

Come on Tytytytyne!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TYNE DALE R.F.C.

ISSUE 5 - SEPTEMBER 2001

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Season tickets now available See Page 5



THE DREAM TEAM!



As Tynedale get underway again after the disruption of Foot & Mouth, here we feature the Team charged with bringing success on the pitch in, hopefully, our first complete season in the National Leagues.

Back row: Chris (Hacker) Irvine, Raiders Captain. Alan Gledson, Director of Rugby. Kirk Barclay, Fitness Coach. Peter Robinson, Chairman of Selectors. Front Row: Wallace Cousin, Selector and Web Wizard. John Austin, President. Steve Olivier, Club Coach. Kieth (Panny) Johnson, 1st XV Captain and by his side (as ever!), Emma Hopkins, Club Physio.

DUELLING ACCENTS!

Caption competition - see page 7!



Historic season ahead! See page 2



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JUNIOR REVIEW

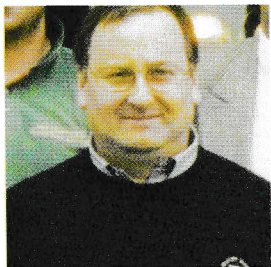
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LORD SHOTTOFF

A tribute to our retiring (sic) Chairman of Rugby
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125 years old - he doesn't look a day over 40!!



Club President: John Austin

125 years and still going strong. At the start of this historic season I would like to reflect on some of the events of what turned out to be a very unusual last twelve months and then look forward to the next 125 years.

Obviously last season was dominated by foot and mouth disease and this brought about a totally unsatisfactory end to the campaign. The decisions taken by the Management Committee were extremely hard to make and took a great deal of soul searching. However, the decision to stop playing was based on the heritage of this great club. We have always been a club with strong ties to the farming community. On this basis we all felt that there was no way we could continue playing and risk endangering the livelihoods of a large number of our players at all levels. This decision was finally vindicated as we maintained our league status. Some clubs, who dealt with the situation differently, were not so fortunate. I would like to thank all parts of the club who supported those decisions. I know that particularly for the mini section the message was very hard to put across especially when the schools continued to play.

Last season was obviously our first attempt at the National Leagues. The elevation to Division 3 proved to be a major learning curve for the whole of the club structure. The demands on the players increased dramatically, particularly with regard to travelling. Catching a bus at 7am on a Saturday and getting

home in the early hours of Sunday morning is an enormous commitment in what remains an amateur sport to most of us.

Much of the season saw the first team suffering with many injuries. This obviously had a knock on effect for the rest of the teams. The positive aspect of this was the experience gained by many of the less well established players who played regular first team rugby. Others played out of position for the benefit of the team. All have shown 100% commitment at all times and for the future we are seeing individuals developing into quality team players.

All of the junior sides suffered a frustrating season with matches being cancelled on a regular basis, often at the last minute, and through no fault of their own. The majority of cup games were lost because of foot and mouth so the whole season proved to be very disappointing. The loss of players within the game causing the cancellation of so many of these matches is something that concerns us all. Some of you might be aware that the County set up a working party under the chairmanship of Douglas Hamilton to look at this issue. Douglas's report has raised a number of issues that will challenge us all but will more importantly seek to improve the current situation. Similarly the whole issue of funding from the RFU, the County and from other sources is currently being reviewed.

Within our club, the Management Committee, with the assistance of Graham Sinclair, is undertaking a major review of all aspects of the club's operations and developing a five year plan to move the club forward. This exercise will ultimately involve many of the members outside the management committee. Consultation and communication is imperative if we are to get the formula right.



I can run at a speed of 55mph



I enjoy swimming with my friends



I swim, play and leap out of the water



I leap and bound into action



We're learning how, together



What kind of animal are you?!!



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One thing that is of vital importance is for us to be involved with and therefore be able to influence key areas both inside and outside the game of rugby. Within the game we must continue to work with the County and aim to have a voice within the National Clubs Association. It is essential that we work with local schools and Universities as well as building closer relationships with other rugby clubs at all levels. Recruitment must be a high priority. Outside the game we must look to work with the District and County Councils, Leisure Tynedale as well as other fund holders who can help us to realise our vision of the future. Many of the doors to these organisations are already open; we must now start walking through some of them.

Recruitment must not be confined to players and coaches. It is essential that we develop administrators to run what is becoming an ever more complex business. I would urge you all to consider what you can do for the club off the field, particularly those of you

who are reaching the end of your playing careers.

