

Tynedale  
Rugby Football  
Club.

1876 - 1926.

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# TYNEDALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB CELEBRATES ITS JUBILEE.

1876—1926.

## SOME INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

IT is only a little over half a century since Rugby football really got a hold in this North-country, and Tynedale, now celebrating their Jubilee, though not the earliest of Northumberland clubs to adopt the carrying code, were not far behind those who initiated the game locally. In every other respect, Tynedale deserve the greatest credit, for the club, situated on the edge of the Rugby zone for many years, were compelled to play what was practically a lone hand. For long, their nearest opponents were in Newcastle or eastward thereof, and when we remember that clubs like Northumberland, North Elswick, Gosforth and Tynemouth have fallen by the way, though in larger centres of population and with prospective opponents within short distances, the merit of Tynedale's performance in carrying on continuously for 50 years becomes a notable one. The game was taken up in the west eventually, and there were teams at Allendale, Bellingham, Haltwhistle and other places. All of these have since disappeared, but the parent body goes steadily on, and this year Tynedale have been playing football equal to anything they have shown in their long career. There is some hope that we may see a revival of Rugby in West Tynedale, and the formation of a club at West Wylam is a healthy sign. The Border clubs are as strong as ever, and inter-club games with some of these used to appear more regularly in Tynedale's fixtures than they do now.

### EARLY DAYS.

The initial effort to raise a Rugby club in Hexham took place in the Town Hall on the 11th October, 1876. Mr Bowker, then headmaster of the Hexham Grammar

School, was in the chair. Mr Henry James Baker was elected captain, Mr Henry Kirsopp secretary, and Mr Ed. Shield treasurer. Mr Baker was a then resident of the old town, and a capable player. Mr Kirsopp was a prominent playing member of the team over a number of years, and afterwards practised in the town as a solicitor. He was a son of the late Mr Wm. Kirsopp, of the Leazes, and was one of several brothers who played for the club. Mr Ed. Shield, the club's first treasurer, has continued his connection with it ever since, and was president two years ago. The committee chosen consisted of Messrs Bowker, Welford, Lishman, Montgomery, Richardson, Shield, Bell and Isaac Baty. Of these, Mr Welford was a son of the late Mr T. W. Welford, solicitor, High Shield, and himself became a solicitor, and practised at Consett. Mr Lishman resided at Corchester, Corbridge; Mr Richardson was a son of Mrs Richardson, of the Black Bull, then a famous Hexham hostelry; Mr Geo. J. Bell was a son of the late Mr George Bell, of Haining Croft, and the first University man to play for the club. Mr Isaac Baty, a great supporter of athletics of all kinds, was for many years, and, at the time of his death, president of the club.

On the 30th December, 1876, the club played their first match at Hexham against Elswick, a club long since defunct, but quite a notable side in its day. Tynedale signalled their opening match by winning easily.

Tynedale's team in that game was:—R. H. Robb, back; J. H. Baker, three-quarter; 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. The Elswick team contained Mr R. Hensell, for many years president of the Northumberland Rugby Union, and recently president of the English Rugby Union, his brother, W. M. Hensell, and two of the Reid brothers.

Of Tynedale's team on that occasion nearly all have joined the "great majority." Mr R. H. Robb, however, is still with us, and we doubt if any other club can instance a case in which a player figuring in its ranks fifty years ago should be president on the occasion of its celebrating its Jubilee. Mr Robb's association with the club over such a long period has been greatly to its advantage. Mr Benson was a son of Mr Benson, of Allerwasu, and another brother became a playing member of the club soon after. They were big men, and forwards of the kind then favoured. Mr T. Kirsopp, a brother of Mr Henry Kirsopp, afterwards became a doctor, while the Temperley mentioned was a son of the late Mr W. A. Temperley, of Hexham, and other members of the family afterwards appeared in Tynedale's ranks. The brothers Shields were sons of the Rev. H. Shields, then living at Maiden Cross. Mr James Wilson was a clerk in the office of Mr Wm. Kirsopp, and was for some years the club's secretary.

### REDEWATER'S FIRST VISIT.

The second match was played on Saturday, January 6th, at Hexham, on a ground covered with snow, Redewater being the opponents. The visitors won pretty easily, but they had a very strong team, many of its members having been educated at Scottish public schools, such as Merchiston, where Rugby flourished. In this game, T. Kirsopp joined his brother at half-back,

while still another brother, Arthur Kirsopp, came into the forward ranks, another newcomer being N. L. Cooke.

As many of the Redewater team afterwards threw in their lot with Tynedale, it will be of interest to give their team:—W. Hodgson, back; J. T. Dodd, T. Robson, half-backs; J. Houseman, D. Hall, quarters; J. Robson (captain), Jacob Robson, J. Carruthers, W. Crozier, E. Hedley, G. Robson, A. Telfer, J. B. Telfer, R. Shanks, and J. Elliott, forwards.

On January 27th Tynedale played the return game with Elswick on the Northumberland cricket ground at Newcastle, winning by two tries to one. In this team, Mr Thompson Hedley made his first appearance for Tynedale, as did Mr Jas. T. Robb, Mr W. Pattinson and Mr T. Davison. Of these, the first-named three are still with us, and interested in the club's doings. The late Mr Wm. Cail was one of the umpires of this match.

Earlier in the season, Tynedale had played a Corbridge side, winning easily, and on February 10th the return was played at Hexham. One of the North Tyne Robsons appeared in the Tynedale team for the first time, while among those who played for Corbridge were Arthur Michael, Tully and Lishman, of Tynedale, Lawton and Richley among the backs, and McAllan, Emerson, Dixon, C. E. Michael, Hodgson, Turnbull and Knott among the forwards. The next week Tynedale played Carlisle, which club had been formed two years earlier, and were defeated, but they were two men short. The games with Carlisle, though not exactly continuous, have appeared among Tynedale's fixtures ever since, and there are home and home games this season.

### THE SECOND SEASON.

In 1877-78 Tynedale's fixtures were home and home games with North Durham, Gosforth, Northern, Reedwater and Tynemouth, and single matches with College of Science, Carlisle and Northumberland. The opening game with College of Science was won by 2 goals and 4 tries to a try. When North Durham were played at Gateshead, Tynedale altered their formation, there being three half-backs, C. Lishman, P. Taylor and A. Shields, and two quarters, R. Braithwaite and G. Bell. In the North Durham team were some well-known players, the brothers Sowerby, Dr. Robertson and W. Dance. In the next match against Gosforth, at Hexham, the two brothers Benson, W. R. and W. J., from Allerwash, played, and Nanson and Challoner appeared in the team. The next match, Northern at Hexham, was a draw.

On February 9th, 1878, Gosforth were beaten at Hexham, G. H. Bell making his first appearance on the Tynedale side, as did C. Temperley and J. Bowsher. In the following match against Northumberland, at Gosforth, the half-backs were Gillies, Benson and Nicholson, while Sowerby and Kirsopp were the quarters. On the 16th March, Northumberland and West Cumberland played on the Seal, but there were no Tynedale men in the county side. Northumberland won by 6 goals and 7 tries to nil, the visitors also touching down twelve times. Isaac Lowthian Bell, the Northumberland captain, a great player, obtained no fewer than five tries.

The 1878-9 season saw matches with Northumberland, North Durham, Northern, Tynemouth, Border Rangers and Gosforth. The first match against Gosforth, Tynedale winning by 1 goal and 4 tries, saw the introduction of J. Cowper, one of the fastest men who ever represented the club, among the backs, which also included Farmer, Bird, Burnett and H. Temperley, as well as his brother Charles. In the next match against Northumberland, W. Ridley appeared as full back. Mr Ridley, of Millfield, was a great supporter of Tynedale till his death.

The 1879-80 season opened with a match against North Durham on the Seal, newcomers in the Tynedale team: Arthur Michael, of Corbridge, R. Oliver and E. L. Docker, then a tutor in the district, and who was also a noted cricketer.

