 and 1901 brought only moderate success, but new players who were destined to make their mark on the game began to appear in the Tynedale ranks. Among these were:—G. E. Spencer, J. A. Baty, J. E. Murray, A. E. Emerson, J. Shepherd, T. Herdman, F. E. Sutcliffe, J. W. Forster, R. Park, J. Robson, J. S. Emerson, J. White, W. Stevenson.

In the 1899/1900 season Tynedale obtained a new field not far from their former one, which had to make way for a road-making scheme. Mr C. W. C. Henderson, the President, kicked off at the opening game.

At the annual general meeting in August, 1901, Mr W. T. Younger presiding, it was reported that the previous season had been the worst experienced in the club's history. Eighteen matches had been played, only two being won and eleven lost. Financially the club had finished the season in debt, the total income for the year being only £32. A resolution embodying the disbanding of the first team was proposed by the chairman and seconded by Anthony Emerson, who said that the step proposed was one that should have been taken some years previously. He felt that, after a season or two as a second team, the players would derive confidence, and public support would return, so that they would soon be able to take their place again among the senior teams of the county. The officials elected at the meeting, held almost exactly 50 years ago, were:—

Captain, T. F. Lancaster; vice-captain, T. W. Nixon; hon. secretary, J. W. Robson; hon. treasurer, A. Emerson; committee, H. Aubin, A. J. Charlton, W. H. Fenwick, J. A. Baty, W. Patterson, A. Young, W. T. Younger, T. H. Scott, J. Stobart.

The club entered for the Senior Shield Competition (better known as the Second Teams Cup) and reached the final by beating Walker and Northern II. In the final they met Rockcliff II. at Newcastle. The match ended in a draw and the referee ordered an extra ten minutes each way. Rockcliff refused to respond to the whistle to line up, so Tynedale touched the ball down over the line and claimed the tie, against which Rockcliff protested. The County Committee ordered the game to be replayed at Hexham;



TYNEDALE 1st XV: Winners of the Northumberland Senior Cup, 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.



TYNEDALE 1st XV. : 1920-21. Back row : F. Armstrong, T. Ritson, O. L. Jessop, S. Piek, T. Robson, T. Armstrong, A. Shepherd (groundsman). Middle row : G. Nicholson, G. Robson, D. Forster, B. D. Plummer (capt.), I. A. Patterson, J. S. Bentham, E. S. Davidson. Front row : B. F. Jackson, F. C. Jessop.



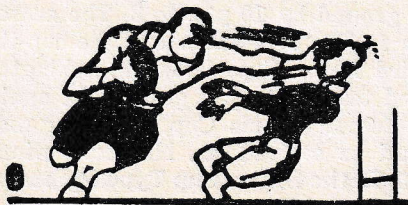
TYNEDALE 1st XV. : 1924-25. Back row : J. E. C. Strang, R. Bell, K. G. C. Robinson, J. G. Holmes, G. Nicholson, J. S. Bentham, O. L. Jessop. Middle row : J. E. Dobbie, G. Robson, D. Forster, B. D. Plummer (capt.), R. A. Goodall, A. Williamson, S. Piek. Front row : R. R. M. Barr, H. Charlton.

once more it ended in a draw after extra time, and was again replayed at Hexham, Rockcliff at last being winners by a goal to a try.

Beginning with the season 1902/03, Tynedale rented the ground at Dene Park and had a very satisfactory first season there under the captaincy of J. E. Murray, winning fifteen matches and losing five out of 22 played. J. E. Murray has been a power in the club since the days of his captaincy, and only recently retired from the position of chairman of committee, being elected an honorary life member of the club on retirement.

In the Second Teams Cup Competition of 1904, Tynedale lost to Percy Park II. in the semi-final at North Shields, but protested against the dimensions of the Park Ground, and the match was ordered to be replayed on neutral ground at Jesmond, Tynedale winning by 11 points to nil. In the final they gained a well-earned victory over Northern II. by 11 points to six, and by winning the competition qualified again as seniors.

It is fitting at this stage to acknowledge the debt owed to Anthony Emerson for his untiring work for the club over a long period of years both on and off the field. A skilful half-back who in his playing days was captain of the second XV. and vice-captain of the first XV., he succeeded T. Charlton as hon. secretary and treasurer in 1896 and remained as hon. treasurer for some fifteen years, and it is not too much to say that but for his care and solicitude for its finances during that period Tynedale would not now be celebrating its 75th birthday. He was county representative for many years and subsequently vice-president, and later President of the Northumberland Rugby Union. In 1911 he was elected an honorary life member of the Tynedale Club in acknowledgment of many years of devoted service. During the 1939/45 war he acted as hon. secretary and treasurer of the County Union, and for his services was elected an honorary life member of the Union—a signal honour indeed. He was the moving spirit in the purchase by the club of the Dene Park ground in 1926. The name Emerson is written boldly on Tynedale's scroll of fame, for Anthony's brothers—Arthur and Sep.—were outstanding regular members of the first XV. pack for many years, including the cup-winning teams of 1906 and 1911, and both played for Northumberland County on several occasions.



The Years of Development



THE decade between 1905 and 1914 was a period of successful development for Tynedale, and in the course of ten seasons they reached the final of the Senior Cup on five occasions, winning it three times, and during the same period they won the Second Teams Cup three times and the Third Teams Cup once.

Following their return to senior status, they entered for the Senior Cup in 1904/05, but continued to play second teams and junior clubs in their ordinary programme. They lost to Rockcliff, the ultimate winners, in the cup competition, by six points to nil, not a heavy defeat in the light of previous matches between the two clubs, and, taking it all round, the outlook was promising.