The move to Division 3 has involved increases in costs, particularly for travelling. The support from our sponsors is now more important than ever. I would like to thank them all for their contributions. In particular I would like to thank Troynorth Ltd. and Jim Little for his continuing support. There are plenty of opportunities for sponsors to help the club. Details are highlighted within this newsletter. Please help if you can.

As we enter our 125th season there is much to be proud of and reflect upon from the past. Those who came before us left a marvellous legacy. Some 25 years ago the General Committee had the vision to make the move from Dean Park to Tynedale Park. It is now up to the Management Committee to develop clear visions of the future for Tynedale and to ensure that these visions become a reality. In this way there will be a great inheritance for those who follow us.

01434 607080 01434 652444 01661 833144 01434 652320 01434 652355

FOUR NATIONS RUGBY RETURNS TO TYNEDALE

Leading Schools from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland will take part in the International Rugby Tournament hosted by Tynedale RFC at the beginning of their 125th Season.

Delayed invitations, due to the problems with the Foot & Mouth outbreak have attracted back at least twelve of our previous competitors. Including Previous winners Merchiston Castle from Edinburgh and Colston Collegiate from Bristol.

Also returning Rossall School, Fleetwood; St. Edwards, Oxford; Christ College, Brecon; Edinburgh Academy; Yarm School, Cleveland; Barnard Castle, Durham; Kings School, Tynemouth; Dame Allen's, Newcastle; Royal Grammar School, Newcastle; Glantaf School, Cardiff; Tynedale Schools. Connacht Schools are hoping to make the journey with the intention of not just reaching the Final but winning on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2nd. 2001.**

Schools play each team in their pool, matches of 10 minutes each way, The top two teams enter a main competition knockout, the winners receiving



Action from last years tournament

the Tynedale District Council Trophy and the runners - up the Hexham Courant Trophy.

The other two Schools enter a Plate knockout competition, the winners receiving the Newcastle Building Society Trophy and the runners - up the Just Sport

Shield. Play commences at 10.30 on Sunday September 2nd. Schools are accommodated throughout the area and a number take advantage of our facilities for pre-season training. The Tournament has, in the past been partially Sponsored by Wm.Thompson, Prudhoe; Grant

Thornton, and Tynedale District Council. Make sure you get down to Tynedale for this prestigious tournament. Judging by previous years, the standard has been outstanding, and a great showcase for our club.

THIS SEASONS 1st XV FIXTURES

DATE	OPPOSITION		F	A	DATE	OPPOSITION		F	A
Aug 11	Practice	Waterloo		Home	Jan 5	League	Whitchurch		Away
Aug 18	Practice	Kircaldy/Aspatia		Home	Jan 12	League	Dudley Kingswinford		Home
Aug 25	Practice	Alnwick		Away	Jan 19	League	New Brighton		Away
Sept 1	League	Darlington M/Park		Home	Jan 26	League	Bedford Athletic		Home
Sept 8	League	Scunthorpe		Home	Feb 2	League	Liverpool St Helens		Away
Sept 15	Cup	Nuneaton		Away	Feb 9	League	Morley		Home
Sept 22	League	Sandal		Away	Feb 16				
Sept 29	Cup				Feb 23	League	Nuneaton		Away
Oct 6	League	Nuneaton		Home	Mar 2				
Oct 13	Cup				Mar 9	League	Sandal		Home
Oct 20	League	Morley		Away	Mar 16	League	Scunthorpe		Away
Oct 27	League	Liverpool St Helens		Home	Mar 23				
Nov 3	League	Bedford Athletic		Away	Mar 30	League	Blaydon		Away
Nov 10	League	New Brighton		Home	Apr 6	League	Doncaster		Home
Nov 17	League	Dudley Kingswinford		Away	Apr 13	League	West Hartlepool		Away
Nov 24	League	Whitchurch		Home					
Dec 1	League	Darlington M/Park		Away					
Dec 8	League	West Hartlepool		Home					
Dec 15	League	Doncaster		Away					
Dec 22	League	Blaydon		Home					
Dec 29	Friendly	Morpeth		Away					

Home fixtures in bold

DON'T MISS THE HOME GAMES AND WHY NOT COME ON A FEW OF THE AWAY TRIPS!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Corporate Sponsorship packages were very popular last season and there are still a few games available for this forth coming season:

Interested? Contact Lindsey Hall.

