

TYNEDALE v HUDDERSFIELD

WE extend the warmest of welcomes to the players, officials and supporters of Huddersfield RUFC, back in North Division Two after winning promotion in spectacular style last season.

After suffering the pain of relegation the season before, they came storming back as champions of North Division Three, remaining unbeaten throughout the season.

And they have a point to prove against Tynedale, for the Blue and Whites did the double over the Yorkshiremen in their relegation season, albeit by the tightest of margins. Tynedale won 23-17 at Corbridge, and edged them out 20-17 at Lockwood Park.

Before that, the clubs had not met for 20 years, but again, the Yorkshiremen were unable to get the better of things. The match on October 15 1994 ended in a 9-9 draw at Lockwood Park, with Tynedale winning 22-16 at Corbridge in October 1995.

Huddersfield's return to North Two has not been easy, as they opened with a high-scoring 44-36 defeat at the hands of South Leicester - their first defeat in 26 matches - and followed that with a 24-3 home defeat against another Leicestershire side, Hinckley.

They will be determined to get their season back on track today, but whatever the result, we hope for a good open game.

A LONG AND PROUD RUGBY TRADITION

The town of Huddersfield has a long and proud rugby tradition. Early records show that the game was first played in the town in 1869 when members of The Huddersfield Athletics Club, which had been formed five years earlier, decided to start a team. The first matches were played on the Rifle Field on Trinity Street. Later, in 1879, the club amalgamated with St. John's Cricket Club and moved to new grounds at Fartown.

The rugby team enjoyed much early success and had international and county men amongst its playing ranks. In 1890 Huddersfield won the Yorkshire Challenge Cup by beating Wakefield by one goal to nil. (NB In those days three tries equalled a goal.) Alas the trophy was destined not to return to the town for well over 100 years!

It was in Huddersfield that the biggest-ever change in the rugby world took place, when in 1895, following a dispute between the RFU and the senior teams from Yorkshire and Lancashire 20 clubs resigned their membership of the RFU and formed the new 'Northern Rugby Football Union' at a meeting in the town's George Hotel. The new organisation was the forerunner of the modern professional Rugby League.

A number of clubs affected by the breakaway re-formed subsequently and retained the original date of their formation. Not so Huddersfield. A break of 14 years elapsed before a new amateur rugby union club was formed. HRUFC was re-born in 1909.

The club was originally named Huddersfield Old Boys, matches were played at the United Cricket Club in Luck Lane, Marsh and players changed in the nearby Croppers Arms pub.

After re-formation the club quickly established itself as one of the best in the county but matches ceased between 1914-1918 during the First World War. After the war the club played briefly at Salendine Nook before moving to new grounds at Waterloo on the other side of town in 1919-20. These would be home to the club for the next 87 years. New colours of white jersey, with a claret and gold band were adopted and the club grew in strength.

By 1924 it was running four successful teams. During World War Two strenuous efforts were made to continue the playing of rugby despite the fact that most members were serving in the forces.

In 1946 the club dropped the 'Old Boys' suffix which was something of an anachronism. It had never been connected to a school and membership had never been restricted to former public school boys. Improvements to the grounds at Waterloo were continually made stand was built, bar and tea room added and in the mid 60's money was raised for the building of new dressing rooms and baths. The committee also had the foresight to purchase the grounds when the opportunity presented itself which was to prove hugely beneficial as the century drew to a close.

In 1969 Huddersfield pioneered the formation of mini-rugby, an event which was featured on the BBC TV programme 'Look North'. The idea was the brainchild of two Huddersfield dads, Bob Lumley and Martin Noble whose children were amongst the first boys to participate. Basil Brush and the Romanian Ambassador, Pretor Pola, were two of the new section's early honorary presidents. Subsequent years saw the game at mini level take off big time and now most grass roots clubs introduce youngsters to the joys of the game from an early age with many going on to represent their clubs at senior level.

As the century neared its end the club was once again in search of more extensive grounds and better facilities to meet the demands of the modern age. The old junior fields were sold to Morrisons supermarket and the £1.4 million received from the sale along with a matching National Lottery Sports Council grant was ploughed into the purchase and development of the old 26 acre Bass brewery site at Lockwood Park.

In 2011 Huddersfield clinched the Yorkshire Cup for the second time in their history with a superb performance against the odds; defeating Hull 25-18 at York. Despite being down to 12 men at one stage with three men in the sin-bin and a 19-9 penalty count against them, Huddersfield dug deeper than they have done all season with a tremendous display. Four penalties and a drop goal from Chris Johnson – and second-half tries from Lee Paxman and James Wood – sent the large travelling band of 'Field supporters wild with delight. It was a fantastic achievement to beat Hull and claim 'T'Owd Tin Pot' for only the second time in the history of the competition.