### JOHN DODD AND T. ROBSON IN THE TEAM.

In the following January, Gosforth were played, when J. T. Dodd and T. Robson made the first of their many appearances in the team, the latter being captain for some years. On February 14th, Tynedale beat Tynemouth by 3 goals, two tries, to one try. The newspaper account of that day says: "The passing of Tynedale was much admired," which rather discounts the theory that passing is a later development of Rugby play. Cowper, Dodd, Robb and R. W. Catherall are mentioned as playing well. The latter, a son of the late Mr Jos. Catherall, of the "Courant," with which he was also associated, had been playing with a junior team, but he became associated with Tynedale, and was for some time its secretary.

In this month, we find a definite record of the doings of Tynedale 2nd, which, however, from inferential evidence, must have come into existence a little time before. On February 28th the Royal Grammar School played Tynedale II., the school winning by 1 goal, 1 try to nil. As this game marked a notable development of the Rugby game in the town, it will be of interest to give the teams:—

Grammar School.—J. Martin, back; J. Jameson, three quarter; J. F. Bowman, W. Pattinson, W. Kirsopp, halves; E. Harrison, D. Low, C. W. Cooke, J. G. Havelock, J. Cook, R. Shanks, J. Low, T. Riddle, H. Pattinson.

Tynedale II.—J. Graham, back; H. Robson, J. G. Mills, J. Gibson, half backs; W. Baty, T. Bell, G. Philipson, E. Robson, T. Anderson, D. Ainsley, Jos Mills, J. M. Stafford, J. Baty, W. Armstrong and J. W. Price. The different formation of the teams is interesting.

### NORTHERN'S RECORD BROKEN.

On March 20th, 1880, a memorable game was played on the Seal, the visitors being Northern. They were a very strong side at that period, and up to visiting Hexham had been unbeaten during the season. Tynedale broke their record, winning by a goal to a try. Tynedale's try was scored by Cowper, one of the fastest men who ever appeared, as he demonstrated at the county football sports soon after. As scratch man

in all the sprint events he carried all before him. On the occasion of the Northern match he ran right round the team to score under the posts, J. T. Dodd converting.

Tynedale's team was:—Nicholson, back; Lishman, Cowper and Robb, quarters; Dodd and Robson, halves; Benson, Kirsopp, Bell, Richardson, Temperley, Hedley, Pattinson, Nanson and Burnett, forwards.

### THE FIRST CUP-TIE.

On Nov. 6th, 1880, Tynedale played their first cup-tie at Gosforth against the club of that name. It was a great game, but an unsatisfactory one, Gosforth winning by two disputed tries to a try got by T. Robson. There is no doubt that one of the disputed tries should never have been allowed, and it is doubtful if either of them would have been allowed by a present-day referee. However, the score stood, and Tynedale's proverbial ill luck in their early cup ties was thus foreshadowed. The team was:—R. H. Robb; T. Robson, G. Brown; Dodd and Mackey; T. Hedley, J. Robb, E. Harrison, R. W. Catherall, R. Shanks, N. L. Cooke, W. Pattinson and A. Baty, Tynedale playing two short.

On January 15th, 1881, Tynedale beat Ryton at Ryton by 1 goal, 2 tries and 6 touch downs to nil, W. Pattinson playing back in this game and D. Low and G. Brown being the three quarters. G. D. Mackey and R. W. Catherall appeared in the forward line. In March they played and beat Blaydon at Blaydon.

On March 26th Northumberland and Cumberland met on the Burdon Terrace ground, Northumberland winning by two tries to one, R. H. Robb played back, and T. Robson and T. Hedley were among the forwards.

In the season 1881-82 Tynedale played Ryton, Elswick, North Durham and Gosforth, besides other clubs. On Nov. 19th Tynedale played Northern in the first round of the cup at Burdon Terrace, Newcastle, when Tynedale were really un-luckily beaten by a try. Tynedale: Robb; T. Robson, T. Norman, W. Pattinson; G. Brown and J. Wilson; T. Hedley, R. Shanks, N. L. Cooke, E. Harrison, D. Low, W. Baty, R. Dodd, J. Robb and T. Snowball. Northumberland and Yorkshire met

on the Burdon Terrace ground on January 21st, 1882, when Yorkshire won by 1 goal to nil. T. Robson was among the three-quarters and Robb played forward.

The fixture list for 1882-83 comprised matches with Ryton, Northumberland, North Elswick, Gosforth, Northern, Percy Park. In the trial match, East v. West, at Burdon Terrace, J. T. Dodd, T. Robson and Robb appeared for Tynedale, and against Cumberland, at Whitehaven, on No. 11th, those players obtained their places, Robb again playing forward.

### CUP-TIE WINS.

On January 13th, 1883, Tynedale met Percy Park in a cup-tie on the Tynemouth cricket ground, Tynedale winning by a try. Tynedale:—A. W. Michael, back; R. H. Robb, T. Robson, W. Pattinson, three-quarters; J. T. Dodd and J. Gregg, halves; G. S. Brown, J. Robb, C. W. Harrison, E. Harrison, W. Baty, R. Shanks, T. White, Callander, and R. Dodd. In this season, Tynedale met Hawick for the first time, Tynedale winning easily. J. Elliot was in the three-quarter line for this match.

On March 3rd Tynedale met Northern in the second round of the cup on the Northern ground, and won by two goals and a try to Northern's try. Jim Elliot came into the three-quarter line in place of Robb, while his brother, T. Elliot, was in the forward ranks, and R. H. Robb also played there.

The final tie was played on the 17th March on the Burdon Terrace ground, the game having been postponed from a previous week on account of a snowstorm. Tynedale had a strong following, but were beaten by Tynemouth by two tries to nil. The game was noteworthy from the appearance in the Tynemouth ranks of E. B. Brutton, son of the Vicar of North Shields, then playing for his Varsity and unquestionably a great three-quarter. He made some wonderful runs, but was always safely held by either Pattinson or Robb, whose collaring was the feature of the match. It was, however, his fine play that paved the way for Tynemouth's victory. Just before the match, G. S. Brown had been called away. J. T. Dodd was hurt in the hunting field, while Michael missed his

train. This necessitated a reshuffling of the whole team, and Robb came to full back; Elliot, practically the best forward, to half; while G. Robson came into the forwards, who also included R. Oliver and Macdonald.

In the match against Lancashire at the end of the season, J. Elliot and Dodd were among the Northumberland backs, and T. Elliot, T. Robson and R. H. Robb among the forwards.

#### AT HALLIWELL DENE.

Tynedale opened the 1883-84 season with a match against Northern, on the ground at Halliwell Dene, which they played on for some time. In that team there appeared J. Gregg, N. Riechley and J. Robinson at three quarter; Dr. Hogg and J. Jameson at half, and G. H. Bell and W. Farrow were among the forwards. Then Tynedale beat Northumberland at Hexham, after a hard-fought game by two disputed tries to one disputed try. R. Oliver played his first game at three-quarter in this match, and another North Tyne Robson, W., and Gus. Bailey made their first appearances for Tynedale.

On Dec. 8th, 1883, Tynedale and Tynemouth met in a cup-tie at Hexham, the home side winning by three tries to nil. In the same month, they played a draw with Sunderland, then a very strong team, who made their first appearance at Hexham. On March 1st, 1884, Tynedale met North Elswick in a cup-tie at Hexham, and won by two goals and 2 tries to nil. The team was little altered from the previous season. Tynedale were then in the final, which was played at Burdon Terrace, Newcastle, on March 15th. After a great game, Northern won by a try. For some seasons Mr Michael Robson had proved a most efficient secretary, but in the season of 1884 he was succeeded by Mr T. White, an elder brother of Mr Jas. White, of Shaftoe Leazes. On Nov. 1st, 1884, Carlisle, opened the season by playing a draw at Hexham, newcomers to the team being J. H. Hope, Isaac Baty and R. S. Bailey, a brother of G. Bailey. Tynedale visited Westoe for the first time, where they beat the team of that name by 2 tries to 1. The Cumberland match of that season was played at Carlisle, the result being a try each. R. H. Robb, G. Bailey and G. H. Bell played for Northumberland, and the latter was injured, and did not

play again. Against Lancashire, Pattinson and C. W. Harrison were capped, and Robb and T. Rogan were in the forward line against Yorkshire, and Pattinson among the backs.