About this time the constitution of the first team was remarkable for the number of representatives of the same families playing, and on at least one occasion the side contained five sets of brothers—three Spencers (H. J., G. E., and F. G.), three Emersons (A., A.E., and J.S.), three Pattersons (W., J., and I.A.), two Bates (W. and A.), and two Ritsons (J. and G.).

G. E. Spencer was elected captain for the 1905/06 season, with T. M. Catcheside as vice, and I. A. Patterson and A. Emerson hon. secretary and treasurer, respectively. The season is a historical landmark in that for the first time the fixture-card bore the title "Tynedale Rugby Football Club" instead of "Tynedale Football Club." A victory over Percy Park by 6 pts. to nil was a capital start, and a visit to Dene Park by Hartlepool Rovers, then at the height of their power and fame, stimulated what was undoubtedly a revival in the game, and, though Tynedale lost by 14 pts. to 3, their form was most encouraging. A good win over Carlisle by 20 pts. to 5 was followed by an even greater success—a victory over Rockcliff, the cup-holders, on their own ground by 10 pts. to 3. The season went on successfully, and there was a feeling of optimism as the cup-ties approached. The third XV. won the Third Teams Cup, defeating Ashington and Hirst United in the final; the second team put up a great fight against Northern II. in the semi-final of the Second Teams Cup, and four matches were needed before a decision could be arrived at, Northern winning at the fourth attempt by 14 pts. to 9. In the Senior Cup Tynedale met and defeated Rockcliff, the holders, at Hexham, by a goal and two tries to nothing—no mean achievement when it is remembered that Rockcliff had won the cup twelve times out of the previous sixteen seasons.

The final against Percy Park attracted a big crowd to the North Road Ground, Newcastle, and Tynedale won a keenly-contested game by 11 points to nil, thus winning the Senior Cup for the first time since 1887. Scorers for Tynedale were J. A. Baty and T. Jackson (tries), A. G. Richardson converting one and Catcheside kicking a penalty-goal. After the match the Tynedale supporters took charge, and the enthusiasm rivalled that of 1887. The crowd at Hexham Station, jubilant and vociferous, harnessed themselves to the brake which had been awaiting the team's arrival, and hauled them into the Market Place, where George Spencer, the popular captain, made the speech of his eventful lifetime.

The Tynedale team was:—

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.

The winning of the Senior Cup after a period of nineteen years gave a great impetus to the rugby game in Hexham and district, and, though the next three seasons were uneventful, Tynedale succeeded in reaching the final of the Senior Cup in two of them, losing to Percy Park on each occasion. Prominent players of the period who played for Northumberland were G. E. Spencer, F. G. Spencer, M. M. Snowball, J. P. Scott, A. E. Emerson, J. S. Emerson, R. Armstrong, R. O. Darlington, W. Robb, I. A. Patterson, and W. Short. W. Nanson, a Cumberland forward who played for England against Wales and France in 1907, was in the Tynedale pack of 1907/08. On the administrative side, outstanding service was rendered by Dr. T. Woodman, chairman of committee, Armorer and John Patterson, who between them filled the position of secretary for seven years in succession, and, of course, Anthony Emerson.

The services of the Patterson family to the game may be mentioned at this point. W. Patterson was a playing member for several years and held the position of secretary just over 50 years ago. He represented Tynedale on the County Committee for many years, and has been honorary auditor of both the Tynedale club and the Northumberland Rugby Union for some 40 years. An unfortunate injury cut short the playing career of John Patterson, but he has given outstanding service to the club in other ways. He was honorary secretary before and after the first world war, chairman of committee for several years, and has been President of the club continuously since 1929. The late Armorer Patterson was a great forward and a great club man. He had a distinguished playing career both for club and county, was honorary secretary of the club from 1905 to 1909, and followed Anthony Emerson as county representative on the latter's election as vice-president. He continued to give devoted service to the club as a committee member until his death during the second world war.

The season 1908/09 saw the departure from the club to other parts of the world of F. G. Spencer, W. Short, and R. Armstrong—three outstanding county forwards—but during the following season there was a con-

siderable influx of new young players, including J. Thompson, W. Braidford, N. F. Humphreys, and B. D. Plummer. There were high hopes of winning the Senior Cup, but Percy Park won a high-scoring semi-final at Dene Park by 26 points to 16, Humphreys being outstanding for Tynedale. Humphreys was, in fact, one of the best half-backs who ever played for Tynedale, and it was an honour to himself and to the club when he was selected to tour South Africa with the British Isles team in 1910. On his return he found it more convenient to play for Durham City, and Tynedale thus had his services for only one season.

It was in the 1909/10 season that Tynedale began their long series of victories in the Second Teams Cup Competition, winning the trophy in 1910, 1911, and 1913, and again five years in succession after play was resumed in 1919, after the first world war. The 1910/11 season, under the captaincy of W. Robb, was an outstanding one in Tynedale's history, as the club won both the Senior and Second Teams Cups. In the first round of the Senior Cup Tynedale beat Old Novos. easily by 15 points to nil. The second round saw a match which veteran Hexham supporters still claim to be "the best ever." Northern were the visitors, and they turned out a very powerful side, including no fewer than five internationals—A. D. Roberts and J. A. S. Ritson (England), J. G. Scoular (Scotland), O. J. S. Piper and J. A. Smythe (Ireland), the team being completed by several county players. After a great tussle Northern seemed to have the game won, but a last-minute try by E. Averell and a great conversion from the touch-line by W. Robb, pulled the game out of the fire and Tynedale went on to win the final. This was against Percy Park at the Royal Grammar School ground, Newcastle, Tynedale winning a very tense game by 7 points to 6. The performance was even better than it appears. Park were two tries up at half-time, with W. Braidford, Tynedale's wing-threequarter, injured and out of the game. There was a great rally in the second half, and J. S. Emerson scored a try and J. P. Scott dropped a goal. Tynedale's team was:—

R. O. Darlington; E. Averell, J. W. Stephenson, W. Robb, W. Braidford; J. P. Scott, W. H. Warburton; J. S. Emerson, A. E. Emerson, G. Potts, T. Ritson, J. Short, G. L. Bradley, S. H. Kent, I. A. Patterson.

