



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

## Round Up – Season 06/07

A Round Up of Season 06/07, 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**

No Match Reports provided.



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## Second XV (The Nomads)

**3 February 2007**

**Tarleton 18 Thornton Cleveleys 3**

Tarleton Nomads returned to winning ways with a good win over visitors Thornton Cleveleys. The first half was a tight affair with few scoring opportunities.

The second half saw Tarleton come out and play a more structured game and were rewarded with their patience.

It was the visitors who claimed first blood when handed a penalty in front of the posts. The Nomads soon took the lead when after fierce pressure on the opposition's line a clever kick from Adam Wood found winger Scott Laraway who scored in the corner.

Tarleton never looked back and soon extended their lead through centre Jamie Maddock who went over in the corner. With the game under control Tarleton secured the point, first through scrum half Nick Weatherall and then an Adam Wood penalty.

This is a good performance by Tarleton Nomads. Next week sees league leaders Sale FC visit Carr Lane in what should be a tough encounter. Yellow card given to Andy Meadows.

*Scorers: Scott Laraway (try), Jamie Maddock (try), Nick Weatherall (try), Adam Wood (penalty)*

**23 December 2006**

**Tarleton 39 Fleetwood 15**

Another strong home win saw Tarleton Nomads jump to 5 in the league and knocking on the door of the promotion race. Again a couple of late try offs saw Tarleton dig deep into the reserves but the late replacements did not let their team mates down.

Scoring early on Tarleton controlled the game well and only a couple of lapses in concentration allowed the visitors to score.

**16 December 2006**

**Tarleton 21 Littleborough 16**

Tarleton got back to winning ways with a strong performance against Littleborough. Leading from the start the Nomads remained in control of the game throughout, limiting the visitors to a few clear chances.

**9 December 2006**

**Tarleton 13 Fylde 25**

A tough encounter saw Tarleton Nomads go down in a close fought game. Forced into a number of late changes Tarleton playing some excellent rugby against an experienced Fylde team who defended with grit and determination.

**2 December 2006**

**Tarleton 15 Bolton 34**

A poor performance by the Nomads saw them go down to a strong Bolton team at Carr Lane. Having lost prop I Tallo to a broken ankle early on Tarleton never managed to get out of 2nd gear and defend a well drilled mauling game.

*Scorers: S Postlewaite (tries), A Tobin (conversion and penalty)*



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## **25 November 2006** **Wigan 12 Tarleton 29**

It was back to Wigan for a second week running for another tough encounter against old rivals. Again the Nomads pace proved to be the winner.

*Scorers: N Brown (try), A Wood (2 tries), J Goulden (3 conversions), A Tobutt (penalty)*

## **18 November 2006** **Wigan 12 Tarleton 31**

### **Cup**

A trip to Wigan in the cup saw the Nomads come away with a comfortable win against a home side that do not justify their position in the league. In a fast running game, which saw a number of tough tackles the Nomads pace was the deciding factor. They now go on to play Fylde Vandals in the next round at Carr Lane.

*Scorers: I Tallo (2 tries), J Goulden (2 tries), A Tobutt (4 conversions and penalty)*

## **11 November 2006** **Littleborough 27 Tarleton 10**

A tough game in poor conditions saw the Nomads go down to a strong home team. Conceding an early try the Nomads fought back to score in the corner through Jamie Maddock. However in the second half the home side scored a number of tries to win the game.

*Scorers: Jamie Maddock (try), Andy Torbin (conversion and penalty)*

## **4 November 2006** **Tarleton 5 Kirby Lonsdale 28**

The Nomads came away from this game having given the strong visiting team a run for their money. Equalising and early try the Nomads thought they had a good chance to win the game, however some sloppy defending allowed the young visiting team the opportunity to extend their lead. From then on the Nomads were always playing catch up.

*Scorers: M Forman (try)*

## **28 October 2006** **Fleetwood 12 Tarleton 17**

Tarleton travelled up the coast for a tough encounter with Fleetwood. Despite taking an early lead the Nomads found themselves defending for much of the second half having had 2 forwards sin binned for silly offences.

*Scorers: A Meadows (2 tries), A Tobutt (2 conversions and penalty)*

## **21 October 2006** **Blackburn 18 Tarleton 5**

After scoring the first try of the game the Nomads allowed the home side back into the game conceding a number of scores.

*Scorers: Ben Fleetwood (try)*



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**14 October 2006**

**Tarleton 28 Preston Grasshoppers 5**

Tarleton played some excellent attacking rugby to record a good win over close neighbours Preston Grasshoppers at Carr Lane. Leading from the start Tarleton controlled the game scoring a number of good tries.

*Scorers: S Twist (try), J Tuson (try), M Forman (try), R Bradley (try), M Powell (4 Conversions)*

**7 October 2006**

**Thornton Clevelys 5 Tarleton 30**

Tarleton Nomads continued their winning run with a strong win on the road at Thornton Clevelys. Again the Nomads dominated in the forwards leaving the backs to again run freely at their opposite numbers.

Defending against a strong wind the Nomads defended well in the early stages before stamping their authority on the game. It was not long before Tarleton score the first try of the game when after a scrummage in their own 22 Sam Laraway broke clear to run almost the length of the pitch to score in the corner.

Tarleton continued their dominance in the forwards and soon extended their lead through a fine Ben Fletcher try. Again after another strong display of scrummaging Tarleton scored a third try through a strong Ben Dais run.

Thornton did manage to pull one try back just before half time when a clearance was blocked allowing Thornton to run in and score in the corner. Half Time Thornton Clevelys 5 Tarleton 17.

With the wind at their backs Tarleton now looked in control of the game and continued to dominate. Soon, and for the second week running, Tarleton found themselves playing uncontested scrums after an injury to the Thornton Prop. This seemed to knock a bit of the momentum out of the Nomads for the remainder of the game. Tarleton did however continue to extend their scoring through an Alan Reed try and 2 Adam Wood penalties.

This was a good win for Tarleton that lifts them out of the relegation battle and establishes them as a strong team in division 4. Next week Tarleton play host to old rivals and local neighbours Preston Grasshoppers.

Man of the Match: Sam Laraway

*Scorers: Sam Laraway (try), Ben Fleetwood (try), Ben Davis (try), Alan Reed (try), Adam Wood (2 penalties and 2 conversions)*

**30 September 2006**

**Tarleton 29 Liverpool St Helens 17**

The Nomads entertained Liverpool St Helens is what turned out to be an ill tempered affair. The strong Tarleton pack dominated the lighter oppositions and provided the backs with the opportunity to run freely at the visitors.

It did not take Tarleton long before Wee Man scored in the corner after a number of good phases of play from Tarleton. LHS soon hit back and where soon awarded a penalty in a central position which was dually scored. This gave LSH the impetus they needed and soon they score a try after a fine move across the back line. Half Time Tarleton 8 LSH 10.

The second half started with Tarleton continuing to dominate in the forwards and running freely in the backs. Soon Adam Wood continued his scoring streak when he scored after a good individual run. Ben Fleetwood extended the scoring when he drove over between the posts. LHS did manage



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to pull a try back before Andy Meadows picked up a loose ball after a defensive mix up to score under the posts.

Man of the Match: Ian Tallo

*Scorers: Wee Man (try), Ben Fleetwood (try), Adam Wood (try, penalty and conversions), Andy Meadows (try)*

## **23 September 2006**

### **North Manchester 19 Tarleton 6**

Tarleton 2nd XV travelled to North Manchester and after a positive start ended up the wrong end of the score line.

Tarleton started well and took the game to the home team and were soon rewarded when Adam Wood slotted a penalty home from in front of the posts. Tarleton continued to press forward but some poor defending allowed the home team to score a simple try. This was soon followed by a second try shortly after. Half Time North Manchester 12 Tarleton 3

With the Tarleton back line trying a number of good moves Tarleton were optimistic about getting back in to the game after Adam Wood converted a neat drop goal. However it was North Manchester who scored next when the Tarleton defence failed to clear their lines.

Man of the Match: Alan Reed

*Scorers: Adam Wood (penalty and drop goal)*

## **16 September 2006**

### **Tarleton 10 Fylde 17**

Tarleton Nomads came out on the wrong side of a tight game going down to a last minute try at the hands of visitors Fylde Vandals.

In a close game the Tarleton forwards dominated for long periods pushing their opponent's scrums back on many occasions. Tarleton took an early lead when a good move ended with Man of the Match Jamie Madden scoring in the corner. Tarleton continued to play some good rugby but failed to convert territory into points. Half Time Tarleton 5 Fylde 0

After the interval Fylde came back into the game and soon narrowed the deficit with a penalty in front of the posts after scrappy defending. Fylde then took the lead after a fine move scored a try under the posts.

Tarleton continued to press forward and with minutes remaining scored a second try through Jamie Madden to level the scores. Then with minutes to spare Fylde scored the winner after a long kick and chase resulted in a try in the corner.

Man of the Match: Jamie Madden (D of D Ian Tallo)

*Scorers: Jamie Madden (2 tries)*

## **9 September 2006**

### **Aspull 3 Tarleton 8**

Tarleton Nomads started their new campaign in division 4 with a good win over Aspull 2nd XV.

Starting a bit slowly after the long summer Tarleton soon challenged for the first score of the game but always looked one pass away from scoring. Eventually Adam Wood opened the scoring with penalty from tight angle after some good work from the pack.



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Aspull were soon on level terms when some poor defending gave away a needless penalty in front of the posts. This helped move Tarleton into a high gear and they continued to attack their opponents line. Unfortunately a try did not follow this side of half time. Half Time: Aspull 3 Tarleton 3.

After the break and a few forced changes Tarleton were a different team and dominated the play in their opponents half. The forwards kept recycling the ball with conviction time after time which allowed the backs to run freely. However Tarleton failed to convert this territory into points, partly due to some good defending from the home team.

Eventually after a number of failed attempts Tarleton scored the first try of the new campaign when Man of the Match Adam Wood broke free to score a fine try. Tarleton then defended the final 10 minutes to secure the first win in their new league.

Next week the Nomads entertain old rivals Fylde at Carr Lane in what should prove to be a classic encounter with some good flowing rugby.

Man of the Match: Adam Wood (D of D Ian Tallo)

*Scorers: Adam Wood (tries and penalties)*



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## Under 19s (Senior Colts)

**10 December 2006**  
**Tarleton 7 Dukinfield 12**

On another foul day for rugby Tarleton entertained top of the table Dukinfield at Carr Lane. The referee (travelling from Bradford!!) did not appear and so Stuart Little volunteered to show us his prowess as a stage 1 Referee - (he disagreed that 'volunteered' was the correct word to use).

Dukinfield had outplayed Tarleton at their ground in all departments and Tarleton had no illusions about the task ahead of them. The match was played in torrential rain and handling was difficult for both sides. However, it was Tarleton that exerted a lot of early pressure that, unfortunately was not turned into points. Dukinfield tried to up the pace and started to play their expansive, quick passing game which worked well for them at their own ground. However, the conditions and Tarletons' awareness of their game plan did not allow Dukinfield to take charge of the game as they had done at home. Their danger man was their full-back who, although a marked man, managed to return the ball on several occasions well into Tarletons' half.

Eventually one of his runs took Dukinfield into the Tarleton 22 and from the resultant ruck Dukinfield crashed over in the corner for the opening try.

Following this the game became scrappy with both sides kicking for position on many occasions and not actually finding touch. At half time the score remained at 7-0 and whatever was said to Tarleton at half time worked as it was a different side that came out for the 2nd. half. Dukinfield were on the back foot for the first 15 minutes of the half and this eventually led to a push over try by the forwards which was converted by Nicky caunce to level the scores. Dukinfield again upped their game and to be honest the game could have gone either way - a late unconverted try by Dukinfield took the points on the day but tarleton can take heart from the fact that this side have not lost all season and very nearly did today.

**3 December 2006**  
**Old Parkonians 10p Tarleton 10**

On an appalling day for rugby that is exactly what we got, appalling rugby!

The players have been playing long enough to know that when playing in gale force winds it is much better to play the basics correctly and cut out any expansive rugby. Despite this being mentioned we kept trying intricate back moves and, unfortunately, one of these resulted in another dropped ball and the oppositions' stand off hacked the ball on and ran the full length of the pitch to score the levelling try.

Luckily the wind was so strong that not only did their kicker miss this conversion he also missed a penalty kick minutes later that would have given them victory.

We are still not 'bossing' the rucks and mauls and when we do get ball for the backs it is either too slow or the backs try something fancy that they've worked on 10 minutes before the kick off. The place to try out new moves and to do it again and again until it is second nature, and working, is on the training pitch. If we are going to compete for the rest of the season and into the next ALL Players should attend training so that when an inside ball is called everyone knows what is meant to happen.

This was more of a point saved than 2 points lost but, depending on Rochdales' result, we have probably lost our position as 2nd. in the league with this result.

Man of the match: Will

*Scorers: Michael Wallbank (1 try), Matthew Shorrock (1 try)*



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**26 November, 2006**  
**Leigh 36 Tarleton 7**

Tarleton travelled to Leigh for this first round tie and from the start of the match it was clear that Leigh were going to give us a hard game. Their use of the ball from set plays was tremendous, a lost count of the times that the ball went across the line of Leigh backs. The outset was that Tarleton had to defend for 90% of the game in their own half - the simple equation was 3 missed tackles = 3 Leigh tries. Half way through the first half Leigh were 21 - 0 up and it looked as though it was going to be a rout.

Tarleton rallied and some big defensive hits made 1 or two of the Leigh players think twice about trying to break the game line. The defence held out for the rest of the half and Leigh's frustration at some of their own mistakes saw them start to argue with each other and give away silly penalties that kept the pressure off us.

The second half started with Tarleton applying lots of early pressure but a breakaway try by Leigh saw us go further behind but at last some of the team's hard work paid off when some good play and a good kick saw us with a line out 5 mtrs from the Leigh line. The line out was won and the ball quickly sent across the Tarleton back line - Jack (or is it Dick) Nickson came into the line at an great angle, broke through a despairing Leigh defender's tackle to score a consolation try which was converted by Nick Counce.

Leigh scored 1 final unconverted try just before the end of the game to leave the final score 36 - 7 a comprehensive victory that fell 20 points less than they should have had thanks to some brilliant defensive work from Tarleton.

The difference in class was in the 'immediacy' of the Leigh players compared to ours, they worked well as a unit and played basic rugby at pace. They also arrived at the breakdown in numbers and out rucked and out mauled us on most occasions. Their ability to get the ball away in the tackle and their support play is something our team should be looking to emulate (that means copy Nicky) and it is the way forward for our squad to move onto the next level.

Next week's match is back in the league and is away against Old Parkonians.

Man of the match: Danny

**19 November 2006**  
**Tarleton 29 Rochdale 12**

This was a match that Tarleton had to win if they were to move up into second place in the table. Apart from their defeat away at Dukinfield there only other loss was against Rochdale away (10-5) in a match that, had they been able to take a full squad, they probably should have won.

