



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

Round Up – Season 05/06

A Round Up of Season 05/06, including all the match reports provided and posted on the Tarleton RUFC website, can be found in this report:

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Please note that In line with the RFU guidelines, Junior and Mini matches with a score difference of over 30 points are marked with an asterix *



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First XV

16 October 2005

Wallasey 8 Tarleton 21

Powergen Junior Vase

The 1st XV beat Wallasey 21-8 in the 2nd Round of the Powergen Junior Vase. Wallasey play in a League that is 2 Divisions above Tarleton and consequently the whole team and coaching staff deserve a round of congratulations. They played to a very high standard and the pack was dominant throughout.



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Second XV (The Nomads)

Summary

It has been confirmed that Tarleton 2nd XV has gained promotion to Division 4 of the Fairclough Homes League.

After a successful season under the leadership of Captain Mark Powell the Nomads were the only team in the division to have beaten every other team in the league. Promotion is just reward for a tough season that saw the Nomads play a number of clubs old first team players.

Memorable victories came against Hoppers and Fylde at Carr Lane and Wigan away. This season also saw much improved away performances with the team winning the majority of games on the road.

The 2nd XV now look forward to a new season of fee flowing rugby in Division 4 with trips to the likes of Kirkby Lonsdale, Sale and Fleetwood as well as the usually local trip to Hoppers.

The team would like to thank it many supporters who have followed them both at home and on their travels. Hopefully the support will follow again next season as they aim to secure their place in the high division

Match Reports

22 April 2006

Tarleton 10 Preston 6

Tarleton 2nd XV completed their season with a good win over a difficult Hoppers side at Carr Lane. In what always looked like a tough encounter Tarleton took an early lead through a converted Sam Laraway try.

Hoppers soon reduced the lead with a penalty after sloppy defence gave away a penalty in front of the posts. Good defence kept the strong Hoppers forwards at bay for the remainder of the half. Half Time Tarleton 7 Hoppers 3 .

Tarleton continued their strong performance and good defence continued to keep the visitor at bay. Tarleton extended their lead with a Mark Powell penalty. By the time Hoppers scored a second penalty the game was safe

This was a great win for the 2nd XV that ensured Tarleton finished in forth place and were the only team to beat every opposition in the league.

Scorers: Sam Laraway (Try), Mark Powell (Conversion and Penalty)

18 April 2006

Blackpool 24 Tarleton 7

Tarleton travelled to Blackpool for a tough midweek encounter in a twice rearranged fixture. Not playing at their best and suffering a number of injury blows Tarleton 2nd XV ended their season travels the losing team. Blackpool score a number of converted tries in the first half to take the game away from Tarleton. Half Time Blackpool 17 Tarleton 0.

Tarleton regained their composure during the break and soon reduced the deficit through a converted Steve Russell try. Blackpool however extended their lead again with a final try.

Scorers: Steve Russell (Try), Mark Powell (Conversion)



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15 April 2006 **Clitheroe 29 Tarleton 17**

On a hot day Tarleton took a trip to a strong Clitheroe side and came away on the wrong side of the score line. Tarleton took a first half lead when Jim Goulden finished a fine move by scoring under the posts. Mark Powell converted with the trusty right boot.

Good defence from Tarleton kept the visitors out for a time and limited them to a penalty.

Tarleton extended the lead when a clever penalty move from Ean Quirk linked with Nick Wetherall and allowed Steve Russell to score in the corner. Clitheroe made a number of chances and this allowed them to get back in the game scoring three tries in quick succession. Half Time Clitheroe 22 Tarleton 12.

Tarleton regrouped at half time and played a much improved game in the second half. Clitheroe however extended their lead further with a converted try. Tarleton finished the scoring when Jim Goulden scored a second fine try.

Man of the Match : Ean Quirk

Scorers: Jim Goulden (2 Tries), Steve Russell (Try), Mark Powell (Conversions)

8 April 2006 **Tarleton 19 Bolton 0**

Tarleton 2nd XV continued their promotion push with a win at Carr Lane against bottom of the table Bolton. Starting strongly Tarleton soon took an early lead when Nick Wetherall burst through to score a fine solo try, converted by captain Mark Powell. Tarleton extended their lead with a fine move was finished in the corner by Sam Laraway. Half Time Tarleton 12 Bolton 0

Half time saw a number of changes from Tarleton who continued to dominate the game from the kick off. However Boltons' defence stood strong for a long period before Mark Huntington scored from close range to secure the points. Mark Powell again extended the lead.

Next week Tarleton go on the road for a visit to Clitheroe needing to continue the winning ways to keep the pressure on the top two.

Man of the Match: Nick Brown

Scorers: Nick Wetherall (Try), Sam Laraway (Try), Mark Huntington (Try), Mark Powell (2 Conversions)

25 March 2006 **Tarleton 10 Wigan 20**

In a tough encounter against second placed Wigan Tarleton were unlucky to find themselves on the wrong end of the score line.

Playing strong attacking rugby Tarleton took the game to the visitors and were soon rewarded with a penalty in front of the posts. Captain Mark Powell dually dispatched the ball for an early lead. Tarleton continued to play attacking rugby but some poor discipline allowed the visitors to equalise with a penalty of their own. Wigan then went on the attack and took the lead scoring in the corner.

This spurred Tarleton back into life and with the forwards winning the ball well, this allowed some free running rugby from the back line. It was not long until a good move allowed Sam Laraway to break free and release Alan Reed to score between the posts. Mark Powell converted. Half Time 10 – 8.



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The second half started with good strong rugby from both teams. Unfortunately for Tarleton it was Wigan who scored the first try when they drove over from close range. Tarleton continued to attack but a very experienced Wigan side controlled the game and denied Tarleton the clear cut chances they needed to get back in the game. Wigan extended their lead with a third try right at the death to confirm the win.

This was a good performance by Tarleton who can use this game to build on for the push to the end of the season and possible promotion.

Man of the Match: Ean Quirk

Scorers: Alan Reed (1 Try), Mark Powell (1 Conversion and 1 Penalty)

11 March 2006 **Rossendale 8 Tarleton 14**

Tarleton 2nd XV continued their push towards promotion with a good win at Rossendale. Although not their best after a week off Tarleton were able to roll up their sleeves and grind out a win against spirited opposition.

Tarleton took an early lead when Steve Russell broke through to score a good individual try, dually converted by Mark Powell. Rossendale came back strong and scored a try after strong forward play. Rossendale took the lead shortly after with a converted penalty. Half Time 8 – 7.

With strong half time talk Tarleton came out for the second half and raised their game. Playing good attacking rugby with the forwards retaining the ball Tarleton were unlucky not to take an early lead when Adam Wood went over only to adjudged by the referee to be in touch. It was not long before Man of the Match Steve Russell scored the winning try for Tarleton with a second try scored after a powerful run.

Despite starting a bit slowly this was a good win for Tarleton in difficult conditions and can only serve as a platform for the run in to the end of the season. Tarleton's next fixture is against promotion chasing Wigan at Carr Lane on the 25th March.

Man of the Match: Steve Russell

Scorers: Steve Russell (2 Tries), Mark Powell (2 Conversions)

25 February 2006 **Ormskirk 10 Tarleton 26**

Tarleton seconds continued their push for promotion with a hard fought win over a strong Ormskirk side. Ormskirk enjoyed the better of the opening exchanges and were soon ahead after being awarded a penalty near the posts. This only spurred Tarleton on and soon they took a grip on the game and after a fine move Man of the Match Shaun Twist scored in the corner. Tarleton continued to press forward and were again rewarded when Adam Wood broke through to score a fine try, dually converted by Mark Powell. Half Time 3 – 12.

Tarleton came out in the second half and continued were they left off with good attacking rugby. Soon they extended their lead when Adam Wood spotted an opportunity in the opposition defence and scored his second try of the game. Tarleton were forced into a change with the loss of John Pearce at hooker. Shaun Twist stepped up to the mark as stand in hooker and Paul Johnson filled in the gap in the back row. This forced change soon paid dividends with Paul Johnson scoring a try. Ormskirk hit back with a consolation try from a well executed scrum, but by this time the game was out of their reach.



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This was a good win against a strong Ormskirk XV. Despite protests for the opposition there were no 1st team players in the team and these moans have to be taken as a compliment on how far the 2nds have come / improved".

Man of the Match: Shaun Twist

Scorers: Shaun Twist (1 Try), Adam Wood (2 Tries), Paul Johnson (1 Try), Mark Powell (3 Conversions)

11 February 2006 Carnforth 5 Tarleton 13

A gritty performance on a heavy pitch saw Tarleton 2nd XV secure a win on the road at Carnforth. Against a Carnforth team who were unbeaten at home Tarleton took the game to the home side from the start.

Despite a string of forced changes in the pack Tarleton started well and took the game to the host. They soon found themselves ahead when Adam Wood, Sam Laraway and Steve Russell linked well to allow Steve Russell to score under the post. This was dually converted by the back in form Mark Powell. Tarleton continued to dominate the game limiting their opponents to a few half chances. Half Time 0 - 7.

Tarleton raised their game in the second half and continued to press for more points. They were soon rewarded for their efforts with a penalty which Man of the Match Mark Powell dually placed between the posts.

Carnforth soon hit back with a try of their own that had a hint of a knock on. Tarleton then scored another penalty from the boot of Mark Powell to secure victory. The home side had one last change to close the deficit but on form Mark Powell intercepted the quick line out and attempted to run the length of the pitch to score. Unfortunately for Tarleton his legs only managed to reach the half way line before he was tackled.

This was a good win that takes Tarleton back to third place in what could have been a difficult fixture. Next week Tarleton are on the road again with a game at Blackpool.

Man of the Match: Mark Powell

Scorers: Steve Russell (Tries), Mark Powell (Conversions and Penalties)

4 February 2006 Tarleton 43 Gentlemen of Moore 36

In a game that lived up to expectation Tarleton found themselves having to save the game with a strong second half performance for the second week running. Playing host to a strong Gentlemen of Moore side in a cup game Tarleton faced defeat after gifting their visitors an early lead with poor defending.

With the Tarleton pack finding their match for the first time this season Moore soon lead 14 – 0 with poor defending allowed the visitors two tries. Tarleton hit back, first with a penalty from Captain Mark Powell and then with a fine try from Adam Wood that was converted by Mark Powell. This seemed to spur the visitors on and Tarleton soon conceded three more tries before half time. Half Time 10 – 31

With a string of changes at half time and a stern team talk Tarleton came for the second half a new team, allowing the visitors little room to move the ball around. This rejuvenation soon paid off when man of the match Suttly powered over to score a try, dually converted by Adam Wood. This only spurred Tarleton and they soon narrowed the deficit first through Alan Reed and then with a



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fine try from Nick Wetherall on the wing. Unfortunately for Tarleton Moore raised their game a score a try for them selves taking the game that bit further from Tarleton. Not to be out done Tarleton equalised when Craig Dootson danced through to score under the posts.

With the game in extra time Tarleton went from strength to strength and soon scored the winning try when Max Scofic and Craig Dootson linked to score. This was dually converted by Adam Wood to secure the victory. This was a good comeback by Tarleton when the game seemed out of their reach, however it has been confirmed that the game has been awarded to Gentlemen of Moore under 'rule 13' Tarleton must pick themselves up after this disappointment for a tough trip to Carnforth next week.

Man of the Match: John Sutton

Scorers: Adam Wood (1 Try and 4 Conversions), John Sutton (1 Try), Alan Reed (1 Try), Nick Wetherall (1 Try), Craig Dootson (2 Tries), Mark Powell (1 Conversion and 1 Penalty)

28 January 2006 **Tarleton 27 Garstang 10**

Tarleton continued their winning run with a strong performance against Garstang Blues. Gifting the visitors an early 10 point lead Tarleton fought hard to get back in the match and began dominating in the later stages of the first half. Half Time 0 – 10.

After an inspirational half time talk Tarleton came out strong and soon pulled a converted try back when Nick Wetherall intercepted near the half way line and ran in to score under the post. Tarleton then levelled the score with a penalty in front of the posts.

With the 'fizz leaving the visitors champagne bottles' Tarleton extended took the lead with a fine team try that was scored by Mike Forman to cap a fine performance. With Man of the match Ean Quirk running the show from Scrum Half and Tarleton playing the 'loose, fast flowing rugby' Tarleton extended their lead first with a penalty and then with a fine try in the corner from Simon Mills to prove that the forwards have some moves of their own.

Next week Tarleton entertain Gentlemen of Moore in the cup in what may prove to be a tough encounter between two teams on top form.

Man of the Match: Ean Quirk

Scorers: Nick Wetherall (1 Try), Mike Forman (1 Try), Simon Mills (1 Try), Mark Powell (2 Conversions & 2 Penalties), Adam Wood (1 Conversion)

21 January 2006 **Tarleton 39 Chorley 0**

A fine performance saw Tarleton 2nd XV gain a comfortable victory over Chorley to move them to 4th in the table. Tarleton dominated the early stages with the forwards on top from the start. Chorley's resilient defence was soon breached when Richard McGrath drove over from 7mm.

The Tarleton pack continued to dominate their opposite numbers with Andy Meadows putting in a fine performance in his debut as hooker. Tarleton soon extended their lead when a mistake in the Chorley defence was punished Alan Reed. With the forwards winning secure ball up front this allowed the game to be open up to the pace of the backs who went close on a number of occasions. Half Time 10 – 0

The second half continued in the same way with the ever reliable Tarleton defence limiting the number of chances available to the visitors. Tarleton soon scored their third try of the game when some fierce pressure resulted in John Pearce breaking from a strong maul score a good try. The



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backs soon got in the on the scoring when Nick Weatherall crossed the line on the wing and Jonny Tuson made a powerful run through the middle. Tarleton finished the scoring with two more good tries and a couple of conversions from the boot of Captain Mark Powell.

Man of the Match: Andy Meadows

Scorers: Richard McGrath (1 Try), Alan Reed (1 Try), John Pearce (1 Try), Nick Weatherall (1 Try), Jonny Tuson (1 Try), Unknown 2 (1 Try), Mark Powell (2 Conversions)

14 January 2006 **Tarleton 34 Burnley 3**

A convincing performance saw Tarleton return to winning ways with a comfortable win of Burnley. Tarleton dominated from the early stages and soon went ahead with a penalty from the boot of Mark Powell. Tarleton soon extended their lead when Dan Wood scored in the corner. Burnley's only reply was a penalty to reduce the deficient temporarily.

Continuing to dominate Tarleton soon extended their lead after a good line out move saw Jamie Maddock score to a deserved try. Tarleton extended their lead again through Man of the Match Jack Walmsley in his first game in the centres. Half Time 10 – 0.

Tarleton continued to control the game and again scored when Simon Mills scored from a well worked scrum near the visitor's line. Nick Wetherall finished the try scoring after running clear from mid way in the visitors half. This was a much improved performance by Tarleton that can only be built upon in weeks to come. .

Man of the Match: Jack Walmsley

Scorers: Dan Wood (1 Try), Jamie Maddock (1 Try), Jack Walmsley (1 Try), Simon Mills (1 Try), Nick Wetherall(1 Try), Adam Wood (1 Try), Mark Powell, (2 Conversions & 1 Penalty)

7 January 2006 **Lostock 3 Tarleton 0**

A poor start to the New Year saw Tarleton 2nd XV slip to defeat against a determined Lostock XV. Despite dominating the early stages Tarleton found themselves behind to a Lostock penalty. Half Time 3 – 0.

Tarleton continued to press in the second half but the home defence stood firm to deny Tarleton any chance of scoring.

Man of the Match: Sam Laraway



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TARLETON SECOND XV STATISTICS (up to 17/12/05)

Leading Appearances

Richard McGrath 15 appearances
John Pearce 15 appearances
Mark Powell 14 appearances
Mark Huntington 14 appearances
Ian Tallo 13 appearances
Jon Guest 11 appearances
Nick Wetherall 11 appearances
Alan Reed 11 appearances

Scorers

Mark Powell 114 Points
Steve Russell 50 Points
Adam Wood 25 Points
Ian Tallo 20 Points
Sam Laraway 20 Points

Man of the Match

Adam Wood 2 Nominations
Jack Walmsley 2 Nominations
Ian Tallo 1 Nomination
Jon Guest 1 Nomination
Ean Quirk 1 Nomination
Sam Laraway 1 Nomination
Steve Russell 1 Nomination
Alfred Rucker 1 Nomination
Stuart Robinson 1 Nomination
Simon Mills 1 Nomination
Chris Wilson 1 Nomination
Shaun Twist 1 Nomination

Note: A full list of season statistics can be obtained from Richard McGrath.

17 December 2005 **Tarleton 39 Fylde 0**

In a game always tipped to be a tough classic encounter Tarleton 2nd XV saved their best rugby of the season for the visit of promotion chasing Fylde.

From the kick off Tarleton recycled the ball quickly for Steve Russell to dance through the visitors defence to score between the posts, dually converted by Dan Wood. Though excellent discipline and concentration Tarleton remained focused and retained the ball well with the big forwards rucking efficiently. This allowed the Tarleton backs to open up their opponents to give Steve Russell score a second try before half time.

Tarleton continued to defend well with Max Scofic making an excellent tackle to deny the visitors a try in the corner. Half Time 14 – 0.

With renewed vigour and lead by stand in captain Simon Mills Tarleton came out for the second



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half in much the same manor as the first and continued to dominate in the forwards punishing their opponents in both scrums and line outs. It was not long until the home team extended their lead with Steve Russell completing his hat trick. This was soon added to by Mark Huntington's first try for the club and Sam Laraway capping a fine performance stepping in at Fly Half. Tarleton extended their lead with tries from the Nick Wetherall and substitute Christian Ash before the home side secured a well deserved victory.

This was good victory to move Tarleton up the table towards a promotion place and an excellent way to end the year. Tarleton resume their season at Lostock on the 7th January.

Tarleton 2nd Team would like to thank club members and their supporters for all the help and support offered in 2005 and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Man of the Match: Jack Walmsley

Scorers: Steve Russell (3 Tries), Mark Huntington (1 Try), Nick Wetherall (1 Try), Sam Laraway (1 Try), Christian Ash (1 Try), Dan Wood (2 Conversions)

10 December 2005 Bolton 7 Tarleton 55

With the order of the day being discipline and concentration Tarleton 2nd XV found their pre Christmas road trip to be a fruitful journey to Bolton.

Tarleton started the game as they meant to go on with a fine Steve Russell try within 5 minutes of kick off. This was soon followed by tries from Simon Lyons, Adam Wood, Lee Hopkinson Ian Tallo and 2 from Jack Walmsley, to see Tarleton sprint into a commanding lead. Tarleton continued to dominate the game and defended well when the home side tried to mount a number of attacks. Half Time 0 – 45.

Needing to reorganise at half time Tarleton changed their Hooker and Scrum Half and found a rejuvenated Bolton trying to gain some respectability on the score. Despite some good defending by Tarleton the home side soon pulled try back with a well drilled penalty. This only spurred Tarleton on the score further tries with Ben Fleetwood scoring on his debut and Man of the Match Steve Russell scoring his second with a fine run form full back.

This was a much improved performance by Tarleton with the forwards securing the ball well to allow the backs to dominate their opposite numbers. Next week Tarleton entertain Fylde at Carr Lane in what will no doubt be tough encounter against the only team deny Tarleton 2nd team a score in the last three seasons.

Man of the Match: Steve Russell

Scorers: Steve Russell (2 Tries), Jack Walmsley (2 Tries), Simon Lyon (1 Try), Ian Tallo (1 Try), Adam Wood (1 Try), Lee Hopkinson (1 Try), Ben Fleetwood (1 Try), Mark Powell (5 Conversions)

3 December 2005 Preston 36 Tarleton 7

In a much improved performance Tarleton 2nd XV found themselves on the wrong end of a convincing win by neighbours Preston Grasshoppers.

Tarleton came out all guns blazing and soon took an early lead when Nick Wetherall broke through to score a good try under the posts, dually converted by Mark Powell. This however proved the catalyst for a Hoppers revival and after some fine forward play levelled the game with a well work scrummage.



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Poor discipline by Tarleton allowed Hoppers to extend their lead with a number penalties. Half Time 16 – 7.

Tarleton were forced into a number of half time changes and came out fighting in the second half. However Hoppers soon extended their lead after poor tackling allowed the home side to score twice in quick succession. Again poor discipline handed Hoppers a number of kickable penalties and the game was rounded off with a short drive to score late in the game.

Despite a much improved performance the 2nd XV need to be better disciplined in order to relieve self inflicted pressure by conceding too many silly penalties.

Man of the Match: Ean Quirk

Scorers: Nick Wetherall (1 Try), Mark Powell (1 Conversion)

26 November 2005 **Tarleton 10 Ormskirk 14**

In their worst performance for a number of years Tarleton 2nd XV slumped to a defeat at the hands of local rivals Ormskirk.

Starting well Tarleton soon found themselves in the lead through a fine converted Steve Russell Try. However instead of capitalising on the lead Tarleton sat back and allowed their visitors to get back into the game and soon found their lead cut back by a penalty. Tarleton extended their lead with a Mark Powell penalty. Half Time 10 – 3.

Despite a tough half time talk Tarleton failed to come out fighting and soon found themselves losing their lead with some indiscipline and conceded a number of penalties. Ormskirk scored a well earned try to finish their hard fought victory.