Today the club thrives as a multi-sport institution. Three senior rugby teams are run along with a full complement of age grade teams from Under six to senior academy. The club has associated men's and ladies hockey clubs, a squash section, a road running section, a crown green bowling section and a billiards and snooker section.

Pitches lie either side of the great Lockwood railway viaduct and include a 1500 capacity First XV ground and a floodlit astro-turf hockey pitch along with junior rugby fields and training areas. It has two glass backed squash courts and a traditionally furnished two table snooker room in the main building and a first class bowling green with its own separate pavilion.

EIGHT TRY EXTRAVAGANZA GIVES TYNE A DREAM START

Tynedale 52, Chester 21

TYNEDALE got the rugby season off to the best possible start on Saturday September 2, putting on more than 50 points against a disappointing Chester outfit.

Eight tries scored by eight different players added further illumination to a glorious late summer afternoon, as Tynedale played some scintillating running rugby.

There were lots of new faces in show as Tynedale ran out in their unfamiliar grey second strip, with the indecipherable numbers, as the new blue and white outfits were not available!

Among the starters was prop Diogo Ferreira, who holds the distinction of being the first Portuguese player to have played in the Premiership when he turned out with Sale Sharks last season. The 20-year-old was replaced after 25 minutes by Gosforth Academy prospect Ben Wilkinson, who also performed well, before reappearing for the last 20 minutes.



Ash Smith

There was also an impressive return on the wing for Guy Pike, back at Corbridge after a spell with Percy Park. The new players blended seamlessly with the established players to produce a top notch performance, albeit against opposition that seemed some way off the pace required for league rugby.

The two sides have been well matched for the last two seasons, both winning two of the four encounters, and Chester finished fifth in North Division Two last term, one place and four points ahead of Tynedale. But on this showing, Chester have a great deal of work to do.

Fly half Ash Smith helped himself to a try and six conversions, and there were the usual polished performances from number eight Scott Powell, scrum half Matty Outson and centre Will Miller.

It was first blood to Chester, as Tynedale were penalised after two minutes for not rolling away from a tackle just outside their own 22, and fly half Liam McGovern slotted the straightforward penalty. But Tynedale came roaring back, with the muscular Miller bullocking over on five minutes, and hooker Louis Frankland following him across the whitewash two minutes later Smith converted both to give Tynedale a comfortable 14-3 lead.

McGovern pulled a penalty back on 25 minutes, before scrum half Matty Outson got Tynedale's third on 27 minutes after some dazzling handling by the Tynedale backs. McGovern's third penalty made it 21-9 on 37 minutes, but flanker Joe Mills got the bonus point try for Tynedale on the stroke of half time from a neat chip through by Matty Outson.

After converting all Tynedale's first half tries, Ash Smith powered through for a try of his own four minutes into the second half, maintaining his 100 per cent record from the tee to make it 35-9.

Replacement Andrew Baston gave Chester a faint flicker of hope with a 64th minute try, converted by Callum Bennett, but play was soon back at the other end, where good pressure resulted in a rare try for lanky lock Harry Snowden on 72 minutes.

Although skipper David Ford got another try for Chester late on, the visitors were clearly struggling for fitness, and Tynedale were able to run in further unconverted tries by full back James Spencer - only on because original number 15 Jonny Mock injured himself in the warm up - and replacement flanker Max Davies.



DERBY DELIGHT PUTS TYNE ON TOP

Blaydon 12, Tynedale 33.

AFTER a gap of three years, Tynedale's favourite fixture was back on the calendar on Saturday, when they made the short trip east to tackle old rivals Blaydon.

The Crow Trees outfit suffered the ignominy of relegation from National League Division One last term, and like Tynedale before them, lost a significant number of experienced players to retirement and transfers. They are in the process of rebuilding, but all considerations are set aside in derby games, where anything can happen and usually does.

While there were those in the crowd who jokingly opined that the grass on the first team pitch did not appear to have been cut since Tynedale's last visit, and farmers were heard cursing the fact that they had not brought along a few sheep for a half time snack, this was not a game to be taken lightly. Blaydon may have shipped more than 50 points in their opening day defeat at the hands of Hinckley, but had also run in four tries. For their part, Tynedale were delighted with their 52-21 opening day win over Chester, and had the luxury of naming an unchanged starting XV.

While they never quite hit the heights of the Chester win, they were worthy winners on a pleasant day in the Swalwell sunshine.

The game was only five minutes old when Tynedale took the lead, following a good drive from a line-out close to the Blaydon line. The ball was released from the tail of the line, and right wing Rob Parker danced in for fly half Ash Smith to convert.