The start of the match was scrappy with the wind playing a big part in poor handling and poor defensive kicking by Rochdale. However, the pattern of the game soon evolved - Tarleton mounting wave after wave of attacks and Rochdale trying to kick out of defence against a strong wind. It looked at one point that all of Tarleton's possession would come to nothing as Rochdale's line held firm but one missed tackle gave Shorrock the opportunity to break the line and run in the first try which Nicky converted.

Rochdale realised that they had a game on and upped their work and effort to constantly gain hard yards through their forwards, Tarleton found this hard to deal with (again too many forwards standing out at the breakdown allowing Rochdale to re-cycle easily time after time) and Rochdale eventually went over to bring the scores to 7 - 5.

Tarleton's forwards started to provide some half-decent ball and this allowed Jack Nickson to run around the Rochdale defence to score the first of his two tries. With the score 17-5 it looked all



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over but Rochdale came back again with another converted try that left the scores at 17 - 12 with 13 minutes to go.

The Tarleton captain (Dave Gordon) then scored a try right out of the text book - supporting another jinking run by Jack Nickson he screamed for the ball, let it pass through his hands and let it hit his face which propelled the ball over the try line and all he had to do was fall on it to score!

Rochdale came straight back again from the kick off and tried to pen Tarleton back into their own half by kicking deep. Tarletons' final try came from Jack Nickson picking up a loose kick under his posts and running in ever increasing circles up to the oppositions 22 before flinging a pass to Richard Seddon who cruised in for the final try of the game.

This win puts Tarleton in 2nd place in the league due to a superior points difference over Rochdale.

Man of the Match: Jack Nickson

*Scorers: Matt Shorrocks (1 try), Jack Nickson (2 tries), Dave Gordon (1 try), Richard Seddon (1 try), Nicky Caunce (2 conversions)*

## **12 November 2006 Tarleton 72 Southport 17**

This was a good display from the Senior Colts, with only two of the 12 tries being breakaways the remaining 10 coming from good all round rugby. The forwards gave the backs lots of good ball and the backs used it well from the start.

Tarleton were 26 points up before Southport scored from a No.8 pickup move that should have been stopped but their player broke through 4 static tacklers before crashing over. At half time Tarleton were 45 points to 5 up and looked to be coasting but at the start of the second half Southport came back at Tarleton with a vengeance. A scrappy period of play that was dominated by Southport ended in a crash ball try in the corner and it was only a breakaway try from Matt. Shorrocks that got Tarleton back on line.

The rest of the second half was dominated by tarleton and the match ended with a final flourish that saw Tarleton run in two tries that took the margin of victory to 55 points.

WITH A HOME GAME AGAINST SECOND PLACE ROCHDALE AT HOME NEXT WEEK IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE FULL SQUAD TURN UP AND PLAY FOR EACH OTHER AS THEY DID TODAY. A victory against Rochdale will put us ahead of them on points difference and will put us into 2nd Place in the League.

*Scorers: Max Skoffik (1 try), Jack Walmsley (1 try), James ? (1 try), Jack Nickson (2 tries), Matt. Shorrocks (3 tries), Dave Gordon (1 try), Stu Smith (1 try), Bill Jones (2 tries), N.Caunce (6 conversions)*

## **5 November 2006 Tarleton 10 Alwinians 3**

Supporters expecting to see 'Fireworks' today would have been dissatisfied. The Senior Colts, although keeping up their winning run and collecting another 3 points, didn't ever seem to get going today.

Despite some good moves during the game we gave possession away cheaply on too many occasions. We didn't support each other enough at the breakdown and were turned over too easily and we also kicked the ball away too often when we should have just kept it in hand.

Despite that, we defended well and Aldwinians struggled to find a way through and on balance we deserved the win - however, the margin should have been greater.



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**22 October 2006**

**Tarleton 36 Vale of Lune 10**

This was a polished performance by the Senior Colts who excelled in all areas of the game. Defensively, apart from a penalty conceded in their own 22 and a missed tackle that allowed a Vale player to outstrip our defence the opposition could find no way through.

The general support play of the forwards improves week by week as fitness levels rise but all players need to stop drinking red bull before the game or learn to channel their energies into other directions than telling the referee where he's going wrong with his handling of the game!! There is nothing more certain than a referee getting annoyed at constant 'running commentaries' from the players and on a 50/50 decision he'll probably go against those telling him who should have the penalty/put-in etc.

Every try was the result of some good inter-play between several players, both forwards and backs and my pick would be the try scored by a forwards drive that allowed Richard Seddon to ground the ball over the try line (see photo section).

One problem that the team needs to address is around the rucks and mauls - we are not committing enough players to secure the ball on occasions and the opposition are working around the fringes and denying us quality possession that we should have secured. There is a tendency for too many forwards to stay out in the backs before we are sure that we have gained good ball.

That aside this result puts us clear in 3rd. Place and we need to keep on winning to put pressure on the two teams (as yet unbeaten but who play each other next week) above us.

**24 September 2006**

**Tarleton 39 Old Parkonians 0**

This was a polished performance with all players contributing in both attack and defence at the top level.

Tries by Shorrocks (2) Cater (1) Walmsley (1) Dootson(1) Jones (1) and Wallbank (1) plus 2 conversions by Nicky Caunce were the results of excellent team play with my personal favourite being Michael Wallbank's for terrific support play from 9 players involved in the move that brought the try.

It was pleasing to see a number of replacements available and they were well used by the coach and fresh legs brought fresh impetus to the side whenever they were sent on. Indeed, Wee Man pestered, badgered and ball-ached the coach so much that eventually he was allowed onto the pitch and almost immediately broke the game line with a 15 metre run that put Tarleton in a great position to attack and score further points.

Tarleton's discipline was tested throughout this game and only on two occasions were they 'sucked in' by the opposition which is a great improvement on past performances.

**10 September 2006**

**Dukenfield 31 Tarleton 5**

There is no doubt that on the day Dukinfield were the better team and played expansive open rugby from the start. They were not 26 points better than Tarleton but we helped them to amass their total by many incidents of indiscipline. Second Minute of the game - one of our props is sin binned for illegal use of the head.

The ref also penalised us on no less than 8 occasions for backchatting and questioning his decisions. You can't give away territory and possession against a team who are in better form than yourselves and expect to win. It was also very obvious that we need more players to turn up at



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training as our line outs were extremely poor and on a couple of attacks we were only metres from the line on our throw and missed our jumper on both attempts.

After last weeks display this was a lacklustre performance and we need to start again next week in a positive frame of mind and need to see more players at training on a Tuesday night.



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## **Under 17s (Junior Colts)**

No Match Reports provided.



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## Under 16s

22 April 2007

Vale of Lune 5 Tarleton 50

### Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup Final

Fifty points to five is a brilliant result for the Tarleton boys, Vale though are not a team who deserve to lose by as great a margin, you can't be a bad team to reach the final for four years after all. Vale appeared shocked after the game and disappointed by their own performance, the fact of the matter is this performance from Tarleton had been brewing all season, bushy and his boys timing it to perfection to put in a performance that blew Vale away in the first ten minutes virtually putting the game out of reach. Vale though never gave up and all credit has to be given to Hesketh and his team.

Straight from the kick off by Vale it looked for a couple of seconds as though this was going to be the season's norm with our boys grafting away but making occasional basic errors. As the ball fumbled its way to Bushell the ensuing kick and chase was a fairy tale come true as the flying Tarleton backs won the ball and quick hands saw Andrew Fishwick making the final pass to bushy to open the scoring, barely one minute on the clock. Bush adding the two points. No one could have guessed what was coming up after the restart Tarleton winning ball and another towering kick from Bushell and more pressure on Vale all the Tarleton backs involved again this time though it was Prop Tom Potter claiming the points. Tom shortly afterwards having to leave the pitch with the recurrence of a ham string injury that has blighted his season, Tom summed his game up as "went on scored came off". Potter though had done far more than this as facing him in the scrum was Lancashire and North of England prop Stuart Hesketh, Potter, Darren Boswarva and Tom Ball all giving a good account of themselves against a far heavier Vale pack. A front row reshuffle saw Oliver Ashley take up his usual hooker position.

The Tarleton onslaught continued at pace with more fantastic handling by the Tarleton backs supplied with quick ball from James Smith at scrum half, Alex Roebuck making the pass to Andrew Fishwick who outpaced Vale to the corner sealing Vales fate. More points had now been scored than the total from both teams in any final over the last three years! and still barely ten minutes played. Tarleton may not have had an edge at the scrum though at the line out they were awesome the amount of ball Stan Stock and Rob Bramhall secured (and stole) was just amazing.

The game now slowed a little, Vale defending well, eventually Sean Murphy with a darting run down the wing to add another five points and really twist the knife into Vale. Bushy deciding though he wanted more and another try for Bushy placing the ball to give him a comfortable conversion. At some point in all this second row Sam Marsh almost scored just being toppled short of the line, a score for Marshy in the final would have rounded his season of nicely. Suddenly the tables turned a few errors by Tarleton allowing Vale a period of possession which Tarleton defended as though their lives depended on it, the pressure was sustained by Vale for about five minutes, everyone waiting for the half time whistle which appeared as though it was not going to happen. The back row of Johnny Edwards, Stan Stock and Archie Skofic who had performed brilliantly all game in both loose play and the set piece worked their socks off to hold Vale, Sean Murphy putting in a brave tackle when he spotted the gap on the blind side, still Vale battered away until Stuart Hesketh battered through to Vales delight.

The half time reshuffle allowed most of the squad a chance for a run out Adam Peacock at full back leaving the pitch after putting in an excellent performance, Phil Charters resumed service at scrum half linking well with his fly half and making useful darting breaks. Archie Skofic decided he had secured enough ball for the team making his trademark breaks from the ruck or maul to score two well deserved tries. It was then down to Sean Taylor to give the crowd something to cheer at as he broke through to score Tarletons eighth try of the day.

An end to the boys Junior rugby careers! A worthy note is the fact that when the team originally formed as six year olds, five of them are listed in this squad and only one was unlucky to not get a



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game.

As the awards were presented special mention was made of several Tarleton players all the team though deserve praise for a splendid performance and a well deserved winner of the man of the match award Andrew Bushell.

A brilliant end to another fantastic day of junior rugby, thanks have to be given to all involved not only on the day but through the season. Paul Moran and his Blackpool assistants put on a great day for all "I hold up my hand when I say I was one of the doubters about Blackpool holding the final". They may not have the facilities of many clubs and you cant get the same atmosphere in a ground that is not enclosed, Blackpool though have something else "a warm and friendly welcome" Thanks also to Keith Mellalieu and all at Lancashire, the officials and many thanks to Enterprise Finance Europe for there sponsorship over the years.

Before this turns into one of these award ceremonies where everyone gets a thank you, thanks to Steve Wood for coaching the boys, Mick Frankland for his excellent first aid skills when required, Jon & Pat Skofic and boys for the barbecue afterwards and especially all from Tarleton rugby club who came along to support the under 16s on the day. Now lets see some support for the seniors at Fylde on Bank holiday Monday the seventh of May.

Squad: Forwards - Oliver Ashley, Tom Ball, Darren Boswarva, Rob Bramhall, Jonathan Edwards, Tom Frankland, Sam Marsh, Tom Potter, Nick Robinson, Oliver Forbes Shaw (Replacement for Injured Sam Wareing), Archie Skofic, Matthew Smith, Stan Stock. Backs - James Blackett, Andrew Bushell, Phil Charters, Matthew Davies, James Fay, Andrew Fishwick, Sean Murphy, Adam Peacock, Alexander Zavallis Roebuck, James Smith, Sam Stanfield, Sean Taylor.

*Scorers: Andrew Bushell (2 tries and 5 conversions), Tom Potter (1 try), Andrew Fishwick (1 try), Sean Murphy (1 try), Sean Taylor (1 try) Archie Skofic (2 tries).*

Referee: Mr Kevin Warwick

## **25 March 2007 Hull Ionians 22 Tarleton 12**

A trip east in West Lancashire junior rugby terms usually involves a visit to a club such as Rochdale, for the under 16s a visit to the exotic far east had been planned no less than a trip to Hull!

Hull Ionians visited Carr Lane in January 06 and went away winners, it was going to be interesting on the rematch. Ionians are a club blessed with superb facilities and pitches as well as a truly friendly and knowledgeable group of supporters and coaches, well worth a visit if you can afford the travelling time.

For once firm pitches and sunshine gave the promise of a fast running game, the players on both sides though had other ideas as a midfield forwards battle commenced. The first half saw Ionians utilising the stiff breeze to full affect keeping Tarleton penned in there own half. The Ionians pressure soon told as they dived over in the corner from short range, conversion missed. Tarleton wing James Fay was putting in and receiving some tremendous tackles. Tarleton still struggled to make headway and refused to utilise players wide, instead insisting on trying to force play down the same channel, something the Ionians coaches and supporters soon commented upon. The amount of spilled ball by Tarleton ensured that any progress was soon halted likewise the reluctance to chase any kicks allowed Ionians the chance to counter. Ionians scored a further two tries in the first half all conversions missed to give them a fifteen nil lead at half time.

The start of the second half saw a different Tarleton team emerge showing more confidence though still failing to utilise the full team. Tarleton captain Andrew Fishwick leading by example and covering every blade of grass on the pitch, likewise Jonathan Edwards putting in some crunching tackles, in one incidence when Johnny was receiving the ball from a kick his opposite number put



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what Ionians supporters thought was a brilliant hit on Johnny, as they all cheered Johnny remained standing unscathed as the Ionians player crumpled to the floor, a quick squirt of water and the player thankfully ok. The backs now started to be slightly more involved in attacking play Sean Murphy cutting a fantastic line in midfield beating the majority of the defence before being pulled down. A break by Johnny Edwards had the Tarleton supporters cheering as he made good yards, yet more ferocious tackling saw Johnny cut down.

Tarleton now started to apply greater pressure as Ionians were trapped on there line. A penalty to Tarleton on five metres allowed Andrew Fishwick to collect at speed (and collect another black eye) crossing the line, to be deemed held up by the official. I have it on good authority from supporters near the line that the ball was grounded and then a hand placed under while the official was unsighted on the wrong side of the ruck, (it's only sour grapes!) officials like all of us are only human and Mr Harold Bloomfield had a good game allowing the game to flow, the Tarleton players should have made it more certain!! as Darren Boswarva ensured as he opened Tarleton's scoring, the conversion missed. Darren was soon involved again charging down a kick to allow Stan Stock to collect the loose ball and run in virtually unchallenged to score under the posts, Sean Taylor adding the two. It now started to look like a possible turn around though a spell of sloppy tackling allowed Ionians to run in a try from long range that should have been read by the defence.