This was a poor performance by the Tarleton 2nd XV and a big improvement is needed for the journey to table toppers Preston next week.

Man of the Match: Not awarded

Scorers: Steve Russell (1 Try), Mark Powell (1 Conversion & 1 Penalty)

19 November 2005 **Fylde 16 Tarleton 0**

In a tough match Tarleton 2nd XV found themselves on the wrong end of the score lined. Up against a tough Fylde team Tarleton found themselves defending early on in the game. They soon got back into the game through some good defending and started to take the game to their opponents.

The home side soon took the lead through a well worked scrum near Tarleton's line. This was soon followed by a penalty from the home side. Tarleton continued to press forward with good runs by Simon Lyons and Man of the Match Simon Mills but unfortunately could not break the home defence. Half Time 10 – 0.

The second half continued similar to the first with both teams exchanging territory but neither able to capitalise. Fylde soon extended their lead when poor defence gave the home team two penalties that were well converted. Tarleton pressed forward towards the end of the game but unfortunately could not break the home defence.

Next week the 2nd XV entertain Ormskirk at Carr Lane and need another good performance to get back to winning ways.



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Man of the Match: Simon Mills

12 November 2005 **Tarleton 56 Lostock 3**

A convincing win against Lostock saw Tarleton 2nd XV climb to 3rd in the table.

Starting the game as they meant to go on man of the match Jack Walmsley made a number of strong forward runs and soon the pressure paid off when Adam Wood danced through the visitors defence to score the first of his two tries.

Tarleton maintained their pressure through the forwards and soon when further ahead when Steve Russell broke clear to score under the posts. This was soon followed by further tries for both Adam Wood and Steve Russell as Tarleton maintained their dominance of the game.

Tarleton rounded off the first half scoring through Sam Laraway and went in at the break with a comfortable lead. Half Time 35 – 0.

The second half saw Tarleton take their foot off the gas for the initial exchanges before regaining control with Mark Powell going close to scoring in the corner and Adam wood continuing to make good runs. Tarleton soon extended their lead through substitute Paul Johnson and further again through Alan Reed. To round off the scoring prop Ian Tallo powered over the line from close range. Captain Mark Powell had his 'golden boots' on for the day converting all eight tries to further extend his scoring for the season to 97 points.

Next week sees the 2nd XV travel to up the coast to Fylde for a tough encounter against the team immediately above them. Another strong performance would see the 2nd XV fair well and hopefully gain 2nd place in the league.

Man of the Match: Jack Walmsley

Scorers: Adam Wood (2 Tries), Steve Russell (2 Tries), Alan Reed (1 Try), Sam Laraway (1 Try), Paul Johnson (1 Try), Ian Tallo (1 Try), Mark Powell (8 Conversions)

5 November 2005 **Burnley 21 Tarleton 14**

A game of two differing halves saw the Tarleton 2nd XV narrowly loose to a well drilled Burnley XV.

Again needing to make a number of last minute changes Tarleton where on the back foot from the kick off. With the strong wind against them Tarleton struggled to clear their lines and soon found themselves behind after some good forward play from the Burnley pack. Tarleton found themselves going further behind and soon after lost scrum half Nick Wetherall and stand in prop Ritchie McGrath to injuries.

Tarleton steadied the ship but could not prevent Burnley scoring a third try. Half Time 21 – 0.

Tarleton came out for the second half a changed team and with the wind at their backs they fought hard to get back into the game.

Inspired by the running of Adam Wood and Steve Russell Tarleton played the game in their opponents half. It was not long before Chris Wilson stole the ball after a Burnley mistake to score Tarleton's first try of the day, which was dually converted by Mark Powell.

Tarleton continued to put the pressure on the home defence and soon reduced the deficit when Man of the Match Adam Wood ran through the Burnley defence to score under the post.



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Unfortunately the referees' whistle bet Tarleton to a third try and they had to settle for their third defeat of the season.

Man of the Match: Adam Wood

Scorers: Chris Wilson (1 Try), Adam Wood (1 Try), Mark Powell (2 Conversions)

29 October 2005 **Chorley 5 Tarleton 24**

A much improved performance saw a Tarleton convincingly beat a Chorley 2nd XV. Needing to make a number of last minute changes Tarleton had rookie prop Sam Laraway playing his first game in the forwards of the season.

Dominating from the outset it did not take long for Tarleton to open the scoring when after some fine play Steve Russell scored. Captain Mark Powell duly scored the conversion.

With introduction of John Pearce the Tarleton forwards remained on top of their opponents. This allowed Man of the Match Sam Laraway to rejoin the backs where he was able to attack the Chorley defence with a number of fine runs. Tarleton soon extended their lead when Nick Wetherall scored after a good run.

The Tarleton defence stood solid and never allowed Chorley to look like scoring. Half Time 0 – 12.

Playing against the wind and up hill Tarleton started the second half where they left off and dominated their opponents. They soon extended their lead when Terry McKibben scored his first try of the season after some good running by the Tarleton backs.

Tarleton rounded off the scoring when after a strong scrum Alan Reed went over in the corner after good play from the Tarleton back line.

Chorley finished the scoring in the last minute after a number of drives following a penalty close to the Tarleton try line.

This was a much improved performance by Tarleton from the previous week. They now go to Burnley next week with high hopes of building on this performance and go on to good run in the league.

Man of the Match: Sam Laraway

Scorers: Steve Russell (1 Try), Nick Wetherall (1 Try), Terry McKibben (1 Try), Alan Reed (1 Try), Mark Powell (2 Conversions)

22 October 2005 **Garstang 23 Tarleton 13**

This was the worst performance from the Tarleton 2nd XV for a long time. Not helped by a number of late changes Tarleton failed to get into the game and soon found themselves behind from a Garstang try.

Tarleton soon replied with a converted try when Ian Tallo powered over after a good penalty move near the Garstang try line. Garstang extended their lead with another try. Half Time 10 – 7.

Despite a stern half time talk Tarleton failed to come out for the second half in their usual manner and soon found themselves further behind to another Garstang try and penalty.



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Tarleton's only response was a second penalty from the boot of Mark Powell before Garstang finished the scoring with a fourth try.

This was a poor performance that must be improved upon in the weeks to come. The only good thing to come out of this game is the performances of two Colts, Man of the Match Shaun Twist and Jack Walmsley who both excelled in the senior side.

Man of the Match: Shaun Twist

Scorers: Ian Tallo (1 Try), Mark Powell (1 Conversion & 2 Penalties)

15 October 2005 **Tarleton 13 Sandbach 0**

Despite a relatively poor performance by their standard Tarleton 2nd XV still managed to progress to the 3rd round of the cup with a win over a spirited Sandbach XV.

Tarleton soon took the lead when Chris Wilson picked up a loose ball and dived over from close range. Mark Powell converted from the corner. Tarleton failed to extend their lead despite some fine running from Mike Forman and strong play from man of the match Jon Guest.

Tarleton extended their lead from the boot of Powell after Sandbach conceded a penalty. Half Time 13 – 0.

Sandbach came out for the second half the stronger and dominated for the first 20 minutes of the half, until after a stern talking to Tarleton raised their game and got back on top with the help of fine running from Terry McKibben after he came on for the injured Mike Forman.

Tarleton extended their lead again from the boot of Powell with another penalty kick.

Tarleton remained on top for the remainder of the game and saw the game finish without conceding a point.

Man of the Match: Jon Guest

Scorers: Chris Wilson (1 Try), Mark Powell (1 Conversion and 2 Penalties)

8 October 2005 **Tarleton 43 Carnforth 12**

Building on the success of the previous week Tarleton 2nd XV had a convincing win over 2nd place Carnforth. Led by a strong pack of forwards Tarleton dominated the play allowing for the ball to be recycled quickly allowing the backs early possession to run at the visitors defence.

Tarleton took an early lead when Man of the Match Adam Woods broke clear from just inside the visitors half to run clear to score a fine individual try. After some fine work from the centres Alan Reed and Simon Lyon captain Mark Powell was able to score the first of his 2 tries in the corner. The scoring in the first half ended with Simon Lyon diving for the line to score his first try of the season. With the boot of Powell converting 2 of the 3 tries Tarleton ended the 1st half with a strong lead. Half Time 19 – 0.

Despite a strong start to the 2nd half by Carnforth Tarleton soon extended their lead when awarded a penalty in front of the post allowed Powell to increase his points tally for the match. Carnforth soon got on the score sheet when they scored a try after some poor defending at a penalty.

Substitute Sam Laraway scored to settle the Tarleton nerves after some strong forward play



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secured the ball around half way allowed a quick pass to put him away. Mark Powell extended Tarleton's lead with his second try of the game and could have had a hatrick but for the single mindedness of Mike Forman!!

Again poor defence from a penalty allowed Carnforth to score their second try of the game before Sam Laraway completed the scoring with his second try of the game when poor defence allowed the Tarleton backs to break clear. With a personal points tally of 23 points 2nd XV Captain Mark Powell lead by example to ensure Tarleton continue their climb up the table. Helped by Alan Reed playing out of position and the strong running of Mike Forman Tarleton succeeded in gaining a well deserved victory.

This Saturday the 2nd XV entertain a Sandbach 4th XV in the cup before a series of away games back in the lead. With strong performances like this one Tarleton should be looking to finish high up the league come April 2006.

Scorers: Adam Woods (1 Try), Mark Powell (2 Tries, 5 Conversions & 1 Penalty), Simon Lyon (1 Try), Sam Laraway (2 Tries)

1 October 2005 Tarleton 15 Blackpool 14

Another strong performance saw Tarleton 2nd XV gain their third win of the season. In a hard fought game the Tarleton forwards dominated their opposition, especially at the set plays with Mark Huntington winning almost all the lines out ball.

Despite going behind to an early try Tarleton regained their composure and built on an early Powell penalty when a strong run by Man of the Match Ian Tallo end when he went over to score his first try of the season. With the Tarleton pack dominating the scrums and securing good quality ball to allow the backs to run strong Tarleton were unlucky not to build on their lead before half time. Half Time 10 – 7.

Blackpool came out strong in the second half and were soon rewarded with a well worked second try after indiscipline by Tarleton gave away a penalty. This was the signal for a Tarleton onslaught and with strong running from Lyons, Wilson and Mills it was only a matter of time before Tarleton scored. However it took until the last minute, when after some fierce scrummaging Mark Powell completed a fine performance at Fly Half to score the winning try.

Overall this was a strong performance by the 2nd XV, with a number of players either missing or playing out of position. Next week Tarleton go on the road for an away fixture with top of the table Carnforth. Competition for places will be strong with players returning to the squad.

Man of the Match: Ian Tallo

Scorers: Ian Tallo (1 Try), Mark Powell (1 Try, 1 Conversion and 1 Penalty)

24 September 2005 Tarleton 29 Clitheroe 3

Tarleton 2nd XV returned to winning ways with a strong performance against a good Clitheroe XV. With a strong team available Tarleton selected well but soon went behind to a Clitheroe penalty.

Shortly after Tarleton hit back with a penalty of their own from the boot of Mark Powell. After 20 minutes Tarleton scored the 1st try of the game after good scrummaging work allowed man of the match Johnny Tuson to break clear before putting brother Chris clear to score.

From the restart a fine run by Mike Forman allowed Chris Tuson to score his second try between the posts. Tarleton went from strength to strength with the forwards dominating the set plays and



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the defence hold firm to Clitheroe's attacks. Half Time 17 – 3.

Tarleton continued to dominate the second half and soon capitalised when Rick Sochacki was put clear to score his first try for the club in the corner. As the end of the game approached Stuart Robinson scored his first try for the club after a fine break from Full Back.

This was a much improved performance by the 2nd team who hope to continue this at home to Blackpool next Saturday.

Man of the Match: Johnny Tuson

Scorers: Chris Tuson (2 Tries), Rick Sochacki (2 Tries), Stuart Robinson (1 Try), Mark Powell (Conversions & Penalties)

10 September 2005 Tarleton 6 Rossendale 10

A poor performance in their 1st home game of the season saw Tarleton 2nd XV defeated by a spirited Rossendale XV. In a low scoring game Tarleton struggled to find their usual form and could only muster a penalty from Mark Powell in the first half. Half Time 3 – 0.

With some fine running from man of the match Stuart Robinson and Steve Russell Tarleton tried to get increase their lead. It was however Rossendale who scored the first try of the game after Tarleton conceded a try near the line. As Tarleton continued to fight back they could only score a second penalty from the boot of Powell.

Tarleton 2nd XV will need to improve their performance for the visit of Trafford in the cup next week if they are to have a good cup run. With a number of players returning a quick return to form will be expected.

Man of the Match: Stuart Robinson

Scorers: Mark Powell (2 Penalties)

3 September 2005 Wigan 12 Tarleton 24

Tarleton 2nd XV started the season in winning ways with a good win over a strong well drilled Wigan XV. With a few new faces for the season the Tarleton team looked strong from the outset taking the game to their opponents from the kick off.

Tarleton soon went ahead when Mark Powell score a penalty from near the half way line to signal his intention for the season. Shortly after Tarleton went further ahead when off the back of a set play Chris Tuson broke clear to score a fine solo try. Mark Powell again added to the score. With Man of the Match Alfred Rucker producing a fine display of powerful running on his first game at centre allowing Tarleton to look at a number of attacking options.

Wigan came back strong but the much improved Tarleton defence held strong limiting the home team to a few half chances. Half Time 0 – 10

Tarleton started the 2nd half strongly with some fine attacking play, however it was Wigan who scored first with a converted penalty try. Tarleton soon extended their lead when after stealing the ball in a ruck the play was spread to the wing where Steve Russell scored. Mark Powell again converted.

Wigan scored a second try, when after conceding a penalty the defence went to sleep allowing Wigan to score an easy try. Tarleton finished the scoring when Max Scovic ran onto a Mark Powell



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kick to score under the posts.

This was a good win to start the season against a Wigan side that should not be underestimated. Tarleton now need to build on this performance to have a successful season and push for promotion.

Man of the Match: Alfred Rucker

Scorers: Chris Tuson (1 Try), Steve Russell (1 Try), Max Scofic (1 Try), Mark Powell (3 Conversions & Penalties)



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Under 19s (Senior Colts)

26 February 2006

Tarleton 41 Waterloo 21

Tarleton played 13 men against 14 against top of the League Waterloo and after being beaten Away the team were keen to impress – it was a shame that a few key players were away or unavailable but the spirit was good.

In the first ten minutes Waterloo looked the stronger team and quickly scored their first try and conversion. However, Tarleton came back with Craig Dootson scoring the first of his three tries of the game and by the end of the first half the score was 10 – 14. In the second half Tarleton looked by far the better side playing good determined rugby and gaining good first phase possession from the lineouts and good recycled ball. Chris Pedley scored the first try of this half after a solid forward drive and good pressure followed by two fine tries from the irrepressible Max Skofic, one from Jack Crystal, the final try being run in by Craig Dootson.

Tom Parker converted three of the tries, and some excellent runs and support play was evident from the whole team with particularly good lines and penetration being made by Shaun Twist and Richard Seddon.

This was an excellent finale to the league games of the season and the team as a whole should be congratulated on a very good spirited performance.

15 January 2006

Tarleton 26 Rochdale 24

This was a tough game from the start, Rochdale came out determined to win after our defeat of them at their home ground. Ben Traynor scored a difficult try to start us off. Rochdale came back quickly and used their centre and backs efficiently to take the lead by half time. Tarleton came back at them and proved to be much stronger in the forwards. The game was won by another 3 exciting and well-earned tries from Craig Dootson who went over in emphatic style, Richard Seddon who dodged their defensive line like a cat in a dog kennel and Matt (weeman) Grimes scored the third and final try after some intensive attacking plays from the forwards he was given the ball 5 metres out and popped over the line.. Nicky Caunce ably converted 3 tries to make the final score 26-24.

8 January 2006

Preston 18 Tarleton 17

Tarleton opened their away match with a quick try from Chris Pedley which came from a ruck. Hoppers came back and it was a very close match throughout. There were 2 injuries for us resulting from stray boots on the floor. The players went back on to complete the match. Jack Walmsley scored an very good try which came from a well planned penalty move. Ben Fleetwood got the third after a good passage of play by the forwards Shaun Twist converted the try. Unfortunately this was not enough to win the game and Hoppers won by 1 point from a penalty. The final score was 18-17.

18 December 2005

Tarleton 17 Northwich 7

What a finish before Christmas! A convincing home win. Jack Walmsley scored a try from a big forward effort. Ben Traynor scored lucky but determined try after he charged down an attempted clearance by Northwich. Matty Parkers try was a good one and finished in style and Nicky Caunce (borrowed from Junior Colts) scored our only conversion. Northwich could not come back and the final score was 17-7.



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27 November 2005
Tarleton 5 Rochdale 22

Lancashire Cup

Wearing their new strip Tarleton kicked off the match in fine but cold weather. Tarleton were under pressure from the start with Rochdale's defence proving difficult. Tarleton continued throughout the first half under considerable pressure, most of the play being around the Tarleton 22 yard line.

Rochdale's determination finally paid off with two tries before half time; this could have been 3 except Matty Parker's valiant effort managed to hold up one try.

After half time Tarleton worked a strong maul to pull back a well deserved try put down by Jack Walmsley. This picked up the side, even Richard Seddon could not contain himself on the touchline and strapped up a broken finger to join the team for the last 25 minutes of play.

Despite all their best efforts and some superb tackling Tarleton could not prevent a third lucky try by Rochdale that followed one which had been disallowed.

20 November 2005
Burnage 12 Tarleton 17

This was an important game as both teams are joint second in the league table and an away win for Tarleton would result in being top of the table if Waterloo lost.

Tarleton set off into the match with the bit between their teeth and consequently it wasn't long before Craig Dootson made a break and Max Skofic scored the first try in his usual, dynamic fashion; this was followed by Tarleton's only conversion of the game. Tarleton's next try came as the result of a mistake by the opposition; Sam Chard caught the ball from their mistake and ran half the pitch to put the ball down for the second try. By half time Burnage had managed to score one try to give the result 5-12.

During this first half Tarleton lost their scrum half, Chris Slinger, due to a serious hand injury in his last game before he goes off to Austria to be a ski instructor. Fortunately Sam Chard was up to the challenge of trying out a new position for himself i.e. scrum half and he took to this with great enthusiasm.

In the second half Burnage scored first due to the referee not realizing that Chardy was now scrum half and he was penalized for not binding at a scrum, thinking him to be a flanker. This resulted in Tarleton conceding a penalty on their own 5 metre line from which Burnage were able to score. It was now 12 all. Tarleton defended hard after this and Ben Traynor was able to run in a fantastic try fed from Sam Chard in the last 5 minutes.

The team would like to wish Chris Slinger lots of luck in Austria, hope your hand is better soon. Break a leg!!!!!!!

Man of the match Ben Traynor

30 October 2005
Tarleton 22 Burnage 7

Tarleton had a good turn out of players this week and they displayed a positive attitude and good team spirit. In an exciting 40 minutes Tarleton came out flying, maintaining possession and recycling good quality fast ball which resulted in the first try of the match, scored by Chris Slinger. Not long after, Richard Seddon scored the first of his two tries for Tarleton. Craig Dootson managed to score off a Tarleton penalty and this was converted by Chris Tucson. Unfortunately the second half was not so exciting with Tarleton conceding a try.



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This currently puts the Senior Colts in second place in the league.

Man of the match: Matty Parker

23 October 2005 **Waterloo 39 Tarleton 12**

Unfortunately due to numerous injuries, both long standing and recently incurred, Tarleton had only 13 men at the beginning of their away match at Waterloo. This did not deter them and they set off into the game with a positive attitude. Within the first two minutes Ben Fleetwood had scored Tarleton's first try due to a great break from Richard Seddon, this was converted by Tom Parker. What a great start to the match! Unfortunately Waterloo came back hard in the backs and used the advantage of having an extra man to create an overlap and score 3 tries before half time. Tom Parker (full back) made two magnificent try saving tackles, however on his third great tackle he suffered an ankle injury and had to come off for the rest of the match.

The second half was disappointing because Tarleton seemed to forget the game plan. This showed as Waterloo proceeded to score more tries. Tarleton managed to score one in the second half off a penalty, which came from Richard Seddon, it was taken quickly, passed through hands and put over the line by Hamza Boutarfa.

16 October 2005 **Tarleton 22 West Park 31**

It was a beautiful, sunny autumn afternoon as the match kicked off at 2.30pm. West Park put two tries and one conversion past Tarleton in the first quarter. Tarleton began to make a come back as the first try was scored by Sam Parton, and this was quickly followed by a 'cheeky try' from Tom Parker. Rob Seagrave was able to convert one of these and unfortunately the other one hit the post! at half time it was a draw.

Tarleton came out keen to win in the second half. Craig Dootson and Max Skofic made a formidable pair in the backs and this led to a superb try from Max and then from Richard Seddon. With only 15 mins to go Tarleton were leading by two tries. This lead was overturned in the last 10 minutes when West Park put 3 tries past an exhausted Tarleton.

18 September 2005 **Rochdale 0 Tarleton 17**

For the first time this season the teams were playing 15 men each from the start. Max and Jack were the try scorers today, with Craig making 1 conversion. Max made a magnificent run down the wing after the match had restarted following a 20 minute break whilst an ambulance came for a boy on the other team who suffered a broken leg. Rochdale came out hard and were very disappointed by the end result, especially as they thought that they had scored a try but it was held up by Greg Bullen. The match ended in a 0-17 victory.