On February 28th, 1885, Tynedale and Tynemouth met in a cup-tie on the Brewery field, at Hexham Bridge End, Tynemouth winning a memorable match by 1 goal to nil.

The season of 1885-6 was opened with a match against Ryton on the Brewery field, Tynedale winning by 1 goal and 2 tries to nothing. Players afterwards notably associated with the team who made their initial appearance in this match were W. Farthing, James Scott and J. J. McIntyre. Tynedale met a new club, Benwell, on the 31st Oct., and won easily. They beat Sunderland at Hexham by 1 goal and 5 tries. Dr. Robertson and T. Elliot being in the team, the latter not having played for some time. On March 27th, 1886, came the memorable cup-tie with Northern on the Brewery field, Hexham, when the teams played a draw. The game was replayed at Newcastle on the following Thursday, when Northern, who had been greatly over-played, won by a luckily dropped goal by H. B. Lockhart.

#### TYNEDALE'S TESTING TIME.

The season of 1886-7, to be crowned by the winning of the cup, for the time opened under a shadow. At a special meeting in September, sparsely attended, it was stated that the membership had dwindled so much that it was found impossible to carry on the club. The hon. secretary pro tem, Mr Wm. French, was instructed to cancel the fixtures, of which there were a good list. A number of enthusiasts, however, determined not to let the old club go down, and on Thursday, Oct. 21st, 1886, a further meeting was held at the White Hart, when it was determined to continue. A number of players associated with junior clubs in the town promised their help, and Mr Tom Robson promised to bring eight or ten players from the North. The optimistic spirit that animated this meeting was borne out in the opening game, played on the Tyne Mills field, kindly granted by Mr Little, on Oct. 30th. Hawick were the visitors, and they brought a very strong team, including a great centre in W. McKinnon. They only managed to beat Tynedale by a try. Tynedale: J. Robinson; Robb, T.

Robson, W. A. Riddle; J. T. Dodd and J. Gregg; T. Rogan, C. W. Harrison, G. Robson, Isaac Baty, G. W. Edwards, McKie, Paton, Oliver and Dixon.

#### THE BORDER CONTINGENT.

The way in which Mr Tom Robson came to the aid of Tynedale in this crisis in its affairs compels a notice of the great part the Redewater men played at that period of Tynedale's history, and their loyalty and ungrudging service. Mr John Robson and Mr Jacob Robson did not play much Rugby, but three of their brothers did. Mr T. Robson was the most notable, both from the length of his period of service, the fact that he captained the club for many years, and regularly appeared in the ranks of Northumberland. Mr Geo. Robson and Mr W. Robson both played for the club on several occasions. Like the Robsons, who then lived at Byrness, Mr John T. Dodd was also a Redewater man, he being on the neighbouring farm at Cateleugh. He played for Tynedale over a long period, and playing then meant considerable sacrifice. The ride from Upper Redewater to the nearest station was a long one, and this being before the days of motors, it had to be done on horse-back. Followers of the Border pack, all the Border men were expert horsemen, but a ride home of some 16 or 18 miles on a cold, dark and possibly snowy winter night, after having played for Tynedale, was a performance that spoke volumes for their enthusiasm. The Elliots had even farther to come, for they lived at Hindhope, near Jedburgh, but they were just as enthusiastic. Jim Elliot was a great three-quarter, while his brother Tom was one of the finest forwards Tynedale ever had, and we believe he was once chosen for the North. A younger brother, Will Elliot, played for Tynedale at a later date. A brother of Mr J. T. Dodd, Mr Si. Dodd, played for Tynedale in later years.

It is hardly necessary to recall that Mr T. Robson's son, bearing the same Christian name, played for Tynedale and Northumberland a few years ago. Mr Geoff. Robson, a son of Mr John Robson, is now playing for Tynedale, and has also represented his county, while Mr J. Robson, a son of Mr Jacob Robson, is likewise a playing member of the club. This is a record of which Tynedale is rightly proud, and it would be difficult to match it in Northern football.

#### TYNEDALE'S SUCCESSES IN 7-ASIDE MATCHES.

In the middle eighties, Tynedale's representatives were remarkably successful in the Border seven-aside matches, a form of Rugby at that time peculiar to the Border clubs. It is a fast game, and only short periods are played. On April 12th, 1884, Tynedale took part in the games at Galashiels. In the first round they beat Hawick by 2 goals and a try. Then they had a bye, and in the final they met Gala Union. The latter team included Scarborough, the Yorkshire County player, and Tynedale were beaten by a try. G. H. Bell and W. Robson won first and second prizes for place-kicking. Tynedale team:—R. H. Robb; T. Robson and J. T. Dodd, half-backs; W. Robson, G. Bailey, G. H. Bell and Mather (sub.) On April 11th, 1886, a team went to the contests at Galashiels, ten Scottish clubs competing, and Tynedale being the only English side. Tynedale met Melrose, the crack team of the Borders, in the first round, and won by a try to nil. In the second round, they met Gala, another strong team, and emerged successful by the same margin. It was too dark to play the final, and so it was postponed till the following Monday, the Tynedale team agreeing to stay till then and play at Hawick. To enable them to get home the kick-off was fixed for eight o'clock in the morning, and Tynedale beat Hawick, to win the gold medals, by 1 goal, 3 tries to 1 try. Tynedale's play in the final had never previously been equalled in these competitions. Their team was:—W. Pattinson, back; T. Robson, three-quarter; J. T. Dodd, half; R. H. Robb, W. Robson, T. Elliot and G. Bailey, forwards.

On April 25th in the same year they took part in the Hawick club's 7-aside competitions. In the first round, Tynedale beat Pilmuir Wanderers by 1 goal to 1 try; in the second round, they met Buccleugh Union, whom they beat by 1 goal and 2 tries to nil, and in the third round they beat Hawick St. Cuthbert's by a try to nothing. In the final, Tynedale beat Gala by a try to nothing. J. T. Dodd won the drop-kicking contest. The Tynedale backs were the same, but forwards were Robb, Geo. Robson, Jos. Dodd and G. Oliver.

On April 17th, 1886, Tynedale took part in the 7-aside contest at Melrose. They met and beat Abbotsford in the first round by 1 goal and 4 tries to nil; then they met

Gala Waverley and won by 2 goals and 3 tries, and the next round brought them against Gala Thistle, whom they beat by 1 try. They were down to meet Melrose in the final, but as darkness had set in, the game was postponed till the following Friday. Tynedale then beat Melrose by two tries to nil, and thus secured the medals. Tynedale team:—R. H. Robb; W. Pattinson and T. Robson; J. C. Robertson, T. Elliot, T. Anderson and W. Robson. T. Robson won the place-kicking competition on this occasion. They stayed overnight, and on the Saturday took part in the Hawick games. Pattinson's place was taken by J. T. Dodd. Tynedale beat Hawick and Wilton by a try to nil, but in the second round Hawick beat them by a try to nil.