A win to Ionians and a good game played in the true spirit by both sides many thanks to all at Hull Ionians for welcoming Tarleton to the far east!

*Scorers: Darren Boswarva (1 try), Stan Stock (1 try), Sean Taylor (1 Conversions)*

Referee: Mr Harold Bloomfield

**18 March 2007**  
**Leigh 6 Tarleton 31**

## **Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup**

In at times arctic conditions "at least it was better than the same fixture last year" Leigh took this semi final to the defending champions, Tarleton unable to break out of there own half, when Tarleton won the ball basic handling errors!! soon saw the ball back in Leigh hands. The Tarleton pack all deserve special praise for there performance today both for defensive and attacking work, Tom Ball, Olliver Ashley (replaced in second half by Tom Frankland) Tom Potter, Rob Bramhall, Sam Wareing (replaced in second half by Sam Marsh) Stan Stock, Archie Skofic and Jonathan "watch my step" Edwards all standing upto a very physical challenge, putting in some crunching tackles and never taking a step backwards. Likewise the half back pairing James Smith and Andrew Bushell involved in the thick of it both in defence and attack. All credit to Tarleton as they soaked up the Leigh pressure. Leigh were the more willing side to involve the backs in the first half, The Tarleton backs for long periods standing around shivering. Though when the chance came the Tarleton backs well up to the challenge. All the Leigh possession only leading to three points Leigh obviously happy to take the lead. A rare Tarleton spell of possession soon had Tarleton threatening Stan Stock rounding of the move Andrew Bushell with the conversion. It was obviously a flankers game as Archie Skofic back to full fitness (we hope!) scoring the first of his two. Leigh replying with a penalty. Half time Tarleton with a six point lead.

At the restart Leigh took the game to Tarleton though this time some of the edge had gone of Leigh's game and Archie Skofic soon took the game out of Leigh's reach, once again bushy on target. To really secure a place in the final James Smith scoring, the strong wind holding bushys kick out. Andrew Bushell "icing the cake" as he crossed for a well deserved try, rounding of the day by converting his own try as the final whistle blew and the sun came out.

Once again these boys are in the final to be held this year at "sunny" Blackpool there opposition to be once again Vale of Lune making it into the final for what has become an annual fixture! Not bad for either club four finals out of four with the honours to Tarleton at two to one. Last years final was a brilliant day at Hoppers (not only because we won) it was just a fantastic display of junior



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rugby well organised and supported. If anyone wants to watch junior rugby at its very best get yourself to Blackpool RUFC on the 22nd April, oh and by the way cheer on TARLETON.

**4 March 2007**

**Tarleton 29 West Park 3**

## **Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup**

Called super Sunday this was going to be a day to remember at Tarleton with the 13s and 16s playing in the cup and 14s and 15s in the vase all with home fixtures. Though the weather did its worse to dampen the spirits and blow away the gazebos, overall the day was a success.

Unfortunately for the 13s they were the only side to lose. If any of our other age groups need motivation a look at the disappointment shown on the faces of the 13s players and coaches would spur them on to success. On the brighter side the 13s have three more years to bring junior silver ware to Tarleton, let us all hope they do it!

The defending champions have been winning of late, though not with outstanding performances the dreadful conditions today were not going to help matters though when the backs became involved there were signs of the flames at last coming to light. Tarleton playing into the wind literally clawed there way upfield then proceeded to lay siege to the west park line. Tarleton errors repeatedly allowed West park to relieve the pressure with huge downfield kicks. Bushy not given the same luxury as the wind literally drove his kicks backwards. Archie Skofic making his usual breaks supported by the "battering ram" they call Rob Bramhall. When you look at Rob he doesn't look a very physical player though defences throughout the land (and in South Africa) have born the brunt of his direct physical drives. Tarleton applied pressure to the West park line and could have possibly opened the scoring sooner had a little more vision been shown, at one point a six to one overlap but still the ball didn't come out.

West Park held out for a good fifteen minutes before prop turned flanker Darren Boswarva dived over. The wind stalling Bushys kick in mid air. A west park penalty just inside the Tarleton half was easily slotted over with the wind assistance, West park now back in the game. The restart kept low by bushy and well chased by Sean Murphy. The resultant knock on allowing Tarleton to apply further pressure. This time wing Andrew Fishwick diving over from close range, soon followed by the man who went years without scoring a try and now has a taste for it Sam Marsh.

Hooker Ollie Ashley having to leave the pitch for a blood injury was manfully replaced by Tom Ball who appears able to adapt to any of the front row positions. Half time Tarleton lead seventeen to three. After the break the signs looked as though Tarleton could have been on for a try fest a cracking move involving quick hands and fantastic running at pace by all involved saw the ball move quickly between Sean Taylor, bushy, Andrew Fishwick before Matthew Smith "chippy" collected at speed to Finnish of a syntillating move.

West Park could easily have dropped there heads though the motivation between these lads to not give in was incredible, the odds were heavily stacked against them with tarleton now running in the backs and West park having to play into the wind not to mention being nineteen points down. Though the defence was soon breached this time by bushy converting his own try West Park valiantly held Tarleton out for the remaining twenty minutes without conceding further points.

All credit to all the Tarleton lads, playing minus several key players and then Archie Skofic, Adam Peacock leaving the field at half time with injures all the Tarleton team rolled up there sleeves and got stuck in. If this work ethic can be brought together with the flair that was at times shown who knows what can be achieved?

*Scorers: Darren Boswarva (1 try), Andrew Fishwick (1 try), Sam Marsh (1 try), Matthew Smith "chippy" (1 try), Andrew Bushell (1 try and 2 conversions) Conversions Andrew Bushell 2.*

Referee: Mr Gary Spengler



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

**25 February 2007**  
**Lymm 0 Tarleton 19**

This hastily rescheduled match was to be played on one of Lymms additional pitches. To say it was a little soft would be an understatement. However the conditions are the same for both teams and the winner of this game was likely to be the team that adapted best. Lymm proved a challenge for Tarleton who once again appeared afraid to use the backs. The first ten minutes of the match were overshadowed by the eerie silence both on and of the pitch, no communication between the Tarleton lads! All credit is deserved by a Lymm side that had very little ball in the first half mainly containing Tarleton to midfield positions without getting the opportunity to counter themselves. At half time the game was still wide open a single slip up could give either side the match.

After the turn around the changes to Tarleton allowed the centres to become more involved. Scrum Half Phil Charters spinning the ball out to involve more of the team wing James Blacket even getting a run and showing what a useful step he has. It wasn't long before the pressure told the Tarleton pack driving for the line Prop Nick Robinson who only came on in the second half powering over the line for what I think may be his first club try. All credit to Lymm who still put up a solid defence when the flood gates could easily have opened. It was up to second row Rob Bramhall to score Tarletons second, the way the lads have been playing of late Rob will possibly be on his way to leading try scorer at the present time. The best try though was the last the ball passing through several hands before finding Andrew Bushell who picked up on Sean Taylor at speed for the final try.

Many thanks to Lymm for a fine game and special thanks to referee Mr Steve Fox who allowed the game to flow in the poor conditions.

*Scorers: Nick Robinson (1 try), Rob Bramhall (1 try), Sean Taylor (1 try), Andrew Bushell (2 conversions)*

Referee: Mr Steve Fox

**11 February 2007**  
**Tarleton 0 Mold 30\***

Half term fixtures are always a challenge in ensuring a full squad and this was no different with a significant proportion of the squad otherwise engaged – mostly skiing it would seem! Nonetheless a squad of 19 walked out on a bright breezy but mild February morning to face the crack Welsh team of Mold. Several changes of position were needed so a few of the home team players got a chance to play in unfamiliar roles.

From the outset it was clear that the Welsh dragons were breathing fire and were up for the game as they took play into the Tarleton 22 from the kick off. A well disciplined Mold pack dominated the scrum and were relentless in their pressure on our forwards.

The home team were determined though and held out for 15 minutes before two quick tries from the opponents set the tone for the rest of the game. The strong crosswind made conversions and penalties difficult to come by and played havoc with the full backs as balls were lofted high and were carried on the wind.

Big Sam Marsh was an inspiration to the home team always running back to re-starts and demanding more from his fellow forwards. The home team battled determinedly throughout as the visitors clocked up more tries. Darren Boswarva put in a crunching tackle from a restart to let the Welsh team know that they still had a game on their hands and as always Sean Murphy was lightning quick on the wing and Johnny Edwards fierce some in the ruck and maul. Other notable players were Stan Stock thrown high in the line out and Sam Stanfield who ran deep from his full back position into the line to keep taking the game back to Mold.

At the final whistle both teams will know that they have played a tough game and perhaps the



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score somewhat flatters the visitors. Let's not forget though that it's the tough games like these that players learn most from – well done lads.

**4 February 2007**

**Liverpool Collegiate 0 Tarleton 14**

## **Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup**

The build up to this game did not disappoint on a beautiful winters day the game would have been worthy of any cup final as the group leaders battled it out. The Tarleton concern had always been the Collegiate backs so the game plan was to keep tight in the forwards, though on the few occasions that the collegiate back line attacked the Tarleton backs were up to the task. Once again though Tarleton without Alex Roebuck who is out with a long term injury, we all look forward to seeing Alex back in action. Also missing was Sam Wareing having to sit out after a concussion against Oldham.

The game was a very stop/start affair with Tarleton soon coming close to opening the scoring from a line out well put in by Ollie Ashley Stan Stock just being held out. As the action moved across the pitch more Tarleton forward pressure put to bear as the forwards took it in turn to hammer the Collegiate defence. Rob Bramhall and Johnny Edwards both coming close on several occasions before Rob finally crossed for Tarleton. Andrew Bushell adding the conversion. Archie Skofic after charging down a Collegiate clearance with his nose looked like he may have had to leave the pitch, Archie has always been made of stern stuff and soon recovered. If he had followed it up he would have scored!! The rest of the half consisted of more Tarleton pressure from the forwards the backs only occasionally getting a run, Collegiate though did not yield and were resolute in defence.

After the turn around wing Sean Murphy decided it was time the backs became more involved with a good kick and chase also making good ground James Smith set of on a dazzling run that got the good sized crowd of Tarleton and neutral supporters cheering. As the game proved so tight it was a difficult decision to change the team in any way, the lads who failed to get a game should remember they are a vital part of the squad no matter how frustrated they become. Always involved in the action the Tarleton pack all did themselves proud. Tom Ball and Sam Marsh two of whom get very few mentions in reports though are always there to be relied upon. The game still hung in the balance with just the one try and Collegiate always looking for a chance to counter.

A series of scrums, line outs free kicks, etc. allowed Tarleton to maintain pressure on the Collegiate line a good combination of forwards and backs interchanging saw wing Andrew Fishwick picking up from the ruck and diving for the line the quick ball out to Andrew Bushell allowed Rob Bramhall to force his way over for his second. Bushy once again adding the two, game over for a Collegiate side who I think will do well in the cup this year.

Many thanks to Kevin Banks and his helpers at Collegiate for there hospitality.

*Scorers: Rob Bramhall (2 tries), Andrew Bushell (2 conversions)*

**28 January 2007**

**Oldham 19 Tarleton 28**

The opening comment of the day was to Andrew Fishwick from the Oldham coaches and players who could not believe he was not playing for Lancashire against Wales, as they say one teams loss is another gain. Tarleton elected to play into the wind which allowed Oldham to make good yards with every kick. The Tarleton pack struggled at the scrum though once again Ollie Ashley and his props Olliver Forbes Shaw and I can't remember!! who was the other prop doing brilliant work to win ball against the head. Oldham showed good ambition and were soon in a 12 point lead. This though fired up the boys Sean Murphy scoring just before half time.

In the second half scrum half Phil Charters provided quick ball for the backs to unleash some cracking moves, a combination between Adam Peacock, Sean Taylor and Andrew Fishwick saw Andrew cross the line unable to get the ball down, somehow Sam Marsh grabbing the ball and



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scoring. A well deserved try for Sam who is captain when the Lancashire lads are away and put in a true captain's performance in the second half leading by example. A true team performance was then put on by Tarleton. Stan Stock and Rob Bramhall combining well in the loose. Andrew Fishwick running in two tries to seal the game for Tarleton, Oldham scoring once more.

*Scorers: Sean Murphy (1 try), Andrew Fishwick (2 tries), Sam Marsh (1 try), Sean Taylor (2 Conversions), Adam Peacock (1 Conversion)*

**21 January 2007**

**Tarleton 30\* Widnes 0**

A rerun of a cracking early cup round was on the books, Widnes though suffering with the long term absence of Paul Mclinden who boot applied pressure to Tarleton in the cup game. The Tarleton breeze was always going to be a factor in this game as the backs struggled to pass the ball into the wind. Archie Skofic breaking away from the maul as only he can offloading to deceptive wing Sean Murphy to score. The highlight of the game soon followed as Andrew Bushell's conversion from out wide was judged to perfection almost stopping in mid air such was the wind strength before just nudging over the bar. Tarleton's second try came from Adam Peacock and must be something of a record for Adam sprinting in from around 30 mtrs to score. Flanker Stan Stock then deciding anything Archie can do he can emulate running in a fine solo effort. The second half saw Tarleton kept the ball tight, marked man Johnny Edwards running in two tries. Alex Roebuck picking up loose ball in his own half to seal the game for Tarleton.

Widnes sportingly allowed a development session to be played unfortunately the widnes centre suffering an early injury, no problem though as Tarleton had plenty of spare backs available, for some reason though England under 16s hopeful Johnny Edwards was pushed forward and given a widnes shirt. The first move of the session with Tarleton applying pressure Johnny knocked on right into the hands of Darren Boswarva who dived over much to the delight of Tarleton and the "light hearted" though good natured Widnes groans. Darren went on to score again and Widnes pulled a well deserved try back.

*Scorers: Sean Murphy (1 try), Adam Peacock (1 try), Stan Stock (1 try), Alex Roebuck (1 try), Jonathan Edwards (2 tries), Andrew Bushell (3 conversions)*

**14 January 2007**

**Wetherby 29 Tarleton 15**

I may have complained about other weather conditions but the cold at Wetherby was something else, so bad my notes were basically not decipherable. The first half saw Tarleton making very little headway and struggling in the scrum. The Yorkshire rules for engagement obviously different to the ones in the Red Rose county. Lancashire prop Darren Boswarva moving from flanker to prop eventually managing to hold the Wetherby front row. Tarleton though still failed to win a single scrum. Obviously starved of ball the Tarleton backs spent most of the game tackling. At the turnaround wetherby held a 12 point lead.

The second half saw Tarleton come alive and start attacking Sean Murphy making an instant impression after sitting out the first half his first run making 50mtrs. Another Sean Break with Sean Taylor in support allowed Alex Roebuck to score the first of his three tries that allowed Tarleton back in the game. Next it was Andrew Fishwick supplying quick hands for Alex's second. Alex scoring his final try with a good solo effort. A good turnaround was spoilt by Tarleton allowing wetherby back into the game, though the game has shown what this team can do when the backs are brought into play.