Corporate Sponsor

- Exclusive use of the Lounge Bar overlooking the first team pitch for pre-match hospitality at a National League Division Two home match, including entry to ground / grandstand, match programmes and lunch for upto 30 guests. Additional lunches available at a charge.
- Two perimeter advertising
- Standard (1/8th page) advertisement in the Tynedale RFC Newsletter
- Acknowledgement in the match programme and opportunity for product placement within the ground.
- Two Tynedale RFC Season Tickets
- Facility to apply for International & Six Nations Championship tickets
- 4 seated tickets for a Newcastle Falcons home game
- Available from £1100.00 + vat

For details- contact Lindsey Hall.

Match Ball Sponsor

There are still games without ball sponsors - hurry to avoid disappointment!

- Pre-match hospitality, entry to match, match programmes for upto 4 guests. Acknowledgement in the match programme and opportunity for product placement
- Priced from £75.00 + vat

For details of all sponsorship opportunities contact Lindsey Hall on any of the following numbers:

Home: 01661 832306

Mob: 0797 0000 161

Work: 0191 374 6466

or e-mail:

sponsortrfc@hotmail.com

Gatemen Required

As the start of the season proper approaches, we are making our annual plea for members to join the gatekeeping rota.

These stouthearted fellows carry out the very important task of collecting the gate money at all of the First team home games. If you agree to take on this undemanding role, you will have an unrivalled opportunity to enjoy the good-natured and humorous banter of typical rugby followers as they generously and willingly hand over their entrance fees - and you will also receive the undying gratitude of Andy Briggs, our Treasurer.

John Drew organises the Gatemen and he can be contacted on 01661 842159 but please get in touch with him quickly as the response to this request is likely to be overwhelming and you could miss out.

OBITUARY

Tot Gledson

The Club is sad to report the passing of Tot, a larger than life character renowned in farming circles throughout the land, and a great supported of Tynedale. Just take a look at the picture in the club with Alan taken after the London Scottish cup win in the 80's.

Our sympathy goes out to May and all the family especially Alan and Margery, Richard and Anna.

Colin Fox

The tragic death of Colin on the golf course has shocked the club. A former 1st XV full back, he will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go to his wife Deanne and his children, specially to Graham a current Tynedale player who played in the Hoppers cup winning side last year.

CONGRATULATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Long may you continue to prosper.

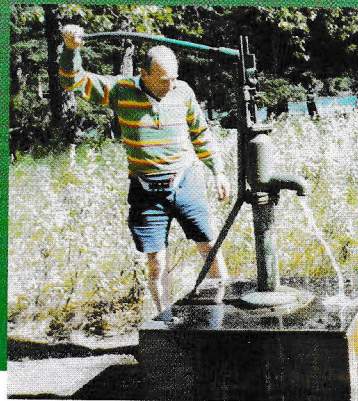
Danny Hodgson

PRESIDENT,

NORTHUMBERLAND

RUGBY UNION

Photo: Danny pulls another pint at Alnwick!!



Breakfast with the lions

Whilst the Lions tour Down Under wasn't as successful as everyone was hoping for, the same cannot be said of the Bucks Fiz breakfasts that accompanied the televised matches!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the three Saturday breakfasts, whether it was members doing the cooking or the members and guests who sat down to watch the matches.

After all expenses we made a profit of £640. Much needed revenue during the truncated season.

John Drew

Chairman House & Bar



SPOTTED IN SAFEWAYS BUYING RICE PUDDING JACKET POTATOES AND CHICKEN BREASTS!

(Totally meaningless but fills a space!)



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A view from the top!



Andy Deacon,
Chief Executive

THE NEW SEASON

After such a long lay off all Tynedale fans will be relieved when the new season finally gets underway.

As we go to press the big kick off to our 125th anniversary season is upon us with a great rugby weekend to savour. Darlington Mowden Park are the visitors on Saturday September 1st for the first of a number of North East derby games for the first XV. The club are having a special pre-match photo with 125 invited ex players expected to attend and be photographed for posterity, there will also be a club buffet lunch before this game with a target of 125 attendees - £10 per head to include entrance to the match.

All the many other sections of the club are also starting their season. The new Girls West Northumberland Under 16 contact rugby squad start their regular Saturday morning training sessions at the club on September 1st, the Mini/Junior section and the backbone of the club, the colts and the other senior sides, will also all be in action during the anniversary weekend.