#### THE WINNING OF THE CUP.

The crowning achievement of the season 1886-87 was the winning of the much-coveted Northumberland Rugby Challenge Cup for the first time in the history of the club. Many strenuous encounters had been fought for the possession of the "pot" in the years before, but the Fates were always against the Hexhamonians. In the ties this season Tynedale were given a bye through the inability of Bellingham to raise a team. In the second round they disposed of Percy Park by a try and 5 minors to 3 minors. The game was played at Hexham on a snow-covered ground, to which was to be added a heavy fall of snow during the progress of the match. Gus Bailey scored the try, which T. Rogan failed to convert. Percy Park lodged a protest on the ground that Tynedale had played three men who were not qualified. The objection against two was dismissed, but that against J. C. Robertson, to the effect that he had not resided six months in the county, was referred to the Rugby Union. Tynedale secured a bye in the next round, which gave them entrance to the final, to meet their old and redoubtable opponents, Northern, on April 2nd. The game evoked the greatest excitement in Hexham and district and a large body of supporters accompanied the team to the Jesmond ground at Newcastle. Delightful weather conditions prevailed and the spectators numbered about 5,000. They were rewarded by one of the most thrilling cup-

ties ever played by Northumberland clubs. The teams lined up as follows:—Tynedale: R. H. Robb, back; W. Pattinson, Tom Robson (capt.), and J. T. Dodd, three-quarter backs; F. H. R. Alderson and W. Parthing, half-backs; T. Elliot, C. W. Harrison, T. Rogan, J. C. Robertson, Dr. McKie, G. Bailey, J. J. McIntyre, Isaac Baty and Jas. Scott, forwards. Northern: Parke, back; Charles Gill, V. Rutherford, and E. Edwards, three-quarter backs; H. B. Lockhart and Challoner, half-backs; W. Swinburne, J. Lathaen, H. Spencer, J. Livingstone, F. Manford, S. J. Alder, H. Angus, P. Stanton and A. Watson, forwards. Umpires, Messrs Green and Crosthwaite, Westoe; referee, Rev. C. H. Newman, North Durham. Tynedale appeared for the first time in jerseys of blue and white. It may seem superfluous to give a full account of that now far-away titanic struggle, for it still lingers in the memory of those who witnessed it. It was won by Tynedale with the score of one goal, one try and three minor points to one try and three minors. Early on in the game Dodd dropped a beautiful goal, to which Northern replied before the interval with a try. In the second half, Elliot scored a try, which was not goaled by Dodd. The scene following the match almost baffles description. The Hexhamonians cheered till they were hoarse. When the news reached Hexham Post Office, which was then situated in Beaumont Street, it was greeted with rounds of cheering by the crowd 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 towns-people, 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, now part of Messrs Robb's establishment, in Fore Street. The crowd was so dense that it was with difficulty 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 signal for another demonstration. After repeated calls, Mr Robson briefly addressed the crowd. He said he

hoped the winning of the cup would be a great encouragement to football in Hexham. Mr Robb also spoke. 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.

#### AMALGAMATION OF RUGBY CLUBS.

Following their great victory in winning the Northumberland Senior Cup, the Tynedale committee immediately set to work to effect an amalgamation of the various Rugby clubs in the town and a general meeting specially called for that purpose was held at the White Hart Hotel on April 26th, 1887. There was a most enthusiastic company present, the long room being densely crowded, many not being able to obtain admittance. Mr R. H. Robb occupied the chair and in explaining the reason for calling the meeting, said it seemed folly that in a small town like Hexham there should be five or six football clubs. They wanted one good club in the town and the desire of the Tynedale committee in calling the meeting was to see if there could not be an amalgamation of the Hexham Wanderers, the Rovers, Excelsior, and the Heart of England Clubs, with the Tynedale Club. Tynedale had proved itself to be one of the best clubs in the county, which had been done under many disadvantages, having to bring players from a great distance, but this could no longer be carried out as many of the team had signified their intention of discontinuing play. He himself was among the number, having played for twelve years, though he would still continue to take an interest in the club's welfare. Mr Robb then proceeded to ask the delegates of the various clubs what the opinion of the members was, and in every instance approval of the proposal was signified, which was greeted with loud cheering. A motion, "That a united club be formed, and that the name of the club be Tynedale," was proposed by Mr James Scott, captain of the Wanderers, and carried with acclamation. The meeting then appointed the following as a provisional committee:—R. H. Robb, M. Robson, W. A. Riddle, John Rutherford, M. Green, jun., R. J. Fenwick.

M. Wilkinson, F. J. Guthrie, J. F. Farbridge and W. P. Thompson; secretary, pro tem., to arrange matches for first team, Wm. Byron, jun.; secretary, second team, F. Thompson; treasurer, W. A. Riddle. It was announced that as the result of the amalgamation the number of members would be—72 from the Rovers, 35 Wanderers, 39 Excelsior, 24 Heart of All England, 20 Tynedale — a total of 181 members.

The annual meeting of the club was held at the White Hart Hotel on Sept. 6th, 1887. Mr R. H. Robb presided. Mr Isaac Baty was elected president. Mr Tom Robson was appointed captain of the first team; vice-captain, Dr. McKie; secretary, Mr F. Thompson; treasurer, Mr W. A. Riddle. The following committee was elected by ballot:—R. H. Robb, William French, W. Parthing, Jas. Scott, Thomas Anderson, M. Green, jun., J. J. McIntyre, F. J. Guthrie, John Thompson, and M. Thompson. The appointment of captain of second and third teams was left in the hands of the committee. It was announced at the meeting that the first team would for the winter be without the services of one of their best three-quarter backs, Mr William Pattinson (than whom a more effective hand at collaring never filled the position), who was leaving for Canada.

At a committee meeting of the club held on Sept. 16th, John Craft was appointed captain of the second team and W. P. Thompson captain of the third team. It was reported that Messrs Little's field at Tyne Mills had again been obtained for matches.

On Tuesday, Sept. 13th, a complimentary dinner was given to Mr Wm. Pattinson at the White Hart Hotel. In replying to the toast of his health, Mr Pattinson said he hoped to be back from Canada in time for the cup-ties.

#### JUNIOR TEAMS.

It may be of interest to record in this jubilee article the names of the players who first represented Tynedale II. and III., following the affiliation of the clubs of the town. The matches were played against Northern II. and III. respectively. Tynedale II.: George Robson, back; J. Craft (capt.), A. Black and

W. Turner, three-quarter backs; F. Thompson and J. Rutherford, half-backs; W. T. Younger, W. Clemitson, W. Craft, T. Robson, W. Robson, R. S. Potts, J. Taylor, C. Snowball and W. A. Rutherford, forwards, Tynedale III.; W. Robson, back; W. P. Thompson (capt.), W. Turner and J. W. Robson, three-quarter backs; W. G. Baty and M. Wilkinson, half-backs; H. Duglinson, F. J. Guthrie, R. Bates, R. Potts, J. Philipson, M. Thompson, J. Howe, J. Harrison and T. Robson forwards. These matches were not played on the same day, which explains the reason for one or two players appearing on both teams.

A general meeting of the members of the Tynedale Club was held on March 29th, 1888, for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming an athletic association for Hexham. After a lengthy discussion the matter was left in the hands of the committee to attend a meeting of the three branches of athletics—football, cricket and tennis.

#### CUP-TIE DISAPPOINTMENT.

The cup-ties for the season 1887-8 opened disastrously for Tynedale, as they were unexpectedly beaten in the first round on their own ground by Tynemouth by a try and two minors to one minor. The Tynedale team on that occasion was:—R. H. Robb, back; W. A. Riddle, J. T. Dodd and J. Thompson, three-quarter backs; W. Farthing and G. Scott Jackson, half-backs; Dr. McKie (capt.), T. Anderson, W. Robson, J. J. McIntyre, J. Scott, C. W. Harrison, T. Rogan, R. B. Dodd, and G. Bailey, forwards. The defeat of the cup holders was a keen disappointment to the Hexham people. Six inches of snow lay on the ground.

During the season the first team played 11 matches, of which only two were won, 2 drawn and seven lost.

In the opening match of the following season played with North Elswick, Tynedale had two new halves, D. N. Jackson and C. P. Felvus. Tom Anderson was captain. In the junior cup-ties, this season, Tynedale III. were beaten in the final by Wallsend II., at Newcastle, by a goal and a try to two tries. In the preliminary round of the Senior Cup, Tynedale vanquished Newcastle Rangers at Hexham

by the huge score of 3 goals, 7 tries and 6 minors to 7 minors. In the semi-final they drew with Percy Park on the latter's ground, to the tune of a goal each, and on the replay at Hexham in mid-week, the seaisiders secured a win by three goals to a goal and two tries, good goal-kicking by T. Gee bringing off the victory. At the conclusion of the match there was a hostile demonstration by the crowd against the referee (Mr W. Cail). J. Douthwaite and W. Longstaff were new acquisitions to the forward line.