*Scorers: Alex Roebuck (3 tries)*



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## **17 December 2006** **Tarleton 7 Rhyl 15**

An unfortunate late kick off saw Tarleton having to lose players no sooner had the game got underway. Overall a fairly even game with both sides having a share of possession. Rhyl though showing a flair and determination that has been missing from the Tarleton game. Tarleton had to soak up a fair amount of pressure and the Rhyl tries were not given up easily. The Tarleton try coming from a kick and chase by that "potential prop" Alex Roebuck. A slightly better period of Tarleton play when they decided to play as a team. Overall a disappointing result for the lads.

*Scorers: Alex Roebuck (1 try), Sean Taylor (1 conversion)*

## **10 December 2006** **Heaton Moor 0 Tarleton 30\***

Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup

A desperately cold and wet day when a good bacon sandwich and brew would have been ideal the locals though warning us of the high costs of a brew and butty, so it was back to the flask. Tarleton soon opened the scoring Andrew Fishwick taking in the crash ball and offloading in the tackle allowing Sean Taylor to finish off the move. Tarleton tried to play an expansive game though cold hands and strong winds led to many mistakes, which in turn allowed the backs to become even colder as the forwards warmed up nicely in a steaming scrum. Centre of the steaming scrum was Ollie Ashley once again having a field day against his opponent. On the occasions Tarleton got the ball out Sean Murphy was set loose eventually crossing for the first of his hat trick. Then followed a brilliant try by Sean Taylor penetrating Heaton defence with a angled run.

Half time saw Tarleton with a 19 point lead, in the second half the flood gates opened and Heaton's valiant first half efforts with a weakened side were soon forgotten. After Sean Murphy finished of his hat trick Andrew Fishwick joined in the scoring. Alex Roebuck working his way through the positions from full back, wing/centre etc now found himself playing flanker obviously on his way to his favoured position of prop!. Alex found himself in a football match kicking and winning the chase to score and then at the other end chasing down a Heaton attack to prevent Heaton scoring. Centre Adam Peacock adding his name and James Smith adding his second after a 5 mtr scrum with Heaton attempting a clearance kick James charging down to finish the match.

*Scorers: Sean Murphy (3 tries), Sean Taylor (2 tries), Andrew Fishwick (1 try), Adam Peacock (1 try), Alex Roebuck (1 try), James Smith (2 tries), Andrew Bushell (6 conversions)*

## **26 November 2006** **Vale of Lune 8 Tarleton 14**

A match against Vale is always one to cherish and in 8 years of watching "the boys" play this was one of the most entertaining game I have seen – and there have been many great games over that time. Of course a win always help to!

With a much reduced squad – only 17 – it was left to the backbone of the under 16s to "step up to the plate" and be counted, they all did just that on a day of sunshine and showers.

From the Vale kick off the pressure was on Tarleton for the first 10 minutes as they defended deep in their own 22. The backs resisted the initial onslaught and gave the pack several opportunities to break out. Finally however the Vale pack forced their way over the line for the first try of the game which they failed to convert.

This seemed to spur "the boys" on as Sam Waring fought "tiger" like in the pack and Bram punched like a torpedo through the defence. James Fay made several tremendous runs down the wing only to be tackled by a very able Vale full back. Phil Charters had a cracking game at number 9 as usual always organising the pack, darting out of trouble and getting stuck in amongst all those boots.



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Eventual man of the match Sam Stanfield broke numerous tackles on his way through the Vale pack from his deep full back position while winger Sean Murphy – always lightening fast and aggressive - threatened on several occasions. Yet it was James Blackett who made the breakthrough to touch down for a well earned try, efficiently converted by Adam Peacock's trusty left foot.

Enthusiasm from "the boys" perhaps led to some unforced errors and allowed Vale to take advantage with 3 points from a unclear penalty decision. The away team also suffered the psychological blow of an apparently straightforward touch down being disallowed which both teams seemed rather bemused. Half time saw a score of 8 – 7.

Vale were able to bring on 5 pairs of fresh legs early in the second half but Tarleton were very much up for this game. Sam Stanfield made numerous darting runs forcing a penalty which very nearly resulted in "the boys" taking the lead. This scenario was repeated 5 minutes later but the Terriers did not drop their heads. This squad played disciplined, tactical and flowing rugby, with well formed rucks and quick ball down the line.

Such play resulted in a well deserved try, scored by Adam Peacock, set up by Sam Stanfield and Sean Murphy and converted by Sean Taylor.

A fantastic game by both sides with the Terriers coming out well deserved winners. Tomorrow morning both squads will know that they had played in a tough game but all concerned will remember this game as a classic.

Referee: Peter Harrison

*Scorers: James Blackett (1 try), Adam peacock (1 try & 1 conversion), Sean Taylor (1 conversion)*

**12 November 2006**  
**Preston 0 Tarleton 30\***

After a well observed minutes silence for remembrance day Tarleton attacked from the outset Johnny Edwards going over early on Andrew Bushell adding the two. Tarleton always had the upper hand though hoppers never gave in and soaked up considerable pressure before the Tarleton midfield pressure from Alex Roebuck and Sean Taylor told, Alex crossing for two tries in quick succession. Alex and Sean supplied with good distribution from Bushy controlled hoppers comfortably and though a good score was on the cards Tarleton failed to impress with many handling errors, a great deal of side ways running and more than a smattering of white line fever!! All the while hoppers battling and never giving up. Further tries came from Stan Stock charging down a hoppers kick and diving over. A scrum to hoppers on the 5mtr line allowed the Tarleton pack to drive Ollie Ashley winning the battle of the hookers allowing James Smith to score.

More midfield magic from messrs Bushell, Roebuck and Taylor allowing Sean Taylor in under the posts. The backs supplied with ball from the hard working forwards, Archie Skofic and Sam Wareing winning more than there share of loose ball. Eventually the ball found its way out to a Tarleton wing Andrew Fishwick having a run to score.

The second half saw hoppers raise the game somewhat helped by the many Tarleton substitutions - hoppers doing a far better job of containing the midfield. Tarleton ran in two more tries against a hoppers side doing well not to become disillusioned, Bushy charging through for a try off a great ball from Phil Charters and Archie Skofic rounding off the day. A late penalty to Tarleton allowed Bushy to add insult to injury putting a further three points on the board.

*Scorers: Alexander Zavallis Roebuck (2 tries), Jonathan Edwards (1 try), Stan Stock (1 try), James Smith (1 try), Sean Taylor (1 try), Andrew Fishwick (1 try), Andrew Bushell (1 try), Archie Skofic (1 try) Andrew Bushell (5 conversions and 1 penalty)*



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Referee: Mr Chris Johnson

**22 October 2006**  
**Fleetwood 0 Tarleton 30\***

On a cold wet totally miserable Sunday morning Tarleton eventually turned on a display to warm the hearts, if not the extremities. The first ten minutes saw Tarleton take an early lead with ominous signs for Fleetwood as Chippy crossed in the corner showing power and determination. At the restart the Tarleton forwards secured good ball allowing the half backs to quickly put the ball out to Sean Taylor who with a perfectly timed pass put Andrew Fishwick into space showing his pace and stamina from in his own half, to score under the posts. The rest of the Tarleton team must have had total confidence in Andrew scoring as no players appeared in support! Andrew Bushell neatly adding the extra two, giving Tarleton a twelve point advantage.

For the rest of the first half Tarleton allowed Fleetwood to take control. Though Fleetwood failed to threaten the Tarleton line it looked as though the game could go either way. Tarleton appearing happy to contain Fleetwood in midfield, both sides making errors in the worsening conditions as Tarleton appeared to fall asleep.

The second half saw Tarleton making changes one of which was caused by injury to prop Tom Potter. Also joining the team Sean Murphy who with his first touch of the ball made a good fifty metres catching Fleetwood out with his deceptive pace. As well as the changes Tarleton appeared fired up at last and put on (especially considering the conditions) a fast running game of rugby, the forwards securing the ball and driving forward setting the ball up to release the backs. The second row pairing of Rob Bramhal and Sam Wareing combining well in the loose as well as at the set piece. Andrew Bushell making good use of all this possession allowed the backs to put on a fantastic handling display, first to score Liam Clark on the wing going over, bushy adding the two. Nucleus of this fast ball was scrum half Phil Charters having a stormer of a game once again. Passing the ball either direction, making darting runs himself and as always ferreting the ball out quickly. Phil was definitely my choice for man of the match and most others appeared to agree.

Rob Bramhal after battering away at Fleetwood forwards had the luxury of a penalty allowing him to power through the Fleetwood pack to score. The Tarleton lads now put in a real team display forwards and backs combining well, all being fed quick ball by Phil Charters, Alex Mcay at number eight being stopped just short on numerous occasions breaking away from the scrum. The remaining tries came courtesy of Andrew Fishwick relishing the amount of ball provided by his team mates crashing through for number two. The third from a bushy kick allowing Andrew to chase and showing his football skills to kick the ball forward before diving onto the ball in a shower of spray. A satisfying display of Tarleton team work and many thanks to Fleetwood for arranging this fixture with little notice.

Scorers: Chippy (1 try), Liam Clark (1 try), Rob Bramhall (1 try), Andrew Fishwick (3 tries), Andrew Bushell (3 conversions).

**15 October 2006**  
**Widnes 7 Tarleton 12**

## **Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup**

Two evenly matched teams turned out on a grey day at Widnes to provide a true cliff hanger of a game, either side capable of taking the points. The champions though had the greater amount of ball in the first half, failing to turn possession into points. Sean Murphy as always making his runs down the wing the Widnes backs though also had pace and managing to intercept Sean. There were many fine individual performances from Tarleton both amongst the backs and forwards, though team play appeared a distant memory in the first half. Widnes provided a solid defence and always looked dangerous when counter attacking, if points were scored as in a boxing match though Tarleton held the lead.



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Nearly on half time as Tarleton kept applying the pressure Jonathan Edwards collected from the back of a ruck to dive over for the first points. At the restart the pressure all came from Widnes, it was a relieved Tarleton squad when the half time whistle came.

The half time talk from coaches Mick and Steve obviously having the desired affect as the Tarleton pack took the game to Widnes Sam Wareing, Tom Ball and Tom Potter all combining well to take the ball fifty metres. A quick counterattack from Widnes caught Tarleton out if not for the last ditch tackle of full back Sam Stanfield it was try time for Widnes. Tarleton continued to break through, quite often with no support, prop Tom Potter and centre Andrew Fishwick both being the case and left with no option than to hang on to the ball.

Hooker Ollie Ashley made a superb throw at the line (at least that's what his Mum and Dad said!!) for Tarleton to win the ball scrum half Phil Charters giving quick ball to Alex Roebuck who set of on a run that mystified Widnes, brilliantly timing his pass to Sean Taylor who still with players to beat crossed the line. Alex Roebuck making the conversion with a ball buried so deep it was as though only the top was visible.

Tarleton looked poised to finish Widnes of and kept the pressure on Widnes, a well timed interception had the Widnes centre away from his own half, with no one to beat the Widnes support must have thought he was in, tracking him though from the other side of the pitch with an enormous amount of ground to cover was Andrew Fishwick, catching the Widnes centre and taking him into touch two metres from the try line. This move saw Widnes raise there game and piled on the pressure crossing the line for thier only try with about four minutes to go. Paul Mclindon making the conversion.

All praise to both teams for a very highly charged game, Paul Mclindon making a point after the game to thank the Tarleton coaches and passing his thanks on to the Tarleton team well done Paul.

Referee: Mr B Cragg.

*Scorers: Jonathan Edwards (1 try), Sean Taylor (1 try), Alex Roebuck (1 conversion)*

**8 October 2006**

**Blackpool 0 Tarleton 30\***

Unusually mild autumn weather – with bright sunshine and warm winds saw a much smaller squad of Tarleton under 16s line up against Blackpool for this away fixture. Some 15 members of the squad were unavailalbe for this game owing to a number of injuries and county commitments, although Andrew Bushell still made himself available despite a bruising from earlier games in the week.

With a moderate cross wind Blackpool kicked off with a hanging ball that was pounced on by the Tarleton forwards who immediately took the game to the opposition. Many of the Tarleton team were playing in unfamiliar and in the first 5 minutes this showed as several moves broke down. This led to the Blackpool skipper letting out a cry of “come on lads the're not as good as we thought they were!”

This was a bad call and acted as a spur to the Terriers who immediately responded with a series of tries led by winger Sean Murphy with his lightening pace and full on power. Sean went on to score 3 more tries and even entertained the crowd in the second half with an improvised (“keepie uppie” type) kick as he carved through the opposition. Phil Charters revelled in his normal role of Scrum Half bossing the forwards, making every pass and linking well with newcomer to the team, Sean Taylor who ran in two tries with Tom Potter exuberantly diving over for yet another.

The difficult cross wind meant that conversions were hard to come by although Andrew Bushell made two count in the first half and Paddy – in his distinctive Johnny Wilkinson style – stepped up to the mark to clear two in the second half.



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All credit to Blackpool who played hard and fair throughout the game – never once failing to jog back to the restart and always endeavouring to take the game back to the away team. For the Terriers though the tries kept coming – Sam Stanfield almost dropping over the line after a darting run from his unfamiliar winger position.

Further tries came from that powerhouse of a forward Rob Bramhall, "Bally", Sam Wareing (who always gives his all) and Adam Peacock with a deft side step to touch down under the posts. A fantastic result for the Terriers.

*Scorers: Sean Murphy (4 tries), Rob Bramall (1 try), Tom Ball (1 try), Sam Waring (1 try), Adam Peacock (1 try), Sean Taylor (2 tries), Tom Potter (1 try), Andrew Bushell (2 conversions), Adam Padgett (2 conversions)*

**24 September 2006**  
**Tarleton 27 Oldham 0**

## **Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup**

The teams ran out to a chorus of thunder and lightning above supported with a steady downpour. The real thunder though was the Oldham pack who promptly made their mark against the Tarleton boys. We though had the lightning in the form of Sean Murphy who ran in a brace of tries.

After Seans first try a brilliant piece of support work tries quickly followed for Adam Peacock and Andrew Fishwick. It was surprising that the backs were scoring as they saw so little of the ball, the Tarleton lads preferring to bash away down the middle. A change at scrum half saw Phil Charters back in action after his shoulder injury in the cup final. Phil was in fine form ferreting the ball out even with the Tarleton pack on the back foot.

Making some fantastic counter attacks to the Oldham kicks James Blackett regularly made 40 metres before Oldham came to grips with him. The Tarleton pack though out powered did well thanks to Ollie Ashley at hooker winning the ball against the head even when going backwards!! At half time Tarleton held the lead at 15 nil Bushy coming very close with conversions, though with the conditions and the backs scoring by the corner flag it was never going to be easy.