An excellent season was wound up by the victory of the second team in the Second Teams Cup, who defeated Rockcliff II. on the Old Novos. ground by 16 points to nil.

In 1911/12 Tynedale lost to Northern in the semi-final of the Senior Cup, their team being much the same as in the previous season, except that M. M. Snowball and B. D. Plummer, present members of the Northumberland County Selection Committee, were together at half-back. The second team had an exciting experience in their competition. After defeating Old Novos. II., the latter put in an objection, and the County Committee ordered the game to be replayed. Two drawn games followed, but at the fourth meeting on the Northern ground Tynedale won by 13 points to 4, only to be beaten by Rockcliff in the final by a single point.

In the following season Tynedale had a remarkable holiday programme and played seven games over Christmas and New Year, winning them all by a margin of 133 points to 17. As the fixtures comprised Durham City, Jed Forest, North Durham, Carlisle (twice), Wakefield, and Northern, the performance was an outstanding one. Incidentally, B. D. Plummer was the only player to take part in all seven matches. Tynedale were fancied for the Senior Cup, but were beaten by Percy Park at Preston Avenue by 6 points to 3 in a match which on normal form Tynedale should have won easily. Percy Park went on to win the cup by defeating Old Novos. easily in the final. Tynedale II. once again won the Second Teams Competition, beating Percy Park II. on the County Ground by two tries to nil.

S. J. Newman was captain for the 1913/14 season in which Tynedale were represented by a side as good as any that has played for the club before or since. They reached the final of the Senior Cup by beating Gosforth Nomads on the County Ground by a try to nil, and by a great victory over Northern at Dene Park by 20 points to 6. In a very dull final at the County Ground Tynedale and Percy Park played a pointless draw. In the replay Tynedale won by a penalty goal and two tries to a penalty goal. The game was in marked contrast to the previous one, being bright and open. W. Braidford opened the scoring with a magnificent try for Tynedale, but it was anybody's game until late in the second half, when J. Thompson snapped up a loose ball and left the Park defence standing to score a great try behind the posts. Tynedale's team was:—

P. Gibb; W. Hulsen, W. Robb, S. J. Newman, W. Braidford, J. Thompson;
F. Nevison, P. Braidford; G. Potts, R. Summers, G. P. Walton, T. Robson, D.
Forster, T. Armstrong, I. A. Patterson.

The winning of the cup marked the end of an epoch, and much was to happen before the blue and white jerseys were seen again. The period between 1910 and 1914 had been one of the Golden Ages of the club. Among those who played for their counties during the period were W. Robb, I. A. Patterson, J. S. Emerson, J. P. Scott, J. Thompson, B. D. Plummer, J. Short, F. Nevison, W. Hulsen, T. Armstrong (Northumberland), W. Braidford, N. F. Humphreys (Durham), P. Braidford and G. A. West (Cumberland).

War had broken out before the next season was due to start, and at a special meeting of the club on the 1st September it was agreed to cancel the fixtures for the season. Four and a half years were to pass before rugby football came again to Hexham, and in that period many of the club's greatest players were to lose their lives, including five who had played in the cup-final of April, 1914.



The Twenties



THE first matches at Hexham following the end of the first world war took place on Easter Saturday and Easter Monday, 1919, when Tynedale defeated Old Novos. and drew with Rockcliff. They were more or less scratch sides picked from service men on leave or just demobilised and public schoolboys on holiday. There was enough promising material on view to encourage hopes that a really good side would be available when the rugby game started again in full swing.

At the first annual general meeting held after the war B. D. Plummer was appointed captain of the 1st XV. and D. Forster vice-captain, positions which they held for six consecutive seasons. Consistently good form was shown, with the accent on attack, and the general standard of football about this period was as good as any in the club's history.

The first match of the 1919/20 season was against Jed Forest at Jedburgh, and, though Tynedale lost by 14 points to nil, the result was to some extent accounted for by a series of injuries. A succession of victories by large scores over Old Novos., Gosforth, College of Medicine, and Blaydon followed, and on the whole the season was a most successful one, 16 matches being won out of 30 played, and a total of 424 points scored against 219. The last three games of the season resulted in victories over Kersal (37-0), Carlisle (39-6), and Percy Park (35-0).

One outstanding match at Dene Park in 1920 was that against a County side selected by Mr Reuben Hodgson, then secretary of the Northumberland Rugby Union, and won by Tynedale by 9 pts. to 3. The proceeds of the "gate," amounting to £23, were given to the Hexham War Memorial Fund. At a dinner following the match the gate receipts were augmented by donations, with the result that over £200 was handed over to the Fund authorities and a cot endowed at the Hexham War Memorial Hospital to be known as "The Tynedale Football Club Cot."

In the cup-ties Tynedale were defeated by Rockcliff in the semi-final of the Senior Cup, but the second team regained possession of the Second Teams Cup with a victory over Rockcliff II. in the final. New players in the first post-war season included D. S. Jackson, O. L. Jessop, W. Sinclair, J. S. Bentham, R. A. Goodall, G. Nicholson, G. Robson, E. S. Davidson, and many others who continued to give valiant service for many seasons. Among the pre-war players were B. D. Plummer, D. Forster, I. A. Patterson, T. Ritson, T. Armstrong, T. Robson, J. Thompson, G. Burn, J. Forster, W. R. Baty,

S. Piek. Five members of the club — D. Forster, B. D. Plummer, G. Nicholson, J. Thompson, and O. L. Jessop — represented Northumberland during the season, which included matches against both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, as well as against the five counties in the Northern Group.