On 13 minutes it was the turn of opposite wing Guy Pike to cross the whitewash, showing good pace to cash in on Blaydon losing possession in midfield with a delightful swerving rum. Smith again obliged with the extras.

Hopes of an easy day at the office were dashed when Blaydon started to hit back, their speedy backs posing problems for Tynedale in defence. Their persistence paid off on the half hour, when after a sparkling break from full back James Cooney allowed flanker Rob Lenderyou to rumble into the Tynedale 22. Blaydon piled in, and good work by the forwards brought a deserved try for fellow back rower Matty Charlton. Hooker Matt Thompson converted and Blaydon were right back in it at 14-7.

Tynedale stepped up a gear, and with Smith limping from a leg injury, it was Parker who drilled a penalty to the corner. Possession was secured, and flanker Joe Mills came powering through on a good line to crash in for another converted try which made it 21-7 at the break.

Tynedale were penalised in front of their own posts early in the second half, but eschewed the easy kick at goal in favour of going for a line out. The gamble paid off as sustained forward pressure ended with the ebullient Thompson squeezing over for a try.

He attempted to convert his own score but the ball fell off the tee on his approach, and the attempt went comically wide. However, Blaydon had their tails up, and with a little more concentration and cool headedness, could have caused problems for Tynedale. They produced some slick and inventive handling, but the cutting edge was not there. Tynedale weathered the storm, and managed to regain the initiative, and on the hour, some breathtaking passing ended with centre Will Miller sliding in for the four try bonus point, again improved by Smith. Shortly afterwards, the centre limped off injured.

The remainder of the half was scrappy, until in the dying moments, Tynedale skipper Matty Outson waved his wand, and more slick passing sent replacement hooker Jamie Blamire thundering through for the fifth try. The kick failed, but the bragging rights were Tynedale's.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

TWO games in, and Tynedale have made one of their best-ever starts to a league season, sitting proudly on top of National League Division Two North with maximum points. They have run in 13 tries, leaking only four, and while it is obviously very early days, there is a palpable air of optimism around Tynedale Park.

Players who may be feeling despondent over their prospects of getting a game following the first two games should not be too concerned, insists director of rugby Scott Lawson.

The absence of club legend Peter "Bullet" Southern from the squad for the two opening games has led to some speculation in the stand that time could have finally caught up with the veteran prop, who turns 40 next year. But Lawson said this week: "There will still be plenty of rugby for Bullet to play this season, as there will be for many others who have not featured in the first team squad in the opening couple of games.

"We will need to use close to 40 players this season and the Raiders performances can only make selection harder. "I'm delighted with the opening two games and pleased all the hard work the lads put in during pre-season has paid off with two good wins. However, I'm not getting carried away



Scott Lawson

as I realise it's a long season and we have tougher tests to come. I believe we are in a good place at the moment though. The lads are also very ambitious and realise we all need to keep working hard in all areas to continue to be a top team in this league.

"I'm not a fan of singling anybody out in particular but the physicality, particularly in defence, that all the players have shown in the opening games has been very pleasing. "I'm also aware we have a slightly deeper squad than previous years and the competition for places is contributing to the improvements in all areas."

'RONALDO' ADDS PORTUGUESE SPICE TO FRONT ROW

ADDING a sprinkle of Iberian spice to the Tynedale front row this season has been Portuguese international Diogo Hasse Ferreira. The 20-year-old prop has started both games so far, and joins the select few Tynedale players to have full international honours. The list includes England's Keiran Brookes and Malcolm Young, Scotland's Tim Swinson and Tim Visser and the Tongan star Epi Taione.

Diogo - nicknamed Ronaldo on arrival in the UK four years ago after his footballing compatriot - made premiership history earlier this year when he became the first Portuguese player ever to play in rugby's top flight. And he did it in front of 25,000 fans at rugby Mecca, Welford Road, when he came on as a replacement for Sale Sharks against Leicester Tigers. He said at the time: "It was a pretty big day, I just wanted to go out and enjoy it and I did. It was really tough place to go and play, but I was expecting to be honest, through talking to the guys here in training. It was a great day for me.



Diogo Hasse Ferreira

"You just block the crowd out and play rugby and do your thing, and then when you realise 'Wow there's 25,000 people here' it becomes more exciting than intimidating! "

Diogo took a circuitous route to Tynedale, leaving Portugal after doing his A levels to take up a AASE rugby programme at the resented Myerscough College on the Fylde Coast near Preston. He then had the chance to join the Sale Sharks Under 18 programme, after which he enrolled at Durham University studying Sport Exercise and PA. He was soon a member of the Durham University First XV, regarded as one of the best university sides in the country. He is currently training at Kingston Park with Newcastle Falcons but is registered with Tynedale and will be available for selection as and when his university commitments allow.