All the Senior Colts would like to wish Greg lots of luck as he leaves for university. P.S. Don't forget to come and play for us whenever you can!

11 September 2005 **Tarleton 39 Preston 0**

This was an interesting game from the outset! Hoppers could only field 11 men, so we played 12, with 5 man, uncontested scrums. Straight away Tarleton put Hoppers on the back foot with Max Skofic making some terrific breaks which quickly led to our first try, scored by Ben Traynor. Soon Tarleton were running in more tries scored by Max, Matt Grime, Paul Carlton and Craig Dootson.

There were 2 unfortunate injuries which caused the players involved to have to spectate for the



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majority of the game. The first came when Jack Walmsley sustained a shoulder injury and the second when Matt (Wee-Man), who had only been on the pitch for 2 minutes, scored a rolling try and gained a concussion in the process!

4 September 2005 Northwich 33 Tarleton 20

Tarleton started against the odds with only 14 players. We came out slowly with the score reflecting our performance. By half time we were losing 19 – 0, things did not look good.

Tarleton kicked off the second half. Five minutes into the half we conceded another “soft” try. Everybody’s heads had gone down. We all thought the game was lost and o add to our misfortune our Hooker was given a yellow card and “sin binned” for ten minutes, leaving us with only 13 players. This seemed to pull the team together realizing that a 110% effort was needed. Needless to say our first try was scored by Sam Chard making it 26 – 5. We were on the score sheet at last! Our heads lifted and within no time at all the score was 26 – 20 and we were back in with a chance. Greg Bullen stole the ball from a maul to feed Jack Walmsley who scored a try, followed quickly by “Wee-Man” (Matt Grime) who, on his debut, ran down the wing and scored in spectacular fashion! The next Tarleton try of the day was run in by Max Scofic down the blind side, having been fed from a line out. We were back in the game with a real chance.

In the last five minutes we were constantly attacking until Northwich stole the ball and made a break to the 22m line; a penalty was conceded, they took it quickly and put the game past us at 33 – 20.

Even though we lost we fought valiantly in the second half, proving that we are no push over and didn’t finish second in the league last season for nothing!



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Under 17s (Junior Colts)

26 February 2006

Tarleton 15 Warrington 17

After their 29 - 5 defeat away at Warrington earlier in the season Tarleton were determined to put on a better display this time around. As the Warrington team came out onto the pitch the two players who had caused most damage last time out were marked down and all the players knew that these two could not be given the room they were afforded at Warrington.

I have to say that this was the best, most competitive, nail biting game that I have watched since England won the World Cup with that famous last minute drop goal by whatsisname. Either side could have won this match and it fell to a Warrington player, with nerves of steel, or brain dead if Warrington are reading this, to slot over a last minute penalty to take the honours.

Had Tarleton not had a player sent off they may not have been forced into the penalty situation but no one felt that the result was unjustified. Tarleton scored the first try with their hooker overthrowing at a 5mtr defensive line out and Gordie the Tarleton captain surprisingly caught the ball, ran two paces and fell over his own feet to put Tarleton 5-0 up. They then defended for some time against a lot of Warrington attacks from all areas of the pitch with Warrington throwing the ball around well, eventually they crashed over the Tarleton line and a converted Try put them 7-5 in front.

Tarleton then took the game to Warrington and a delayed pass from Matt. allowed Nicky to break through the line and a pop pass to Sparky outside the Warrington 22 left him outpacing the defence to crash over in the corner - 10-7. Warrington took the next try after some good forward work in our 22 which ended with a 3mtr run in try by one of their larger players, which again was converted 10 - 14.

With another period of entertaining play a good run by Max led to a ruck in the Warrington half from which Max received the ball again and he chipped and chased the ball through to score what Tarleton thought would be the winning try. 15-14. A brief period of indiscipline resulted in a Tarleton player being sent off for retaliation and a weakened Tarleton defence were penned in their own 22 and a penalty was awarded against them for 'killing the ball' illegally which as I have said above gave Warrington the chance to win the match by two points which they did.

Overall this was a thoroughly entertaining match to watch and it was pity that one side had to lose.

15 January 2006

Tarleton 7 Liverpool Collegiate 29

From the start of this match it was obvious that this team had a lot of different players from our away fixture earlier in the season. They had a much larger pack and used this to good advantage. Even though they played against the wind in the first half Collegiate continued to kick away good possession and about 15 minutes into the game a kick on the half way line was charged down by Dave Gordon who gathered the ball up and ran almost to the Collegiate line before drawing the full pack and popping an inside pass to Mathew Bradley who went over the line to score. The try was converted by Nicky Counce and Tarleton maintained this lead until 3 minutes before half time when Collegiate realised that by catching and driving they could use their weight advantage to good effect and went over in the corner for an unconverted try which left the half time score at 7-5.

The second half saw Tarleton start well but Collegiate gradually took a stranglehold on the game and their forwards made our defence work extremely hard to keep them out. It was impossible to keep them out forever and although we broke out and threatened their line a couple of times during the second half Collegiate ran in a further 4 tries that our tiring defence could not keep out.



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Bill Jones and Ben Traynor made tackle after tackle and all of our players defended well but with three U-16's in our side along with Collegiate's size difference it was a credit to the team that Collegiate didn't score more points against them.

We have a week off next week and then meet Collegiate again (AWAY on the 29th) in the Cup. We will need to come up with some tactics that negate their advantage and that means training!
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - RING STEVE B. FOR DETAILS.

8 January 2006 **Eccles 31 Tarleton 0**

A New Year - with the same problem. An away match with a turnout of only 13 players against an Eccles Squad of 21 players.

With a 1 man advantage Eccles showed their tactics early on with cross kicks to a winger out wide and quick handling across the line both designed to bring their extra man into the play.

Despite some ferocious tackling the result was inevitable - the main disappointment of the day being the fact that Tarleton didn't score. They didn't get much ball to use and spent most of the game penned in their own half so it was not surprising that they didn't score. As in previous matches where they have been the smaller squad the oppositions' ability to bring on fresh legs throughout the game gave them a great advantage, especially towards the end when the defensive effort put in by Tarleton left them drained.

A home match next week against Collegiate should be a close game if we have a full team as we lost narrowly away earlier in the season to this team when short numbers cost us dear again.

11 December 2005 **Dukinfield 7 Tarleton 8**

Following their last match which was a dire display of rugby this match was at the opposite end of the scale. Both teams were extremely evenly matched and if anything Dukinfield had the edge in the forwards. Tarleton's defensive tackling (Warrington aside) has been excellent all season so far, lots of big hits going in and some very good organisation in the 'drift defence' kept out all of Dukinfield's first half attacks and Tarleton's attacking options were limited by the amount of possession that they had and the fact that they probably kicked too often before trying to follow the basics and pass the ball along the line.

Dukinfield came closest to scoring after we had been penalised for coming in from the side of the ruck and then disputing the ref's decision which gave them a penalty 10 metres closer to their line. They ran the resulting penalty and Will Parker (one of the U-16's playing for us on the day) wrapped himself around the ball carrier and managed to get between the ball and the ground resulting in a 'held up' decision. Will Parker had an extremely good game which ended after he again tackled a Dukinfield player with his chin!

Defensively Bill Jones was a giant amongst the backs making far too many tackles to count and stopping an awful lot of Dukinfield's fluidity by wrapping up man and ball most times.

During the second half Tarleton played a lot better and after some sustained pressure received a penalty under the posts which Nicky Counce converted to give Tarleton a 3-0 lead. Dukinfield's heads went down for a short time after this and Tarleton again took the game to them and the pressure they existed resulted in another penalty (dragging down the maul) in the Dukinfield 22. Gordie opted for the scrum and at the second attempt he picked up at No.8 popped a quick pass to Nicky who came through from full back on the burst and then helped drive Nicky over the line to score. The conversion was missed and Tarleton relaxed with their 8-0 lead and allowed a fired up Dukinfield back into the match. In truth I just think that they were tiring rapidly due to their first



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half defensive work and this allowed Dukinfield more space.

From a period of sustained pressure Dukinfield pulled Tarleton's defence over to the left hand side of the pitch and a well worked crosskick resulted in a converted try to Dukinfield making the score 8 - 7 to Tarleton with 4 minutes to go. Doesn't 4 minutes seem to last a long time when you are only a point ahead. I was grey haired before the match, you want to see it now!!! Dukinfield almost took the lead when a last minute kick was put through our defence but thankfully it ran out over the dead ball line.

This was probably one of the hardest matches that they have played in this season and marks their first away win in the league to date. A Good result that keeps them in the top four of the league and should do their moral a power of good.

27 November 2005 **Glossop 5 Tarleton 12**

County Cup

This was possibly the worst game of rugby that I have ever watched! The game never seemed to get started and the play was broken up constantly by the ref's whistle. Tarleton had gone back into their normal mindset of 'we'll let them score first and then we'll think about playing'.

Again we were away from home with just 15 players and no subs and we started very slowly and Glossop pressurised us for the first few minutes with a missed tackle allowing one of Glossop's centres to break through and score.

The next 5 minutes saw Tarleton exert a bit of pressure on Glossop and from a ruck in their 22 Nezbitt picked up the controlled ball made two metres, drew the tackler and popped a pass to Paul Carlton who also drew his tackler and popped the ball to the 'Welsh Wizard' (he told me to put that) Chris Maher who went over the line and grounded the ball for a try just before running out of play. The half time whistle went with the scores level at 5-5.

The second half as a spectacle was no better although there were one or two 'champagne moments' - the first being a mirror image of the first try except this time it was Rob Webster who peeled off the back of the ruck and popped a pass to Bill Jones who crashed through the Glossop defence and scored the winning try that was converted by Nicky Counce.

I'm not saying that Bill Jones is quick but he has to keep leaving the field to clean the dead flies off his contact lenses!

Another memorable moment was Coalsey's tackle on the Glossop full-back - it was one of those ones where you inwardly cringe and thank God that it wasn't you who he took out. The full-back was heard to say to some of his team mates when he recovered all of his senses - *'Now that's what I call a hit - did you see how far he knocked me back.'*

The rest of the game doesn't require words - it was a dire display by both sides and was not a good advert for Rugby at all. However, Tarleton are through to the next round so let's hope we can improve on our focus and give the supporters and parents something to cheer about next time.

20 November 2005 **Blackburn 17 Tarleton 17**

Once again Tarleton turned up at an away venue a player short - it's no wonder our away record is so poor.

At the end of October we had beaten Blackburn 24-0 and to judge by the start Tarleton made we were on the way to a first away victory of the season.



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Some good pressure from the start led to a penalty in the corner which from a quick inside pass Nicky went over into the corner to give Tarleton a 5 - 0 lead - this was a fair reflection of the superiority Tarleton had exhibited up to this point. However, the story of the rest of the first half was of unrelenting Blackburn pressure that despite some heroic tackling eventually led to their winger going over to level the scores.

The second half saw some early pressure exerted by Tarleton which Blackburn defended and were awarded a scrum 5 metres out from their goal line. A No. 8 pick up and quick pass gave Rob Seagrave the chance to cut the Blackburn defence with a well thought out angled run. This try was converted and Tarleton led 12-5.

Again Blackburn picked up the pace of their game and put Tarleton under pressure with their fast direct running another missed tackle (unfortunately by the Blackburn player loaned to us) let their No. 15 in for a converted try to bring the scores level.

Blackburn's tail was up and they continued to batter Tarleton's defensive line - however, it wasn't a missed tackle this time that cost Tarleton dear it was 2 or 3 instances of indiscipline; a comment to the ref about his decision which brought Blackburn's penalty into Tarleton's 22 - a good tackle on this penalty at which their player swung a right hook that missed and unfortunately one of our players retaliated. This meant that instead of Tarleton having a penalty to clear their lines the referee reversed the penalty and using quick ball Blackburn went over in the opposite corner.

Blackburn now led 17-12 with about 8 minutes to go. Tarleton attacked well from the kick off and found themselves in Blackburn's' 22 attacking a Blackburn put in on their 5 metre line.

A good shove gave Chris Cater the opportunity to 'scrag' the opposition and scrum half and this resulted in a 5 metre scrum for the knock on being awarded to Tarleton. A No. 8 Pick up by Dave Gordon who went round the blind side and popped up a pass to Nicky Counce who had joined the line at pace and a good period of play from Tarleton resulted in a try. Nicky broke the attempted tackle and crashed over to level things at 17 - 17. Unluckily his attempted conversion hit the post and the match ended a draw at 17-17 - this is the first away point that Tarleton have gained this season - with a full squad we could have won this match, however, Blackburn should have beaten Tarleton on the day but they squandered several chances in the first half by being too greedy.

This point should keep us in the top four and there's still a lot to play for this season.

13 November 2005 Tarleton 12 Dukinfield 0

The first 15 minutes of this match was a very even affair with both sides defending well and cancelling each other out.

From a scrum in Dukinfield's 22 the ball was thrown rapidly along the line and Matthew broke through the gap to give Tarleton a 5 point lead. This seemed to wake Dukinfield up and for the next 10 minutes Tarleton couldn't get out of their own 22. This was the story of the first half which ended 5 - 0.

The second half started with Dukinfield catching their own kick off and pressing hard for an equalising try which they almost achieved. Luckily Tarleton's pressure on the ball carriers led to a lot of lost ball and knock-ons etc. From a scrum Tarleton went the full length of the pitch and should have scored but were illegally stopped resulting in a 5mtr penalty. Using Nesbitt as a dummy runner the ball went out to Nicky who was stopped short of the line but went to ground well - a quick pass to Batesy who made it to the line, drew two defenders and popped a pass to Rob Seagraves who went over next to the posts. The conversion made the score 12 - 0 and represented the final score of the match.

A good victory that was marred by some fighting at the end of the game - but the less said about that the better.



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around the ruck whilst nobody was watching and span out of a tackle to score a good try!

Tarleton had a lot more possession from this period and spent the rest of the half in Warringtons territory - Warrington using the kick over the top on a few occasions to try and relieve the pressure. If Tarleton had scored again during this spell the match might have gone a little differently, but Warrington defended well and the score remained the same at half time.

The second half was a messy affair with many injuries due to the high physical nature of this encounter. There were some major hits going in throughout the game but in the second half this escalated. Tarleton lost Tom Bates with a suspected broken ankle early on in the second half and Nicky Counce was hit with a tackle that was ever so slightly late which left him talking gibberish. People suspected concussion and they may be right but I've known Nicky for many years and he didn't seem any different to me!!!!

As our team tired the Warrington backs continued their open fast handling display which resulted in further tries. Stu Smith hobbled off after another tackle and suddenly we were down to 13 men left. These 13 tackled well but the extra open space created favoured Warringtons game and despite one more good attack by Tarleton in the second half that saw Bill Jones held up just short of the line Warrington ran out deserved winners of the match 29 points to 5.

Andrew Tasker was heard to say that Tarleton's performance was B*****ks but I think we were beaten by a better team on the day. This was a hard game and all players who remained uninjured had an extremely difficult workout. Where we did go wrong was yet again in the lineout - nothing wrong with the throws but it is difficult to work out at what height to throw the ball when we are unable to practice throwing on a training night because only half the pack turns up!

You get out of this game what you put into it - we were beaten by a better side today but we could have made them work that bit harder if we'd won our own ball on more occasions. **See you all at training on Thursday 6.30pm?** Hoping that Tom and Nicky make full, rapid recoveries.

16 October 2005 Tarleton 22 Vale of Lune 0

This match started evenly with Tarleton just edging it in the rucks and mauls. Vale came in from the side into a maul in their own 22 and gave away a penalty that Rob Seagrave slotted - 3-0. The forwards then started playing some seriously good phased rugby (I counted 7 phases in one attack) which gave the backs some good ball to use. After one of these phased moves Nicky Counce kicked through and the Vale full back knocked on as the backs closed in on him. From this position we should have scored but some poor passing and handling wasted the possession.

After this scrappy phase the whole team seemed to pick themselves up and started using the ball well; a well worked backs move culminated (that means finished Gordie) in a good run down the line by Coalsey which was topped 3 metres from the Vale try line. The resulting lineout was messed up by vale and the resulting ruck led to a quick pass from Chris cater to Michael Wallbank who, despite a very heavy head of hair, crashed over the line for a try. The conversion was good and Tarleton took a 10-0 lead.

The final 10 minutes of the first half were scrappy, Vale tackled well in defence but our attacking options taken were poor in most cases. The final move of the half once again saw the backs moving the ball along the line to good effect. A break off the back of a scrum by Chris Cater - passed to Rob Seagrave - popped up to Andy Tasker and flicked out to Chris on the wing who was bundled into touch a metre short of the line. Half Time 10-0.

From the kick off in the second half Rob Webster caught the ball and took it back through some despairing tackles from the Vale's defenders - good metreage that was wasted by a knock on and even more so by some of our players questioning the referee's decision - they will have to learn, and should have by now that YOU HAVE TO GO WITH THE REF'S DECISION AND THERE IS NO POINT IN ANYONE OTHER THAN THE CAPTAIN ASKING ABOUT PARTICULAR DECISIONS!!!



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A little further into the game one of our players was handed off with quite a bit of 'straight arm' involved - a definite penalty and the ref blew for it - 3 of our players ran off to get their handbags and came back swinging them - THERE IS NO POINT IN THIS. We had the penalty and should have taken it quickly instead of pointing and threatening the opposition. The ref would have been quite justified in reversing the penalty and awarding it to Vale for our indiscipline.

Things settled down after this and Tarleton started to play team rugby again. Nezbitt (remembered the Z Butch) came on and from a good kick and chase by Nicky resulting in a 5 metre scrum he scored his customary try from 5 metres 15-0.

We were constantly breaking off the back of the rucks and a good break by Gordie who passed out of the tackle to Chris Cater nearly resulted in another try but Chris was held up just short of the line. From this scrum Nicky came into the line and scored a perfectly good try (or so he told me in the car coming home) the ref was unsighted and the opposition claimed that he had dropped the ball - from where I was it looked o.k. but the ref was unsighted and gave us another scrum. At the third attempt of going over from this 5 metre scrum Chris flicked a good ball to Bill Jones who broke through three tackles and side-stepped the post to score the final try of the day which was converted. 22 - 0. This was the final score of the day and was, overall, a good team display and a deserved win.

9 October 2005 Tarleton 24 Trafford Metrovic 5

From the kick off the Tarleton side put Metrovic under a sustained period of pressure. Some good second phase ball led to a break by Max Scofic who was brought down just short of the line - good support play from Nesbitt had him in place to pick up the ball and fall over the line to score Tarleton's first try!

Rob Seagrave slotted the conversion and an early lead of 7-0 was established. Obviously, the lads assumed the game was going to be a walk over and all of them went to sleep for the next 15 minutes. From the re-start Metrovic kicked off to their left with all of our players on the right! Luckily one or two of our players did enough to bundle their attackers into touch. The next period of the game was a scrappy affair with Metrovic moving the ball extremely well - Tarleton played a hard tackling defensive game but Metrovic deservedly went over in the corner for a try which wasn't converted to make the score 7-5.

After this try Tarleton stepped up the pace and started to compete more in the scrums, rucks and mauls resulting in more ball possession. The forwards set-up a good ball for Max Scofic to run onto and breakthrough the game line, again he was held up just short but managed to squeeze a pass out to Craig Dootson who side stepped the Metrovic defender to score under the post. Rob Seagrave hit the post with his conversion attempt and at half time the score was 12-5.

Metrovic now had the advantage of a strong wind and started to play a kicking game that wasn't quite good enough. Nicky Caunce playing in an unaccustomed full-back role caught everything that was put up to him and ran it back on every occasion linking well with his support players.

A lot of play was then in Metrovic's 22 and a kick through isolated the Metrovic full back who was forced to take the ball over his own line and touch down. From the 5 metre scrum Nesbitt picked up the ball at number 8 and crashed over for another 5 points to his and the team's tally. With the score at 17-5 Tarleton began to relax and play better team rugby, the final score of the game coming from a scrum in our own 22 which we won, passed along the line and Max Skofic, beating his tackler ran the length of the field to score. The conversion was made and the final score was 24-5.

This was a good team performance, evidence of better team play, support play, fitness levels and the luxury of having substitutes to throw on made a major difference to the way the game was



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played. If we can arrive at both home and away matches with this sort of sized squad and with the attitude and spirit displayed today we can give any team a game!!!

18 September 2005 Liverpool Collegiate 22 Tarleton 20

Tarleton again found themselves short of players on the day with only 12 being available to play. However, under new rules this only allows the opposition to play 13 players in return. This encourages teams to fulfil their matches but gives the stronger numbers team the opportunity of bringing on their spare players at regular intervals.

Tarleton started again in a positive frame of mind and for the first five minutes had to defend against a back line that passed the ball well in the tackle. This early pressure from Collegiate should have resulted in plenty of points on the board but their indiscipline (diving over, hands in the ruck and arguing with the referee) cost them dear as it was to do throughout the match. Collegiate also had the advantage of playing down hill in the first half and kicked over our advancing defensive line on several occasions resulting in 2 tries and a conversion giving them a half time lead of 12 points to 0.