In 1889-90, for the opening match, Tynedale went to Carlisle and played a bloodless draw with Eden Wanderers, George Dobson (three-quarter back) was included in the Hexham team. D. N. Jackson was captain and Mr G. A. Dixon secretary.

This season F. R. Alderson turned out for Hartlepool Rovers. The playing of four three-quarters was being introduced about this time.

Tynedale were beaten in the first round of the cup competition by Northumberland score—one goal two tries, three minors, to one try and one minor.

#### RESIGNATIONS.

In April, 1890, an extraordinary meeting of the club was held when the secretary (Mr G. A. Dixon) read resignations from Messrs R. H. Robb, W. A. Riddle, G. Dobson, Dr. J. A. Jackson, and himself, as members of the committee, and Mr W. Ridley as a member of the club, as a protest against the non-fulfilment of a match with Percy Park on Easter Monday. Mr D. N. Jackson also resigned the captaincy. Mr J. R. Burn was appointed secretary. At the annual meeting in August, a bitter reference was made in the report to the resignation of the gentlemen named, with the result that the Chairman (Mr R. H. Robb), the ex-Secretary and other old members left the room. Mr J. J. McIntyre was chosen captain and Mr Burn re-elected secretary.

Singularly, Tynedale were again drawn against Northumberland in the first round for the cup and on this occasion, though playing at Gosforth, turned the tables on their opponents by three goals and a try to a try. Hopes of the cup coming west ran high, but the club came a cropper in the second round when they were beaten

by Gosforth at Hexham by a try to nothing.

At the annual meeting of the club in 1891 Mr Wm. French presiding—Mr W. Byron, jun., returned to the secretaryship, with Mr G. Byron as treasurer. Mr W. Turner was appointed captain.

#### FIRST CUP-TIE WITH ROCKCLIFF.

In 1892, Tynedale met Rockcliff for the first time in the cup-ties, having been drawn together in the preliminary round, which was the only tie to be decided. The game was fought at Whitley in a blinding snowstorm. Rockcliff, who were the cup-holders, only won by two tries to nil. Wm. Pattinson, who travelled specially from Bath, turned out for Tynedale, for whom R. Baty played full-back. C. Marshall was among the three-quarters.

In the cup-ties of 1893-4, Tynedale surprised their followers by knocking out Gosforth in the first round to the extent of 4 goals, 1 try to nothing, but they came a cropper when they met Rockcliff in the semi-finals, being vanquished by six goals (2 penalty) and 2 tries (32 points) to 1 try (3 points).

For the season 1894-5, Mr Thos. Charlton was appointed secretary and treasurer, vacant by the resignation of Mr W. Byron and Mr G. Byron respectively.

The constitution of the team had now undergone an almost complete transformation from its early years. Only Wm. Pattinson of the Old Brigade, as they might be termed, was appearing in the team. Players who rendered yeoman service for some seasons, in addition to the many already mentioned, were:—Jos. F. Fell, H. S. Graham (half-whistle), A. G. Richardson, D. Mulholland, W. Hamilton, J. W. Robson, A. Young, R. S. Philips, T. Scott, T. Suddes, Jos. Nixon, Tom Robson, F. Hobson, D. K. McComb. The team went down in the first round of the cup-ties this season against Rockcliff, by a goal and a try to nil.

For the following season, J. F. Fell was appointed captain.

Tynedale players selected for the first county trial match on Oct. 19th, 1895, were: Plains: T. Charlton (three-quarter), J. Thompson (half-back), Stripes: R. J. Baty (back), W. Hamilton and F. Hobson. Reserves: J. Fell (three-quarter) and D. K. McComb (forward).

After an absence of two years, Percy Park visited Hexham, and were beaten by the home club by a goal to a try.

R. J. Baty and F. Hobson were selected on the Possibles' side for the second trial match, while W. G. Baty (who was also playing for South Shields) and T. Robson appeared among the Probables. The two last named got their places against Yorkshire, R. J. Baty being reserve back.

Tynedale and Wallsend played a pointless draw in the cup-tie at Hexham, after a disappointing display by the home club, but in the replay they retrieved themselves by securing victory by a goal to nothing, and again reached the semi-finals to meet their old opponents, Percy Park, who disposed of them by 13 points (2 goals, 1 try) to nil.

#### MR G. H. BELL AS PRESIDENT.

The season 1896-7 opened with a rosy outlook. The club had ample funds, etc., and a fixture card stated to be the heaviest in the history of the club. Mr G. H. Bell, himself an old player, had succeeded Mr Isaac Baty as president of the club. The first game was with Percy Park at Hexham, who won by a goal and two tries to nothing.

Early in the season, the team lost their full back, R. J. Baty ("Casey"), who went over to the Northern Union to play for Widnes, while their popular captain (Joe Fell) went to the South of England. A further drain on the club was the departure of Tom Charlton to take up a situation near Huddersfield.

Among newcomers on the first team this season were A. Emerson and G. Pearson.

A great attraction on Xmas Day was the visit of the Jed Forest, one of the leading Scotch teams, who beat the Hexhamonians by two goals to nothing.

Tynedale met North Elswick in the first round for the Challenge Cup at Hexham, and a pointless draw resulted. The replay at Jesmond during the week ended in a win for the west countrymen by two tries to nil. In the semi-final, they went down before Percy Park on the Bridge End ground by a goal and three tries to one try. The latter followed up their victory by administering a defeat to the cup-holders, Rockcliff, who had been well-nigh invincible in the competition for years.

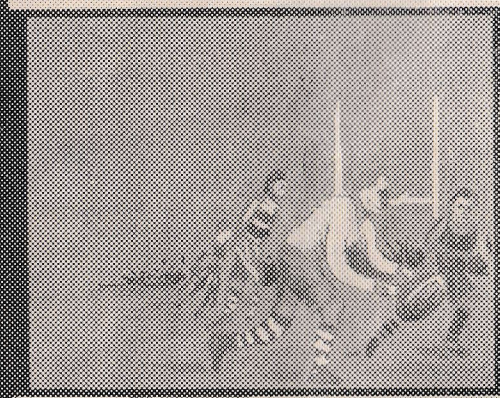


1887

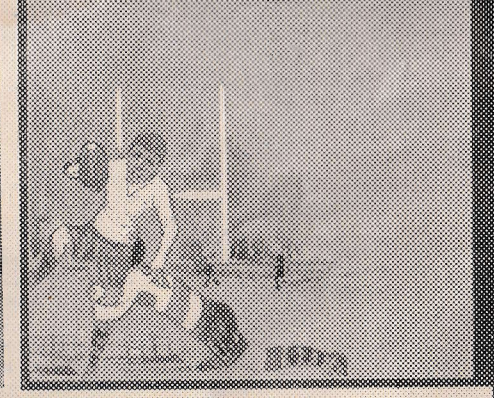
# TYNEDALE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB 1876-1926



1906



1926



1911



R. H. ROBB Esq  
PRESIDENT - 1926



1914

We reproduce above photographs of the Tynedale teams which won the Northumberland Senior Cup in 1887, 1906, 1911, and 1914, together with the team which represented Tynedale in the Jubilee match against Waterloo. R. H. Robb, this season's President, played in Tynedale's first match in 1876. The names are given on the following page.

Names of Players on Photographs  
on opposite page.

1887.

*Back*—J. C. Robertson, J. J. McLatyre, T. Elliot,  
C. W. Harrison, F. H. R. Alderson, R. H.  
Robb, Dr. McKie.

*Middle*—W. Pattinson, G. Bailey, T. Rogán, T.  
Robson, J. Scott.

*Front*—Isaac Baty, J. T. Dodd, W. Farthing.

1906.

*Back*—J. S. Emerson, A. E. Emerson, W. Short,  
R. Moore, F. G. Spencer, J. E. Murray, G.  
Ritson, J. A. Baty.