SENIOR CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In the wake of the Hamilton report all clubs in the county and beyond are busy updating

their development plans, Tynedale are no exception. The next 5 to 10 years could be a difficult period for clubs given the national and regional trend of reduced player numbers. Some clubs continue to thrive but the forecast is for an increasing number of clubs to struggle to provide full 15 a side teams, particularly at junior team level. Graham Sinclair has been co-ordinating the process for the management committee and gave an update and a state of play report at the AGM.

With certain objectives identified the next step will be for each section of the club to work these objectives into a development plan for the short, medium and long term. It is certainly not intended that the chosen few, (whoever they might be!) will do the work behind closed doors. As much feedback and help as possible will be sought from the many members and supporters of the club. Contributions could even be on a one off basis rather than being co-opted onto yet another committee! If you would like to help, or feel that you have some useful feedback to offer, please contact Graham Sinclair in the first instance.

SPONSORSHIP

Cometh the hour, cometh the man, (or woman) the saying goes. As the club continues to adjust to the changes at management committee level and new appointments start their jobs whilst attempting to handover the old ones, the vital area of raising funds via sponsorship and advertising was clearly grinding to a halt.

**Good beer,
good food,
good crack!**

A fine old alehouse bringing you traditional ales & homely fresh cooked food, with the odd Northern Sandwich (stotty!) and the occasional josh!

Welcome...
Sandra and Freddie



SUGGESTION BOX

Whilst this newsletter is a good vehicle to communicate what's happening at the Club, we are only too aware that this communication is one way.

We welcome your suggestions on any aspect of the running of the club.

What better way than to post your suggestions on our Web site!

www.tynedalerfc.co.uk

Paste your suggestions into the Message Board, all ideas will be looked at - within reason!!

No access to the net? Post your ideas on the notice board at the Club.

SUPER 100 CLUB!

The 'Super 100 Club'

For just a £5 a month standing order you will be entered into the monthly draw with Super Draws taking place in December and April with a first prize of £500!

To set up your standing order contact Lindsey Hall 01661 832306

Monthly Draw

1st prize	£125.00
2nd prize	£50.00
3rd prize	£25.00

Super Draw

1st prize	£500.00
2nd prize	£100.00
3rd prize	£25.00

Sign up now and when we draw that £500, it could be you!

We are pleased to announce that Miss Lindsay Hall, who on her own admission has blue and white blood running through her veins, will be the main contact for sponsorship and advertising issues for the coming season. She will be reporting to the management committee on a regular basis and would appreciate your support as she learns her new role.

If you have any questions, or indeed if you would like to sponsor the club in any way then call Lindsay on 0797 0000161.

Management committee task groups and sub committees.

There are a number of opportunities for members to get involved with the running of the club by lending their support to a task group or a sub-committee. You don't have to commit to full membership of a group, just give your support or feedback or attend one of the meetings. We want to get as many people on board to help and contribute

with their ideas and comments. We want to widen support from the few to the many with the result that more people get involved.

A new social sub committee has been formed with Chalky White as chairman.

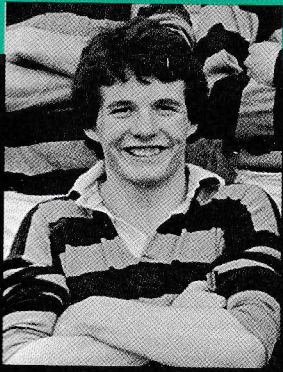


SEASON TICKET

A stylish addition to every wallet/purse and must have for every self respecting supporter. £60.00 covers all home National League and Tetley's Cup matches and includes a personalised and laminated 'designer' season ticket. Existing holders will receive a £20 discount due to the F&M loss of games last season.



Tynedale
COUNCIL



Do you recognise this former Tynedale Colt?

Last Issue back in Feb: Mickey Lee Tynedale 1st XV stalwart - yes he did used to have hair!

The Tynedale RFC Junior Section Page in association with Tynedale Council.

Mini Junior section news

The mini/juniors are back in action and raring to go after the long lay off. All the usual components are in place for the youngsters to have a great time, the fixture list is now set, the ever popular tours are on the drawing board and the squads have been coming down to the new Wednesday training nights during the summer holidays. Our first priority will be to have another successful recruitment campaign, the popular Registration Wednesday on 29th August, just before the youngsters go back to school, has

proved a hit with families. The first Sunday morning session on September 2nd, which is held alongside the international schools competition, should also be good. In this the club's 125th year we are aiming to get our membership back up to and beyond the 200 mark as the youngsters rediscover the joys of playing rugby.