Tarleton started the second half (now with the slope) in positive mood and from the kick off put Collegiate under pressure resulting in yet another penalty under the posts which Rob Seagrave converted to make the score 12-3. Within five minutes we had good position again and from the scrum Nesbitt broke through with a No. 8 move and grounded the ball to score a good opportunist try. After he had grounded the ball Collegiate's No. 14 decided to drop his knee into Nesbitt's skull and was sent off for the infringement. Anyone with a brain should know that the only way to hurt Nesbitt is to deny him lager!

After a successful conversion Tarleton were only 2 points behind. Collegiate were on the ropes and continued to waste chances of scoring by indisciplined play. However, their use of fresh legs and the way they continued to throw the ball impressively along the line resulted in them scoring a good try in the corner which wasn't converted.

Collegiate now led 17 - 10 and thought that they had the game sewn up. A kick over the top giving them a breakaway unconverted try reinforced this belief as they went 22 - 10 up with 10 minutes left on the clock.

Tarleton's self belief came to the fore once more and despite visibly tiring they gave their all during these last 10 minutes - a defensive breakout from a maul by Dave Gordon and Stu Smith gave us good field position and Rob Seagrave let go a fine left footed kick that put the Collegiate defence on the back foot and led to a scrum on the 5 metre line that led to a good try from Stu Smith.

The score was now 22 - 15 with 4 minutes to go. A lineout ensued in the Collegiate's 22 and Gordie throwing in aiming for the 2nd jumper got it completely wrong and threw it too far to Nesbitt at the back. Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth he caught the ball and crashed over to make the score 22 - 20.

From a tight angle the conversion wasn't made and despite another good attack in the last minute the Collegiate team were relieved to kick the ball out into touch to force the final whistle. On balance we played some really good rugby and it is only the fact that we couldn't put some fresh legs on towards the end that cost us the match. We really need to attract a few more players to give us a squad of 25 to cover for our injury hit start to the season. Against a more disciplined team of the same ability the score against would be higher if this sort of situation arises again.



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11 September 2005
Tarleton 10 Eccles 5

Tarleton Junior Colts played their first home match against a team from Eccles. Arriving to find that, due to injuries, work commitments etc. they only had 13 players. A quick word with some of the Under 15s squad and we ended up having 17 players to choose from!

The game started well for the Colts with early pressure from the kick off forcing Eccles into making a mistake in their own 22 - Gordie took the right decision and Rob Seagrave slotted home a simple penalty for Tarleton to go 3 points up.

Eccles immediately came back at Tarleton but from the start Tarleton's defensive play was of the highest order and there was no way through.

The game was played in a good spirit and luckily for Nesbitt Mathew Bradley was on hand to help him out when handbags were swinging.

Another period of pressure from Tarleton saw one of the under 15's cross the line in the corner only to be held up by two of the opposing players. One of the opposition props had to go off and this led to uncontested scrums which in the circumstances didn't help Tarleton's game plan as they had the stronger pack on the day.

Another good try was scored after some good forward play with Stu Smith going over in the corner. Following this the game became a series of injuries with Owen's neck injury necessitating the calling in of the air ambulance and the switching of pitches to complete the game.

Eccles raised their game once the match had re-started and pressurised Nicky Counce whose clearance kick was charged down and a break away try for Eccles resulted. Nicky then charged down conversion so that with 10 minutes to go the score was 10-5 with Eccles in the ascendancy. However, some further good defensive play from a tiring Tarleton side saw them home after one or two more scares.

Overall this was a very good, controlled performance with some sterling defensive work, excellent line-out play with Tasker head and shoulders above everyone (because he gets lifted) and good 'hard yards' made by all of the forwards. This bodes well for the rest of the season but we need to increase the size of the squad and work on fitness so that the team can play to their best ability for the full game.

After last weeks narrow defeat this is a step in the right direction for all of the team.



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Under 16s

8 May 2006

Tarleton 43 Orrell 0

Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Vase (final)

Liam Thompson Try, Tom Eckersley Try, Chris Thorpe Conv, Liam Thompson Try, Will Parker Try, Chris Thorpe Conv. Half Time score 24-0. Sam Currie Try, Chris Thorpe Conv, Graham Marshall Try, Chris Thorpe Conv, Will Parker Try Man of the match.

Well done Lads!

Match Squad: Oliver Forrest, Joe Waite, James Ball, Matty Forrest, Jon Tyrer, Ben Kelly, Tom Doran, Oliver Raimond, Ross Cottam, Henry Brady, Mike Brett, Tom Ball, Shaun Murphy, Liam Thompson, Tom Eckersley, Chris Thorpe, Will Parker Try, Sam Currie, Graham Marshal, Will Parker.

19 February 2006

Tarleton 19 Altrincham K 35

Altrincham took the lead with an early try and a conversion and they continued to pile on the pressure giving Tarleton no time or space to play. Altrincham produced quick play and passes at pace, however Mathew Forrest broke away from the pack with a fast run and passed out to winger Andrew Tasker who took the try in the corner, no conversion. Altrincham continued to capitalise on Tarleton's mistakes and ran a good try under the posts providing an easy conversion. Tarleton began to settle into the game with solid tackling as usual and Nicky Counce provided some great kicks to relieve the pressure.

Will Parker had a good game with some powerful break away runs, one of these producing a great try even with two Altrincham players hanging off him, he drove over the line. Chris Thorpe converted the try from a difficult angle. There were further break away runs from Tarleton but the support wasn't always there to capitalise on them although to Altrincham's credit they had good defensive play. Altrincham continued their fast game and made some good tries. Tarleton upped their pace yet again. Chris Thorpe earned a penalty try and converted. Tarleton to their credit dug deep producing relentless tackles and with some strong play they didn't give up, Altrincham definitely knew they had been in a game today.

12 February 2005

Vale of Lune 21 Tarleton 40

In rainy conditions Vale took an early lead, a long kick from their defence led to a try and a very good conversion. A Tarleton defensive error led to Vales second try and another successful conversion. However Tarleton's forwards began to take control of all the forward play with Liam Thompson as usual giving his Terrier like performance. Tarleton scored a try, no conversion but they continued to up their game with solid scums, quick passing and good long kicking with hard relentless tackles causing Vale problems. Vale began to produce good solid play and the score stood at 21 -19 to Vale.

The pitch was by now a mud bath and it was difficult to tell the mud covered teams apart except however Tarleton were very determined to win and it showed. The whole team pulled together with a very gutsy performance from every single player and they were rewarded with excellent tries, Chris Thorpe pulling out some great conversions and a brilliant win over a very disciplined Vale team. Tarleton had injured players and two lads from the under 15s stepped in, Tom Ball and Shaun Murphy both giving very brave performances. Tarleton team had to be reorganised but this was compensated by excellent team support and a brilliant team spirit.



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Scorers: Matthew Forrest (1 Try), Sam Curry (1 Try), Ben Kelly (1 Try), Will Parker (1 Try), John Tyrer (1 Try)

5 February 2006
Aldwinians 17 Tarleton 7

Tarleton's forwards dominated the first part of the game. An Aldwinian player stamped on a Tarleton player who retaliated, this led to both players being sin binned for 16 minutes!. The momentum of the game seemed to change in Aldwinian favour although having said that both teams seemed evenly matched, with them both playing a tough physical game with some hard tackles.. Tarleton showed excellent strength in the scrum. Aldwinians scored a try with Tarleton lads appealing as they felt the ball had been held up by Will Parker, however the decision went Aldwinians way and Tarleton got on with their game of rugby. A second try for Aldwinians followed. Finally after what seemed like ages at Aldwinians try line, Tarleton were awarded a penalty try which Chris Thorpe converted.

A good solid performance by Tarleton with them being unlucky not to have come away with a draw at least.



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Under 15s

23 April 2006

Tarleton 14 Vale of Lune 3

Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup (final)

This report starts with a thank you to Preston Grasshoppers for hosting the Enterprise Finance Europe Challenge Cup finals and a brilliant job they made of the day, helped by fantastic weather, well done Hoppers, the organisers the sponsors and of course the players for some brilliant junior rugby.

What could have been purely been dismissed as yet another final between Vale and Tarleton in this age group (at 13s vale won 12-5 at 14s Tarleton won 12-5). This year the points difference may be greater though the game was a cliff hanger until the dying minutes. Tarleton started with many errors and encroaching offside eager to win the ball. Though Vale were kept in there 22 by Tarleton the frustration at not getting the ball started to show on the Tarleton players. As the defensive kicks from Vale only allowed Tarleton to counter a different approach to break free was tried by Vale a long high cut out pass was attempted to the wing only to be brilliantly read by Tarleton wing Andrew Fishwick plucking the ball out of the air and handing off his opposite number to sprint for the posts, Andrew deciding he had to kiss the ball with relief as captain Johnny Edwards and Alex Roebuck mobbed Andrew! Andrew Bushell adding the two extra points.

In response Vale countered and a great deal of the first half was played in midfield, Vale always had the upper hand at the set piece putting the Tarleton tight five under pressure. The Tarleton five of Tom Ball, Oliver Ashley, Tom Potter, Sam Wareing and Rob Bramhall did a brilliant job to contain such a well drilled front row. Tarleton's defence was awesome during this period and only conceding the one kickable penalty was testimony to the Tarleton defence.

As always Tarleton looked dangerous when any chance came to counter attack Man of the Match Archie Skofic winning some incredible ball and making great runs to start the moves assisted by Stan Stock and Rob Bramhall all putting in hard work. Scrum half Phil (call me Adam) Charters was under heavy pressure all the time from Vale but managed to give his backs quick ball to mount their attacks. As Vale kicked out of defence wing Sean Murphy kept the ball in play on many occasions and countered with his jinking runs always beating the first tacklers and making good yards each time. Sean was unlucky on a couple of occasions not to get his name on the score sheet.

The Vale number eight had a lesson in the rules after a good kick from Tarleton fly half Andrew Bushell found touch, the number eight deciding to take a quick throw to his team mate only to be pulled up by the referee as the ball had been handled by the Vale spectators, a rule he wont forget in a hurry and well done referee.

As the second half got underway Tarleton looked as though they were going to seal the game Andrew Fishwick making yet another good run only to lose his footing allowing the Vale defence a second chance. All the players on the pitch looked absolutely shattered, now it was hoped that the fitness training in preparation for South Africa would give Tarleton the edge. An unfortunate end to the game for Phil Charters leaving the pitch with what turned out to be a broken collar bone - all at Tarleton RUFC wish Phil a speedy recovery. James Smith moved from full back to scrum half with James Blackett coming on as full back.

Every Tarleton player on the pitch was having a run at Vale and it seemed as though Vale had to slip up at some point as everything was tried from the dancing feet of Alex Roebuck to the battering ram approach of Tom Potter still Vale held out. Also trying the direct approach Bushy and Adam Peacock kept on trying to find the cracks. Johnny Edwards picking up at the back of the scrum also had some strong runs he also just not able to break free. A change at flanker as Stan Stock left the field having given his all allowed the fresh legs of Alex Mcay to try and find a way through. It was down to replacement scrum half Smithy to break Vales heart with a cracking run



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using his speed and upper body strength to break free, to run in under the posts for Tarleton, Bushy again adding the extra points, game over for Vale.

A number of Vale supporters acknowledged the fact that on the day the best team won, though they are certain they will be at the final again next year as I am hopeful that Tarleton will be. Though it is unfortunate for many of the other teams in this age group Tarleton and Vale are, at the moment, the dominant teams and if they do reach next years final (their last chance to play the Junior rugby Challenge cup) it will be an absolute cracker of a game. The club which hosts next years finals are sure of a good crowd from these two teams alone, and hopefully will provide us with a day equal to that which hoppers laid on.

Well done to Steve Wood and Mic Frankland for the effort put into the team this season and of course to the whole under 15s squad. Let's do the same next season!

Referee: Mr Dominic Harrison

Scorers: Andrew Fishwick (1 Try), James Smith (1 Try), Andrew Bushell (2 Conversions)

9 April 2006 **Tarleton 15 Diss 14**

Diss from the Norfolk Suffolk border stopped of at Tarleton en route to Cumbria for the end of season tour. Diss are the 2005 Norfolk champions so it was quite fitting they should face the 2005 Lancashire champions. After the long journey starting at 6am (1pm kick off) the Diss lads were soon out warming up and certainly looked a handy bunch. For most of the first half both teams fought it out in midfield Tarleton making the most of any gaps appearing Andrew Fishwick bursting through on several occasions just not able to find support or the line. Jonathan Edwards another making breaks. Diss preferred the kicking game and certainly tested the Tarleton fullback James Blackett who coped well with the high kicks. Stan Stock and Andrew Riley (flankers) put in maximum effort scrapping hard to win ball for Tarleton. Jamie Bettham on the wing made deceptive runs avoiding the first tackles, though unable to find space to break through. Fly half Adam Peacock was put under pressure by Diss though usually finding space to offload on this occasion to captain Jonathan Edwards to continue the move before offloading to Andrew Fishwick to use his strength handing off the Diss defenders to score. Adam Peacock adding the two points.

At the restart Tom Potter was solid when taking the ball. Sean Murphy was doing his job well supporting his centres though Diss certainly could tackle as Sean found out though always bouncing back. Man of the match Adam Peacock was in the thick of the action again this time assisted by Prop Tom Ball making a solid double tackle on the Diss players. After a continued period of rugby with very few scrums or lineouts many players looked absolutely shattered! and were thankful for the half time whistle. At the restart Tom Potter was again rock solid receiving the ball. Having a chance to make a break James Blackett received the offload to break the first tackle, scrum half Phil Charters usually managing to avoid the continuous onslaught of Diss players.

An unlucky spilled ball allowed Diss to collect and break down the wing for an almost unchallenged try. Diss easily adding the two points to even the score. Making a welcome return Tom Frankland at hooker was in the thick of the action showing the form he has done at Priory. A penalty after a continued period of pressure gave Tarleton the chance to get back in front Adam Peacock striking the ball well to give Tarleton a slim lead.

Several changes for Tarleton saw Ian Houghton at full back, again coping with the Diss kicks (though if he could do it without juggling the ball that would help my blood pressure please!) Continued Tarleton pressure gave the impression the game was over for Diss, as a ruck formed on the Diss 22 Tom Potter was noticeable by his absence from the action. Both the Prop and Phil Charters new why as Tom ran in to collect brilliantly from Phil and divide the Diss defence to score to, the greatest cheer of the day. Even Diss appeared impressed? Game over for Diss! no as they mounted continued pressure on the Tarleton line. Tarleton now without captain Edwards who had been suffering with a chest infection replaced by an enthusiastic Sam Marsh who joined straight in



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the action. Hooker Ollie Ashley described Marshy's antics to me, as marshy entered the maul as "like a little ferret"! Marshy may have a new nickname after this! As Diss continued to apply pressure prop Danny woods and once again James Blackett where in the thick of the action. Eventually the continued pressure telling as Diss crossed in the corner, a brilliant kick making full use of the Tarleton breeze and there was only one point between the teams. A nervous restart followed the Tarleton lads coping well to drive Diss in to touch allowing the whistle for full time.

This game was an absolute pleasure to watch played as it should be by two well drilled teams, both without several key players or in Tarleton's case about seven. A draw would have been well deserved by Diss though we will take a win whichever way it comes. Many thanks to Diss for the opportunity to play them. Hope the tour went well.

Referee: Mr Steven Ashley

Scorers: Andrew Fishwick (1 try) Tom Potter (1 try) Adam Peacock (1 conversion and 1 penalty)

2 April 2006
Tarleton 20 Leigh 0

Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup (semi final)

The appalling weather conditions had led to the cancellation of many "wendy ball" games but as most of you will be aware rugby players are made of sterner stuff (Bushy doesn't count as he plays both!) The conditions could only be described as "blumin" awful and all credit goes to both teams for putting on such a good display in this semi-final. Handling was always going to be an issue and the outcome of the match could have been decided by the team who made the least errors. Straight from the Tarleton kick the unfortunate Leigh player who collected was thumped to the ground with a typical Archie tackle. In the opening minutes it was Tarleton who made the errors, the conditions not lending themselves to the long passes attempted by Tarleton. Leigh played tight among the forwards with either fly half or inside centre kicking. This allowed James Smith at full back to launch some brilliant runs usually beating the first tackler.

A good portion of the first half was played out in midfield both teams only occasionally breaking free to launch any kind of move. The two Tarleton wings both having a run from deep Sean Murphy with a good solo run and Andrew Fishwick pressurising his opposite number to win the ball from a James Smith Kick. Fly half Andrew Bushell was a marked man, Leigh giving him no room at all, sometimes it was amazing how quickly Leigh closed him down! It was late in the first half before nerves were settled Rob Bramhall crashing through with a thundering run to put the first points on for Tarleton.

As the second half got underway the Tarleton game plan had been changed, leading to a far greater amount of Tarleton possession. The Tarleton pressure eventually proving to great for Leigh as Adam Peacock attempted one more long pass, this one sticking in the hands of Andrew Fishwick launching the attack down the wing, always in support was Alex Roebuck. Andrew passing the ball out of the tackle to Alex who stepped round the Leigh defence only to be stopped just short of the line, Andrew picking up and diving over the players to score. The Tarleton moves kept flowing as did the rain, it was now almost impossible to identify the individual players. One player who did stand out was Rob Bramhall (Man of the Match) making solid runs at the Leigh line eventually claiming his second try. Leigh could not curtail there joy as on two occasions Tarleton were held up after having crossed the line. If anything this galvanised the Tarleton lads with a greater urge for more points, prop Tom Potter providing them as he drove through to score the final try. The conversion being deemed the last move of the game.

Once again this group of lads are through to the final, this year as the holders. All at Tarleton RUFC will surely wish these lads well in the final, some have played for this club since they were six years old and as the final is only down the road at hoppers it is hoped all at Tarleton RUFC from minis to seniors will do there best to turn out and support your club on April 23rd. A thank you to the driving forces behind our club, who without we wouldn't have the superb facilities that we have today. The fact that this game could still be played is credit to the standard of pitches we have



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available at Tarleton with the second phase of building now underway the facilities on completion will be superb. A final note of thanks to the referee who once again did a superb job in adverse conditions.

Referee: Mr Steven Ashley

Scorers: Rob Bramhall (2 Tries), Andrew Fishwick (1 Try), Tom Potter (1 Try)

5 March 2006

Tarleton 40* Blackpool 10

Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup (quarter final)

With both sides fielding an array of county and ex county players a exciting game was definitely on in this quarter final battle. The shock in the first five minutes was however the fact that greatly underrated second row Sam Marsh should open the scoring with a try, driving over from the ruck on the Blackpool line for his first club try in 8years at the club. (well done marshy, lets have some more!) The cheer that went up as Marshy scored was witness to the support all of the Tarleton supporters give to this team. A hobbling Andrew Bushell stepping up to convert against the Tarleton breeze! All of the Tarleton team put on a brilliant display of rugby with the quickness of ball causing Blackpool problems. This match though was no one sided affair as Blackpool's defence was never easily breached, Tarleton having to play at pace and with strength to break Blackpool down. The Blackpool game soon resolved to kicking at any opportunity, not a good idea when James Smith at fullback is in the form he has produced on many occasions this season. James collecting the kicks and running at pace to start of further Tarleton phases.

In a game played to this standard it is difficult to mention "just certain" players when the full squad is worthy of mention, not only the fifteen on the pitch or the twenty two selected for this game but the whole squad approaching thirty registered players. Without this strength in depth and support of the fifteen on the pitch they could not perform to the standard that they regularly achieve.

It was my opinion prior to this game that Tarleton would struggle at the set piece. I can happily report I was wrong the pack doing brilliantly in the scrums with the regular front row of potter, Ollie and Bally doing brilliant work. In the line out Sam Marsh, Sam Wareing, Stan Stock and Rob Bramhall all combining well under the leadership of number eight Jonny Edwards. In the backs the wings combined well with regular overlaps, joining the line and looking for the ball giving Tarleton the extra man on many occasions. Alex Roebuck at centre caused Blackpool problems with his deceptive running and strength benefiting from the space created by Alex, Adam Peacock made good yards, almost crossing the line for his own score. Linking the forwards and backs Phil Charters regularly under pressure always provided quick ball for bushy to start off the many Tarleton attacks.

It is all credit to Blackpool's defence that the Tarleton tries did not come easily Stan Stock with a brilliant effort and bushy with a well deserved try, just reward for all the work bushy does in creating the moves. After many good runs deceptive wing Sean Murphy crossed the line to settle the game. Blackpool's only reply in the first half from a penalty with a well struck kick. In the second half Tarleton appeared to believe the game was won, Blackpool though had other ideas and raised there game. Tarleton though kept the pressure on eventually Prop Tom Potter sprinting in relatively unopposed to score under the posts. Bushy having no problem with the conversion. Continued pressure saw Tarleton pegged on there own line with a brilliant piece of defence by the forwards, the backs getting involved as Jamie Moran broke loose running wide to target the backs who again soaked up the pressure. The pressure eventually telling as big Jamie crossed in the corner after a penalty awarded, another superb kick from the Blackpool fullback adding two more points.

Just as Blackpool thought they may be back in the game Andrew Fishwick who had made good yards on the wing on each occasion he got the ball, showing power and pace against the county wing who regularly was left clutching at air. Collecting the ball from Alex on the half way line beating his opposite number and fending of continued tackles with his strength to cross in the



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corner with Blackpool defenders hanging on his back. Bushy using the Tarleton "Breeze" to good effect for the conversion. The final try to Sam Wareing forcing his way through to seal the game.