The second half was a real midfield battle captain Johnny Edwards leading by example as always and supported in the second half by his usual flanker Archie Skofic and power house prop Tom Potter. As the second half progressed it was looking like a nil score was on the cards Oldham though started to tire and just to prove lightning can strike twice Sean Murphy ran in his second. Closely followed by a good solo effort by Bushy placing the ball under the sticks to give him an easy conversion.

The fitness and stamina of the Tarleton squad is down to Darren Clark who did a fantastic job with the lads prior to South Africa, it was good to see him put in an appearance to cheer the lads on. Its down to the lads themselves now to maintain that level of fitness.

Referee: Mr Steven Ashley

*Scorers: Sean Murphy (2 tries), Adam Peacock (1 try), Andrew Fishwick (1 try), Andrew Bushell (1 try & 1 conversion)*



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

## Under 15s

### Summary

This season started well we had a new coach and the lads were full of enthusiasm. Unfortunately not long into the season the coach broke his ankle and this left the team without a coach. However, their enthusiasm for the game and the club never faltered and each week they turned up for training and matches. At one point even training themselves.

However, the ability of the squad shone through all the adversity and one very wet Sunday in Rochdale, actually it wasn't just wet, it hailed, snowed, rained and a gale blew in fact the only weather we didn't get was sun, as I was saying one very wet Sunday in Rochdale the lads qualified for the final of the Lancashire Vase.

Lady luck wasn't with us though as the final was to take place on the first weekend of the Easter Holidays and 10 players were touring with their school and we were unable to field a team. After discussions with the Lancashire RFU with heavy hearts we had to forfeit the final. A final we believe we would have won.

The highlight of the season came for us when we were asked to be the curtain raiser at the last ever rugby event at Orrell RFUC. The welcome we received was great and there was a fantastic atmosphere on the day. We played a good game with some fantastic play by Procky, Joe Bullen and George Skofic to name but a few. We even made it onto Sky Sports.

For the last two weeks seven of the squad have given up time to take the ELRA Level 1 & 2 refereeing course. We had a 100% pass rate and now have seven players all qualified to referee matches at School, Club and University level. Well done to Alex Newlove, Alex Proctor, Max Ashcroft, Daniel Booth, Joe Bullen, James Seddon and Sam Hardy. Watch out any ref who gives a bad decision against us next season. I also did the course and the boys were gutted when I beat them in the exams.

Whilst the squad consists of many good players. Two old hands have stood out: well done to Max Ashcroft and George Skofic who both received the call up into the Lancashire U15's squad. Next year I am sure we will have even more selected to play. Also notable are the players who have joined us this season I hope they have enjoyed this year and will continue to be a valuable part of the squad next season.

Thank you to all the parents and supporters who have provided lifts and encouraging voices from the touchline. No matter what conditions have faced us.

Thanks especially to Judy Newlove, and Barbara Ball for regularly staffing the kitchen and providing those much needed bacon butties. We mustn't forget Bea and Jan without who there would be no kitchen and no pies for Iain!

Thanks also to the people who have stepped in at the last moment to referee matches for us especially Barry Cook who became the best dressed ref in the Union. Your forgiven for taking a call in the middle of the match Barry.

If anyone is forgotten sorry you are all important to the squad its just the altimeters kicking in. Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you back fit and ready for a hard 2007/2008 season.



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

## Under 14s

### Player Profiles

**Robert Culton** - Robert's first full season has seen him develop into a solid and dependable prop. He is never shirks from hard work and always wants to be involved in the game, and actually seems to thrive in the depths of the front row. Robert always seems to have a smile on his face and is a great lad to have in the squad – he also has great musical tastes.

**Reuben Williams** - Reuben has been a huge disappoint to our young female supporters this season as he seems to have given up the bright red/orange hair colours, which brought him his own little collection of groupies last season. On a more serious note Reuben has had an excellent season and has been a reliable and constant player. He has developed physically and this has helped him withstand the rigours of the front row. Always going forward and a good tackler.

**Alex Heaven** - New to the team this season Alex has made a good impression – he is the new quiet man of the squad but is a hard worker and ferocious tackler. He has great strength and we are looking forward to him developing further in coming seasons – when we can work out what his ideal position will be!!!! Be warned Alex you are starting to look like a possible prop.

**Louis Pickthall** - One of the real characters of the squad – on and off the pitch. Louis is always entertaining in training and gets on with everyone. A different type of player on the pitch though – very abrasive and somehow always seems to get under the skin of the opposition. One of our strongest ball carriers and our best performances have seen Louis leading the forwards with strong driving runs. Oh - he can tackle a bit too.

**Elliot Young** - Our other main ball carrying forward. Elliot is strong, dynamic and fearless. He always looks to go forward and his elusive running style and direct approach makes him a very difficult to tackle – ask the under 15 lads who have trained with him and christened him "Psycho". We have nicknamed him TFW – shhh lads don't tell your parents what it stands for. He has probably been our best defensive player this season.

**Robert Herring** - Robert is one of those annoying lads who is good at any sport he decides to try. Deceptively quick and agile with the ball in hand and absolutely fearless in all aspects of the game, particularly tackling. A good and conscientious trainer Robert always puts full effort into his game and into improving. A great character to have around and but his mild nature is deceptive, as he is always fully committed and aggressive.

**Tom McBain** - One of our outstanding players Tom has had a frustrating season due to injuries including a broken wrist which kept him out for 8 weeks. His spirit was typified by him turning up on the day of the Lancashire Vase final and demanding a shirt just 5 days after having the plaster cast removed from his wrist. A very dynamic player who always seems to be first to the tackle or breakdown. A lad with a great sense of humour and a real personality who is popular with his teammates.

**Callum Skelton** - Callum has had to be pretty adaptable this season – he has played at prop, hooker, second row, number 8, flanker and even making an appearance in the centre for the under 15s. His ball handling and running skills have improved tremendously and he has discovered the most bizarre side step ever – it seems to work as a result of sheer bemusement (or is that amusement) value.

**Jamie Stevens** - Jamie has been a real stalwart of the side this season. Due to low numbers in the squad Jamie has also had to play a number of positions – centre, scrum half and flanker. Despite his relatively slight physique he has turned in a number of impressive performances at flanker – always fully committed Jamie is a tough little character who hates the idea of losing. Has an uncanny knack of finding holes in defences and driving the pack forward.



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

**Joshua Payne** - Josh has had a great season – he seems to have matured almost overnight in terms of his skills, understanding of the game and physical commitment. He has settled into the stand-off position and is always keen to take on his opposite number (and back row). Josh has captained the team this season and whilst he is quite reserved he always seems to get the team going forward. He is working hard on his kicking skills in order to improve his all-round game.

**Eden Clayton** - Eden has returned to Tarleton after a few years away playing rugby league. It has been great to have him back – he is a great character to have around and has been one of our most consistent and dependable players. He has fabulous passing skills and reads the game exceptionally well. It has been great to see his centre partnership develop with Daniel Woodburn this season. He has also been one of our most effective recruiters of schoolmates.

**Daniel Woodburn** - It is difficult to say anything new about Daniel. One of the real fixtures of the squad, Daniel is totally committed and loyal and can always be relied on to give 110%. He has adapted to playing with different players over the season but seems to have really gelled with Eden to make a strong and effective centre pairing. Daniel is a very efficient and effective player who adds so much to the team in terms of commitment and enthusiasm.

**Sean Kelly** - Sean has had a season which has been disrupted by a series of niggling injuries. Sean has been a revelation this season – he has developed a turn of speed which must be frightening for opposing wingers. Despite his slight physique Sean loves to get involved in all aspects of the game and is an aggressive tackler. He has obviously found his best position on the wing and makes the most of the smallest space.

**Leslie Owens** - One of our recent recruits (thanks Eden) Les is the largest (and one of the quickest) players in the squad. He was a bit tentative when he first joined the group but has worked hard to develop his skills and understand the game. When he gets a little space and goes for it he has proved very difficult for opposition defenders to deal with. His confidence has grown steadily and with continued hard work he can have an even better season next year.

**Alex Medicott** - Alex has had his best season this year. After a bit of a shaky start to the season Alex has thrown himself back into his rugby with a vengeance. His speed, running skills and changes of pace and direction have been a revelation. Alex is a big personality and always seems to have a smile on his face. His highlight of the season was scoring a try in the Lancashire Vase final. Alex does have one major problem that hampers him – awful baggy football shorts. Time to introduce a system of fines for next season maybe!!!!



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

## Under 13s

### Player Profiles

**Sean Bamber** - Was a new player this season that came through the schools programme and got the bug. Sean has played on the wing in the back row and is developing as an all rounder. His skills are improving with every training session and match that he takes part in. A player who is not afraid to face a challenge and always puts in great effort. We expect great things of him next season.

**Matthew Bretherton** - A player who has shown gritted determination and come back from injury to claim a place in the team. He has done this over the last two seasons and still comes back each time more determined to succeed. Position of preference is loose head prop and he continues in learning the dark arts. The slogan "Matt made for Rugby" is still highly applicable. He will without doubt step up a gear next season.

**Harry Cook** - Has had a tremendous season as fly half, a good playmaker in attack and a solid defender. Better known to the team as "Harry the Gob" due to his loud and continuous bossing of the backs !!!!! Has benefited from being in the Lancashire Development Squad.

**Tom Cowin** - For a player in his first full season, Tom has had a tremendous season making a place in the second row his own for most of the season, and now also performing well in the back row. Tom shows considerably more skill and gamesman ship than his experience should allow. One of those players who when ever he gets the ball will make hard yards in attack and wrestle the ball from the opposition in defence. One to watch next season.

**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. Has made an excellent Number 8, and scared many ½ backs. His Registration Card must be the most requested and viewed in TRUFC. Has also benefited from the Lancashire Development Squad Training.

**James Crosley** - Has continued to improve and has developed well in the centre with his mega side step and ballistic pace. Another player who can tackle out of his skin and has shocked many a bigger player. Unfortunately he missed a large part of the season due to injury. Skills and confidence have improved this season with the Lancs Development squad.

**Niall Crosley** - A Powerhouse player who has played in the centre, at full back and back row. A real tackle buster when on the run and he knows where the line is. In defence his exocet tackles have saved the team from conceding points on many occasions. Highlight of the season was Captaining Lancs Under 13s in the Development Festival. Low point of the season the photo at Broughton Park.

**Luke Foxley** – This is Lukes first season with the squad and is one of the Southport contingency. He is another lad who has taken extremely well to the rough and tumble of rugby as well as the banter. He started playing on the wing and is now one of the regular members of the back row. He has a good turn of pace and regularly one of the first to a breakdown although now it is normally from the back rather than the side.

**Aidan Hipwell** - Has taken to 15 a side rugby like a duck to water. A very well balanced and competitive player who as Tight Head Prop has consistently put the fear of God into Opposition Packs. Continues to improve and is becoming a Master of the Dark Arts of Scrumming.

**Jordan Howarth** - Another former player making a welcome return to the side. Position is normally on the wing where he makes a huge contribution both in attack or defence (ask Collegiates big Centre). Jordan has also had a few run outs as outside centre where he has again



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made his presence felt. High point of the season getting back to rugby, low point having to get up on a Saturday morning for training.

**Bradley Jones** - Started the season with a broken arm and has fought his way back to fitness. Has played Hooker, second row and back row. He has excelled at Hooker and has taken many strikes against the head. His confidence and skills level have increased tremendously this season. Another player made for the 15 a side game. High light of the season getting to EFE cup quarter final, Low point giving away a penalty for coughing!!!

**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. He gets knocked down and gets up twice as determined to show who is boss.

**Daryl McGhee** - Daryl has had more come backs than Status Quo, making his latest return late in the season. 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. Highlight his return to the squad, low point his latest hair cut.

**Kyle McKeown** - This is his first season of rugby and is a natural forward having great natural strength and physical presence on the field. His main positions have been second row and blind side flanker. As a ball carrier he has made hard yards and helped the team to go forward in many difficult situations. Another player with massive potential.

**Declan Moon** - Having returned at the end of last season he has continued to impress with his dexterity and speed when playing at Full Back, and has shocked many teams by how far back up field he has run the ball when they thought they were about to launch a mega-attack. He has also made several appearances at centre and has again impressed. His rugby skills have again benefited from the Lancs Development Squad Programme.

**Jack Pearce** - A player who showed the true spirit of rugby by stepping in to help the team when Brad was injured. This was despite his continued protestations about getting his "Knees Dirty". He will always be welcomed back into the squad as and when he realises what he is missing.

**Matthew Pye** - 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, regularly being the voice of reason. Matt was another of the squad who progressed to the Lancashire Development Squad and has proven even at this level to be a player of true quality.

**Thomas Wignall** - Another player with tremendous spirit who constantly encourages his team mates. Has played this season both in the second row and the back row. Tom is a tough nut who continually makes a major contribution to the teams performance. High light of the season the corker of a black eye he earned in battle, Low point of the season the Referee against Collegiate who to this day Tom does not understand.

**Alex Rigby** - Has played on the wing for most of the season and has complimented the fast back line that the under 13s have. Has progressed tremendously in his second season and is now the teams regular choice on the wing. We have seen some tremendous performances from him both in attack and defence. It is now understood that if he gets a major rollocking on the way to a match then his performance improves exponentially.

**Bevan Taylor** - Joined TRUFC part way through the season having taken part in the schools programme at Tarleton High School. Another natural forward who has played a bruising part in the last few games. Has adapted well to the second row and now contributes to the power of the squads scrum. Is learning about rucks and mauls the hard way, but like any true forward learns by experience. Can look forward to a good season next year.



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**James McDonnell** - Another lad showing the true spirit of rugby agreed to come and play at outside centre for us following James being injured. Swapping one James for another worked well and James Mc and Niall proved a force to be reckoned with both in attack and defence. The down side was yet another player who does not understand ¼ Final referees decisions but that is another story.

## Match Reports

**4 February 2007**

**Blackburn 5 Tarleton 30\***

### Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup

Tarleton completed the group stages of the EFE County Challenge with a comprehensive victory over an inexperienced Blackburn side.

With a number of Tarleton players under the weather due to coughs and colds there was a degree of apprehension going into this match and when Blackburn scored almost directly from the kick off that feeling grew worse. Blackburn's try seemed to wake up the Tarleton team and they were soon level through powerful forward play and slick handling. Tarleton produced much of the same throughout the match which saw debut tries for Alex Rigby and Like Foxley.

A superb all round performance on which to build for the quarter finals. As a final note credit should go to Blackburn for maintaining a good spirit on what must have been a difficult encounter for them.

**14 October 2006**

**Ormskirk 0 Tarleton 15**

### Enterprise Finance Europe - Lancashire Challenge Cup

The first round of group matches for the Under 13's Lancashire Cup pitted local rivals Ormskirk and Tarleton against each other last Sunday. Tarleton were forced to start the game with just 14 players as regulars Aidan Hipwell and Bradley Jones were both injured. Coaches Iain Crosley and Paul Cromack decided to start with just seven forwards and moved Niall Crosley out to inside centre from flanker. This gave a very strong looking back line with Stuart Mayer at scrum half, Harry Cook at fly half and Niall and James Crosley at inside and outside centre. Jordan Howarth and Alex Rigby took the wings and Declan Moon was at full back.