An important event in the 1920/21 season was the opening and dedication of the club's War Memorial. A subscription list had been opened the previous season for the provision of a suitable memorial to the 49 players who had fallen in the war, and this took the form of an Army Hut, which was purchased and erected at Dene Park by voluntary labour, and equipped as dressing-rooms and pavilion. The names of the fallen are recorded on a brass tablet inside the pavilion. The pavilion was officially opened in January, 1921, by Mr H. I. Welford, then President of the Northumberland Rugby Union, and the tablet dedicated by the Rev. J. V. C. Farquhar, then Rector of Hexham.

The seasons between 1920 and 1925 passed smoothly if uneventfully. The 1st XV. were consistently unlucky in cup-ties, but continued to maintain a high standard of play in ordinary games and always treated the game as more important than the result. The 2nd XV. went from success to success, and won the Second Teams Cup five years in succession. For their success they were in large measure indebted to T. Ritson, who after many years of faithful service on the 1st XV., spent the remainder of his playing days in leading and coaching the 2nd XV. The 3rd XV., too, did well, and won the Junior Cup in 1922 and 1925.

Prominent players about this time in addition to those already mentioned were R. R. M. Barr, H. Charlton, R. Allen, E. P. Reynolds, R. Bell, J. E. C. Strang, F. R. Hedley, J. G. Holmes, and J. E. Dobbie.

Undoubtedly the most important event affecting Tynedale's fortunes in the Twenties was the change-over from Association to Rugby Football by Hexham Grammar School. For this important step the club are eternally grateful to Mr W. L. Dix and to Mr H. M. Butler, the then headmaster. The effect of the change was felt immediately in the junior teams, and the Northumberland "Under 18" Cup was won in five successive seasons from 1924 to 1928 by Tynedale IV., consisting almost entirely of Grammar School boys. The school has continued to be a nursery for Tynedale, and from 1928 onwards the great majority of players in all the Tynedale sides have learned their rugby at the Grammar School.

Administratively, an event of importance took place in 1921 when T. R. Fenwick was appointed hon. treasurer — a position he held with the utmost credit for fifteen years, resigning in 1936 on taking up an appointment outside the district. His services were recognised on resignation by his election as an honorary life member.

D. Forster, vice-captain for six years, had the honour of captaining Tynedale in its Golden Jubilee season 1925/26. In order to commemorate the Jubilee in a tangible manner, it was decided at a general meeting on February 8th, 1926, to exercise an option to purchase the Dene Park ground which the club had rented as a playing field for 23 years. The purchase price was £1,550, and was raised by donations, special efforts, and

a loan from the Rugby Football Union, which was repaid before the outbreak of the 1939 war. The purchase gave Tynedale a permanent home for the first time in fifty years.

The Jubilee itself was celebrated on March 13th, 1926, by a match at Dene Park against Waterloo, which Tynedale won by 12 pts. to 3. Tynedale's team was:—

R. Bell; J. E. Dobbie, T. A. Carr, R. A. Goodall, A. Williamson; R. R. M. Barr, B. D. Plummer; F. R. Hedley, G. Robson, R. Wilkinson, G. Nicholson, K. G. C. Robinson, J. S. Bentham, D. Forster (capt.), J. E. C. Strang.

A largely-attended dinner was held at Hexham Hydro in the evening under the chairmanship of Mr R. H. Robb, President of the club, who had played in the club's first match in 1876. Past and present players representing every season of Tynedale's fifty years of existence were present at the dinner, at which the toast of "The Tynedale Club" was proposed by Mr T. H. Hodgkinson, a former President of the Cumberland Rugby Union and of the Carlisle R.F.C.

It was hoped to celebrate the Jubilee still further by the winning of the Northumberland Senior Cup, but it was not to be, and Tynedale were narrowly defeated in the semi-final by Northern, who went on to win the cup by beating Rockcliff in the final.

The winning of the cup was only an honour deferred, however, as Tynedale rose to the occasion magnificently in the 1926/27 season, again under the leadership of D. Forster, and won the Senior Cup against the expectations of all but their own players! Seghill were defeated in the first round, Gosforth in the semi-final, and Northern in the final by 5 pts. to 3. The Tynedale team had certain known weaknesses, one of which was lack of speed in the backs, but they played to a definite plan of campaign in the final. The forwards were splendidly led by J. K. K. Morrison, and the astute tactics of the brothers B. X. and F. C. Jessop at half-back did the rest. Northern led by a try to nil at half-time, and in the second half G. Robson scored a try for Tynedale which D. Forster fittingly converted to give his side victory. It is of interest to note that J. Suddes, subsequent County hooker, played his first senior game in this match. He holds the unusual record of having played for Tynedale in winning cup-finals of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th XV's.

Tynedale's team was:—

R. Bell; D. Thornton, R. A. Goodall, T. A. Carr, N. C. Fairlam; B. X. Jessop, F. C. Jessop; J. K. K. Morrison, G. Robson, J. Suddes, F. R. Hedley, G. Nicholson, D. Forster, J. S. Bentham, J. E. C. Strang.

Following the cup victory of 1927 a number of the older players retired from the game, and the next three seasons were largely devoted to team building. New players who were to have much to do with Tynedale's subsequent success included A. Brogdon, T. B. Bland, B. Liddle, C. R. Armstrong, T. A. Redpath, J. E. McComb, W. D. McComb, R. Graham, R. H. C. Herron, and R. A. C. Herron.

A high standard of play was maintained throughout the club, but, judging purely by the yardstick of games won or lost and success or lack of it in cup-ties, the seasons from 1927 to 1930 were not outstanding.