A.C. CURTIS

Tony Curtis is a long-standing member of the club, and served on the management committee for many years. He was property chairman, responsible for the club's grounds and clubhouse from 2003 until 2011, and was in charge of the refurbishment of the clubhouse after the flood of January 2015, when his efforts were critical in reinstating the facilities so quickly.

Tony was in hospital, firstly at the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital at Cramlington, then Newcastle RVI and latterly at Hexham General Hospital for three weeks. Apart from ongoing

heart problems and other ailments Tony was badly affected by septicaemia. His problems have meant a loss of mobility, so although he has been discharged from hospital his home has been altered as he is unable to climb stairs and his bedroom has been moved downstairs.

Throughout all his difficulties Tony has remained cheerful, and retains his lively sense of humour. All at the club wish him well in his convalescence.

DID YOU RECOGNISE THEM ALL?



FOR those who have been trying to put names to the faces from this photograph of the Tynedale first team squad from the early 1970s, the line-up was: Back Row from the left:- Dai Hopkins (team manager), Justin Smart, Alan Pye, Willy Rutherford, Wallace Cousin, Robin Murray, Chris Davy, Rob Cunningham, Paul Davison, Peter Telfer, Alastair Whitfield and Peter Robertson (coach). Front row:- Chris Dixon, Douglas Hamilton, Roger Dinning, Ian Blyth, Drew Richardson (president), Tony Milburn and Alan Stokoe.

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP

Our club relies upon its sponsors and advertisers and we would like to thank all of you for supporting the club. If you would like to sponsor a match or have an advertising board around the main pitch please contact Steve Hull on 07592 029241 or email steve.hull@hotmail.com. You can find further information and prices on a wide range of sponsorship and advertising opportunities by visiting our web site at www.tynedalerfc.co.uk.

NEXT FIXTURE

NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO NORTH – Saturday September 23 – Kick Off 2-00 pm
Leicester Lions v Tynedale

NEXT HOME FIXTURE

NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO NORTH – Saturday September 30 – Kick Off 3-00 pm
Tynedale v Sedgley Park

TYNEDALE 2017-2018 FIXTURE LIST

Month	Day	KO	OPPOSITION	H/A		
Sept	2	15.00	CHESTER	H	W	52-21
	9	14.30	Blaydon	A	W	33-12
	16	15.00	HUDDERSFIELD	H		
	23	15.00	Leicester Lions	A		
	30	15.00	SEDGLEY PARK	H		
Oct	7	15.00	Sheffield Tigers	A		
	14	15.00	SALE FC	H		
	21	15.00	South Leicester	A		
	28	15.00	HINCKLEY	H		
Nov	4	14.00	SHEFFIELD	H		
	11	14.00	Macclesfield	A		
	25	14.00	OTLEY	H		
Dec	2	14.00	Lutonians	A		
	9	14.00	STOURBRIDGE	H		
	16	14.00	Wharfedale	A		
	23	14.00	BLAYDON	H		
Jan	6	14.00	Huddersfield	A		
	13	14.00	LEICESTER LIONS	H		
	20	14.00	Sedgley Park	A		
	27	14.00	SHEFFIELD TIGERS	H		
Feb	3	14.00	Sale FC	A		
	10	14.00	SOUTH LEICESTER	H		
	17	14.00	Hinckley	A		
Mar	3	14.00	Sheffield	A		
	10	14.00	MACCLESFIELD	H		
	24	14.00	Otley	A		
Apr	7	15.00	LUCTONIANS	H		
	14	15.00	Stourbridge	A		
	21	15.00	WHARFEDALE	H		
	28	15.00	Chester	A		

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	B	PTS
TYNEDALE	2	2	0	0	85	33	2	10
STOURBRIDGE	2	2	0	0	72	46	2	10
HINCKLEY	2	2	0	0	76	29	1	9
SEDGLEY PARK	2	2	0	0	62	21	1	9
SOUTH LEICESTER	2	2	0	0	75	54	1	9
MACCLESFIELD	2	1	0	1	63	40	2	6
LUCTONIANS	2	1	0	1	57	61	2	6
SALE	2	1	0	1	64	34	1	5
OTLEY	2	1	0	1	38	56	0	4
CHESTER	2	1	0	1	46	74	0	4
SHEFFIELD TIGERS	2	1	0	1	27	56	0	4
SHEFFIELD	2	0	0	2	49	54	3	3
HUDDERSFIELD	2	0	0	2	39	68	1	1
WHARFEDALE	2	0	0	2	29	58	1	1
BLAYDON	2	0	0	2	38	85	1	1
LEICESTER LIONS	2	0	0	2	28	79	0	0