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

At the beginning of February there will be an active sport initiative for Rugby aimed at helping youngsters join clubs, Tynedale RFC will be at the centre of this initiative and hope to gain from attracting new players throughout the age groups.

We always need help and support from prospective coaches, parents, friends and helpers alike. Please contact our secretary John Taylor if you would like to help on 01434 609777



Above the current Tynedale Colts squad prepare to take on Jedforest in a practice match before their season gets under way proper. It is particularly pleasing to see ex-First XV stalwart and ex-Tynedale Colt Steve Dunn, who is now a County Senior Selector, continuing his involvement in his ex team as a coach!

Girls Rugby news

The West Northumberland District squad based at Tynedale RFC has been successful with an Awards for all bid for funds. £5000 has been awarded for the new section to set up with equipment, fund transport costs and start with a flourish. The squad are hosting the first ever North East merit table fixture on Sunday September 30th, teams from all over the North East will travel to

Tynedale Park for a round robin tournament which will count towards the newly formed merit table. County and regional squads will be chosen from club sides so the Girls have a lot to play for.

Gail Everitt, Peter Telfer and Andy Deacon will coach the girls with appearances from Jo Wells, Northumberland's girls rugby development officer during the season.



Please contact Andy Deacon on 01434 609750 if you wish to join or help this growing section.

J.B. Shotton Director of Rugby (retd)?

A tribute by former Tynedale President, Edward Robson.

John Shotton was born and bred in Tynedale. Spending his early years scrummaging on the mat at Dukeswilly, with the ever-so-slightly older Edward Robson, who seems to get the blame for every malcreant that turns up at Tynedale.

Parted at a tender age to keep the peace, sent to Durham County Schools for training as "Young Gentlemen" Edward to Barnard Castle, John to Durham School.

The Dunelm Establishment initially welcomed John with open arms, his "ball" skills soon apparent on the cricket square and rugby field.

Playing in the School XV with such illustrious team mates as Mike Weston, John Ranson, Stan Hodgson and Richard Harle, John's sound performances at full back earned him 7's and County Schools selection alongside Michael Hopps, Robin Shield and George Zigler from Barnard Castle.

Termination of John's academic career had nothing to do with Rugby Football, more an affiliation with Durham High School for "Young Gentlewomen", Vaux Breweries and the exotic crumbs from the table of the afore mentioned Richard Harle!

A hasty exit from a well documented Tynedale match in the lakes and an horrendous leg injury forced John to abandon rugby to build a career and family in the South.

reappearing in the early 60's, John became an integral part of Tynedale, Critic, Baggage Man, Team Manager, graduating to Director of Rugby.

His encyclopedic knowledge of rugby, his attention to detail of, registrations, routes, billets and result permutations beggers belief.

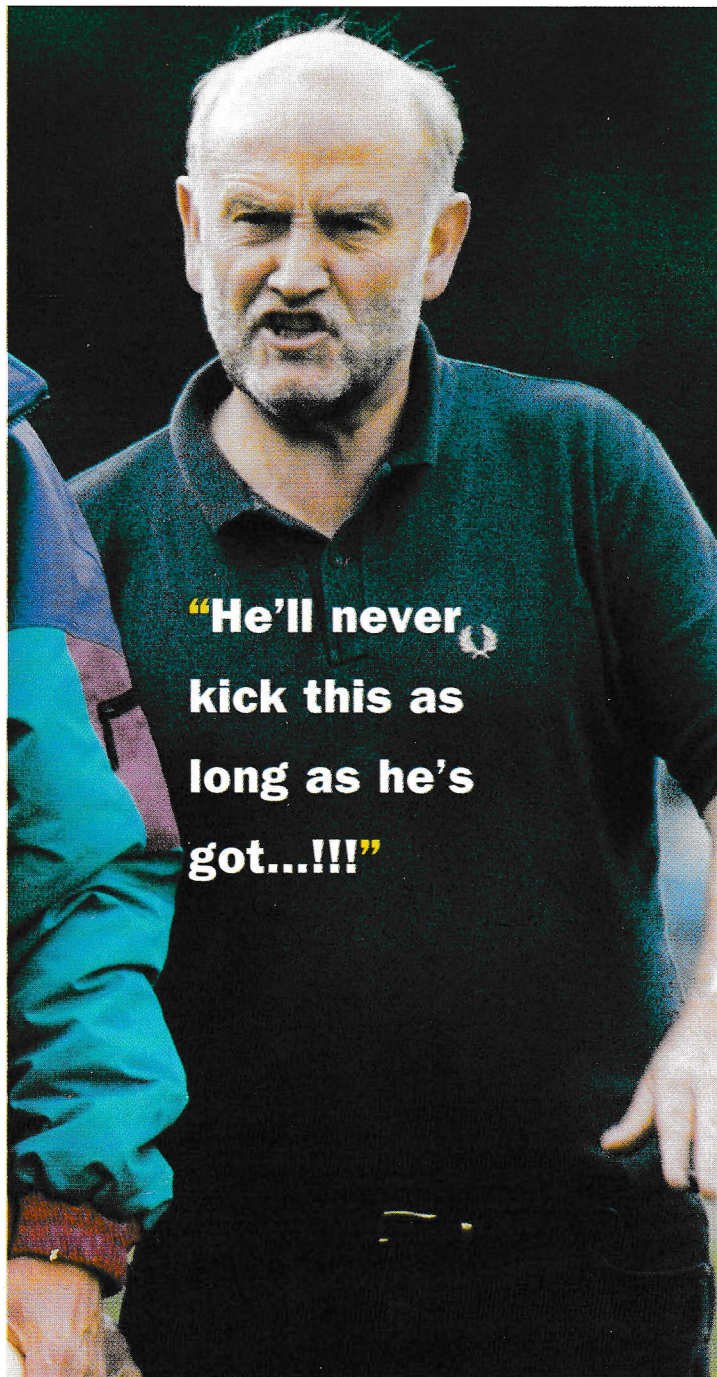
Respected on the Club scene from Hereford to Aberdeen, for his sheer dedication, John will be embarrassed to know the high esteem in which he is held at County level.