TYNEDALE 1st XV.: Winners of the Northumberland Senior Cup, 1927. Back row : G. Nicholson, J. E. C. Strang, J. K. K. Morrison, J. S. Bentham, R. A. Goodall, R. Bell, D. Thornton. Middle row : F. R. Hedley, G. Robson, D. Forster (capt.), T. A. Carr, J. Suddes. Front row : F. C. Jessop, N. C. Fairlam, B. X. Jessop.



TYNEDALE 1st XV: Winners of the Northumberland Senior Cup, 1933. Back row: R. A. C. Herron, J. Suddes, R. Graham, R. H. C. Herron, J. E. McComb, G. J. B. Bell, W. P. Gibson. Middle row: W. Sharp, A. R. B. Polson, E. R. Blench, K. W. D. Hodgson, C. R. Armstrong, T. B. Bland. Front row: B. Liddle, A. Brogdon.



SIX TYNEDALE PLAYERS in the Northumberland XV. against Hampshire in the final of the County Championship in 1936. Back row: E. R. Blench, K. W. D. Hodgson, J. Suddes. Front row: T. B. Bland, B. Liddle, A. Brogdon.

The Years of Victory



EARLY in the 1930/31 season it became known that the playing field at Dene Park would have to be drastically reorganised to make way for the new trunk road between Corbridge and Hexham. Preliminary plans showed that the road would bisect the ground at about the north "25" line and that the playing pitch as one had known it for 27 years would be no more.

Negotiations between the Northumberland County Council and the club took place, as the result of which it was made possible for the club to purchase a portion of the adjoining Broadclose field and lay out a full-size pitch running east and west instead of north and south as hitherto. The bisection of the ground left the pavilion on a triangle north of the new road.

Work started on the ground in the summer of 1931, and during the whole of the 1931/32 season matches were played on Broadclose, the majority of the third XV. fixtures being played away from home. The new ground was officially opened in October, 1932, when Tynedale played a team selected by Mr G. E. Spencer, their old captain, who was then President of the Northumberland Rugby Union.

J. E. McComb, son of a former Tynedale player and President, captained the first XV. from 1929 to 1931, being succeeded by S. G. Irving in the 1931/32 season. A new recruit to the side in that season was K. W. D. Hodgson, games master at Hexham Grammar School. He came to Hexham with an established reputation, having already played for Durham and Yorkshire. He soon made his presence felt in the Tynedale ranks, and he was the dominant personality of the club until the outbreak of war in 1939. He was elected captain for 1932/33, and retained the captaincy for five years. The four seasons from 1932 to 1936 were probably the most famous in the club's history, the Senior Cup being won four years running—a record almost resembling that of Rockcliff in the Nineties.

Tynedale's success during this period was due in very large measure to its captain, whose enthusiasm for the game both on and off the field communicated itself to the rest of the players. He succeeded in transforming what was merely a number of individuals into a side whose team work and team spirit were the admiration of other sides in the North-East. He had an able lieutenant in Angus Brogdon, his vice-captain for five years running. Brogdon was the mainspring of the back division during this vintage

period, and in his half-back partnership with B. Liddle he enhanced his own reputation and that of his club and county. He was honoured with an international trial in December, 1936.

The backbone of Tynedale's success in four successive seasons was the leadership of K. W. D. Hodgson, the hooking of J. Suddes, the always sound and often brilliant play of the midfield triangle of B. Liddle, A. Brogdon and T. B. Bland, and the solidity of E. R. Blench at full-back. The club reached the pinnacle of its fame when these six players were selected for the Northumberland side which played against Hampshire in the final of the County Championship in 1936. Earlier in the same season Blench, Bland, and Suddes had played for the combined Durham and Northumberland side against the All Blacks, which the tourists won by the narrow margin of 10 points to 6.

Tynedale's journeys to the cup final in four successive seasons were:—

1933: Preliminary round, defeated Northern 9-5; first round, defeated Gosforth 14-0; semi-final, defeated Seghill 13-0; final, defeated Old Novos. 17-0.

1934: First round, defeated Northern 8-7; semi-final, defeated Rockcliff 8-5; final, drew with Old Novos. 3-3; defeated Old Novos. in replay 9-6.

1935: Preliminary round, defeated Ashington 23-0; first round, defeated Seghill 32-0; semi-final, defeated Armstrong College 17-0; final, defeated Northern 13-11.

1936: First round, defeated College of Commerce 30-3; semi-final, defeated Old Novos. 21-3; final, defeated Gosforth 23-21.

The 1936 final against Gosforth was one of the most thrilling on record, and perhaps the best game ever seen on the County Ground, Gosforth. Each side eschewed normal cup-tie tactics and went all out for victory by first-class open football. As this match was something quite out of the ordinary run of cup-tie football an extract from a press report of the time may not be out of place. The following is taken from the "Hexham Courant" of 11th April, 1936:—

" . . . After five minutes' play, during which Tynedale were apparently taking their opponents' measure, Brogdon cut through in his own inimitable manner, and a perfectly-timed pass was taken by Hodgson at full speed, and a try behind the posts was the result, the goal-kick failing (3-0) . . . R. A. C. Herron intercepted a pass and broke away to send E. Young over in the corner, Liddle failing to convert (6-0) . . . A penalty kick for Gosforth went perilously near and they nearly scored on the right wing before Wood made an opening for Horsley to score without any Tynedale player putting a hand on him. The goal-kick failed (6-3). Tynedale continued to press, but lacked finish, and Gosforth came again, a breakaway by Errington resulting in a try by Taylor, not converted (6-6). Shortly afterwards Wood kicked a penalty goal (6-9).

From the Tynedale point of view worse was to follow, and Errington broke away from a line-out and scored a further try which Wood failed to convert (6-12). Half-time came shortly afterwards, and it was learned that Tynedale hooker, Suddes, had cracked a rib in the first few minutes and might not be able to play in the second half. However, he came on a few minutes after the start of the second half, and Tynedale seemed to put more zest into their play.