Blackpool are a young team who deserve credit for their achievements to date, though on the day Tarleton performed brilliantly in all areas and will have to be careful when they face Blackpool again on April 2nd.

Referee: Mr Jack Heales

Scorers: Sam Marsh (1 Try), Stan Stock (1 Try), Andrew Bushell (1 Try & 3 conversions) Sean Murphy (1 Try), Tom Potter (1 Try), Jonny Edwards (1 Try), Andrew Fishwick (1 Try), Sam Wareing (1 Try)

5 February 2006
Fleetwood 0 Tarleton 30*

Enterprise Finance Europe- Lancashire Challenge Cup

Fleetwood's performance against Tarleton in this age group has been steadily improving, to such an extent none of the Tarleton lads saw this match as a foregone conclusion. This though was Fleetwood's undoing as the Tarleton boys put in a ruthless if not entirely flawless performance. Good defensive work from Tarleton soaked up early Fleetwood pressure, quick hands by Alex Roebuck allowing Tarleton to break out of their own half. Sean Murphy surging down the wing to be stopped just short of the line. Over to the opposite wing Andrew Fishwick using his speed and power for Tarleton's first points going over in the corner. Sean Murphy was next to score this time avoiding the Fleetwood defence. Archie Skofic allowing Jonathan Edwards to gain the yards before finishing off the move for his first of three.

A low restart by Fleetwood caused Tarleton to knock on. Good pressure from Fleetwood in the scrum failed to give them the ball for long as Archie Skofic winning the loose ball to set captain Jonathan Edwards off on a curving run for the first of his four tries. At the restart the ball moved quickly by fly half Andrew Bushell and centre Alex Roebuck set off Andrew Fishwick still deep in his own half to outpace Fleetwood's defence for his second. Stan Stock performing well secured good lineout ball to set off Johnny Edwards once again.

Scrum half Phil Charters (first half) Jonathan Stevens (second half) had to work hard at the ruck the Tarleton forwards struggling to make the ball available resulting in slow ball to bushy. Tarleton forwards now started to dominate Johnny and Archie running in the Tarleton tries. One of Archie's came about from a well timed interception on half way, Archie's legs only just carrying him over, the Tarleton support players swamping Archie as he lay on the ground. Not to be outdone by the rest of the pack hooker Ollie Ashley driving for the line just not able to break through. Bushy and Johnny worked hard in an effort to gain the final points of the game only having to concede and move the ball wide for Alex Roebuck to get the backs once again into scoring mode.

Scorers: Sean Murphy (1 Try), Andrew Fishwick (2 Tries), Jonathan Edwards (4 Tries), Archie Skofic (3 Tries), Alex Roebuck (1 Try), Andrew Bushell (6 Conversions)

22 January 2006
Tarleton 5 Hull Ionians 14

As Hull got the game underway Tarleton started the game with solid tackling, Hull though always had something extra in the forwards. Archie Skofic is a key ball winner for Tarleton forwards, Hull appeared to have eight Archies! Sam Wareing was tackling well assisted by James Blackett driving at the ruck. Tarleton continually lost ball being turned over and struggled to make any ground. A break from Tarleton in defence as centre Andrew Fishwick made a run with his opposite number clinging to his back, carrying him for fifteen metres before the defender wrapped his legs around. Hull continued to quickly get numbers into the ruck causing problems for Tarleton. The pressure started to tell as Hull crossed the line, referee Steven Ashley deciding no try "held up" the pressure



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was still on Tarleton as they failed to clear Tom Ball and Andrew Fishwick driving Hull back. The poor passing from Tarleton led to Hulls first try, successfully converted.

The second half started again with Tarleton standing still and failing to make any forward progress. Andrew Riley obviously getting frustrated deciding to play Hulls way, driving through the maul and ripping the ball from Hull to make an inspired run. Though wing Sean Murphy had little to do in attack Sean was busy in defence with excellent tackles. Solid tackling has become a Rob Bramhall speciality and Hull felt the full force of Rob. Tarleton still struggling at scrum and lineout started to believe in themselves and take the game to Hull, the late arrival of Andrew Bushell gave a boost to Tarleton, and at last forward progress was made. Archie Skofic just having made a try saving tackle crossing the Hull line after a good spell of forward work from Tarleton. Throwing well at the line out hooker Ollie Ashley couldn't find his forwards as Hull continued to spoil the lineout. A disappointing result for the boys.

Referee: Mr Steven Ashley

Scorer: Archie Skofic (1 Try)

22 January 2006 **Tarleton Lads 26 Dads 5**

As this inspired team of gladiators wheezed there way onto the pitch for a well anticipated fund raising match, a chorus of "who ate all the pies" erupted from the lads. First dad to impress with his skill and definitely not lacking in pace, our usual referee Steven Ashley, Steve has competed! in the London marathon, the way he flew down the wing he must have had Paula Radcliffe in his sights again.

First blow to the dads came as Tim Murphy attempted to stop Archie, as Tim eventually got to his feet, not quite sure of where he was, he enquired if Archie was ok. Archie meanwhile was getting on with the game totally unfazed. Rob Bramhall for the lads and definitely no respecter of reputation was the first to successfully tackle the dads ringer. No less than ex St Helens rugby league, and Cardiff blues Welsh international Anthony Sullivan. The lads now they had stopped laughing at the dads decided it was definitely game on and not the push over anticipated.

Quick hands from the lads allowed Sam Stanfield in for the first try to the lads. The dads appeared to be tiring though this was obviously a ploy as they continually took the game to the lads. Another to impress with his speed was Steve Smith making a break down the wing only to be forced into touch. Just before half time the dads managed to score (can't remember who it was, though they will remind me) In the forwards Les Riley continually proved his strength driving back the lads. Though as ref Greg Carlton pointed out an average pack weight of eighteen stone !! (yes I know it would have been twenty stone if I had played) has an advantage over twelve stone.

After the half time g&t for the dads they still looked remarkably lively. Roy Pagett now getting chance to show his rugby league pace. Eventually it became clear as to why the dads stamina kept them in good shape, as at least eighteen players took to the field at a time !!. Several dads had become marked players for special treatment, usually from there own sons, however playing at scrum half coach Steve Wood survived surprisingly well, though I believe the DVD recording is very good! Well done to all the dads brave (foolish) enough to play in what turned out to be a good contest.

Special Thanks to Referee: Mr Greg Carlton

Dads, ringers and brothers I can remember. Steve Ashley. Steve Smith. Steve Wood. Stuart Fay. Anthony Sullivan. Les Riley. Tim Edwards. Roy Pagett. Jonathan Skofic. Colin Stanfield. Steve Robinson. Tim Murphy. Steven Davies. Apologies to the players missed.

Lads Scorers: Sam Stanfield (1 Try), Tom Potter (1 Try), Archie Skofic (1 Try), Chipy (1 Try), Andrew Bushell (3 conversions)



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15 January 2006

Tarleton 30* Liverpool Collegiate 0

A bright and breezy day, the under 15s almost back to strength and Collegiate undefeated had all the makings of a good game. Collegiate wisely choosing to play with the sun to their backs giving an early advantage when using the high ball, Tarleton knocking on. It wasn't long before Tarleton got into their stride, team work between forwards, backs and half backs set off captain Jonny on his way to the first Tarleton try. At the restart Tarleton again suffered with the sun. Tarleton gave away silly penalties allowing Collegiate to apply pressure, though where solid in defence. Rob Bramhall again making solid tackles and Alex Roebuck driving Collegiate into touch. Tarleton now ran at ease Jonny Edwards making another good break from defence supported by Andrew Fishwick, Andy being tackled just metres from the line unfortunately no support.

Considering the strength of the wind Tarleton were throwing the ball around with ease and care had to be taken to avoid a Collegiate interception. Tom Potter was next on the charge making a brilliant offload from the tackle. The Tarleton pressure was soon to prove too great for Collegiate a drive involving backs and forwards was expected to lead to a try, Tarleton though being held up. A short break for an injury and to allow Andrew Fishwick to retrieve his contact lens, had Andy's mum wondering if his lens was in ok. This was shortly answered at the restart as a move involving Alex Roebuck and a quick over the top pass from Bushy allowed Andy to collect at speed and dive over for Tarleton's second.

Tarleton now starting to look more confident though always giving the impression they had another gear in reserve if required. Archie Skofic as usual working tirelessly and winning ball to start the Tarleton moves, the next try finished off by Bushy himself. Sod's law prevailed at the change over with the sun going behind ominous black clouds. At least Tarleton now had the wind to their backs. Archie Skofic winning the ball and making a typical Archie break ran through the Collegiate defence, though Archie's legs don't appear built for sustained speed just metres from the line he was brought down. Stan Stock in full support picking up and diving over for a well deserved try made by one flanker finished by the other. Jonny Edwards running in the next after Tarleton again had been held up. Picking up from the scrum and with the Collegiate forwards still in the scrum easily crossing the line. Archie was soon to get his name on the sheet this time not needing the support for a well deserved try. With the wind at his back Bushy's kicking duties became easier kicking three from three in the second half. A Tarleton performance much improved though still with that extra to come.

Referee: Mr Steven Ashley

8 January 2006

Tarleton 0 Rhyl 30*

They came, they saw they conquered just about sums up the way that Rhyl played this game. After losing at home last season to our boys the Rhyl team were certainly up for it. Though Tarleton had a depleted squad due to county and school ski trip commitments the remaining players could have quite easily been taken on most teams and given a good account for themselves.

The game started well enough for Tarleton with Rob Bramhall at number eight making a hard charging run, also trying to inflict fear into the Welsh hearts was Prop Tom Potter carrying the ball strongly. Sadly basic errors from Tarleton soon saw them trying to defend against a wave of relentless pressure. Rhyl starving Tarleton of the ball could only defend and only occasionally made it out of their own twenty-two.

At the restart no doubt after a thorough going over from coach Steve, Tarleton appeared to have found new legs James Smith playing in yet again a new position at ten (James has a problem in that he plays well wherever he is played!) making strong runs though it has to be said it was probably like running into a brick wall. Trying a different approach captain Andrew Fishwick adopting the attitude of if you can't punch a hole in the wall push the wall backwards, head down



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and driving to suck more of the Rhyl players into his unfortunately "one man" drive. At the scum Tarleton definitely creaked though held ground, quick hooking from Ollie Ashley and good ferreting from Phil Charters at scrum half allowed Tarleton to mount an occasional attack.

Rhyl though showed the Tarleton boys the way, one try coming from a simple pick up by the Rhyl number eight at the scrum on half way to run through without a full blooded challenge to score the simplest of tries. The Strength and commitment of Rhyl in the tackle did not lessen even when the game was easily theirs, as Sam Marsh found out when giving good support to Andrew Fishwick a quick of load to marshy allowed him to run straight at the pack only to be upended and dumped. All credit to Rhyl who showed strength, skill, commitment there quick hands and pace obviously a copy of the Welsh national team. I just hope our under 15s get an opportunity to do to Rhyl what the English national team are going to do to the Welsh on February 4th !!

Referee: Mr Steven Ashley

20 November 2005
Aspull 5 Tarleton 35*

Enterprise Finance Europe – Lancashire Challenge Cup

The late kick off to allow the Aspull pitch to thaw still saw this game played in extremely cold conditions, though the action on the pitch soon had the players and spectators warmed up. Aspull started well, and if the Tarleton boys did not perform at there best an upset could have easily been on the cards.

The Tarleton play once again had forwards and backs mixing it well prop Tom Potter the first to score running in from the 22 which must be a record distance for a Tom Potter try!! A period of very loose play followed when it looked as though the game could swing either way, then the Tarleton backs started to keep the ball alive, Andrew Bushell starting a move which saw the ball move through several pairs of hands before coming back to bushy who quickly popped the ball to Andrew Fishwick to score the first of his five tries. The Tarleton forwards provided a solid platform for the backs James Smith now at flanker for the injured Archie Skofic playing well in his new role. Prop Tom Ball and number eight Johnny Edwards causing the Aspull forwards problems in loose play, though Aspull appeared to have the upper hand at set pieces.

Phil Charters once again providing a reliable link to allow the backs to get the ball moving. Johnny Stevens at full back coping well with the Aspull kicks. Tarleton gave away a penalty which allowed Aspull to apply pressure which the Tarleton defence soaked up. Bushy making a good run from defence supported again by Andrew Fishwick to score number two.

The combination of bushy, Alex roebuck and Andrew Fishwick as the finisher was proving difficult for Aspull to contain. While Aspull where busy attempting to contain Bushy, Alex and Fishy space was allowed for the rest of the Tarleton players, one who benefited was Sam Stanfield making a jinking run, Sam unfortunately not quite having the pace to make it to the line. Once again the quick hands and accurate passes of Bushy and Alex set of Andrew Fishwick from his own half to score under the posts allowing Bushy an easy conversion for once.

The second half saw Aspull determined to turn the score around it was not to be, Tarleton following a different script which saw much of the same as in the first half. Man of the match Andrew Fishwick once again benefiting from a team effort which allowed him to score twice in the second half to put the game out of a spirited Aspull's reach. Unfortunately the Tarleton boys dozed of as they allowed Aspull to apply the pressure, finally giving away a penalty which saw Aspull scrum half Danny Bibby taking a quick tap and go to score. This galvanised the boys back into action Johnny Edwards going over to be deemed held up soon to be followed by Bushy for the final try of the game. Bushy going on to slot over his own conversion. An excellent performance from Tarleton against an Aspull side who never gave up hope.



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13 November 2005 **Wilmslow 0 Tarleton 12**

On the first bright and frosty day of the season the usual ranks of the large under 15s squad arrived for a return match against former Cheshire Champions – Wilmslow. It was a moving sight to see the large number of players – home and away – plus supporters take part in an act of remembrance on this Armistice Day. Some 200 people marked a minutes silence outside the “Memorial” Clubhouse which ended in the laying of a poppy wreath at the base of a small memorial stone.

On the field the players and spectators alike were bathed in Autumn sunshine as Tarleton immediately brought pressure to bear on the home side. The first 5 minutes saw relentless Tarleton attack spearheaded by Andrew Riley and Tom Potter. A fine series of rapid passes along the back line saw Sean Murphy touch down for the first try of the day.

Yet the home side were not to be phased by this early set back and despite interruptions for injury (which just goes to show the power and speed with which the under 15 games are now played) the final 10 minutes of the first half saw Tarleton pinned down in their 22 with only consistently good kicking by Andrew Bushell relieving some of the pressure.

At the start of the second half – deemed to be a “development period” and not counting as part of the match score - wholesale changes to the Tarleton Squad made no difference to the determination, speed and power of the game. Wilmslow – consistently strong in the scrum made the best of the period with two tries – one of which was converted. For the away team particularly good performances were put in during this 20 minutes by James Beetham and Johnny Stevens while Alex Roebuck used his skill and imagination in kicking the ball to outwit the Wilmslow pack.

In the final period of 20 minutes the re-structured Tarleton squad came back with re-newed vigour and put the home team on the back foot once more. A superb darting and driving run by full back James, “Jason Robinson” Stevens set up a superb move from the back line which resulted in the second try for the away Team by Sean Murphy – successfully converted by Andrew Bushell.

A serious shoulder injury to one of the home Team curtailed the duration of this last half to just 10 minutes but both Teams and all the supporters came away having witnessed an excellent game by these two top teams.

6 November 2005 **Tarleton 30* Aldwinians 0**

Enterprise Finance Europe – Lancashire Challenge Cup

Once again an unfamiliar look to the usual under 15s line up in the forwards with inspirational captain Jonathan Edwards missing, the starting line saw Andrew Bushell start in the second row, and he was still to perform kicking duties!! Aldwinians were in good voice and definitely appeared highly motivated as the game kicked off.

The first scrum gave Aldwinians the chance to prove there motivation as they drove Tarleton back. The Tarleton backs started to move the ball around giving a highly drilled display with some excellent moves. If it had not been for the quick actions and tackling skills of the Aldwinians fly half Sean Murphy on the wing would have had a field day. The pressure eventually telling with a Tarleton scrum on the 5mtr, Archie Skofic at number eight picking up to drive over for the first of his two tries. At the restart Aldwinians put in a good chase forcing the Tarleton defence into touch. At the line out Aldwinians struggled against the height of Sam Marsh. Marshy winning the ball which soon found the hands of James Blacket on the wing to run in his second try in two weeks.

The pressure was now all Tarleton's, Andrew Fishwick charging through to be stopped just short of the line, Stan Stock in support quickly rounding of the move to score. The next try came courtesy of Adam Peacock, though the build up was a superb team effort with scrum half Phil Charters



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always linking forwards and backs to keep the ball alive and allow Adam to finish the move. Tarleton showed good handling at the restart with both Ollie Ashley and Stan Stock making good catches when under pressure.

The second half followed a similar pattern with Tarleton coach Steve Wood utilising all his squad. Aldwinians kicked out under pressure failing to find touch. They did though find the hands of James Smith who with a superb chip over the Aldwinians defence ran in a superb individual try. Tarleton backs carried on moving the ball out wide this time finding Adam Pagett on the wing for an easy run in. The forwards now deciding that the backs had scored enough, prop Tom Potter rampaging down the middle to score under the posts. Johnny Stevens taking over the kicking duties making a neat conversion. The last try again a "cheeky" collect and run in for James Smith to score his second. A good all round team performance with every player involved and supported by his team.

30 October 2005 **Southport 0 Tarleton 30***

On the previous weekend the under 15s had struggled for numbers (half term) however today the squad were present in good numbers, hence the decision to play three twenty minute periods.

It was not looking as though fast flowing rugby was to be the order of the day due to the atrocious conditions. The first ten minutes confirmed this with both sides dropping the ball on many occasions. With several! penalties awarded against the Tarleton boys a Southport score may have been on the horizon though sterling defence made sure Southport remained outside the Tarleton 22 for most of the game. Southport tried all ways to put points on the board, their number 8 picking up from the scrum and deciding to go wide only to be stopped by Sean Murphy out on the wing. It was soon Sean's turn to attack with a superb run down the wing to score in the corner. After a period of Southport pressure James Smith decided to kick to relieve the pressure the resulting chase by second row Sam Marsh had to be seen to believe it as his turn of speed surprised many. With so many scrums hooker Ollie Ashley was busy going about his work in that relatively unseen though important area that is the front row.

The backs and forwards now started to work as a unit the second try started with quick hands through the backs, centre Andrew Fishwick finally offloading to Jonathan Edwards at number 8 who sucked in most of the Southport defence before timing his pass back to Andrew Fishwick who with only one player to beat charged for the corner finally placing the ball under the posts offering fly half Adam Peacock an easy conversion. Andrew Riley back from his injury was busy as usual making excellent tackles. Johnny Edwards and Andrew Fishwick once again joined forces this time passing out to James Blacket on the wing to register his first try for the team. Alexander Roebuck who is fast becoming mister utility made dazzling counterattacks from fullback collecting the Southport kicks with ease. Phil Charters provided a variety of ball for the Tarleton backs.

The final period saw the Tarleton team take on a very unfamiliar look as the majority of the starting 15 were replaced. My apologies to many of the lads who did a brilliant job, as I as yet do not know there names (it's taken almost nine years for me to remember the lads who started as six year olds) With only Sean Murphy staying on and playing as flanker, Tom Ball doing an excellent job to fill Johnny Edwards shirt (though not in width!) at number 8 and Alexander Roebuck covering most of the pitch it was hard to work out where he was playing, though he did superb work in both attack and defence.

Sean Murphy mixing it with the forwards set Stan Stock of down the wing Stan showing his turn of speed to score. Johnny Stevens and James Fay combined well to cause the Southport defence problems. The final score was to Sean Murphy who went on to be joint man of the match with Alexander Roebuck.

A special mention should be once again made to the lads who played in the final twenty for an outstanding game congratulations.



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16 October 2005

Heaton Moor 5 Tarleton 27

Enterprise Finance Europe – Lancashire Challenge Cup

A hard fought match for Tarleton, losing second row Sam Wareing in the warm up did not help matters. Though captain Jonathon Edwards scored fairly early after picking up at the back of the scrum which had been won against the head by Ollie Ashley ably supported by his two Lancashire props Tom Potter and Tom Ball Tarleton failed to work as a unit making even the simple moves appear difficult.

Sean Murphy was once again on the score sheet running in two superb tries as he supported his number eight. Sam Marsh still trying to get on the score sheet looked as though he may have been in, though taking on the full Heaton pack alone was probably not a good idea!!

Heaton Moor celebrated their try as though they had won the match and looked as though they were ready to score again.

An unfortunate injury to Andrew Riley delayed play for a long period coach Mick deciding quite rightly that Andrew had not to be moved until the para medics had seen him. Andrew was released from hospital later that day. All at Tarleton wish him a speedy return, I have also been asked to send best wishes to Andrew from all at Heaton Moor.

As the second half got under way it looked as though Tarleton may be going to run away with the game, Heaton Moor however defended strongly though number eight Jonathon Edwards ran in two further tries. The forwards and backs now started to link as a unit though Heaton Moor were an ever present threat especially when fullback (number 16!) had ball in hand.

A miss kicked Tarleton penalty that failed to find touch presented the Heaton full back with a superb opportunity to run from deep only to be confronted by centre Andrew Fishwick with a superb tackle. Andrew Fishwick and the Heaton full back were soon in action again this time Andrew preventing what surely would have been a try had the tackle not been made.