Danny Hodgson, the current Northumberland President recalls John saying, "I don't give a stuff for the County" and yet rearranging the venue to Tynedale at 3 hours notice when Northern's ground was unplayable, allowing Northumberland to honour their fixture with (I think) Lancashire. Such was the occasion that poor John Pargeter was breathalized on the way home!

Three back somersaults and a forward roll, on the high trapeze is some feat, the fine balance John has achieved between family, business and Tynedale Rugby Club is breathtaking.

John Shotton has been suitable honoured, elected a Life Member of the Club at the recent A.G.M.. No one person in 125 years deserves that honour more.

Mr Tynedale



CAPTION COMPETITION



North Tyne meets the High Velt!!!

Write a funny caption and win something! Who knows you may win an hours conversation on the history of 70's rugby with Bullet!

Caption.....

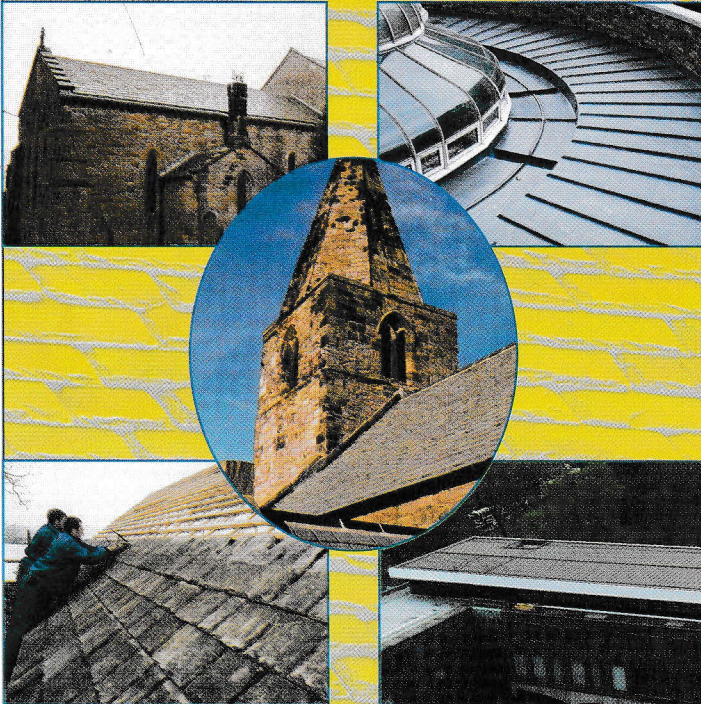
.....

Name:.....

Just hand in over the bar at the club and see what happens!
Alan and Steve - you can enter too!



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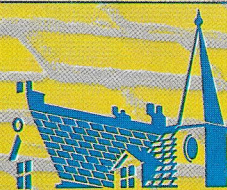
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