Ten minutes after the restart Turnbull, the Gosforth outside half, broke away well and gave Horsley the chance to score a brilliant try in the corner,

leaving a trail of recumbent players to testify to his handing-off ability. No goal (6-15).

Tynedale stock was definitely low. Gosforth were playing like men inspired and the Tynedale passing machinery could not get into working order.

Good work by R. A. C. Herron and Hodgson reduced the arrears, the former scoring an unconverted try (9-15). This brought Tynedale to within fighting distance again, but it needed two scores to win! Then came a crowning blow when Bland was offside at a fixed scrum and Wood kicked a penalty goal to increase his side's lead (9-18).

Minutes were passing. It was felt that Tynedale couldn't do it. In fact, for a time it looked as if 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 scored 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 half-way, 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 . . . ”

Tynedale's teams in the successful cup-finals were:—

1933: E. R. Blench; C. R. Armstrong, T. B. Bland, W. Sharp, W. P. Gibson; B. Liddle, A. Brogdon; A. R. B. Polson, J. Suddes, R. H. C. Herron, R. Graham, J. E. McComb, R. A. C. Herron, G. J. B. Bell, K. W. D. Hodgson.

1934: E. R. Blench; W. P. Gibson, J. Heppell, T. B. Bland, C. R. Armstrong; B. Liddle, A. Brogdon; J. Morris, J. Suddes, S. Scott, A. R. Little, R. Graham, K. W. D. Hodgson, G. J. B. Bell, R. A. C. Herron.

1935: E. R. Blench; W. P. Gibson, E. W. I. Johnson, T. B. Bland, C. R. Armstrong; B. Liddle, A. Brogdon; R. H. C. Herron, J. Suddes, J. Morris, A. Graham, E. B. Young, R. A. C. Herron, D. C. Armstrong, K. W. D. Hodgson.

1936: D. Murray; W. R. Forrest, E. W. I. Johnson, T. B. Bland, E. R. Blench; B. Liddle, A. Brogdon; R. H. C. Herron, J. Suddes, E. B. Young, R. Graham, D. C. Armstrong, W. Armstrong, R. A. C. Herron, K. W. D. Hodgson.

Eight players took part in all the finals. They were: K. W. D. Hodgson, A. Brogdon, B. Liddle, T. B. Bland, J. C. Suddes, R. Graham, E. R. Blench, and R. A. C. Herron.

It is of interest to note that the cup was presented to the Tynedale captain on each occasion by Presidents of the Northumberland Rugby Union who were themselves captains of Tynedale in their day, viz., G. E. Spencer in 1933 and 1934, and M. M. Snowball in 1935 and 1936.

As is often the case after a period of exceptional success Tynedale's fortunes underwent something of a slump during the next three seasons. The departure of J. Suddes and B. Liddle left gaps in vital positions which were never satisfactorily filled; K. W. D. Hodgson, T. B. Bland, and E. W. I. Johnson were troubled with injuries and A. Brogdon was off for some time with illness, and in general the sides lacked the team-work and sparkle of previous years. In spite of this the club had a fair amount of success, and good open football was still the order of the day. The season 1937-38 was noteworthy for the accession to the club's playing strength of the brothers William and Walter Rutherford and schoolboys K. Hall and H. P. Brogdon, all of whom were destined to play a big part in Tynedale's fortunes in the years to follow. The Rutherfords were capped for Northumberland in the season 1938/39, and were the outstanding members of the Tynedale pack throughout that season.

At the annual general meeting in May, 1939, E. R. Blench was elected captain for the 1939/40 season, but before this was due to start war had broken out again.





TYNE DALE 1st XV: Winners of the Northumberland Senior Cup, 1935. Back row: R. H. C. Herron, R. A. C. Herron, R. Graham, E. Young, D. C. Armstrong, C. R. Armstrong, J. Suddes, W. P. Gibson. Middle row: J. Morris, A. Brogdon, K. W. D. Hodgson, E. R. Blench, T. B. Bland. In front: B. Liddle, E. W. I. Johnson. Standing behind: T. M. Catcheside, D. Forster, J. J. McIntyre, who played in the cup-winning finals of 1906, 1927 and 1887 respectively.



TYNEDALE 1st XV.: Winners of the Northumberland Senior Cup, 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. Charlton, J. D. Robb, R. M. Waugh, W. Rutherford (capt.), J. A. Newlands, K. Hall, K. T. Bell.



TYNEDALE R.F.C. OFFICIALS in 75th Birthday season. Back row : J. D. Robb (1st XV. captain), T. L. Robertson (hon. secretary), W. Ormston (asst. hon. treasurer), G. L. Wood (hon. teams secretary). Front row : Dr. J. J. Hurley (chairman of committee), J. Patterson (president), B. D. Plummer (hon. treasurer).

The Post-war Years



IN contrast to the first world war, Tynedale were able to keep the game alive during the years from 1939 to 1945, and a number of interesting matches were played during the period, frequently for the benefit of war charities. The chief opponents were service sides from Army and Royal Air Force units stationed in the neighbourhood, and Tynedale's playing strength was recruited from the farming community, service men on leave or stationed nearby, and Hexham Grammar School.

Excellent work was done on the administrative side, with the result that the club was a completely going concern when the game was resumed generally in the autumn of 1945. For this a deep debt is due to T. L. Robertson, who took over the dual office of secretary and treasurer early in the war and has remained as secretary ever since. A fund to purchase Broadclose as a War Memorial was started during the war, and the purchase was completed in 1948.