Though Tarleton came away with the points it is only fair to congratulate Heaton Moor on a greatly improved squad.

1 October 2005

Tarleton 30* West Park 0

The above score line is taken from the first two of the three periods played, a further session was played as a "development" session allowing both teams to utilise their full squad. The Tarleton boys went on to win the development session 24 points to nil.

Rob Bramhall voted man of the match opened the scoring then went on to score three further tries in the development session. As several of the usual starters were out through injury including captain Jonathan Edwards, Archie Skofic and Phil Charters the Tarleton line up had Andrew Bushell and Alex Roebuck both usually backs playing as flankers, several other positional changes were made proving the adaptability of the squad. Sam Wareing filled Jonny Edwards number eight shirt well, though Jonny will soon want it back !! Sam making some impressive tackles and good yards with ball in hand.

All the tries scored came about as good team efforts with excellent support play. Tries also came from the "Andrew set" of Bushell (2) Fishwick (1) and Riley (1). Also adding to the score were Alex Roebuck and in the development session having a run out the injured Jonathan Edwards.



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

25 September 2005
Tarleton 30* Oldham 0

Enterprise Finance Europe – Lancashire Challenge Cup

Oldham started the first round of the Enterprise Finance Europe Challenge cup against the present holders. Oldham choosing to have the strong wind to their backs in the first half. This turned out to be a game consisting of midfield play by the forwards, the backs from both teams having periods of inactivity. Tarleton were soon caught offside the resulting penalty giving Oldham a good chance from the line out Tarleton however soon spoiled the party. The ball quickly finding its way to the backs Jonathan Edwards providing good support for his first of four tries. Oldham forwards took the game to Tarleton in a very physical battle. The Oldham number 8 quick to spot a gap at the back of a ruck broke through only to be tackled by full back Alex Roebuck.

Oldham continued to apply pressure adopting a kicking game to try and beat the solid defence. Oldham with a line out 5 metres from the Tarleton line found once again that the defence was solid. This time Tarleton quickly counter attacked, the back row forwards linking well together to cover virtually the length of the pitch. The move started by Alex Macay (6) supported by Archie Skofic (7) once again Jonathan Edwards (8) finishing off the move to score. A powerful run by Andrew Fishwick from deep put Tarleton into a good position the ball quickly moving across the pitch for Adam Peacock to run in.

The try of the match had to be Alex Roebuck running from deep on the angle to accept a perfectly timed pass from the back of the scrum. In such a physical encounter scrum half Phil Charters was called upon to use his full ferreting skills to dig out the ball.

The second half continued as a battle of the forwards finally the ball moving out to Andrew Fishwick playing as wing who ran in from just inside the Tarleton half. The simple moves proved once again how effective they can be this time the ball going to the opposite wing James Smith running in from a similar distance.

The highlight of the match for many followers of the under 15s would have been if Sam Marsh had scored, unfortunately just being pushed into touch. Sam is one of the long serving squad members now in his seventh year at the club, playing in the engine room having moved from prop to second row and is the gentleman of the team, he is also desperate to score his first club try. Keep going "marshy" it will come this year!! Marshy was in action winning ball at the lineout to set up Jonathan Edwards for the final try of the game.

Referee: Mr Steven Ashley

18 September 2005
Waterloo 0 Tarleton 30*

Tarleton started the season full of confidence, solid work by the forwards allowing the backs to provide an awesome display of skills in the first of three twenty minute periods. The first five minutes saw Tarleton run in three tries one for Sam Wareing, the first of three for Andrew Fishwick, captain Jonathan Edwards not to be outdone ran in the first of his four. Andrew Bushell in charge of kicking duties had his work cut out missing the first conversion from the corner flag followed by two successful kicks. James Smith playing on the wing for the first twenty minutes showed his speed and strength to add his name to the score sheet before transferring to scrum half.

Coach Steve Wood utilised most of his squad in the second period one of which was Sean Murphy who is rapidly becoming one of the unsung heroes of this team Sean soon ran in two tries in quick succession before being substituted due to bruised ribs. The injury occurred during a school training session when prop Tom Potter fell onto Sean!! Andrew Bushell sat out the rest of the second period the kicking duties being shared with not a lot of success. Sam Stanfield now fully recovered from breaking his leg proved he has lost none of his courage in the tackle.



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Waterloo's pack now started to take on the Tarleton forwards, Oliver Ashley at hooker though still managing to win a few against the head. As ever Archie Skofic was in the thick of the action providing the platform for most of the Tarleton moves. Archie's hard work did not go unnoticed by the referee who named Archie as his man of the match.

A well deserved try for Andrew Riley early in the third period as further changes were made to the team, several players running out in Tarleton strips for the first time. Rob Bramhall made good yards only to be stopped five metres out, quick hands from Rob allowed Tom potter to collect at pace for his first try of the season. Normal service resumed for the conversions with the return of bushy for the last ten minutes.

It was a pleasure to hear the referee's comments about both teams, praising them for excellent conduct and skills.

Referee: Mr Christopherson



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Under 14s

No match reports provided.



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

Under 13s

20 November 2005
Leigh 17 Tarleton 0

Enterprise Finance Europe – Lancashire Challenge Cup

Heading down to Leigh on the M6 fog was advertised but we couldn't see it for all the low cloud. Worries that frost might see the game might be called off melted away with the ice as the sun struggled through.

Tarleton travelled to Leigh expecting a tough task and were not disappointed. The two sides were closely matched in most departments but Leigh boasted slightly the heavier pack. The pitch was heavy, hands were cold, the ball like ice: in short a perfect day for a forwards' mud bath. But both sides were determined to keep everyone involved if only to spare the backs hypothermia.

Leigh kicked off and followed up deep into Tarleton's 22 where they met stern tackling from the terriers and conceded a knock on. Tarleton won the resulting scrum then mishandled as well as they fought to get clear. Then, on Tarleton's feed to another scrum Leigh put on a great shove, took the ball against the head and the number 10 was through under the posts before Tarleton's pack could get to him. Leigh converted to take an early 7 – 0 lead. From the restart Tarleton pushed up field and tried to get some handling moves going. Remarkably, in the conditions, both sides' backs were putting series of passes together.

Leigh's back row, in particular their strong-running number 8 were driving hard into Tarleton where Tom McBain, Jamie Stevens, The Joshes, to name only a few of them, tackled tirelessly. Leigh were having the better of the set pieces but Tarleton were true terriers in the loose and kept winning turnovers but came up against excellent Leigh defence. A Tarleton attack led to Leigh clearing their lines and pushing forward where their over enthusiasm saw Leigh caught offside. George Moss made a good clearance but Leigh's No 6 flanker stole the throw and ran in a try in the corner. The tricky conversion fell short.

Tarleton restarted and exerted their best period of pressure of the game, driving into the Leigh 22. A relieving kick was collected by Callum Skelton who withstood a shattering challenge from the Leigh chaser. After a short stoppage for treatment to the Leigh player the game resumed. At half time the score was 12 – 0.

Tarleton started the second half slowly And Leigh quickly. A series of attacks up the right brought Leigh within striking distance where good passing saw their No 12 centre round the Tarleton defence to score in the left corner. But for stern Tarleton defence Leigh might have scored many more but there was always a tackler, usually a back first, supported by the pack, to stop the charge. Many a promising Leigh attack ended as runners were diverted infield and engulfed by the defence. Tom had had to leave the field with a cut on the knee from ice on a puddle. He was replaced by Oliver with Alex moving from the pack to the wing.

Next Reuben Williams, realising that Sean Kelly had not taken his customary dive and squashing into the turf, brought down Leigh's larger second row and celebrated by winding himself on the lad's boot and getting partially buried. Sean then showed him how it should be done by making yet another tackle and requiring salvage from the ruck-bed before being pumped out and reinflated on the touchline. He returned as soon as he got his breath back.

A close, compelling game ended with both sides still seeking to score. The match was helped by an excellent constructive performance by Leigh's referee who allowed no nonsense but ensured that both sides got full chance to play as much rugby as possible.

Tarleton defended stoutly and looked dangerous in attack but Leigh took two chances through strength and opportunism and worked one good score to deserve a win in a game fought in great



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spirit. Tarleton can rightly feel that a great team performance against very good opponents could have deserved a closer score (biased, moi?) but the result was certainly a fair one.

6 November 2005

Tarleton 21 Colne and Nelson 5

Enterprise Finance Europe – Lancashire Challenge Cup

Tarleton's U13s returned to the EFE Lancashire Cup on Sunday with a committed and convincing performance against a resilient and determined Colne and Nelson Side.

Colne kicked off on a pitch soaked by heavy overnight rain and the slippery ball was gathered well but knocked on by Tarleton as the early exchanges saw both sides struggle with conditions that were not made for running rugby. Tarleton mounted some promising drives but these tended to end with the ball going forward in the tackle. Colne had the better of the early scrums and made some ground but tended to get held up by stiff tackling; Tarleton were also the quicker to the breakdown and frequently drove over well to provide scrum half Sean Kelly with ready ball which set the backs off on the attack.

Colne varied the game, kicking ahead with the wind and a massive return kick appeared cleared the visitors' defence and the Tarleton chasers forced a turnover. Recycling the ball Tarleton made steady progress through multiple phases. When the loose ball came off Colne the Tarleton front row started to hold its own and Colne were gradually pushed back until forward pressure told, the ball came to the backs and Jamie crossed for the first try which Josh Payne converted to give the home side a deserved lead.

From the restart it was more of the same: Tarleton drove up through several phases before once again the wet ball slipped forward and it was Colne's turn to drive back but the majority of the play was in the Colne half and sustained pressure saw Daniel over for the second try, again converted by Josh. The Forwards were taking over the game as Eliot, David and Matthew took turns to punch into the Colne line and create space for the backs to attack. Colne's defence was unflagging and a couple of dangerous breaks were only thwarted by the pace and strong tackling of the Tarleton wings.

After half time Tarleton resumed determined not to relinquish their lead. A low, skidding kick off was not gathered by Colne, or Tarleton for a while. Eventually the players seemed to reach a consensus that if no-one wanted to pick the ball up a ruck would be a reasonable idea. That resulted in a Tarleton dart up the wing where Josh was bundled into touch.

From the line out Tarleton moved into the centre below the posts, Richard bolstered the backs with some strong, direct running. Reuben hit the maul, ripped and drove for the line where he was stopped just short but a quick lay back and immediate support saw David pick up and dive straight over. Josh made his third conversion out of three, from the right and into the wind.

Colne still refused to lie down (well it was disgustingly muddy down there) and pushed back when a Tarleton attack was broken up on the Colne 10 metre line Colne shifted the ball swiftly to the left and Blackburn outpaced the defence for a fine try, in the corner, which was not converted.

Tarleton again forced their way back into Colne Territory where Sean received his customary flattening, winding and face full of mud under the combined weight of both packs. The match ended with Tarleton seeking a fourth try and Colne still resisting and, perhaps appropriately to the conditions, showing the Nelson spirit.

Both sides had played good open rugby on a day when the only flowing movement to be expected was the rain off the pitch.



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

16 October 2005
Tarleton 22 Bury 14

Enterprise Finance Europe – Lancashire Challenge Cup

Tarleton put a difficult start to the season, and this match, firmly behind them with a performance of great character and growing confidence.

Player unavailability reduced both sides to 12, so on a full size pitch a stamina sapping morning was in prospect. Bury opened brightly, pushing into the Terriers' half and forcing a series of scrums as Tarleton found that their interpretation of the rules around the breakdown did not always tally with the referee's. Bury won the scrum and a shrewd cut in by their fly half saw him through for the opening, converted try. A miscued restart saw Bury press back into the Tarleton half to be met by resolute Tarleton Tackling but a series of scrums saw Bury close to, then over, the Tarleton line; another conversion made it 14 – 0.

Tarleton fought back, Kicking deep and exerting remorseless pressure on a bigger but less mobile Bury pack. The Bury scrum half was hounded everywhere by Sean Kelly. Then Tarleton were hit by injury as Adam Stannard got caught at the bottom of a ruck and limped off with a twisted ankle. The gaps that should have opened up at the back failed to materialise as Daniel Woodburn marshalled the backs who simply tackled Bury to a standstill whenever they got the ball. The forwards were now starting to take over the scrums, pushing the heavier Bury pack off its own ball.

As half time approached Tarleton pressure told when Louis Pickthall picked up from a ruck and drove over the line; no conversion and at 14 – 5 down and a man short Tarleton were still up against it. The second half saw Tarleton, wind at their backs, maintain concerted pressure on Bury, recycling the ball through up to six phases as Tarleton looked to score but were held up by stern tackling from Bury. Elliot Young kept taking the ball well up field with the rest of the pack in close support: David Ainscough and Callum Skelton driving the mauls forward and Reuben Williams ripping and mauling the ball back to feed Sean Kelly and the backs or start another forward drive. Where Bury's backs would cut back into trouble Tarleton's always looked dangerous, seeking the space outside the defence which opened up as they kept the ball alive for Louis to add a second try, crashing through in support and powering to the line. Josh converted to put Tarleton within two points; game on.

Bury were not finished and fought back into the Tarleton half but could not break through and when given a penalty Bury tried to kick the points but the ball crept under the bar.

Returning the restart with interest Tarleton set up camp again in the Bury 22. When Bury won a scrum Tarleton pressure prevented a clearance kick, Bury were tackled back over their own line and Josh Payne pounced for the third try.

Sean Kelly left the field temporarily after yet another tackle saw him flattened and winded under a ruck: he soon returned. Bury's scrum was now showing signs of strain, being pushed off the ball and crumbling, a collapse which caused Tarleton to swap Reuben and Callum swap between hooker and No. 8 respectively to cope with injury.

As Bury competed to the end the reshuffled Terriers held, fought and broke out, clinching the match with a further series of drives which culminated in a drive by David which set up Daniel close to the line where the supporting pack drove him over for the final try.

Bury had played a hard game but ultimately Tarleton produced a performance in which the whole team stayed organised and refused to give any ground. To single out any one player would be difficult since all 12 contributed fully in a true team effort.



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Under 12s

Player Profiles

Harry Cook	Has had a tremendous season as fly half and maintained an excellent record for conversions. An excellent tackler and play maker .Never mind Wilkinson think Hodgson.
Dan Cromack	A real impact player who always makes a major contribution to the teams performance both in attack with steam rolling runs and in defence with huge bone crunching tackles. Will make an excellent Number 8 next season. The next Sea Bass ?
James Crosley	Has continued to improve and has developed well in the centre as well as being good on the wing with his mega side step and ballistic pace. Another player who can tackle out of his skin and has shocked many a bigger player. Could well be the 12s Billy Whizz.
Niall Crosley	The under 12s Jason White. A Powerhouse player who has played in the centre at full back and second row. A real tackle buster when on the run and he knows where the line is. In defence his except tackles have saved the team from conceding points on many occasions. Next season will make an outstanding Flanker
Aidan Hipwell	The Quite Man of the team, lets his rugby do the talking. A very well balanced and competitive player who as Tight Head Prop has consistently put the fear of God into Opposition Packs .A future Martin Halsall.
Harry Hudson	
Bradley Jones	The voice of the team Mr Motivator, has had an excellent season especially when fired up. Has played Hooker and second row and got stuck in and come up with the ball for a Brad Special (the blind side break). Think Bruno rather than Titterall.
Stuart Mayer	Has made the position of Scrum Half his own. A particularly dangerous player who makes some probing breaks, and is always there at the breakdown. Another player who is not afraid to tackle and regularly puts down players twice his size. Could be the next Dawson.
Declan Moon	After starting the season by deciding to play the soft option of soccer, he then mended the error of his ways and returned to once again become a valuable member of the team. A versatile player with an excellent turn of speed can play fullback, wing or outside centre. Daniel Larrachea had better watch out.
Jack Pearce	A long standing team member who this year has got his knees dirty on more occasions than in all of the previous seasons he has been playing. An excellent Hooker, who consistently gives good ball at the lineout. Next season could be an asset in the front row. Style is that of Faure.
Matthew Pye	This could well be the successor to Magnus Lund both being good Lancashire Lads. Another superb season from this player who always seems to surface with the ball and is at every breakdown. His work rate is unbelievable. Good in attack and defence, rarely misses a tackle. Leads the team well and can be proud of his contribution as team captain.



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Thomas Wignall	Tom is Mr Versatile playing either as a forward or a back, can make some excellent breaks and shows little fear. Another player with tremendous spirit who constantly encourages his team mates. Has potential next year as a second row/back row forward in the mode of Ben Lloyd.
Neil Ritson	The Lion Heart of the under 12's. A new player to the team who has progressed tremendously this season, and is full of enthusiasm and constantly encourages his team mates when either on the pitch or from the touch line. Another player who often performs David and Goliath type feats. Played on the wing this season and will progress into a more physical position next season.
Chris Simpson	Another new player this season who joined the team from the Summer School, and has showed great potential as a Forward. Has the natural strength to develop into a good second row forward.
Alex Rigby	Another new player who again joined the team from the Summer School, and has shown that he can "cut the mustard" as a back. Plays with more maturity than his match experience should allow. An excellent centre/wing. May be not Cueto yet but who knows what the future holds.
Daryl McGhee	Again another new player this season, or rather a returning player who had played for TRUFC in the minis. Another player with plenty of fighting spirit, his head never goes down and is always encouraging the rest of the lads to keep going. Has played on the wing and at fullback and has made good progress this season.
Matthew Bretherton	As it says on his waterproof "Matt made for Rugby". Came via the Schools Programme and has had an excellent season playing in the second row, difficult to tell that he has little experience as he has natural talent. Will be a significant player next season in 15 a side rugby.
Jack Webster	Again recruited from the Summer School, Jack showed potential as a forward and put in some spirited performances against physically larger opposition.
Adam Sexton	A player with excellent hand-eye co-ordination who came from the Schools Programme, just needs to stop playing the game with the wrong shaped ball and concentrate on a real sport. Showed potential as a utility back.

Match Reports

22 January 2006 Tarleton 56 Aldwynians 0

Tarleton Under 12's played their first game of 2006 at Carr Lane at the weekend and had clearly made a New Years resolution to offload, support each other and keep the ball alive. They managed this to devastating effect and over ran an unsuspecting Aldwynians team.

The early omens for Tarleton were good as within a few minutes of the start Dan Cromack had crossed the line after numerous phases of play which saw Tarleton surge up the pitch. They were soon attacking again after the restart. Aldwynians desperately tried to kick from defence but Harry Cook charged the kick down and Niall Crosley was soon over the line for the second try. When Aldwynians did attack the backs refused to yield. Alex Rigby and Daryl McGhee were determined that Aldwynians would not pass their line. A further try for Dan Cromack was followed by one for James Crosley.

The whole team were now keen to play their part. Bradley Jones and then Thomas Wignall both scored when they supported further attacks. By now the game was effectively over but Stuart



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Mayer, Aidan Hipwell, Mathew Pye and Chris Simpson keep Tarleton's forward momentum going. In the final third of the match Neil Ritson and Jonathan Whittingham came on but Tarleton's dominance was not diminished. James Crosley rounded off another try for the slick handling backs and Man of the Match, Dan Cromack concluded events with a final try for the forwards. Fly half Harry Cook converted all eight tries to give Tarleton their biggest win of the season.

Match Squad: Dan Cromack, Daryl McGhee, Chris Simpson, Neal Ritson, Jonathan Whittingham, Alex Rigby, Thomas Wignall, Mathew Pye, Harry Cook, Stuart Mayer, Bradley Jones, Aidan Hipwell, Niall Crosley, James Crosley



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

Under 11s

Player Profiles

- Jacob Forshaw** Jacob only joined us late in the season. He has great enthusiasm for the game and has picked up the rules very quickly. He is a quick elusive runner and being quite small he is hard to tackle. Jacob improves with every match he plays. I am sure that his commitment will be rewarded next season as his skills develop and he will become a key member of the team.
- Tom Humphries** We have not seen much of Tom this season, but when we do we know he is around. He is a capable player and very keen to get involved. Let's hope we see more of him next season.
- Max Kelly** Max is in his first season at Tarleton. But no stranger to the game having played tag rugby at Rufford School for several years. His ability to go past players together with his devastating burst of pace is astounding. He has turned in some excellent performances scoring valuable tries and also making some great tackles when called upon to defend.
- Arron Lewczenko** Arron has had a superb season. He has battled valiantly in almost every game this season. He constantly runs the ball back at the opposition creating holes in all defences. He has revelled in the role of full back running the ball back from deep and joining the line at varying angles creating havoc in opposition defences. Once again he has topped the try scoring lists averaging over two tries per match. He is an invaluable member of the team for his commitment and desire to win alone, not to mention his try scoring ability.
- James Malkin** After playing almost 100 games for Tarleton James is moving on to concentrate on his golf and school rugby. He has done a good job this season operating at scrum half providing an experienced link between the forwards and backs. James is able to distribute the ball quickly and accurately in both directions. He has also improved his tackling technique which has allowed him to dominate several opposition scrum halves.
- Aiden Miller** Aiden is becoming the team's utility player. He has started matches at centre, full back, scrum half, and hooker this season! He will always give 100% where ever he is playing. His best position is probably in the centre where he has room to display his powerful running style. Aiden has had another good season producing consistently good displays.
- Jake Mann** Jake is in his first season of rugby and has shown a great appetite for all aspects of the game. He has settled well into the role of hooker and as the season has progressed his line out throwing and ball winning abilities have steadily improved. He is well capable of making a break for the line when he has the ball in hand. Jake continues to improve and should do well next season.
- Sean Naylor** Sean is one of the unsung heroes of the team. Week after week he has worked hard as prop, often against much bigger opponents. He never complains and puts in 100% to ensure the backs gain plenty of ball to play with. His line out technique is improving and with it the amount of ball he secures is increasing. Sean has also improved his all round play and is another player more than capable of producing a telling break up field.
- Josh Nicholson** Josh joined the squad midway through the season. He has quickly settled into the game and is developing into a strong running player. As he gains more



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experience Josh has the potential to become more than a useful rugby player. I am sure he will come into his own next season and we will see an outstanding player.