With three relatively inexperienced forwards in Matthew Bretherton, Jonathan Low and Tom Cowin the concern was whether the backs would see much ball. Our concerns were unfounded as the forwards mixed power and aggression and put Ormskirk under intense pressure. Jack Pearce was playing for the first time this year but he's not forgotten his hooking skills and Tarleton were soon on the attack as Tarleton took an early scrum against the head. As the ball came out to the backs the Ormskirk defence was stretched one way and another which gave Niall Crosley the room he needed to breach the defence and put Tarleton into the lead. Tarleton were soon on the attack again.

After a period of heavy pressure when Tarleton should have scored again Ormskirk were forced to kick to relieve the pressure. Unfortunately for Ormskirk the kick went straight to Declan Moon who's elusive running took him past what seemed like half the Ormskirk team. When he was finally stopped Tarleton won quick ball and Niall Crosley made another break. Although he was stopped just short of the line Jordan Howarth was supporting well and from the ensuing ruck Dan Cromack drove over the line to give Tarleton a half time lead of 10 – 0.

Ormskirk applied the pressure at the start of the second half sensing that a score could turn a tight game. Tarleton withstood sustained pressure well. A good clearance kick from defence brought the action up to the halfway line. Tarletons forwards stole possession from the lineout and soon it was Ormskirk who were under pressure again. Mathew Pye and Thomas Wignall gave the Ormskirk



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

forwards a torrid time. This pressure forced Ormskirk into conceding a penalty from which Dan Cromack made a break for the line and although he was stopped short of the line James Crosley was supporting well to seal the victory.

A superb team performance from Tarleton with the forwards playing tremendously well in spite of being outnumbered. With four matches still to go for each team there is a long way to go in this group but it is clearly advantage Tarleton.



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

## Under 12s

### Player Profiles

**Ryan Ashton** - Ryan is a recent acquisition to the squad. He seems to enjoy running with the ball and once he gets to grips fully with the rules should become an asset to the team. Ryan has figured on the wing in a couple of matches and needs to play more to increase his confidence. If he continues to improve he could do well next season.

**Sean Baxter** - Sean joined us at the start of the season. He has real pace and should develop into a good winger as he and the team get to grips with the 15 a side game next season. Hopefully the full sized pitches and extra space next season will offer him more opportunities and bring out the best in Sean.

**Tom Baybutt** - Tom has almost joined us this season from football. He still plays both games but on the occasions he has played rugby he has looked a more than useful second row. He is capable of some great running with the ball and also puts in his share of tackles. If Tom chooses to join us fully I am sure next season could hold great opportunities for him.

**Ryan "surprise surprise" Ball** - Ryan has settled into the number 8 position, after starting the season at centre. He has become a real asset to the team in the line outs. Ryan plays with great strength and determination and with ball in hand literally bulldozes his way through the opposition. He has scored several crucial tries in this his first season of oval football.

**Jordan Bickerstaffe** - Jordan is a convert from soccer and in his first season of rugby. He is constantly learning the game and as such has played in a variety of position in the backs and forwards. As he gains more experience and confidence Jordan will establish himself in a regular position. He has all the physical attributes to become a useful player next season.

**Will Booth** - Will has joined us after trying out rugby at school. He has taken to it like a duck to water and runs very hard and fast with the ball. Without it he covers immense yards of ground and puts in many valuable tackles. He will only get better as he gains experience and fully understands the rules. He has had a great first season and next season should be even better!

**Craig Bretherton** - Another football convert. In his first season of rugby Craig has settled in to the position of hooker with amazing ease. His line out throwing is improving week on week. He is also a good runner with the ball in hand and a very good tackler. Craig has developed into a good player and next season should see him develop further.

**George Evans-Jones** - Yet another football convert in his first season with Tarleton. George is developing into a fine all round player. He has a good pair of hands, a useful tackler, and has the pace to exploit any gaps. He will only improve as he learns more about the game and plays in more matches. He is another player who should blossom next season and could make one of the new flanker positions his own.

**Jacob Forshaw** - Jacob is in his second season with the club and has played at half back this year. He is developing a good understanding of the game and beginning to realise the importance of his role for the success of the team. Jacob has a fine side step and his low to the ground running style makes him a hard person to tackle. With greater concentration and learning he could do well next season.

**Glenn Francis** - Another player who is new to the game. Glenn has played in several different positions this season ranging from wing to second row forward. He has great commitment and is a very useful tackler. Glenn also has the distinction of scoring a try against Tarleton when he played on the wing for Wilmslow!



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**Edward Hardy** - Edward is our newest recruit this season and as such is being introduced to the team gently. He seems very keen and works hard in training, as he settles in to the squad he should develop into a valuable team member.

**James Harrison** - James has returned to the game after a break of two seasons. He has made one of the second row berths his own. He has great strength and puts in some crunching tackles on the opposition, regardless of their size. He also has the ability to wrestle the ball out of mauls and make valuable yards into the opposition defence. With greater concentration he could develop into a great player next season.

**Matthew Heaven** - Matthew is another player in his first season of rugby. He is a player of slight build who always plays above his weight. In defence he can put in some good tackles (he once stopped a grasshopper with his nose) and his confidence going forward appears to be increasing with each game.

**Jake "rocky" Mann** - Jake began the season in the role of hooker but has now moved into one of the half back positions. Since moving to half back his support play has improved; he is also capable of making useful breaks and becoming a proficient tackler. Jake has a great appetite for the game and hates to come off second best. He is also the team's goal kicker and has an excellent conversion rate.

**Aidan Miller** - Aidan has moved to full back this season mainly for his experience and his ability to make the last ditch tackle. He is also a good runner with the ball in broken play and has the ability to score long range tries. Aidan takes the majority of our penalty kicks and hardly ever fails to hit his mark. If he can add consistency to his game he should develop into a very competent player next season.

**Matthew Oshinowe** - Matthew is the longest serving member of the squad and as such is the most experienced player. He has had a solid season showing a useful turn of pace together with a high tackle rate. He works tirelessly for his team mates and he is always the first player to the breakdown. Matthew can be relied upon to give 100% wherever he is asked to play.

**Robbie Pilcher** - Robbie is a developing prop forward. He joined the team part way through the season, but still plays as goalkeeper for his football team which has limited his rugby appearances this year. For a player so new to the game he has picked up the rules and techniques surprisingly quickly. Robbie is developing into a powerful player who is capable of making some excellent tackles and good breaks. He has already scored several tries in his short career.

**Kieran Rouffignac** - This is Kieran's first season of rugby. Unfortunately he picked up an injury in the autumn and has been unavailable until after the winter break. Since his return he has fitted in well as a quick winger. He is being brought back slowly to avoid losing him again and his confidence seems to be improving with every match he plays.

**Bradley "rocky II" Tomes** - Bradley continues to be the cornerstone of the pack. He is very strong and has added some pace to his game this season. Week after week Bradley can be relied upon to give 100% effort and determination for the side. He is a fearsome tackler; fully capable of making valuable yards and breaks through the opposition defence with great regularity.

**Cain Wilkinson** - Cain is another football refugee in his first season of rugby. He has settled in well to the game and has figured at centre for much of the season. Cain's passing and tackling skills have improved in every game he has played. Unfortunately he broke his arm at school in March and has missed the second half of the season. We wish him a speedy recovery.



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

## Match Reports

**25 March 2007**

**Tarleton 26 Pendle 7**

**Tarleton 7 Waterloo 21**

Tarleton under 12s produced their best display of the season on the day that the club were honoured by the visit of the English RFU Chairman, Francis Baron together with his fellow committee members.

In their first match of the morning they were faced by the "red machine" from Pendle, a very large and formidable looking outfit based in East Lancashire. For once though the home side were not intimidated by the size of the opposition and straight from the kick off they set about the task in a very formidable and well organised manner driving the visitors back on several occasions.

The first try came from Ryan Bell who scored in his usual characteristic way, crashing over the line with tacklers attempting to restrain his power. His opportunity owed much to the build up play of Aiden Miller and Will Booth who both made good breaks into the Pendle defence before the ball arrived with Ryan Ball. The try was converted by Jake Mann.

This seven point lead increased the confidence throughout the team and the half back pair of Jake Mann and Jacob Forshaw looked much more settled and managed to move the ball around the pitch to great effect. This enabled players such as Tom Baybutt, George Evans-Jones, and Sean Baxter, to run in space at the opposition defence. With the backs running the ball Pendle were increasing on the back foot. Will Booth found himself on the end of one of these flowing moves and as he went in to score a superbly worked try in the corner he was taken out by a high tackle. The referee immediately awarded a penalty try; Jake Mann once again added the extras.

With the first half almost over a maul developed near the Pendle try line. The ball appeared to be stuck at the bottom with neither side making much progress; then from nowhere Robbie Pilcher somehow got both hands on the ball and dived over the line to score a great solo try. Jake Mann once again converted the kick and Tarleton reached half time leading twenty-one points to nil.

Despite trailing by twenty points Pendle started the second half with immense vigour and determination. Their forwards drove fast and hard into the Tarleton side and their ability to maul the ball forwards was very impressive. From a line out in the Tarleton half Pendle gathered the ball and drove the ball over the line to claim a fully deserved try. This was converted to reduce the Tarleton lead to fourteen points.

The remainder of the half developed into a fiercely fought forward battle with Craig Bretherton, James Harrison and Bradley Tomes working hard in both attack and defence, whilst Matthew Oshinowe continued to be first man at every ruck or maul to ensure Tarleton maintained the upper hand.

The final try of the match came from a Tarleton scrum about fifteen yards short of the Pendle line. Tarleton won the ball and Jake threw a long pass, missing out his half back partner, to Will Booth; Will ran a great diagonal line to cut through the visitor's defence to claim a well worked try (straight off the training ground!). Unfortunately on this occasion Jake missed with the kick.

The second match was against Waterloo. Once again Tarleton took the game to their visitors and again it was the forward play of James Harrison, Robbie Pilcher, Matthew Oshinowe and Craig Bretherton that produced the space for the backs to run into. Aiden Miller took great advantage of this space midway through the half and made a break of about 35 yards up the field. When he was tackled Bradley Tomes gathered the ball and drove to the line to score the opening try. With the half drawing to a close Waterloo levelled the match when one of their second row forwards broke through the home side defence to run ten yards for a fine solo try.

At the half time interval Tarleton made several team changes which appeared to affect the balance



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of the team. Tarleton battled hard against a well organised and powerful Waterloo side that had also brought on fresh legs for the second half. Despite some fine tackling by the home side Waterloo's forwards managed to score two push over tries. As the half wore on Tarleton began to tire and with this brought a couple of injuries, by the end of the match there was only half of the starting line up on the pitch! At the final whistle Waterloo claimed victory by 21 points to 7.

Overall this was an excellent morning of rugby. This was beyond doubt Tarleton's best display of the season and all the work in training seems to have started to pay off on match day.

## **4 March 2007** **Sedgley Park 30\* Tarleton 7**

This was another match where the final score did not reflect the closeness of the two teams or the amount effort the Tarleton players put into the match.

Once again the forwards well led by the front row of Bradley Tomes, Matthew Oshinowe and Craig Bretherton managed to secure a massive amount of ball from the scrums and line outs, but unfortunately the team were not able to convert this into points.

The Sedgley Park team was a little bit too experienced and what possession they did get quite often resulted in a try over the Tarleton line; on most occasions scored by a very quick fly-half.

Tarleton's try came from good forward work near to the end of the match. Bradley Tomes made an excellent break through the home team's defence. When he was finally halted about ten yards short the ball came out to Ryan Ball. Ryan drove to the line and with three defenders hanging on to him pivoted around and eventually crashed over the line to claim a well deserved try. Jake Mann kicked the conversion to make it a seven pointer.

As the weather took a turn for the worse and horizontal rain invaded the pitch the referee blew for full time. The players cleared the pitch in record time back to the shelter and warmth of waiting cars or the Sedgley club house.

## **21 January 2007** **Aldwinians 30\* Tarleton 7**

On arrival at Aldwinians the sky was blue but the air was full of hail stones. On arrival at the pitch, 30 minutes after leaving the club house, the field was just about playable with several inches of mud covering most of the area inside the cones.

Despite plenty of hard work from the Tarleton forwards the home side adapted to the muddy conditions very quickly and went ahead from their first attack of the match. The second try was not long in coming as Aldwinians moved the ball along their backs to score a well worked try. In the scrums Tarleton's new front row of Bradley Tomes, Robbie Pilcher, and Matthew Oshinowe more than held their own and ensured a good share of possession from the set pieces.

In to the second period of the fixture and the home side kept recycling the ball from their forwards and running it out wide to increase the try count. In the backs Matthew Heaven and Cain Wilkinson battled hard but could not quite hold the speedy Aldwinians backs. At half back Jake Mann and Will Booth attempted to exercise some control when Tarleton had the ball but too often any breaks that were made failed due to a lack of support. In the middle of the pitch George Jones-Evans and Glenn Francis were working hard in the very heavy conditions putting in several tackles to try and stop the home team's progress. But by the end of the period the home side had racked up a total of six tries.

At the start of the third period Sean Baxter moved into the centres and Ryan Ball dropped back to full back. Almost immediately Sean began to get more involved in the game and had a couple of useful touches.



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Early in the period Tarleton forced a maul near the home side's line and the forwards drove in with great enthusiasm and managed to gain possession. The maul slipped around in the increasingly muddy conditions and eventually went to ground on the try line. The first player to react was Robbie Pilcher who dived on the ball and claimed a well deserved try. Jake Mann completed the conversion to ensure seven points for Tarleton. From the restart Bradley Tomes collected the ball and drove deep into the opposition half before he was finally brought to ground by several large forwards. Sadly the Aldwinians support was quicker to the ball and they managed to clear their line.

This was without doubt Tarleton's best period of the match. From a scrum inside the home teams half the ball was fed out to Will Booth. He sped through the defence and dived towards the try line grounding the ball on the line, but unfortunately the referee, from several yards away, judged it a double movement and disallowed the effort.

In the fourth period the heavy pitch and lack of fresh legs began to show as the Tarleton began to tire. But to their credit they never stopped trying despite the atrocious conditions and the fact that Aldwinians had the luxury of six substitutes that enabled them to keep resting players.

## **14 January 2007** **Broughton Park 30\* Tarleton 7**

Tarleton arrived at a sunny Broughton Park with a full team of thirteen players and it was agreed to play the match in four quarters to allow time for player coaching during breaks.