There was a general resumption of football in the county in September, 1945, and Tynedale were able to put a very useful side in the field. Players were returning from the war week by week, and the high playing standard of earlier years was fully maintained. A series of unofficial county matches took place during the season, Tynedale being represented in the county side by W. A. Dinning, William and Walter Rutherford, M. Thompson, and H. P. Brogdon. In addition, the Rutherfords played for the combined Northumberland, Cumberland and Durham side against the "Kiwis," a New Zealand army side of international strength.

Cup-ties were resumed in 1946-47, a season which will be remembered for the cancellation of matches eight weeks running due to frost and snow in February and March. In the Senior Cup Tynedale beat Old Novos., but lost in the semi-final to Percy Park, the ultimate winners. Tynedale II. were a particularly strong side and deservedly won the Second Teams Cup. William Rutherford, the Tynedale skipper, was honoured by a place in the first international trial, and during the season the following Tynedale players played for Northumberland in County Championship matches:—W. A. Dinning, J. E. Cousin, H. P. Brogdon, A. B. Morton, and the Rutherford brothers.

The following season was noteworthy for the visit of the Australian XV.—"The Wallabies"—and Tynedale were represented on the combined

Northumberland and Durham side which met them by William Rutherford, W. A. Dinning, and K. Hall. Unfortunately a subsequent injury kept William Rutherford out of the county side for the County Championship matches. Walter Rutherford, H. P. Brogdon, K. Hall, W. A. Dinning, and J. A. Newlands all played for Northumberland in the course of the season.

The season finished with a great victory over Northern in the Senior Cup final. Tynedale had reached the final as the result of not too convincing victories over King's College and Seghill, and there was not a great deal of optimism about their chances of winning the cup. They reached the heights, however, in the final in a game which compared for thrills with that against Gosforth in 1936, and beat Northern by 15 pts. to 13. The cup was presented to the Tynedale captain by the President of the Northumberland Rugby Union, Mr B. D. Plummer, a former Tynedale captain, thus following the precedent of the cup-winning years from 1933 to 1936. The Northumberland Junior Cup was won in excellent style by Tynedale III., and the 1947/48 season ended on a note of confidence. The following team represented Tynedale in the Senior Cup final:—

S. 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, William Rutherford, W. Armstrong, J. E. Cousin.

Following the winning of the First and Third Teams cups, there was added enthusiasm for the rugby game in Hexham and district, and it was now found possible to run four teams regularly. William Rutherford was re-elected captain for 1948/49, but shortly after the season started he found it necessary for business reasons to retire, and handed over the captaincy to J. E. Cousin. He had given great service both to his club and county over a long period, and his place in the pack was indeed difficult to fill. K. Hall, R. M. Waugh, and H. P. Brogdon were no longer available, and generally speaking there was something of a falling-off in form. In the course of the season W. A. Dinning, J. D. Robb, and J. A. Newlands played for Northumberland.

Visitors to Hexham on Good Friday were Keswick, holders of the Cumberland Senior Cup, and on Easter Monday Tynedale entertained Cleckheaton. Before this match the plaque to the memory of players of the club who had fallen in the second world war was unveiled by Mr B. D. Plummer, President of the Northumberland Rugby Union, and dedicated by the Rev. A. G. Hardie, Rector of Hexham.

Seasons 1949/50 and 1950/51, under the captaincy of J. E. Cousin and Walter Rutherford, respectively, were uneventful and reasonably successful. More and more young players were joining the club, and the outlook for the future was bright.

During these two seasons W. A. Dinning was the solitary Tynedale representative on the county side, and he, indeed, holds the remarkable record of having missed only one county match—official or unofficial—between 1945 and 1951.

The annual general meeting, held in the summer of 1951, was one of the most largely-attended and enthusiastic in the history of the club. J. D. Robb was elected captain and W. A. Dinning vice-captain for the 75th birthday season. Great-nephew of the late Mr R. H. Robb, who played in Tynedale's first match in 1876 and was president of the club in its Golden Jubilee year, and nephew of Major-General William Robb, captain of Tynedale during the vintage period between 1910 and 1914, the new captain carries on a great family tradition, and one that is characteristic of the Tynedale club throughout its history

As the names of the first officials of the club elected in 1876 are given in the first chapter, it is fitting that those elected for the 75th anniversary season of 1951/2 should be given. They are:—

President, J. Patterson; hon. secretary, T. L. Robertson; hon. fixtures secretary, F. W. Maughan; hon. teams secretary, G. L. Wood; hon. treasurer, B. D. Plummer; asst. hon. treasurer, W. Ormston; hon. auditor, W. Patterson; county representative, A. Brogdon; general committee, Dr. J. J. Hurley (Chairman), R. L. Blackburn, A. Brogdon, J. L. Dodd, R. J. Dodds, D. Forster, W. Forster, J. S. Hart-Jackson, J. T. Hopper, Capt. W. R. Maguire, J. McKeown, A. Richardson, L. Shout, R. Slater, W. Wallace.

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So ends this attempt—an all too incomplete one—to preserve for posterity the history of the Tynedale Club. Its readers are enjoined to take its faults with its virtues and to accept both in the spirit of “errors and omissions excepted.”

It is inevitable that the names of many people who helped to make the club what it is today are unmentioned in these pages, but they are not forgotten on that account. Their work lives on, and will continue to live, despite its lack of mention here. The spirit which imbued those men is alive today in the breasts of our young boys who roll up to the ground, or to the 'bus with their “strip” each Saturday on the chance of getting a game with a junior fifteen. Those boys, with their unquenchable enthusiasm for the game of rugby, are as vital to a club as are the men who make rugby history by their exploits among the “stars” of the sport.