- Frank Nickson** Frank is almost impossible to tackle because he is so small and nimble footed with the ability to step off either foot. He is also capable of tackling any player regardless of size. Frank continues to score masses of tries and makes an enormous contribution to the team. Second in the try scoring stakes this season; but still averaging a couple of tries per match.
- Ben Nielson** Ben is another recent acquisition and is a well built strong lad. He is new to the game but has a controlled aggression that enables him to drive the ball at the opposition. This season has been a learning experience for Ben and as he gets to grips with the rules and tactics he is bound to have an increasing impact. Next season Ben should be a valuable asset to the team.
- Matthew Oshinowo** Matthew seems to improve every season. He has worked tirelessly all season in a light weight pack. His commitment to the team is excellent. He is also a very useful runner when he gets the ball and never shirks his defensive responsibilities; he is consistently the first player at the breakdown. Matthew also has the ability to inspire and organise other members of the team which makes him stand out as a natural leader on the pitch.
- Thomas Thornborrow** Thomas is another player who has joined the squad late in the season. He improves with every week and as he gains greater confidence his all round game will improve. I am sure we will see Thomas make an impact next season once he settles into a regular position within the team.
- Bradley Tomes** Bradley is a strong team player who has one direction of play and anything that gets in his way gets brushed aside or trampled under foot. He has provided the corner stone of the pack and worked for the benefit of the team. Bradley has improved his support play and this has seen him score some valuable tries this season.

Match Reports

26 February 2006 Tarleton 35 Waterloo 10

Tarleton began the match with a stiff wind at their backs kicking the ball deep into the opposition half. Waterloo gathered the ball and drove their way up into the Tarleton half of the pitch. Despite great pressure Tarleton kept their line in tact, thanks largely to some good tackling from Tom Humphries and Josh Nicholson. Gradually Tarleton worked their way in to the match and began to get some ball to enable their backs to penetrate the visitor's defensive line. The opening score came from a move that began near the halfway line. Matthew Oshinowe drove the ball forward and was eventually stopped by some good tackling but the Tarleton forwards secured the ball and worked it back to Aiden Miller. Aiden fed out a pass to Frank Nickson who used his speed to out pace the cover defence and record a fine try.

The second try came from a maul near to the Waterloo line. The forwards were driving the ball forward when Bradley Tomes peeled away from the maul to crash over from five yards to earn a well worked try that all the forwards can be proud of. Tarleton's third try came following a superb drive into the heart of the opposition by newcomer Ben Neilson. When he was eventually stopped he was able to off load the ball to Arron Lewczenko who ran up the touchline to score in the corner.

From the restart Jake Mann caught the ball and ran it straight back down field. When he was stopped the forwards secured the ball from the maul and it was fed out to Arron Lewczenko. Arron once again did the necessary and ran the ball through the defence to score his second try of the



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morning. The final try of the half came when Waterloo spilled the ball close to the Tarleton line. Arron Lewczenko gathered the ball and ran through a disorganised defence to claim an excellent individual score.

From the restart Waterloo appeared much more focused and mauled the ball forward when ever they received possession, keeping the home side on the back foot for long periods. For most of the half the ball was in the middle of the field with both sets of forwards working hard to gain possession. Waterloo's first try of the match came when the ball rolled out of a maul near the Tarleton line. One of the Waterloo players reacted first and dived on the loose ball to claim a well deserved score.

Tarleton's forwards began to get back in to the match and worked a good position near their opponent's line but the ball went into touch. From the resulting line out Tarleton worked the ball forward and over the try line but unfortunately Bradley Tomes had been turned onto his back so the try could not be awarded. With time running out Waterloo were once again on the offensive and this pressure brought them a penalty from a Tarleton infringement. They took it quickly as Tarleton were in disarray and ran through the muddled defence to claim an easy try to reduce the deficit just before the final whistle. Aiden Miller converted all five of Tarleton's tries.

This was a game of two halves. In the first half Tarleton played some great flowing rugby which saw the backs finishing off the hard work of the forwards. In the second Waterloo tightened the match up by driving the ball up the middle of the pitch reducing the amount of the ball available for the Tarleton backs. All in all it was an excellent game of rugby.

Match Squad: M. Oshinowe, A. Miller, T. Humphries, B. Tomes, B. Neilson, J. Mann, A. Lewczenko, F. Nickson, J. Nicholson, T. Thornborrow

12 February 2006
Blackburn 0 Tarleton 30*
Sedgley Park 7 Tarleton 7

It was a grey wet misty morning as the minis travelled into the Blackburn hills for the annual triangular fixture with Blackburn and Sedgley Park. On arrival at Ramgsreave Drive the mist was blocking out the hill tops and the rain was blowing relentlessly across the pitches. Never the less on with the match!

The match began with Tarleton quickly on to the offensive, but Blackburn held their line in tact and eventually forced a knock on for a scrum in the middle of their half. The ball bobbed out of the scrum and was gathered by Tarleton who mauled it forward; when the ball came free Arron Lewczenko collected it and ran ten yards to claim the first try of the game.

Try number two came when Tarleton's forwards turned the ball over in a line out. The ball was worked along the backs as far as Aiden Miller who raced through to claim a well worked try. The next try also came from a line out. But this time it was near to the Tarleton line, once again the forwards won the ball. It eventually reached Frank Nickson who raced over half the length of the pitch to claim a wonderful try. Try number four came straight from the restart as Arron Lewczenko gathered the ball and ran it straight back to score a great solo effort. The final try of the half came from a scrum five metres from the Blackburn line. James Malkin gathered the ball from the base of the scrum, darted down the blind side through the defender on the line to claim a fully deserved try.

In the second half Tarleton were up the slope but they still continued to dominate play. The forwards led by Sean Naylor and Matthew Oshinowe had worked the ball up to the Blackburn line. For several minutes Blackburn held out, until Bradley Tomes, who had spent most of the game impersonating a gazelle by outpacing Arron on several occasions, gathered the ball and crashed over the line to score despite the efforts of two defenders. As the half wore on both sets of forwards were working hard to win the ball. For Tarleton Ben Neilson and Jake Mann were working tirelessly in the loose. From another maul the ball was worked out to Arron Lewczenko who happily



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accepted the chance to score his third try of the match.

With time running out the play was again stuck within five metres of the home sides try line. Both sets of forwards were working hard to secure possession. All of a sudden the ball came out to James Malkin who seized his opportunity to dive through the cover defence and score the final try of the match. This was a tremendous match played in appalling conditions; the players from both sides gave 100% throughout.

The match, against Sedgley Park was a much closer affair. Straight from the start the stronger Sedgley forwards dominated proceedings pushing the scrum all over the park. It was no surprise when Sedgley opened the scoring after their forwards had won back to back scrums and a line out. Tarleton were in disarray as one of Sedgley's forwards opened the scoring. Sedgley should have gone further ahead when they won the ball at a line out and drove over the line but failed to ground the ball, touching down over the dead ball line.

The second half began with Tarleton playing down the slope and looking much better organised. It was not long before Frank Nickson gathered the ball and scored a great solo try to level the match. The remainder of the half became a titanic forward battle which saw Tarleton on the back foot for much of the time working hard to defend their line. At the last play of the match Sedgley were held up over the Tarleton line. The match ended in an honourable draw. Both sides had played to a standstill. Both sets of players deserve great praise for serving an excellent match in the most adverse weather conditions.

Match Squad: J. Forshaw, M. Oshinowe, B. Neilson, T. Thornborrow, A. Miller, J. Malkin, A. Lewczenko, B. Tomes, F. Nickson, J. Nicholson, J. Mann, S.Naylor

5 February 2006 **Blackburn 7 Tarleton 37***

The journey across the M65 was made in damp foggy conditions, on arrival at Burnley visibility was so poor that only way to find the rugby posts was to walk into them! But by 11.00am the fog had lifted enough for the game to proceed.

Tarleton began the match in a very assertive manner kicking deep into the opposition half, pressurising the kick and eventually forcing the home side to knock on. From the resulting scrum they worked the ball along the back line before Frank Nickson cut through to record the opening try. The second try was scored by Arron Lewczenko following a superb maul and drive by the forwards which moved the home side 25 yards down the pitch.

Most of the game was being played inside Burnley's 15m line. As the pressure was maintained the ball was spilled and Frank Nickson collected the loose ball to claim his second try of the half. Try number four was almost a carbon copy of the first with the ball being secured from a five metre scrum. It was then worked along the backs, but this time Arron Lewczenko was on the end of the pass to score his second try of the match.

The final try of the half came from a Burnley scrum near the Tarleton line. Tarleton won the ball against the head, and fed the ball to Max Kelly he made a superb break into the opposition half. As he was being tackled he offloaded the ball to Frank Nickson who ran opposed to the line to score his third try.

From the restart Frank Nickson caught the ball and proceeded to run straight back through the Burnley defence to record a brilliant solo try. Not to be out done, Arron Lewczenko did exactly the same from the home side's restart. Try number eight was a perfect example of good support play. The ball had been worked up the field by various players but came to a halt in a maul just short of the line. When the ball came back Matthew Oshinowe was in the ideal position to gather the ball and dive over to claim his first try.

Despite the one way traffic Burnley never gave up and their efforts were rewarded with a try of



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their own, which came from a scrum five metres out. From the scrum they moved the ball amongst their backs to score a fully deserved try. The score seemed to spur life back in to Tarleton and they ran in three more tries as the home side tired, one to Max Kelly and another two to Arron Lewcenko.

This was an excellent performance in which hard work by the forwards allowed the backs plenty of ball and space for their devastating running. It was also a good introduction to rugby for the two new boys, Thomas Thornborrow and Josh Nicholson.

Match Squad: M. Oshinowe, A. Miller, J. Malkin, B. Tomes, M. Kelly, J. Mann, A. Lewczenko, F. Nickson, S. Naylor, J. Nicholson, T. Thornborrow.



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Under 10s

Player Profiles

JohnButler	Steady season filling in both the forwards and backs, a competent carrier of the ball who has a good understanding of the game.
George Cook	An elusive runner who is developing a good passing game. Overall defensive game has improved this year.
Ben Cromack	Mr Consistent this season, a powerful determined runner who has realised his potential as a great forward player.
Daniel Halton	A positive straight runner (Whats a side step?) with raw strength and power. When Dan tackles you, you stay tackled.
Henry Holborn	Developed a previously hidden aggression in this season, by channelling strong direct running that takes some stopping. A big loss to Tarleton U10s but we wish you all the best at Kirkby Lonsdale.
Mark Laverty	A quiet intelligent player who listens to the coaches and as a consequence has developed excellent tackling and running skills.
Darren MacDonald	What a versatile player who never gives an inch anywhere on the pitch. A Great team man who is always the first to volunteer - even if it means helping the opposition. Has started to channel his aggression in to his running
Kieran MacDonald	Always gives 110 % and as the season has progressed has shown great improvement and aggression when tackling.
Connor Marshall	Excellent forward who never gives way in the scrum. A good straight runner who now looks for the short ball.
Frank Skofic	Fantastic potential for a young player, always aware of space and unbeatable on the wing, when on one of his many break away runs.
Andrew Turnbull	Excellent quick distributor of the ball at scrum half, whose understanding of this pivotal position is improving with every



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match.

Callum Walker	A live wire on the pitch who doesn't realise his size, will take on the oppositions biggest players. Totally fearless player.
David Watson	David has developed a great mauling technique, whilst his understanding of the game has made him a valuable asset. Another player we are sorry to lose, but wish him luck in the future at Worcester.
Joshua Watt	Is developing excellent rucking and mauling skills and is a tough player who can take the knocks. Always willing to go to ground to secure the ball.
Charlie Curl	Although very new to the game is very willing and wants to learn. A good listener who is developing good tackling skills.
Callum	Another new player who has good pace and is an aggressive runner. Shows a lot of potential on the wing.

27 November 2005 **Skipton 5 Tarleton 40**

In only their fourth match of the season the Tarleton team mirrored the hard work of training in a match. Despite the long journey the Tarleton team were eager for the contest and straight from the kick off the tackling and rucking knocked the Skipton team out of their stride. The forwards enjoyed an excellent match, both in the set scrum, where on occasions a larger Skipton scrum was easily pushed off the ball and in the loose. The backs, with ball in hand, looked dangerous and their support play was excellent.

Both ball retention and defence had improved since the previous match and only an overly generous refereeing decision prevented them keeping a clean sheet. Overall the most pleasing aspect of the match was they played as a team and it showed in the result.

Match Squad: D Halton, J Butler, F Skofic, B Cromack, A Turnbull, D Watson, C Walker, C Marshall, J Watt, D McDonald, K McDonald



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

Under 9s

Player Profiles

- Kieran Walker** Played 16 Tries 30. This seasons top scorer averaging two per fixture. Runs like Billy Wiz and tackles like a Tiger. Passed one hundred tries for the club this season. Scored five against Sedgley Park, Four against Burnley and bagged hat tricks against Skipton and Wilmslow. Voted man of match on three occasions; Manchester, Wilmslow and Widnes. Player most like; James Small (South Africa and Western Stormers). Position Wing/Centre
- Ashley Oshinowo** Played 12 Tries 9. Probably the fastest of our backs happy slicing up the opposition with his mazy runs or flying down the touchline. Scored twice against both Burnley and Skipton and was deservedly voted man of the match against the later. Player most like: Jason Robinson (Sale Sharks England and Lions). Position Centre/Fly-half.
- James Lazenby** Played 13 Tries 8. Renowned for his marauding runs to break through the oppositions defence. Utility player, is happy to turn out for the forwards or the backs. Voted man of the match against Sedgley Park and Aldwinians. Player most like; Martin Johnson (Leicester Tigers, England and Lions). Position Lock/Centre.
- Chris Bird** Played 14 Tries 6. Linchpin of the side and more often than not is elected team captain. Shows' attacking flare and likes to lead by example. Was voted man of the match against Caldly and Blackburn. Player most like; Stephen Jones (Clermont Wales and Lions). Position Fly-half.
- Jack Langton** Played 13 Tries 3. Waspish scum-half, who loves to attack from the back of the scrum. Scored against Sedgley Park, Burnley and Vale of Lune. Coming on in leaps and bounds during his second season with the terriers. Player most like; Matt Dawson (Wasps England and Lions). Position Scrumhalf
- Chris Macintosh** Played 10 Tries 3. In his first season has proved to be a natural rugby player. He is destined for the front row and will lend much needed power to the forwards. Made debut for both Tarleton and Sedgley Park on the same day. Man of the match against Burnley and scored twice against Waterloo. Player most like; Julian White (Leicester England and Lions). Position Tight-head Prop.
- Oliver Horton** Played 12 Tries 2. One of the workhorses of the side. Oliver is becoming a bit of a lineout specialist and has perfected the break from the back of the lineout. Voted man of the Match for Sedgley Park after scoring twice against us. Made a big splash at the recent Wilmslow festival. Player most like; Michael Owen (Newport Dragons Wales and Lions). Position Number 8 or Centre.
- George Murphy** Played 11 Tries 1. George is a mainstay of the forwards. He excels in the front row and is a powerful mauler. Scored first ever try directly from the lineout against Sedgley Park. Has shown a taste for cricket recently. Man of the Match against Vale of Lune. Player most like; Andrew Sheridan (Sale England and Lions). Position Prop.
- Joshua Peacock.** Played 12 Tries 1. Joshua has got to grips with rugby quickly in his first season for the Terriers. Sportingly scored against us for Sedgley Park. Was



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voted Man of Match for some outstanding tackling against Waterloo. Player most like; Mike Tindall (Gloucester England and Lions). Position Centre.

- Stephen Brett Played 10. Stephen is another player who has got to grips with rugby in his first season. Sadly he is leaving the club having been signed up by Spanish rugby. Player most like; Brian O'Driscoll (Leinster Ireland and Lions). Position Centre.
- Alanaah McDonald Played 11. This young lady is the youngest and probably the fiercest of the McDonald clan. Alanaah relishes her role as pack leader and never shirks from the fray. Allanah was one of our heroes at the Vale of Lune Festival asking and giving no quarter. Player most like; Jo Yapp (England). Position Hooker.
- Joshua Baldwin Played 15. This young man is a very reliable and conscientious trainer. All his hard work is paying dividends as Joshua is excellent in defence. Another regular in the front row for the Terriers. Voted man of the Match against Ormskirk for superb tackling. Player most like; Steve Thompson (Northampton England and Lions). Position Hooker.
- Corrin Williams Played 13. Unsung hero of the team at scrumhalf. Renown for classy passing moves with Fly-half Chris Bird. When not playing scrumhalf slots in at fullback. Player most like; Dwayne Peel (Scarlets Wales and Lions). Position Scrum Half or Full Back.
- Emma Thornton Played 4. Emma is a new development player who is settling nicely at the club. Pacy player who possesses a mean sidestep and dummy. With a bit more of the ball will make an impact next season. Player most like; Noli Waterman (England). Position Winger.
- Sam Webster Played 7. Slick but diminutive back another player who would have benefited with seeing a bit more of the ball. Player most like; Shane Williams (Wales and Lions). Position Winger.

Match Reports

9 April 2006
Vale of Lune Tournament

Tarleton 30 Southport 10
Tarleton 5 Waterloo 5
Tarleton 0 Liverpool Collegiate 10

A small squad of Terriers depleted by illness and holidays ventured up to Powder House Lane more in hope than expectation. However their travelling fans were very pleasantly surprised by the display put in by our little band of warriors.

The tournament had a Merseyside flavour with group D containing Southport and Waterloo. The Terriers got off to a great start, running in six tries against our near neighbours Southport. Callum claimed a hat trick, Kieran grabbed one, as did Ashley and Chris Bird flu in for another. The second match was a very tight affair against Waterloo. The Terriers took the advantage through Callum just before the break but conceded one in the second but clung on with some superb defence to qualify for the semis as group winners on the basis of most tries scored. The tackling of the Joshua's was again notable as were the line out breaks from Oliver.

The Merseyside theme continued in the semi final against a robust Liverpool Collegiate. It was a valiant effort from Tarleton but they succumbed in the end to a stronger side.



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Of note was Alanaah scrapping like a Tiger, the bravery of Jack at scrum half who got knocked down but kept on getting up again and the determination of everyone else. They were all heroes and did Tarleton proud and stood up against the best Merseyside could throw at them. Thanks to Vale of Lune for organising a superb tournament.

19 February 2006 **Wilmslow 20 Tarleton 15**

The under 9s continued their nomadic travels (in fact 75% of their fixtures have now been played away from home). This Sunday saw them grace the Cheshire fields of Wilmslow as Tarleton's only representatives.

The match itself was a very close affair played in front of a most vocal crowd. The crowd thrilled to a match where the lead regularly changed hands and resulted in a Wilmslow win by a single try. Tarleton man of the Match went to a very dynamic Kieran who scored a hat trick. James, Chris and Joshua enjoy good runs, Chris and Corin put together an impressive move and Jack shone at scrum half. The Terriers were however let down by committing to many offences and lack of passing. The tackling and mauling again proved to be Tarleton's strengths in this forward dominated match.

Thanks to our hosts Wilmslow and their referee who took the time to coach the lads during the match.

12 February 2006 **Triangular Tournament Blackburn**

Blackburn 25 Tarleton 10 **Tarleton 15 Sedgley Park 10**

The Terriers had to brave a very soggy Blackburn Sunday morning to fulfil this tournament. It was a testament to our lads and lasses enthusiasm for the game that so many made the trip and didn't complain about the inclement conditions.

The first game saw Tarleton out done by Blackburn's passing game and superiority in the mauls. James was the Terriers key player in this game with his trademark barging runs, Steven and Ashley also enjoyed good attacking runs. The tries went to Chris Bird and James.

In the second game things seemed to be slipping away at halftime against a dogged Sedgley Park with the Terriers two down. Tarleton however lifted themselves in the second half against a tiring Park side. Star player Chris led the way, Kieran who had fought hard all day dashed in for one and James charged in for the winner. Highlights included Corrin releasing Chris down the blind side from which he was very unlucky not score, Allanah getting stuck in and the courageous tackling of both Joshuas' and Kieran.

Thanks to our hosts Blackburn and their hard working referee for a fun but wet day.