*Middle*—W. Stevenson, T. M. Catcheside, G. E.  
Spencer (capt.), W. C. Clemitson, A. G.  
Richardson.

*Front*—M. M. Snowball, T. Jackson.

1911.

*Back*—E. Averell, I. A. Patterson, R. O.  
Darlington, T. C. K. Ritson, J. P. Scott,  
W. Robb (capt.), G. L. Bradley, J. Short,  
S. H. Kent.

*Front*—W. Braidford, J. S. Emerson, W. H.  
Warburton, J. W. Stephenson, A. E. Emerson,  
G. Potts.

1914.

*Back*—F. Nevison, P. Braidford, G. P. Walton,  
G. Potts, P. Gibb, T. Armstrong, D. Forster,  
R. Summers, J. W. Forster.

*Front*—W. Hulsen, W. Robb, T. Robson, I. A.  
Patterson, S. J. Newman (capt.), J.  
Thompson, W. Braidford.

1926.

*Back*—R. Bell, A. Williamson, G. Nicholson,  
K. G. C. Robinson, R. Wilkinson, J. E. C.  
Strang, F. R. Hedley.

*Middle*—J. E. Dobbie, G. Robson, D. Forster (capt.),  
R. A. Goodall, J. S. Bentham.

*Front*—R. R. M. Barr, T. A. Carr, B. D. Plummer.

MANX VISITORS.

Tynedale closed the season of 1896-7 at home with a holiday match on Easter Saturday against Douglas (Isle of Man). The visitors, who were the Manx cup holders, were defeated by the total of 5 goals, 1 try (25 points) to nothing.

In the cup-ties (first round) in 1893, Tynedale again came a cropper against Rockcliff, when the seashiders won by 5 goals, 6 tries (43 points) to their opponents' nil.

In the matter of big scores, it may be mentioned that Rockcliff, in their opening match for 1898-9, with North Elswick, ran up the huge total of 74 points to nil. E. W. Taylor kicked 13 goals.

Tynedale got no further than the second round of the cup-ties in 1889 being vanquished by Percy Park at North Shields by 12 points. Though they played resolutely against their more formidable opponents, for whom G. C. Robinson was playing, they failed to open their account. Tom Robson was at this time their captain.

For the season 1899-1900, Tynedale got a new field of play not far from their former one. The team included new players in the persons of G. E. Spencer, J. A. Baty, J. E. Murray, J. T. Freeborn, A. E. Emerson, J. Shepherd, T. Herdman, Nesbit, F. E. Sutcliffe, J. W. Forster, R. Park, Jas. Robson.

A clever junior team belonging Hexham, viz., Tyneside Rovers, was at this time being prominent with their wins. T. F. Lancaster was captain this season.

T. M. Catcheside appeared in the cup-tie team against Rockcliff, and played regularly for some seasons.

The following season, Tynedale showed consistently bad form, and in their cup-tie matches at Hexham against Northern, which was likewise nothing like its former self, the Novocastrians won by two tries to nothing. New players were T. F. Lancaster, J. S. Emerson, J. White and W. Stevenson. W. W. Gibson played conspicuously on the winning side.

PLAYING AS A SECOND TEAM.

At the annual general meeting of the club on August 22nd, 1901, Mr W. F.

Younger presiding, it was reported that the season had been the worst experienced in the history of the club. Eighteen matches were played, only two being won and 14 lost. The amalgamation of Tyneside Rovers had not produced an improved state of affairs, and, financially, the club was in an equally bad condition. The season finished in debt, the total income for the year being only £32. A resolution embodying the disbanding of the first team was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr A. Emerson, and carried. It was agreed to enter for the Second Teams Shield Competition. T. Lancaster was elected captain; T. Nixon, vice-captain; Jos. W. Robson, secretary; A. Emerson, treasurer. In the first round, Tynedale beat Walker by 8 points to nil; second round, Northern II. by a similar score, and in the final they met Rockcliff II. at Newcastle. The match ended in a draw, and the referee (Mr H. Welford) ordered an extra ten minutes each way. Rockcliff refused to respond to the whistle to line up. Tynedale touched the ball down over the line, and claimed the tie, against which Rockcliff protested. Tynedale offered to replay the game at Hexham or at Newcastle if their expenses were guaranteed. The County Committee agreed for the final to be replayed at Hexham, the gate proceeds to be for the benefit of the home club. The committee gave as a donation to the club funds the guinea deposited by Rockcliff, who bore all their travelling expenses. The replay ended in a draw, after extra time, of a penalty goal and two tries each. J. E. Murray and G. Potts were the scorers for Tynedale, and A. G. Richardson kicked the penalty goal. The match was again replayed at Hexham, the seashiders obtaining the shield by a goal to a try (scored by J. E. Murray). The Tynedale team was:—A. G. Richardson; T. Herdman, J. Ritson, W. Johnson, C. Jackson; J. Byron and W. Hewitson; A. E. Emerson, J. S. Emerson, J. Johnson, G. Oxley, J. E. Murray, G. Potts, T. Robson and T. Stoker. C. Jackson took the place of R. Hewitson.

At the annual meeting of the Northumberland Rugby Union on Aug. 8th, 1902, the report of the committee stated that owing to the defection of WallSEND to the Northern Union, and the fact that Tynedale were now playing as a junior team, the county senior clubs were reduced to three. This state of affairs was, however,

somewhat counter-balanced by the healthy state of the junior clubs—Tynedale, Gosforth Nomads, Walker and Old Novocastrians.

Commencing with the season 1902-3, Tynedale rented the ground at Dene Park, and in the cup ties for that season they went down before Percy Park II. in the first round by two goals to a try. The football year had been very satisfactory: of 22 matches played, 15 were won and 5 lost. The finances had improved wonderfully. J. E. Murray, who had been captain the previous season, was re-elected at the annual meeting, and Jas. Stobart secretary. It was decided to run a second team, Ralph Potts being chosen captain. Mr C. W. C. Henderson was now president of the club, and held the position for many years.

In the Shield Competition of 1904, Percy Park II. lowered the colours of Tynedale at Preston Avenue, North Shields, in the semi-final by 17 points to 5. The losers protested against the dimensions of the Percy Park playing area, and the match was ordered to be replayed on neutral ground, the venue being Jesmond. The Hexhamonians won by 11 points to nil. In the final against Northern II. on the same ground, Tynedale gained a well-earned victory by 11 points to 6. A feature of the match was a splendid try by W. C. Clemitson—the best effort of the day. By winning the competition, Tynedale qualified as seniors.

SENIOR CUP RE-ENTERED.

This season, Tynedale re-entered the Senior Cup Competition, though they continued to play second team clubs in their ordinary programme.

In the Senior Cup (first round) Rockcliff beat Tynedale at Hexham by the somewhat narrow margin, considering past scores, of six points to nil. The Tynedale team on that occasion were:—A. G. Richardson; G. E. Spencer, W. Bates, A. Bates, T. Jackson; J. Ritson and A. Emerson; W. Hamilton, G. Potts, J. Patterson, A. Patterson, A. E. Emerson, J. S. Emerson, F. Spencer and H. J. Spencer.

G. E. Spencer was captain for the 1905-6 season, with T. M. Catcheside as vice. The Hexhamonians started strongly. A win over Percy Park by 6 points to nil was the



opening result. A visit to Dene Park by the famous Hartlepool Rovers, the Durham cupholders, stimulated what was undoubtedly a revival of interest in the handling code in the ancient town. The Dunelmians won by 14 points to three, which was no run-away victory. A great win over Carlisle at the "Merrie City" by 20 points to 5 was followed by a greater achievement, viz., defeat of Rockcliff on their own pitch by two goals to a try. A pointless draw was the result of the game with Northern, the latter coming to Hexham, after a lapse of five years, in a friendly fixture. This season Tynedale was admitted to the Senior Division of the Inter-County Club Championship, to commence the following year.