In the first period Tarleton were quickly under pressure from the home side but they worked hard in defence against a slick Broughton team. James Harrison and George Evans-Jones worked hard throughout the period putting in several good tackles. But despite this fine effort the home side managed to score three unconverted tries.

Tarleton began the second period with the wind on their backs and tried to move the ball around a little. Prominent in this period were George Evans-Jones and Glenn Francis who worked tirelessly trying to combat a much bigger Broughton pack. Midway through the period Robbie Pilcher made an excellent break through the home side's defence but unfortunately he was tackled after about thirty yards and Broughton managed to regain possession. Whilst on the wings Craig Bretherton and Matthew Evans had a couple of useful runs, in addition Cain Wilkinson and Jordan Bickerstaffe began to add some support from the centres with several nice pieces of play. But by the end of the period Broughton had added another two tries to their total.

Despite trailing by five tries Tarleton began the third period with great determination and for much of the quarter managed to contain the home side and began to ask some questions of the home sides defence. Sean Baxter began to look more assured at full back and comfortably fielded a couple of long kicks; from one of these Sean had a solid return run with the ball in to the heart of the opposition defence. In the forwards Bradley Tomes, Jake Mann, George Evans-Jones, Robbie Pilcher, and James Harrison worked their socks off trying to subdue the opposition in a bid to gain some good possession. In fact from a penalty in the Broughton half the forwards almost scored a try. Jake Mann fed the ball to Bradley Tomes who drove ten yards forward, he then off loaded to Jake who went another ten yards forward before he off loaded to James Harrison who gained another ten yards before being swamped by about four Broughton players. Sadly by the end of the third quarter Broughton managed to sneak two more tries, this time they managed to convert one of them!

Into the last quarter of the match and Tarleton came to light, building on their third quarter improvements, they began to believe in themselves and put together several passing moves. The forwards began to realise they could contain the opposition and the backs started going forward with the ball. Champagne Moment! Tarleton won the ball from a scrum just inside their own half of the pitch. Jacob Forshaw gathered the ball at full back took a couple of steps and then passed the ball to Will Booth. Will switched the direction of play and scythed his way through the Broughton defence side stepping the cover defence to score an excellent try. To put the icing on the cake Jake



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Mann completed the conversion to ensure seven points on the score sheet!

With time running out a Broughton Park line out was awarded on halfway. From the front of the line Bradley Tomes snatched the ball, brushed aside his opposite number and headed for the try line. He managed to side step one of the centres but unfortunately was tackled a couple of yards short of the line, sadly Tarleton infringed at the breakdown, if they had retained possession there was a certain try for one of the supporting players. A line out resulted from the penalty and full time followed seconds after.

A big thank you to all at Broughton Park for an excellent game of rugby and a big thank you to their referee for his explanations to the players of any rule infringements.

## **26 November 2006** **Liverpool Collegiate 30\* Tarleton 7**

Tarleton arrived at Collegiate a few players below strength but the home side offered to transfer a couple of players, just for the morning, to balance out the numbers. It was agreed to play the match in three thirds to allow time for player coaching during breaks.

In the first period Tarleton began with great enthusiasm and were quickly on the offensive and for the first five minutes were camped in the home side's quarter of the pitch. But gradually Collegiate worked their way into the match and into a good position in the Tarleton half. From a scrum in the middle of the pitch one of Collegiate's large forwards barged his way through the Tarleton defence to score a fine solo try.

Tarleton were not dispirited and immediately worked the ball up the field from the restart. There was an excellent drive from Bradley Tomes which ended just short of the try line when he was stopped by a high tackle, sadly the resulting penalty did not result in a score. Once again though Collegiate hit back and from an excellent passing move they doubled their lead when their right wing crossed the whitewash.

With the first period almost over there was just time for Jacob Forshaw to make a great break but he could not escape the cover defence.

Collegiate began the second period at a most impressive pace causing Tarleton to make one or two mistakes which they never recovered from. Despite plenty of hard work from Aiden Miller and Kieran Rouffignac running the ball forward the opposition stood firm. Even though they conceded three tries in this period the Tarleton lads did not let their heads drop as they worked tirelessly to try and stop the attacking runs of the much larger home team. Special praise must go to the forwards Jake Mann, Tom Baybutt and Bradley Tomes who worked themselves to a standstill putting in tackle after tackle. Whilst Sean Baxter made some good runs from full back making valuable ground on several occasions. He also looked at home under the high ball catching at least three high punted balls with great ease, Josh Lewsey could not have done better!

It was great to see Tarleton begin the last period of the match with great enthusiasm and determination to cross the home side's try line. They powered down the field following the kick off and matched the home side's aggression and kept them on the defensive. Then following a maul in the middle of the pitch Bradley gathered the ball and made some hard yards up the middle before being tackled. The ball spilled out to Aiden Miller who drove the ball almost to the Collegiate line where he was engulfed in a maul of several players from either side. For what seemed ages the maul moved forwards and backwards on the try line before it collapsed over the whitewash and Josh Allicoegiate claimed the try. Jake Mann added the two points with a successful conversion. From the restart Tarleton failed to clear their line and Collegiate managed to scramble a messy try.

With only three minutes left on the clock Tarleton once again attacked the Collegiate line and after some good runs up field Jacob Forshaw appeared to be going in for a score in the corner but unfortunately he put a foot in touch in his attempt to cross the line. The knock on from the resulting line out was the last play of the match.



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A big thank you to all at Collegiate Rugby Club for a most enjoyable morning of rugby and for the loan of the players.

**12 November 2006**  
**Vale of Lune 35 Tarleton 0**  
**Blackburn 14 Tarleton 7**

Tarleton travelled to Blackburn to take part in the group stage of the new Lancashire 12s tournament.

In the first match Tarleton played a very strong and well organised Vale outfit which had already put over thirty points past Blackburn. The first half seemed to be one way traffic as Vale ran the ball with great confidence down the slope to the Tarleton line. Despite some hard work from the Tarleton side they found themselves trailing by 21 points at the interval.

In the second half Tarleton were much better prepared and managed to produce several patches of neat rugby. During this period Bradley Tomes and Jake Mann made a couple of good breaks but the hard tackling Vale outfit snuffed out any scoring chances.

Match two was against Blackburn and this proved to be a much closer contest. Tarleton began the game with much greater enthusiasm than against Vale and even attempted to pass and run the ball on several occasions. It was good to see two of the debutants Sean Baxter and Kieran Rouffignac displaying the confidence to run at the opposition defence. Whilst Tom Baybutt worked hard in the middle of the park grinding out some hard yards into the Blackburn forwards. Despite all this industry Blackburn claimed the first try when one their centres gathered the ball near his own line and ran the length of the pitch to score a brilliant individual try. Unfortunately a second try followed shortly.

Tarleton were not over awed by this and began the second half with renewed zest. Once again the forwards worked tirelessly with Bradley Tomes and Glen Francis pulling off some excellent tackles on the Blackburn players. Tarleton repeatedly drove the ball up the field trying to claim the elusive score. Sean Baxter had a good run from deep in his own half but could not break the tacklers, and Kieran Rouffignac also tried his luck but the Blackburn defence was too good.

With time running out Tarleton forced a couple of scrums near the home side's line. From a resulting maul from one of these scrums the Tarleton forwards crashed over to claim a well deserved try. Jake Mann kicked the conversion to make the score fourteen points to seven in Blackburn's favour. There were only a couple of minutes remaining and Tarleton pulled out all the stops to try and get an equalising score putting pressure onto the Blackburn defence. But unfortunately the referees whistle brought an end to proceedings and they had to settle for an honourable defeat.

Many thanks to Vale of Lune and Blackburn for a thoroughly enjoyable morning's rugby played in the most sporting manner.



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## Under 11s

### Summary

The playing statistics were:

Played:	27 (fixtures & festivals)
Won:	8
Drawn:	3
Lost:	16

The won lost record would suggest that this hasn't been a very successful season. However, given the fact that we travelled to Burnley at the start of the season with only 15 players in a combined U11/U12 side but now have 19 players in the U11 squad alone it certainly has. With such a new squad it has taken time for them to gel as a team but they have improved with every game and finished with a flourish against Tyldesley.

Throughout the season they have shown enthusiasm, resilience and have never given up, which was exemplified by their comeback at Broughton Park when they achieved a draw after being 28 points down. The squad will be better for the experience of their first season together and can look forward to more victories next season.

### Player Profiles

**Jack Aughton** - Returned to rugby after two seasons of the round ball game and looked as if he had never been away. He is hard running centre/winger who caused opponents plenty of problems. Despite this being his first season of contact, he never shirks a tackle.

**Daniel Barker** - One of the many new boys to rugby this season who has made the fullback position his own, improving with every outing. He has excellent skills, especially under the high ball and with his elusive running. He should be one to watch next season, entering the line with his undoubted pace.

**Joshua Butcher** - Another new member of the team, who has taken to the prop position like a natural. He is a strong scrummager and also has good rucking and mauling skills. He has improved throughout the season.

**John Butler** - One of the veterans of the side, who has moved from winger to scrum half this season with great results. He has proved to be excellent link between the forwards and the backs. If only he could chat to his forwards as much as he does to the ref.

**George Cook** - Another veteran of 5 seasons. He moved out to fly half this season and has marshalled the backs very well. He is an elusive runner and has excelled with his kicking converting most of our tries.

**Ben Cromack** - Whether playing as a forward or a back Ben plays his heart out and always gives 100%. He has excellent strength in the tackle and is a direct forceful runner. Often he has been the inspiration in some dramatic comebacks.

**Dale & Oliver Delaney** - The twins have had an excellent first season. They both have elusive running skills and excellent handling that belies their lack of experience. Both have a calmness on the ball and are unfazed by even the largest opponents. Sure to improve next season.

**Joseph Hale** - A quiet but effective member of the team who, towards the end of the season, played in the forwards showing good strength in the set scrum and maul.



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**Sam Hicks** - Another new recruit this season who has tried various positions. He has settled as a winger where he displays a clam assurance, both with ball in hand and in the tackle.

**Todd Johnson** - An excellent recruit to the pack who shows strength far above his size. He shows good technique in the ruck and maul and is a strong runner with ball in hand. He has all the makings of a good prop.

**Charlie Illingsworth** - He has trained with us but unfortunately has only been able to play in a single match. However, he has shown all the skills necessary to be an asset to the team next season.

**Robert Langton** - Robert has natural strength and when he tackles an opponent they stay down. He has developed into an excellent lock both in the set scrum and in the loose, always at the forefront of the packs efforts. More of the same next season please.

**Mark Laverty** - Mark is a strong runner and tackler who takes stopping when in full flight. He has play as a forward or back with equal skill. He has the makings of number 8 for next season when the boys start 13 a side.

**Frankie Skofic** - Probably the teams most natural rugby player. He has pace combined with an unstoppable running action. He is always in support of his team mates and has good vision on the pitch.

**Joe Taylor** - A new boy to the team who has an incredible enthusiasm for the game, he even gave up watching his beloved North End on one occasion to play rugby. He has improved with every game and is now a fixture in the lock position forming a formidable partnership with Robert Langton.

**Callum Walker** - Small and ferocious. He has tremendous determination and skill, would play in any and every position if we let him. He always leads from the front and tackles anything that moves whatever their size.

**Joshua Watt** - Hard running forward who has made the hooker position his own and has been part of a pack that has more than held its own in most matches. Can always be relied on to go for loose balls on the ground, hence the number of bangs on the head.

**Joshua Whiteside** - He has great enthusiasm for the game and win, loose or draw is never seen without a smile on his face. The final member of the '3 Joshua's Front Row' who held his own propping against much larger opponents. He is also a skilful runner with ball in hand. Another that has improved through out the season.



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## Under 10s

### Player Profiles:

**Kieran Walker (Played 18 Tries 34)** - In another barnstorming season Kieran was again our leading scorer. He surpassed last seasons haul of thirty tries and in doing so now has scored over 150 for the club. Kieran touched down five times in a game against Fylde and four times in games against Southport and Sedgley Park. His work rate is enormous putting in some tremendous tackles. Kieran puts his fitness down to regular gymnastics. Position centre. Man of Match against Kirkham.

**Ashley Oshinowo (Played 14 Tries 19)** - A much-improved player this season Ashley is the Billy Whiz of the team often out sprinting the opposition in the dash to the try line. Ashley particularly enjoys playing against Ormskirk scoring seven times against them in three games. Ashley also claimed a hat trick against the Vale of Lune early in the season. Away from rugby Ashley enjoys the out door life with the scouts. Position centre. Man of the Match against Collegiate.

**James Lazenby (Played 17 Tries 18)** - James is an attacking forward with a taste for the try line. He has doubled last seasons haul driving over 18 times. James particularly enjoyed playing Southport with four tries in one game and two in the second. He also claimed a hat trick against Aldwinians and was our only player to score against Kirkham. James shows his more gentle side by relaxing at home playing his guitar. Position prop. Man of the Match against Blackburn.

**Jack Langton (Played 17 Tries 11)** - Jack is a real live wire with a real determination to score. He started the season with a bang scoring four against Burnley. Jack also claimed two against Aldwinians and was our only player to score against Waterloo. He is another player known to enjoy his scouting. Position wing. Man of the Match against Southport.

**David King (Played 3 Tries 7)** - New signing this season made his debut against Hoppers. Also plays for his school Kirkham Grammar. Appearances have been limited by football commitments with Preston North End but is obviously a class act. Scored five against Aldwinians and twice against Ormskirk. Position centre. Man of the Match against Aldwinians.

**Oliver Horton (Played 17 Tries 4)** - Lynch pin of team at scrumhalf. Oliver is a conscientious trainer with a 100% attendance record. He has scored against Aldwinians, Lymm and Ormskirk. Oliver likes all things red such as Wales and Manchester United. Position scrumhalf. Man of the Match against Lymm.

**Chris Bird (Played 16 Tries 4)** - Captain and fly half but is said to favour the wing. Game would improve if he flew in more regularly to training. He has scored against Southport, Lymm, Aldwinians and Southport. Position fly half. Man of Match against Vale of Lune.

**Joshua Baldwin (Played 16 Tries 3)** - Very determined forward who contributes a lot to our defence. Has developed an all black mentality following a mid season tour of New Zealand. Joshua has scored against Aldwinians (twice) and Sedgley Park. Position hooker. Man of Match against Kirkham.

**Callum Ruscoe (Played 18 Tries 3)** - A new signing this season who has made a big impression at prop. Callum loves to tackle and plays a big part in the Terriers defence. He has scored against Burnley and Sedgley Park (twice). Position prop. Man of Match against Widnes.



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**George Murphy (Played 16 Tries 1)** - George is now in his fourth season with the Terriers. He is a versatile utility player equally at home in the forwards or backs. George scored against Southport. Position prop or centre. Man of Match against Hoppers.