To those youngsters, indeed, this work might almost be dedicated, for theirs is the task to make the club history which will be recorded by other writers when the Tynedale Club reaches the venerable age of one hundred years, and certain it is that that work will be conceived and executed in the same spirit as this one; it will be a labour of love, the record of a hundred years of history compiled by and for those whose love of and enthusiasm for the great game of rugby—for Tynedale rugby in particular—is a living and vital thing. For those to whom the game means so much it is not the result that matters, but the spirit in which the match is played. For, as Grantland Rice wrote in his “Alumnus Football”:

“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.”

[T H E E N D]

List of Officials

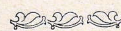


Season	President	Captain	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer
1876/77	Major Nicholson.	H. J. Baker.	H. Kirsopp.	E. Shield.
1877/78	Major Nicholson.	G. J. Bell.	H. Kirsopp.	G. H. Bell.
1878/79	Isaac Baty.	R. H. Robb.	J. M. Wilson.	J. M. Wilson.
1879/80	Isaac Baty.	R. H. Robb.	J. M. Wilson.	J. M. Wilson.
1880/81	Isaac Baty.	R. H. Robb.	J. M. Wilson.	J. M. Wilson.
1881/82	Isaac Baty.	G. S. Brown.	R. W. Catherall.	R. W. Catherall.
1882/83	Isaac Baty.	R. H. Robb.	M. Robson.	M. Robson.
1883/84	Isaac Baty.	R. H. Robb.	T. J. White.	T. J. White.
1884/85	Isaac Baty.	T. Robson.	T. J. White.	T. J. White.
1885/86	Isaac Baty.	T. Robson.	T. J. White.	T. J. White.
1886/87	Isaac Baty.	T. Robson.	W. Byron.	W. Byron.
1887/88	Isaac Baty.	T. Robson.	F. Thompson.	W. A. Riddle.
1888/89	Isaac Baty.	T. Anderson.	W. French.	W. A. Riddle.
1889/90	Isaac Baty.	D. N. Jackson.	G. A. Dixon.	W. A. Riddle.
1890/91	Isaac Baty.	J. J. McIntyre.	J. R. Burn.	J. R. Burn.
1891/92	Isaac Baty.	W. Turner.	W. Byron.	G. Byron.
1892/93	Isaac Baty.	W. Turner.	W. Byron.	G. Byron.
1893/94	Isaac Baty.	W. Turner.	W. Byron.	G. Byron.
1894/95	G. H. Bell.	T. Robson.	T. Charlton.	T. Charlton.
1895/96	G. H. Bell.	J. F. Fell.	T. Charlton.	T. Charlton.
1896/97	G. H. Bell.	J. F. 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.
1899/1900	C. W. C. Henderson.	J. F. 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.	T. R. Fenwick.
1922/23	R. H. Robb.	B. D. Plummer.	G. Nicholson.	T. R. Fenwick.
1923/24	E. Shield.	B. D. Plummer.	G. Nicholson.	T. R. Fenwick.
1924/25	D. K. McComb.	B. D. Plummer.	G. Nicholson.	T. R. Fenwick.
1925/26	R. H. Robb.	D. Forster.	G. Nicholson.	T. R. Fenwick.

List of Officials

(CONTINUED)

	President.	Captain.	Hon. Secretary.	Hon. Treasurer.
1926/27	J. A. Baty.	D. Forster.	(G. Nicholson. T. R. Fenwick.	T. R. Fenwick.
1927/28	J. E. Gibson.	F. C. Jessop.	(G. Nicholson. T. R. Fenwick.	T. R. Fenwick.
1928/29	J. E. Gibson.	J. S. Bentham.	(G. Nicholson. T. R. Fenwick.	T. R. Fenwick.
1929/30	J. Patterson.	J. E. McComb.	T. R. Fenwick.	T. R. Fenwick.
1930/31	J. Patterson.	J. E. McComb.	T. B. Bland.	T. R. Fenwick.
1931/32	J. Patterson.	S. G. Irving.	T. B. Bland.	T. R. Fenwick.
1932/33	J. Patterson.	K. W. D. Hodgson.	T. B. Bland.	T. R. Fenwick.
1933/34	J. Patterson.	K. W. D. Hodgson.	T. B. Bland.	T. R. Fenwick.
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.
1938/39	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.



In Memoriam

The following players of the Tynedale club gave their lives for King and Country in two world wars, and their names are recorded on plaques in the pavilion:—

1914 - 1918 : William Adamson, William Alder, Benjamin Alexander, Rollo E. Atkinson, John A. Bagnall, Ernest Batey, William Braidford, Percy Braidford, John Brydon, Thomas Burn, Thomas W. Burn, Thomas Cathrae, William Coulson, William Elliott, John M. Emerson, Bertrand D. Gibson, John Grierson, Noel F. Humphreys, William Jefferson, Stanley H. Kent, Drew Little, Frank O. Mail, Alexander Morrison, William Nanson, Fred Nevison, Norman Oxland, Arthur Patterson, Lionel D. Plummer, George Potts, Ryde Rayner, Michael Reed, Andrew G. Richardson, Charles N. Ridley, John W. Robinson, George S. Robinson, Joseph W. Robinson, John Robson, James Robson, William J. Robson, John R. Robson, Andrew Snowdon, Harry J. Spencer, William Summers, William R. Thew, Arthur Thompson, David T. Turner, Ernest Walton, George P. Walton, Isaac Whittaker.

1939 - 1945 : W. N. Barrie, T. B. Bland, F. T. Brown, G. L. Burgess, R. W. Casebourne, S. Cunningham, W. Curry, T. B. Darney, J. H. Dixon, J. E. Dobbie, R. W. Foreman, D. Forster, R. Gibson, J. Heppell, K. W. D. Hodgson, M. N. Irving, B. Liddle, C. Milner, J. Morris, B. Murray, J. W. Ridley, F. W. Rutherford, S. Scott, W. Smith, C. L. Stephenson, H. C. Stevenson, J. S. Wood.