#### ROCKCLIFF BEATEN.

The season went on successfully, and a feeling of optimism prevailed as the cup-ties approached. Tynedale III. gained the Third Teams Cup by beating Ashington and Hirst United. The semi-final in the Shield Competition between Tynedale II. and Northern II., at Hexham, was a draw. The replay again ended in a draw, and a further game, with extra time, had a similar undecided result. At the fourth essay, Northern won the tie by 14 points to 9. There were only four teams entered for the Senior Cup, viz., Northern v. Percy Park, and Tynedale v. Rockcliff. The latter met at Hexham, when Tynedale won the tie by a goal and two tries to nothing. Rockcliff had had possession of the cup from 1889-90. The final against Percy Park attracted a big crowd to the North Road ground, Newcastle, and a well-contested game was seen. Tynedale led at the interval by a penalty goal and a try to a try. J. A. Baty scored the try and Catcheside landed the penalty goal from a difficult angle. In the second half, the Hexhamonians added a further goal to their total, T. Jackson dribbling over and A. G. Richardson added the major points. After a lapse of 19 years, the old pot found a resting place for a season in the Heart of All England. There was great jubilation in the town, and the home-coming of the team was as enthusiastic as that of 1887. Gold medals, subscribed for by 137 supporters of the club, were subsequently presented to each player.

#### A RUGBY REVIVAL.

The achievements of Tynedale gave a decided filip to the Rugby code in the Hexham district and the proceedings at the annual meeting in 1906 were much out of the ordinary run of the meetings for several years. Dr. Woodman presided. During the season, the club was represented on the county team by A. E. Emerson, M. M. Snowball, F. G. and G. E. Spencer. Of 28 matches played by the first team, 13 were won, and in the newly-formed Northumberland and Durham Inter-County Senior Club Championship, Tynedale finished fourth. G. E. Spencer was re-elected captain, and S. Newman captain of the second team, T. Ritson being vice. Mr Armorer Patterson was re-elected secretary, A. Emerson, treasurer and County representative. The committee was increased from nine to eleven.

The 1906-7 season was not eventful. In the second teams cup the Tynedale II. team beat the cup-holders, Northern II. at Hexham, but in the semi-final were beaten by Percy Park II. by 10 points to 6.

In the Senior Cup, Tynedale beat Old Novocastrians in the semi-final, but in the final on the North Road ground they were beaten by Percy Park by two tries to one.

The 1907-8 season was uneventful, though fairly successful. In the first round of the Senior Cup Tynedale met Rockcliff at Dene Park and beat them by 1 goal and 3 tries to nothing. In the second round they met Northern, also at Hexham, and defeated them by 2 goals and 3 tries to nothing. G. E. Spencer playing finely for Tynedale. Percy Park were met in the final on the Northern ground, this being the third year in succession the teams had met in the final. Percy Park won easily by 4 goals, 1 try to nothing.

Selected for the trial match in the early part of the 1908-9 season were M. M. Snowball, W. Short, F. Spencer and L. A. Patterson. Tynedale beat Rockcliff at Hexham on Oct. 10th, by the decisive margin of 2 goals, 4 tries to nothing. In the February, Tynedale defeated Sunderland by 31 points to nothing, and in this game at Dene Park, Robb, Newman, Potts, Wyles and Towns

were conspicuous and they also gained a surprise victory over Northern on the North Road ground.

#### NORTHERN'S NARROW VICTORY.

In the first round of the Senior Cup they went to Gosforth to meet Gosforth Nomads, and beat them by 3 gls. 2 tries to nil. Tynedale's scorers were Newman, Towns, G. E. Spencer, F. G. Spencer, and A. Patterson, Catcheside kicking two goals. In the semi-final, Northern met Tynedale on the North Road ground and the game ended in a draw of 6 points each. In the replayed game at Dene Park, Hexham, the next Saturday, saw Tynedale beaten by a goal to a try. W. Stevenson was the scorer. J. P. Scott played a great game on this occasion.

Harsteels opened the 1909-10 programme at Hexham and were narrowly beaten. Tynedale, in a runaway victory against Hartlepool Rangers after the turn of the year, were represented by:—Darlington; G. Bell, Hinde, Braidford, Stephenson; Humphries and Scott; A. Emerson, S. Emerson, Armstrong, Ritson, Mearns, Morrison, J. Short and W. Short. Darlington (back) and Armstrong (forward) played for the county during the season. On Feb. 26th, they met Old Novos, at Hexham in the first round of the Cup and won by 3 goals and 3 tries to nil. Between the next Cup-tie, Tynedale accomplished a capital performance by beating Hartlepool Rovers at Hartlepool by 11 points to 8.

In the semi-final, Tynedale met Percy Park at Hexham, and in a free-scoring game were beaten by 2 goals (1 penalty), 6 tries (26 points) to 3 goals (1 penalty), 1 try (6 points). Noel Mather was the outstanding player for Park, and N. F. Humphries for Tynedale. The Tynedale II. team won the Challenge Shield by beating Northern II., at Gosforth, by a goal to 1 try. Tynedale II.; J. Forster; J. Thompson, G. Diskensen, S. Newman, R. Rayner; B. D. Plummer, O. Smith; N. Purvis, R. Summers, J. Summers, M. Walton, W. Smith, S. Kent, W. Nixon, T. Hamberg.

W. Robb, captain of Tynedale, played for the county in their opening game of the 1910-11 season against Cumberland, and he and L. A. Patterson appeared against

Cheshire. Robb had played one county match the previous year, but Patterson had been capped regularly two seasons previously. In the game against Durham City at Dene Park on Oct. 29th, W. H. Warburton made his first appearance at half for Tynedale, and admirably filled Humphries' place. A. E. Averell played on the wing in this match. In the match against Rockcliff at Whitley on Nov. 5th, B. D. Plummer made his first appearance in the senior fifteen, partnering J. P. Scott.

#### W. ROBB'S WONDERFUL PLAY.

The chief feature of Northumberland's victory over Durham on January 21st, 1911, was the wonderful play of W. Robb. Playing full-back in the first half, he was moved to centre three-quarter in the second period, and he scored three fine tries. His play was a revelation and he was carried shoulder high off the field at the close of the game. The next week Northumberland beat Lancashire on the Waterloo ground, their fourth county victory. W. Robb, J. P. Scott and L. A. Patterson were Tynedale's representatives. This was Scott's first county appearance. Four Tynedale men—W. Robb, J. P. Scott, J. S. Emerson and L. A. Patterson—played at Bordeaux for Northumberland against the Universitè Bordelais.

In the first round of the cup, Tynedale met Old Novos at Dene Park, and won easily by 15 points to nil. In the second round, Northern were beaten at Dene Park by 8 points to 6, a goal and a try to two tries. It was a fine game. The Northern team on this occasion was an extremely powerful one and included no fewer than five International players, in A. D. Roberts and J. A. S. Ritson (England), J. G. Scoular (Scotland), O. J. S. Piper and J. A. Smythe (Ireland). In the final, at the Royal Grammar School ground, Newcastle, Percy Park were Tynedale's opponents, and the Tynedale men won a closely contested game by a dropped goal and a try to two tries. The performance was better than it appears. The Park were two tries up at half-time, and as Braidford wrenched the muscles of his shoulders during this period, he took no further part in the match. Sep. Emerson scored Tynedale's try, and Scott dropped the goal. Tynedale: 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. With this victory, Tynedale defeated every other Northumberland club during the season, a feat they had not accomplished since they won the cup in 1906. An excellent season was wound up with the victory of the second team in the Shield Competition. They beat Rockcliff II. on the Old Novos ground by 3 goals (1 from a mark) and 1 try; 16 points to nothing. Tynedale II.: W. Graham; J. Thompson, G. H. Dickinson, S. Newman, G. Bell; B. D. Plummer, J. W. Forster; N. Purvis, J. Scott, G. Curry, R. Summers, R. Moore, W. Nixon, J. Summers, G. W. Ritson. Tynedale II. thus won the shield in two successive years.