5 February 2006 **Burnley 0 Tarleton 30***

A misty morning trip to Burnley saw the Terriers record their first win of the year against a spirited but inexperienced Burnley side. The opening score saw Tarleton prop Chris Mac drive over for his first try for the club, Ashley's speed and audacious mazy running bag two, James's driving yielded one, Jack ran one in from the back of the scrum and Kieran kept popping up to help himself, scoring four taking him to over twenty tries this season already. Joshua tackled like a tiger and Chris Bird unselfishly set up some flowing moves from fly half. New girl Emma didn't shy from the action either and enjoyed her game. It was a delight to see the Terriers playing as a team. Man of the Match went to Chris Mac for his first try and powerful mauling. Thanks to our hosts Burnley.



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29 January 2006 **Ormskirk 15 Tarleton 10**

Tarleton travelled to Green Lane with a depleted squad due to illness and skiing commitments. The Terriers were fortunate to get a game as their pitch was on the sunny side of the ground and had thawed by kick off. The match turned into a close fought thriller with the Gingerbread men gaining advantage via their superior mauling. Tarleton again relied on Kieran to score, he should however have had two but lost the ball close to the line.

David Watson showed great determination to drive over for a super try for the Terriers. The match was poised at ten all when the referee called last play. The match then finished in great drama when Ormskirk stole the ball and ran through the Tarleton defence for a brilliant individual winning try.

Tarleton man of the match went to Joshua Baldwin for his excellent tackling. Thanks to our hosts Ormskirk.

15 January 2006 **Caldy A 20 Tarleton 0** **Caldy B 20 Tarleton 5**

The first match of the new-year took Tarleton to the wide-open expanses of Paton fields on the Wirral home of Caldys rugby club. The Terriers were a little rusty following a long winter break having not played a match since November. Tarleton played with spirit but were unable to hold a well-drilled Caldys team who crossed our line four times.

The second match followed a similar vain with Tarleton going in at the break only two tries to one down however two further tries were conceded in the second half. Ashley scored our try with a fine long dash down the touchline.

The Tarleton man of the Match was Chris Bird who played well at fly half and was singled out by the referee for his sporting behaviour. Thanks to our hosts Caldys and their excellent referee Mr Doyle.

27 November 2005 **Tarleton 25 Skipton 20**

The under 9s returned to winning ways on their first trip to scenic Yorkshire.

Ashley got the Terriers off to flying start with a try in the first minute. Tarleton fought hard in the loose and tackled well and were rewarded by two further tries. Kieran got his landmark one hundredth try for the club. Number one hundred was possibly the best of the lot, as he seemed to beat all nine Skipton players in the process. James scored with a good diagonal run to the corner to take the Terriers in to the break 15-5 up. After the break Tarleton found it uphill work as Skipton came back hard but two more from Kieran including a pitch length dash saw them home.

Skipton then fielded a B team and our tiring squad did well to hold them to a 10-10 draw thanks to another driving run from James and Ashley getting a last gasp equaliser. Ashley for getting us off to such a good start and also going over at the end was awarded Man of The Match.

Thanks to our hosts Skipton for making it such an exciting match.



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23 October 2005

Tarleton 40 Sedgley Park 15

A very soggy Carr Lane saw the under 9s gain their first win of the season against a spirited but under strength Sedgley Park. A five try blitz from the Tarleton tornado Kieran sealed this victory. A show of forward power, saw George power over from a lineout for a landmark try (his first for the club). Jack shot down the wing for one and Chris flew in to open his account for the season.

New signing Chris Macintosh had a very encouraging first game for the club and will add strength to the forwards. He also had the rare honour of making his debut for Tarleton and Sedgley Park on the same day! Sedgley Park's scorers were Joshua P and Oliver Horton with two. For this sporting display Oliver was named man of the match.

9 October 2005

Manchester Festival

Tarleton 5 Ormskirk 5

Tarleton 10 Chester 15

Tarleton 0 Blackburn 15

The under 9s went out at the group stage of the Manchester Festival. The Terriers showed great improvement in their first game against old rivals Ormskirk. The return of Chris Bird strengthened the back division. It was fellow back Ashley who again showed his liking for playing Ormskirk with a superb individual try. A draw was a fair result in this closely fought encounter.

The second game against Chester was a thrilling match which the Terriers lost by a single try. Kieran scored a brace of tries and Joshua Baldwin was very unlucky to be held on the line.

Tarleton ran out of steam in the third game against a very good passing side in Blackburn.

The day was completed when James collected Jason Robinson's autograph. Thanks to Jason and Manchester Rugby club for a great day.

1 October 2005

Vale of Lune 45* Tarleton 15

Vale of Lune 40* Tarleton 10

The under 9s travelled north to Lancaster for their first taste of contact rugby. They however came off second best in a double-headed fixture against a robust Vale of Lune side. Tarleton held their own in the early stages of each match but were undone by stronger Vale forwards. The large Vale number 6 in particular caused the Tarleton defence problems throughout, both scoring and setting up tries for his team mates.

Tarleton's scorers were Kieran (3) James (1) and Jack (1). Other highlights included a crunching Mickey Skinner tackle by Kieran, good running from Ashley and brave driving by Alanaah. Joshua P, Stephen and Sam all had solid debuts for the club. Man of The Match for outstanding forward work went to George M.



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

Under 8s

No Match Reports provided.



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

Under 7s

Summary

We started the season with a young and smallish squad of eight regular children, turning up to the first three weekends which were for training. Even in these first few weeks you could see the improvement, even at that early stage of the season.

Despite their tender years every member of the squad has grown in stature and their development as a team has been very pleasing. The fixtures started with a tough trip to the Vale of Lune where we played two tightly contested games, but we ended up winning both.....what a start.....and it was only going to get better!! The next weekend took us to our first festival at Manchester. With some great tries and tagging from these "terriers" we completed four games and came away with four magnificent victories, which took us into the final against Lymm. The children were escorted onto the first team pitch, and in front of a very large crowd played some excellent rugby and held their nerve in a very tight game to run out the eventual winners 5-4. It was great to see the children presented with their medals and receive the standing ovation which they deserved, and leaving a very proud coach and manager speechless!!

After the festival we carried on with victories against Sedgley Park x 3, West Park, Preston Grasshoppers x 2, Skipton, Old Risworthians, Caldby x 2, Aldwinians, Waterloo, and Ormskirk. In total the seasons playing record is as below:

PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
26	19	4	3

To summarise this year has been a great success and Jerry and I have enjoyed our time coaching the children because of the attitude and application of all the players. We must say a big thank you to all the parents who have supported the club, coaches and children without whom this seasons successes would not have been possible.

Finally the players should all give themselves each other a big pat on the back as they can be very proud of themselves for the way that they have played the game. Every one of you has been a credit to Tarleton and rugby. Well done you were all brilliant!!

The squad are: Megan Walker, Kimberley Oshionowo, Jake Mounfield, Kate Murphy, Marcus Lazenby, George Powell, Joseph Huyton, Matthew Sturgess, Thomas Rigby, Stephen Newlove, Ted Holborn and Harry McDonald.

Player Profiles

Megan Walker Has had a great season with the Under 7's scoring some great tries with her great turn of speed. Megan took the player of the match award for the two games against Vale of Lune where she scored 3 tries. Another highlight for Megan was scoring a hat-trick of tries in the Manchester Festival final, helping Tarleton to a 5-4 victory over Lymm.

Kimberley Oshionowo Has now had a couple of seasons of playing rugby at Tarleton and just keeps on improving. Kimberley always trains and plays the game with a big smile on her face, and has won the player of the match award. Her great strength being that she always wants to be involved whether it is in the forward or defensive aspects of the game.

Jake Mounfield Has also now had a couple of seasons at Tarleton. Jake has improved a lot from last year, and is a lot more confident when he has the ball in his hands, with some great forward runs. Jake's best performance came in the



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Manchester Festival where he scored 5 tries and was awarded the player of the tournament.

- Kate Murphy This has been Kate's first season down at Tarleton.....and what a season!! Kate began the season very quietly but what a finish. Kate's game has improved with every training session and game she has played. In the end Kate won the player of the match award for the games against Widnes where she scored 3 excellent tries, but also contributed with some excellent tagging.
- Marcus Lazenby As Marcus has only just turned 5 he has just started to train and play with the Under 7's, but this little "terrier" is definitely one to watch. During training he has done everything that was asked of him and certainly seems to enjoy British Bulldog!! During the last fixture of the season Marcus was bumped over by the opposition but just got up and went searching for the ball...brilliant.
- George Powell This was Georges first season with the Under 7's. During training George has done everything asked of him and really concentrates hard. In the games George has really improved and as his confidence has grown has become more involved in the games, with some great passing. Well done George!!
- Joseph Huyton This was Josephs second season with the under 7's with his all round play improving tremendously. He is a player that trains very well and during games he doesn't make a fuss and just gets on with it. His preference appears to be playing on the wing with many tries being scored from that position. Joseph was awarded the player of the match award for his performance against West Park.
- Matthew Sturgess Once again this is another player who was in his second season with the Under 7's. Even though Matthew had a great first season, you can already see a great improvement in his all round play. Some of his defensive tagging has been out of this world!! Matthew was awarded the player of the match award when we played Preston Grasshoppers twice and beat them on both occasions.
- Thomas Rigby Thomas was a "latecomer" to the team. He only began training with the under 7's with a few weeks of the season remaining, but how his confidence has grown!! Thomas made his debut against Widnes, and then went onto play in the local derby versus Ormskirk and finished with the Wilmslow Festival. If Thomas continues to improve at this rate he will be one to watch next season.
- Stephen Newlove He has had a terrific season scoring some great tries, followed up some brilliant tagging. Stephen is a very strong runner who takes some stopping once he gets going!! Stephen has scored several tries during the season with his best game coming against Old Risworthians when he scored four and was deservedly given the player of the match award.
- Ted Holborn and Harry McDonald are no longer playing for the under 7s.



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Match Reports

26 March 2006

Ormskirk 5 Tarleton 5

Ormskirk 1 Tarleton 8

Due to the bad weather recently, the two prior fixtures have had to be postponed, and so it was third time lucky for the children this time.

We played two great games of which the first was the best, with both teams showing great support play and some great tagging. As the game flowed from end to end there were great tries scored from the Tarleton team. In fact it was such a good team display that all five tries were scored by different players. Well done to Kimberley, Matthew, Stephen, Jake and Kate. With the game ending 5 v 5 this was a great result as both sides showed great team spirit and enthusiasm!!

In the second game Tarleton took control right from the start scoring a couple of great tries prior to Ormskirk getting one back. However the Tarleton Under 7's took a deep breath and marched on to a great victory with tries from Matthew x3, Kimberley x 2, Jake, Stephen and Megan.

A big mention has got to go to Marcus and Thomas for how well they played today. These two children were absolutely brilliant today. Each of them got hold of the ball, were not afraid to get "stuck in" and passed the ball to a team mate everytime....Well done Marcus and Thomas you were great.

The player of the match(s) was awarded to Matthew Sturgess for what can only be described as 4 breathtaking tries scored during the two games. Some of his side steps were unbelievable....Matthew show your dad how to do them mate....It's never to late to learn Jerry!!!

19 March 2006

Tarleton 4 Widnes 7

Well it had to happen sometime!!!..... The excellent run of being undefeated this season came to an end at the 20th hurdle. Prior to this game the magnificent Tarleton Under 7's had played 19 games, of which they had won 17 and drawn 2. However, there was no disgrace at all in losing to this excellent Widnes team. They were very well organized as a team, with some brilliant support play contributing to some great tries.

The Tarleton tries were scored by Ted Holborn x 2, Matthew Sturgess and Megan Walker. A big plus for Tarleton was the way that every child who played never stopped trying and the "tagging" was of a very high standard, and this was commented on by the Widnes coach. Even in defeat these children are a credit to the club and their parents.

There were a further two games played by these teams, with Widnes winning the second 8 – 6 and the third being won by Tarleton 8 – 7. In the last two matches Kate Murphy was the star of the show with three excellent tries, and she was given a well deserved player of the match award. Well done Kate!!!

26 February 2006

Tarleton 8 Waterloo 7

I think that this has to be the best game of the season.....so far!! The game had everything, great running, passing and tagging from both sides, which were a credit to their clubs.

After a great first half the scores were level at 4 – 4 with tries for Tarleton coming from Matthew Sturgess, Ted Holborn and Jake Mounfield (2). The second half of the game was again very tight with some great tagging being done by the Tarleton team especially Stephen Newlove, Kate Murphy and George Powell.



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With a further three tries being added by Jake, Megan Walker and Joseph Huyton and two replies from Waterloo, the game was evenly poised at 7 – 6. With Tarleton pressing forward a long pass from Jake found Joseph who caught the ball brilliantly and went straight for the line scoring a brilliant try. Waterloo scored in the final minute with a great solo try from one of their children. However Tarleton managed to hold out and registered another win.

The player of the match was awarded to Harry McDonald, who was very committed in the training prior to the game, and never gave up when he was on the pitch....WELL DONE HARRY!!

27 November 2005
Skipton 9 Tarleton 14
Old Risworthians 12 Tarleton 12

We set off for the "long" trip to our Yorkshire "rivals" at Skipton, but in fact the journey didn't seem to be that long, especially when you have to keep up with Dave Turnbull!!! And we were given a very warm welcome by the coaches and parents of Skipton.

We had two games on this Sunday, with the first being against the home team Skipton. Although it was a very cold morning all of the "terriers" got on with the game and seemed to enjoy it.....I think!!

The first half of the game was very close with some excellent tries being scored by both teams, especially Joseph Huyton of Tarleton who scored a couple of excellent tries down the wing.

In the second half Tarleton took control of the game with some brilliant side stepping from Jake Mounfield resulting in five tries for him. George Powell set up the best try of the game after a restart when he took the ball and ran down the wing and did a perfect pass to Stephen Newlove who went on to score a great try in the corner. It was great to see the beaming smile from Georges face! The Tarleton scorers for this game were Joseph Huyton (3) Jake Mounfield (5) Megan Walker (2) and Stephen Newlove (2).

The captain of the Tarleton senior second team Mark Powell (Who is expecting a phone call anytime now from the producers of... I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Here!!) Awarded the player of the match award to Jake Mounfield. Well-done Jake!!

In the second game of the day for the "terriers" there wasn't a great deal of tagging done, and I think we can put this down to the children's little hands being frozen!! Although I heard a lot moaning from the parents who were watching (!), and well wrapped up, gloves etc there wasn't much moaning from our children! Well done the Under 7s!

As it was so cold the game went from end to end with each team scoring with every possession that they had. The first half ended at five tries each and the teams could not be separated at all. At the start of the second half the teams again "traded" tries with each other with four brilliant tries coming from Stephen Newlove. The final score of the game was a draw at 12 – 12 with the other tries coming from Kimberly Oshinowo (1) Joseph Huyton (1) Megan Walker and Jake Mounfield (3 each).

The player of the match was awarded to Stephen Newlove in only his fourth game for the "terriers". Well-done Stephen!!

13 November 2005
Tarleton 9 Preston 4
Tarleton 7 Preston 4

We played two great games against one of our local "rivals." Both of these games were keenly contested with the "terriers" winning both games.



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In the first game both sets of players showed great tagging skills and forward play. Ted Holborn looked like he was on a "mission" and scored three excellent tries. The other tries were scored by Jake Mounfield (3) Megan Walker (2) and Matthew Sturgess (1). The final score of this game was 9 – 4 to the Tarleton Terriers.

In the second game against the "Hoppers" it was pretty much the same as the first. Tarleton dominated not only in the forward play but there was some excellent defensive tagging, especially from Stephen Newlove who was making his debut today for the Under 7s and also Kimberley Oshinowo and Kate Murphy. The great defensive platform assisted with another great victory for these BRILLIANT Under 7s, and they eventually went on to win the game 7 – 4.

David Huyton awarded the player of the match award for these two games to Matthew Sturgess for his all round performance and commitment to the team. WELL DONE MATTHEW!!!

30 October 2005

West Park 3 Tarleton 7

West Park 3 Tarleton 3

As we travelled to St Helens the clouds opened and there was a torrential downpour...and it didn't stop all morning...until the games had finished and then we had bright sunshine!!! However not one single child between the two teams moaned and just got on with it (Unlike Jerry and myself!)

The first half of the first game was very keenly contested with it ending 2-2 with the terriers tries being scored by the excellent Alex. In the second half it was a different story with Tarleton taking control with some strong forward running with two further tries from Alex Lewczenko, two from Megan Walker and one try from Joseph Wignall. West Park scored one second half try but Tarleton went on to record a very impressive 7-3 victory.

In the second game of the morning West Park took an early advantage scoring two excellent tries with Tarleton replying with a great individual try from Matthew Sturgess, leaving the score at 2-1 at half time. Then two tries from Megan Walker who out sprinted every West Park player taking Tarleton into the lead. However just at the full time whistle West Park scored a try leaving the score at 3-3.... and then the sunshine came out!!

The man of the match award for the under 7s was awarded to Joseph Huyton for his excellent tagging and all round performance. Well done Joseph!!

Match Squad: Alex Lewczenko, Martha Horton, Joseph Huyton, Jake Mounfield, Henry Lowe, Joseph Wignall, Bradley Wilde, Megan Walker, George Powell, Kate Murphy, Myles Eaglestone and Matthew Sturgess.

9 October 2005

Manchester Festival

Blackburn 4 Tarleton 5

Chester 2 Tarleton 4

Group Stage

This was the first game of the festival, which was against a very well organised and competitive team and Blackburn scored very early on with an excellent try. Tarleton came back with three first half tries, one from Jake Mounfield and two from Myles Eaglestone. The second half was an excellent advertisement for mini rugby with some excellent forward running and tagging with Tarleton coming out winners 5 tries to 4, with Megan Walker scoring the winning try.

The second game of the group stage saw Tarleton register another victory. The first half ended at one try each with Tarleton's being scored by Matthew Sturgess. In the second half Tarleton took control of the game with three great tries from Megan Walker and Matthew Sturgess, with Chester scoring one more try. This was a great victory, with some great tagging from Harry Forshaw and Kate Murphy, which put us through to the Quarter Finals.



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Warrington 3 Tarleton 5

Quarter Final

This was the Quarter Final of the festival and in front of quite a large crowd the Under 7's certainly weren't overawed by the occasion. In fact it was the total opposite with Tarleton storming to a two-try lead through Jake Mounfield and Kimberley Oshinowo, and by half time Warrington hadn't replied. The second half of the game has been named the "STURGESS" half as Matthew dominated with three excellent tries. Warrington kept going and competed with three excellent tries but it wasn't enough and Tarleton marched onto the semi finals.

Manchester 3 Tarleton 4

Semi Final

This was a tremendous performance from the Under 7's against the hosts who appeared to be quite a big team, supported by a large following, but all the children showed great confidence and enthusiasm.

A great try by Jake Mounfield where he dodged and weaved through the Manchester defence was the only Tarleton score of the first half, where Manchester led 2-1. Then came the big Tarleton fight back with two great tries from Kimberley Oshinowo and the winner from Megan Walker which appeared to shock the opposition and the Tarleton players managed to hold on for a great victory. The cheer from our children at the final whistle was so loud I can still hear it ringing in my ears now!!

Lymm 4 Tarleton 5

Final

At the end of a great day the team moved into the Manchester Stadium to play the final, which was a great experience for them.

With two very even teams competing the final Lymm started the better with an early excellent try scored down the wing. Tarleton drew level with Lymm with a great try from Megan Walker. However, Lymm continued to pressure the Tarleton terriers and they were rewarded with a try just before half time to give them a half time lead of 2 - 1.

As the second half started you could see the children start to believe in themselves, and they grew in confidence with some excellent tagging from Harry Forshaw, Myles Eaglestone and Kate Murphy, which greatly assisted the Tarleton team. Two further tries from Megan Walker and one from Matthew Sturgess left the score level at 4 - 4 as Lymm continued to move forward. However, with approximately a minute to go and constant hard work from the team they were rewarded with a well deserved try from Kimberley Oshinowo.

With the seconds being counted down every single child in this team gave every little bit of effort they could, and the final whistle was sounded, resulting in them becoming the CHAMPIONS!!

The children then climbed the steps (A bit smaller version of Wembley!) of the stand where they were presented with their medals and received a tremendous round of applause from the spectators. Jake Mounfield was awarded the player of the festival award from coach Jerry for his all round performance. However, every child deserves a mention for great enthusiasm but most of all for enjoying the game so much and playing with a smile on their faces.

*Match Squad: Megan Walker, Kimberley Oshinowo, Jake Mounfield, Harry Forshaw, Kate Murphy, Myles Eaglestone and Matthew Sturgess, **you were all ace, Well Done!***

2 October 2005

Vale of Lune 9 Tarleton 12

This was the first game of the season, and what a game it was !!!!!

Vale of Lune started the game very quickly and scored their first try within the very first seconds.



Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

Tarleton then responded with a couple of excellent tries from Megan Walker. The game which was played on quite a small pitch was end-to-end and very entertaining for all the parents watching. Four first half tries by Jake Mounfield and one each for Kimberley Oshinowo, Matthew Sturgess and Joseph Huyton left us leading at half time by 9 tries to Vale of Lune's 6.

The second half was pretty much the same as the first, with further tries from Kimberley, Jake and Joseph, which helped us to a magnificent 12 – 9 victory.

The two new members of the team Kate Murphy and George Powell both had excellent games, making some brilliant forward runs and great "tagging". As we only had 7 team members and no substitutes, every player showed great energy and commitment and were a credit to Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club.

The player of the match award for this game was given to Megan Walker for her all round performance, but a big well done to the MAGNIFICENT SEVEN.