#### TYNEDALE II. PLAY FOUR GAMES IN THE CUP SEMI-FINAL.

In the 1911-12 season, Tynedale were drawn against Gosforth Nomads, in the first round of the cup. The game was played at Dene Park, and Tynedale won by 19 points to nil. In the semi-final, they met Northern on the latter's ground, and were badly beaten. Northern scoring 21 points against Tynedale's 8. Tynedale's team was much the same as the previous year, but the halves were M. M. Snowball and B. D. Plummer; Martin and J. Thompson came into the three-quarter line, and Dr. Brydon was included among the forwards. The second team had an exciting experience in the shield 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 they 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 fine holiday programme, and played seven games in the Christmas and New Year fortnight, winning them all by a margin of 133 points to 17. As the fixtures included Durham City, Jed Forest, North Durham, Carlisle (twice), Wakefield and Northern, the performance was an outstanding one. In the first round of the cup, they were

beaten at Preston Avenue by 6 points to 3. The second team, however, once again won the shield, beating Percy Park II. on the County Ground by 2 tries to nothing. The second team also finished at the top of the Junior League table for this season.

#### ANOTHER CUP VICTORY.

In 1913-14 season, Tynedale generally played fine football, and in the opening round of the cup beat Gosforth Nomads on the County ground by a try to nil, and then on the Dene Park ground they gained a great victory over Northern by two goals, 1 dropped goal, and 2 penalty goals to 2 tries. This was a very memorable game, and the home side owed their victory to W. Robb, who played a remarkable game all through. He made fine openings for Hulsen, and kicked four goals. In the final at the County ground, Tynedale and Percy Park played a pointless draw. In the replay, Tynedale won by 1 penalty goal and 2 tries to a penalty goal. The game was in marked contrast to the previous one, being bright and open, W. Braidford opening the score with a magnificent try for Tynedale, unconverted, and then Robb kicked a penalty goal. Tynedale led at half-time by 6 points. Thompson scored a great try in the second half. Tynedale team: P. Gibb; J. Thompson, W. Robb, W. Braidford and W. Hulsen; P. Braidford, S. J. Newman and F. Nevison; I. A. Patterson, G. Potts, D. Forster, R. Summers, T. Armstrong, T. Robson and G. P. Walton. This was probably one of the best all-round teams that ever represented Tynedale, and they crowned a great season with this success.

And then came the Great War. At a special meeting of the Tynedale club held at the North Eastern Hotel on September 1st, 1914, the Rev. Father Mackey in the chair, it was agreed to cancel the fixtures for the season, and it was announced that the following players had joined or were joining His Majesty's Forces:—W. Robb, J. R. Robb, M. Robb, J. Forster, P. Gibb, W. Braidford, P. Braidford, W. Hulsen, W. Havelock, J. W. Stephenson, T. Robson, I. A. Patterson, D. Forster, A. Bates, R. Summers, N. Purvis, H. Arkle, M. Summers, T. Baty, W. Young and J. Milne.



#### THE TYNEDALE R.F.C. WAR MEMORIAL TABLET.

Unveiled and Dedicated January, 1921.

## THE WAR.

The Tynedale club had a record in the War second to none, and practically every playing member of the club joined the Colours or did his bit in some capacity. In the four years of fighting, it was only natural that the sacrifices should be big, and no less than 49 playing members—past and present—laid down their lives for King and Country. Their names are recorded on a brass tablet which hangs outside the pavilion at Dene Park, the pavilion itself being erected as a memorial to the fallen. The pavilion was officially opened by the late H. I. Welford, Esq., the then President of the Northumberland Union, in 1921, and the tablet dedicated by the Rev. J. V. C. Farquhar, Rector of Hexham.

The tablet contains the following names:—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. Robnison, George S. Robnison, Joseph W. Robnison, 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.

A number of honours were won by members, including the following:—

**C.B.E.:** Lieut.-Col. G. Scott Jackson, N.F. and R.A.M.C.

**Bar to D.S.O.:** Lieut.-Col. G. Scott Jackson; Lieut.-Col. J. A. S. Ritson, D.L.I. and Royal Scots; Lieut.-Col. F. Robinson, N.F. and Inniskilling Fusiliers.

**D.S.O.:** Major W. Anderson, N.F.; Lieut.-Col. B. D. Gibson, N.F.; Lieut.-Col. G. Scott Jackson; Lieut.-Col. J. A. S. Ritson; Lieut.-Col. F. Robinson.

**Bar to M.C.:** Lieut. P. Braidford, D.L.I.; Capt. J. V. Gregory, N.F.; Capt. S. Kent, Canadians; Capt. H. G. Steele, N.F.

**D.F.C.:** Capt. J. M. Robb, N.F. and R.A.F.

**M.C.:** Capt. U. Alexander, N.F.; Major W. Anderson, N.F.; Lieut. W. Amos, N.F.; Lieut. P. Braidford, D.L.I.; Capt. P. Gibb, N.F.; Capt. J. V. Gregory, N.F.; Capt. N. F. Humphreys, Tank Corps; Capt. S. Kent, Canadians; Capt. B. D. Plummer, N.F. and R.E.; Capt. E. Pyott; Lieut.-Col. J. A. S. Ritson; Lieut.-Col. W. Robb, N.F. and K.O.Y.L.I.; Capt. T. Robson, Northumberland Hussars; Capt. H. G. Steele, N.F.

**D.C.M.:** C.S.M. J. W. Smith, N.F.; Sergt. F. Armstrong, N.F.

**M.M.:** Pte. D. Forster, N.F.; Bomdr. G. A. West, R.G.A.

**Foreign Honours:** Lieut.-Col. B. D. Gibson, Croix de Guerre avec Palme; Lieut.-Col. J. R. Robb, Croix de Chevalier, Legion d'Honneur; C.S.M. J. W. Smith, Medaille Militaire.

In addition to the War Memorials mentioned, the club also endowed a cot at the Hexham War Memorial Hospital known as the "Tynedale Football Club Cot."

## POST-WAR PERIOD.

The first matches after the War took place on Easter Saturday and Monday, 1919, when Tynedale defeated the Old Novos, and drew with Rockcliff. B. D. Plummer was elected captain in the 1919 season, and D. Forster vice-captain, and these positions they held for six successive seasons, D. Forster having the distinction of captaining the club in this, the Jubilee season.

Consistently good form has been shown in successive seasons since the War, though the club has never been fortunate enough to win the Senior Cup in this period. The second XV. have made a big name for themselves, winning the Northumberland Challenge Shield five successive years from 1920 to 1924. The third team were successful in winning the Northumberland Junior Cup in 1922 and 1925, and the Tyneside Junior Cup in 1923, while the fourth team gained the Northumberland Junior Shield in 1924 and 1925.

Many of the club's players have played for Northumberland County since the War, including J. W. Forster, B. D. Plummer, J. Thompson, W. Sinclair, O. L. Jessop, M. H. Jones, D. S. Jackson, R. A. Goodhall, H. Charlton, D. Forster, T. Robson, G. Robson, G. Nicholson, F. R. Hedley, J. E. C. Strang, while J. G. Holmes played for Durham County.

On the death of Dr. T. Woodman in 1919, the presidency of the club was held by Geo. R. Gibson for two seasons, and he was succeeded by R. H. Robb, E. Shield and D. K. McComb, Mr Robb being re-elected for this season.

## PURCHASE OF DENE PARK.

In order to celebrate the club's Jubilee in a tangible manner, it was decided at a general meeting of the club, held on the 8th February, 1926, to exercise an option which had been granted to purchase the field at Dene Park, which the club have used as a playing field for the past 23 years. When the option was granted, the owners intimated that the ground was definitely going to be sold, and it would have, in all probability, passed into the hands of builders for housing purposes. The purchase price is £1,550, and works out at 1s 9½d a square yard. 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 23 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. An appeal has been made to supporters of the club for help in the matter of funds, to enable the club to pay the purchase money, and thus establish Rugby football in Hexham for all time.