**Corin Williams (Played 16)** - Corin is another long-standing member of the squad. He is a consistent player who can slot in equal well at any position in the team. In fact this season Corin has played prop, hooker, scrumhalf and wing. Corin also has a reputation for his prowess in the sack race. Position anywhere! Man of Match against Ormskirk.

**Joshua Peacock (Played 16)** - Very determined back who contributes a lot to our defence with his tackling. Game has improved with regular attendance at training. Away from rugby Joshua hones his skills by practicing the martial arts. Position Wing. Man of Match against Fylde.

**Bryn Foster (Played 7)** - New signing this season who unfortunately missed half the season through injury. Proving to be a brave back who likes to get stuck in. Is a regular at training and is picking up the game quickly. Away from rugby enjoys climbing trees. Position Wing. Man of the Match against Wilmslow.

## Match Reports

### 4 March 2007 Tarleton 25 Sedgley Park 10

The Terriers winning form continued at Sedgley Park. With key members of the backs missing Kieran shouldered the responsibility for Tarleton's attack (and defence). Kieran responded in magnificent fashion with 4 tries and some crunching tackles. James barged over for one after falling inches short in the first half.

For the second game the heavens opened so the Terriers kept it tight in the forwards to grind out victory by a single try. Twice the pack drove Park back in the maul to cross over and touch down, Callum and Joshua getting the ball down. Callum then got the taste for the touchline and ran one in and finally Jack grabbed the winner in the last move of the game to seal this exciting encounter.

Thanks to Sedgley Park for their hospitality and well played everyone.

### 25 February 2007 Tarleton 25 Ormskirk 0

The under 10s emphatically regained the position of top dogs in West Lancs in the local derby. Good sound forward work set up this victory with James Callum and Corin in the thick of the action. This platform presented the home backs the ideal opportunity to demonstrate just how quick they are with both Ashley and Kieran showing the opposition a clean pair of heels, to scorch in for tries. Oliver who is claiming the scrum half position for his own these days crossed over for a score, as did James in typical bulldozing fashion. Particularly pleasing was the Terriers sound defence with great work from both Joshuas and David. The B fixture was also won in a similar convincing fashion. Thanks to a spirited Ormskirk and wishing their injured player a speedy recovery.

### 21 January 2007 Tarleton 30\* Aldwinians 5

The Terriers braved the Manchester elements to start the New Year off with an emphatic win at Audenshaw Park. All players contributed to this win with no less than seven players getting on the score sheet. New boy David showed his potential when even though he only arrived in time for the second quarter he went on to top score. Special mention goes to Joshua and George who showed great team spirit with their boot-sharing scheme. Another Joshua who deserves a mention was our hooker who got his first and second tries of the season showing great determination. Joshua will be



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missed during his forthcoming absence. David gained man of the match but well played everyone. Thanks to a spirited Aldwinians team who never gave up.

## **19 November 2006** **Tarleton 35 Southport 10**

On the occasion of captain Chris Bird's birthday the Terriers were in party mood. The Sharks put up stiff resistance and to give credit never capitulated, but found no answer to the darting Kieran at centre who scored four and the charging James at prop who scored twice. Scrum half Jack weighed in with the seventh try. Tarleton's defence was also on form with some great tackling from Callum, Kieran and Joshua B.

To allow Southport to give all their squad a game a second match was played. The small band of Terriers carried on in the same remorseless fashion, again winning 35 –10. James with the sent of blood in his nostrils crossed over four times, Kieran added another and Chris and George both celebrated their first tries of the season. Ashley and Oliver both had good runs and were unlucky not to score. Overall an excellent team effort led to a happy return up the A565 back home. Well-played but hard luck to Southport and thanks for putting on a game a short notice.

## **12 November 2006** **Tarleton 15 Blackburn 25**

This proved to be a most exciting encounter between two well matched sides. All the Tarleton players deserve great credit for the effort put into this match with tries from Kieran (2) and James (1). The game was level up to the final third when another Tarleton attack was diverted into touch. From the resulting line out Blackburn took the ball at the front and sprinted the full length of the pitch to touch down. The excellent Blackburn backs then showed Tarleton a clean pair of heels to complete a well-deserved victory. Tarleton Man of the Match was James Lazenby for several great driving runs and a try. Well played Blackburn on a well deserved win.

## **14 October 2006** **Kirkham Grammar 30 Tarleton 0**

In a departure from the norm the under 10s played a Saturday fixture against a school side. The coaches and players were most impressed with the facilities Unfortunately for the Terriers the standard of Kirkhams play was equally high.

Never the less the Terriers fought hard and their heads didn't drop. This was in no small manner due to the tremendous amount of work put in by Kieran who was voted Tarleton man of the match and was delighted to receive the prize put up by Kirkham. Thanks to Kirkham for their hospitality and we look forward to meeting them at Carr Lane on the 9th December.

## **8 October 2006** **Tarleton 10 Vale of Lune 30**

Although the Terriers battled hard this game was lost in the scrum. The Vale of Lune with big James at prop drove the Tarleton scrum back depriving the Terriers of ball all game. Ashley got an opportunist try and Kieran ran one in. The Tarleton defence finally gave out towards the end of the second half allowing Vales flowing backs to fly in and wrap it up.

The Terriers bravely picked themselves up and showed what their backs were capable off with some ball in the B match. This match was shaded 25-20 by the Terriers with a marvellous hat trick by Ashley who was on fire. Kieran and Jack also scored. Tarleton man of the match was Chris Bird. Well-played Vale.



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**1 October 2006**

**Tarleton 40 Burnley 15**

The first match of the season provided easy pickings for Tarleton scrum half Jack Langton. Not to be content with a first half hat trick he came back in the second half and scored for Burnley while out on loan. This was a game of three halves to give all the squad a run out. Indeed with the slope in their favour the Terriers ran away with the first half by six tries. New boys Tom and Callum both scored on their club debuts and look to be excellent additions to the squad. Kieran opened his account for the season and put in some tremendous tackles.

The second half proved to be up hill work for the Terriers who allowed Burnley to claw back three tries. However tries by James and Kieran in the third half sealed a well deserved victory. The men of the Match were Tom and Joseph. Many thanks to Burnley for their top notch hospitality.



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

## Under 9s

### Player Profiles

**Joseph Wignall** - A good player with wholehearted graft enabled those hard yards to be made; has made good progress throughout the season with a commendable improvement in his overall skills through practice– now managing to run forwards in a fine “zigzag” pattern-well done!

**Alexander Mathie** - A fine speedster with a firm grip on the ball has enabled Alex to progress the season with a fine number of tries; has managed to improve his passing skills and is now looking like a future fly-half centre with a firm foundation of rugby skills

**Henry Lowe** - Henry is still the hard grafter in mid field with a longing to get into full contact rugby—his support play has improved on his firm defensive skills and he has the future signs of the hard coal-face front row forward or the scrum half with an educated left boot– look out all you front row grafters the new British bulldog has arrived!!!!!!!

**Martha Horton** - The stalwart of the team with a determination many a man would yearn for! Martha has continued to show all the boys how to play the man's game; she has maintained her firm handling skills with some fine tries throughout the season well done and keep playing!!!! Look out Harry Ellis your heir is apparent.

**Harry Forshaw** - He has shown a fine ability to swerve and beat a defender with a fine change of direction– and has been able to continually improve throughout the season with some excellent bone crunching tackles, support play and tries; a good prospect for outside centre or wing forward with a firm defensive game

**Myles Eaglestone** - A new season of enthusiasm has seen Myles grasp a firm knowledge of the rules and he has managed to improve his skills to come on leaps and bounds throughout the season—well done and keep up the good work. A future full back with a fine eye for the counter-attacking break.

**Joseph C** - A turn of pace and swerve that Jason Robinson yearns for; a great newcomer to the side with a gritty determination ensuring a regular run of tries and he has a tackling ability that outweighs his size – well done – what do you have for breakfast on match days?

**Matthew C** - Whatever JC can do he can do just as well – great handling skills have improved throughout the season with a fine eye for the break; a good turn of pace will ensure many more tries in the future.

**Harry Massie** - The newest player to the squad has improved immensely in only four weeks and is now becoming a regular stalwart of the side, with regular match winning performances.

**James Stockwin** - A keen enthusiastic player, with a fine array of swerves and tackling ability, with a speed of thought now becoming a regular feature. His latest asset is the ability to tackle the referee whilst still playing the game!!!!

**William King** -A fine asset to any side with a firm hard tackle and excellent rucking skills – a firm forward for the future with an eye for that ever present gap. The only player this season to score 1.5 tries in a single match.



# Tarleton Rugby Union Football Club

## Under 8s

### Summary

We started the season with a small squad, although we had most of the regulars from the previous season registered and raring to go!! During the season we have picked up several "new" players who have all contributed to an excellent season for the Under 8's.

Despite their tender years every member of the squad has grown in stature and their development as a team has been very encouraging.

At the beginning of the season we had some great training sessions, which I feel helped us into making an excellent, winning start to the season. The first fixture was played against our local rivals Chorley, where we played and won three games, scoring 14 great tries. Up to the Christmas period we had some difficult fixtures, including Vale Of Lune, (PL 3 L 1 D 2) Widnes, (PL 2 L 2) Warrington, (PL 2 W 1 L 1) Liverpool, (PL 3 W 1 L 1 D 1) Lymm (PL 2 W 2) and Blackburn where the children played some tremendous rugby. We played three games against Blackburn, and although they were all closely contested we came away with three great victories.

The rest of the season has seen us with fixtures against Broughton Park, (PL 4 W 3 D 1) Aldwinians, (PL 2 W 2) Wilmslow, (PL 4 W 4) Fylde, (PL4 W 2 D 2) Ormskirk, (PL 2 W 1 L 1) Sedgley Park (PL 1 W 1) and Waterloo (PL3 W 1 D 1 L 1).

At the Preston Grasshoppers Festival we came up against some good opposition and didn't make the best of starts, losing to Ormskirk (4-0) We then went on to draw against Blackburn (4-4) and were narrowly defeated against Preston Grasshoppers (4-2) and consequently eliminated from the tournament.

At the time of writing the Under 8's team have played a total of 41 games of which they have won 24, lost 9 and drawn 8, scoring 249 tries and conceding 215.

The best display by the children...in my opinion!! was against a very strong and competitive Waterloo team which we ended up winning 8-7. The standard of the tries scored and the "tagging" of both teams was a pleasure to watch. It was good to hear from both Waterloo coaches say that we were the best team that they had played and also that was their first defeat of the season!!

To summarise, this year has been a great success and Janet and I have enjoyed our time managing/coaching because of the attitude and application of all the players. We must also 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 each other a pat on the back and can be very proud of themselves for the way they have played, and been a credit to Tarleton Rugby Club.

### Player Profiles

**Niall Doherty** - Niall is one of the new players to the TRUFC Under 8's, starting midway through the season. Niall has only had a few training sessions and a couple of games, but you can definitely see the improvement, even in such a short space of time. When the game goes to "contact" next season I'm sure that Niall will be a big asset to the team.

**Joseph Huyton** - This was Josephs third season at TRUFC and he just gets better and better, with his all round play improving tremendously. He is a player that trains very well and has done everything that has been asked of him in the games. Joseph prefers to play out on the wing, and has used his great turn of speed to score some excellent tries. He has scored 29 tries this season, with his best game being in the 14-10 victory over Aldwinians, where Joseph scored 6 tries.



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**Matthew Low** - This has been Matthew's first season down at Tarleton.....and what a season!! Matthew started the season very quietly but has really improved with every training session and game he has played. Matthew has "tagged" really well in all the games that he has played, but his main strength is his forward running which has resulted in him scoring 31 tries this season, with 7 of them being scored against Wilmslow.

**Jack Mckean** - Jack is another one of our newer players at the TRUFC Under 8's, but has improved as the season has gone along. He has now mastered the basics of rugby and is very good in his defensive play with some excellent tagging in recent training and games. Jack scored a great try in the home fixture against Lymm, and I'm sure will look forward to next season.

**Jake Mounfield** - Jake has now completed three years of "tag" rugby and is now desperate to start playing "contact." Jake has scored some great tries, and his defensive game has definitely improved since last year with many try saving "tags". He had his best game of the season against Blackburn where he scored 5 tries. In total he has scored 36 tries.

**Kate Murphy** - Kate has once again had a very good season. Kate's game has improved steadily. Kate always trains very well and does everything that is expected of her, which shows when it comes to the game situation. Kate has scored 7 great tries this season with her best game coming early on in the season against Warrington.

**Kimberley Oshinowo** - Kimberley has had yet another great season playing rugby for Tarleton, and just keeps on improving. Kimberley always trains and plays the game with a big smile on her face, which is great to see. Whilst playing games Kimberley always wants to be in the "thick" of the action whether it is going forward or doing some of the defensive work. Kimberley has scored 17 tries, and her best display came in an excellent team performance against Waterloo, where she scored 2 tries.

**Cameron Perritt** - This was Cameron's first season for the Under 8's at TRUFC, and what a season it has been for him!! During training Cameron listens very carefully and completes whatever has been asked of him without any fuss at all. In the games that Cameron has played he has been brilliant, with his "jinking" runs, many ending up in a try. In total Cameron has scored 47 tries with his best games coming against Collegiate.

**George Powell** - This was Georges 2nd season at TRUFC and what a difference!! Last year George was very quiet during games that we played, but not now!! He has grown in confidence and certainly seems to be enjoying his rugby. George has good hands and he very rarely gives the ball away to the opposition and has helped the team by doing a lot of the defensive work with some great "tagging" and this was displayed in the home game against Lymm.

**Thomas Rigby** - This was Thomas's first "full" season at TRUFC after playing just a couple of games at the end of last season. You can now see a massive difference with Thomas, who now wants to get his hands on the ball no matter what the situation is. Thomas was another one who saved his best performance for the game against Collegiate where he scored one of his three tries for the season.

**Megan Walker** - This has once again been a great season for Megan, who has now played for three seasons. Megan is another one who will get "stuck in" when she has to, picking up a lot of loose possession. Megan also has a great turn of speed which has resulted in her scoring 36 tries in total with her best displays being at the away fixture at Broughton where she scored 9 tries. I also think that Megan is ready for the "contact" game after having to give as good as she gets with he older brothers!!

**Connor Whelan** - Connor was a "latecomer" to the Under 8's team at TRUFC this season but really seems to enjoy his rugby. He only started training with the Under 8's with a couple of months left of the season, but how his confidence has grown!! Connor is extremely good in the defensive play and was probably one of the best at "tagging" towards the end of the season. He has scored two tries this season, one in each game against Sedgley Park and Waterloo.



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## Under 7s

### Player Profiles

**Marcus Lazenby** - This is Marcus's 2<sup>nd</sup> season in Under 7's. A real impact player who always makes a major contribution to the teams performance, especially when he dives for the elusive tag which he usually steals 2m from the try line.

**Harry Jones** - Harry started season in September and has not missed a game or training since. A very effective player, who is a good natural runner, and has scored some good tries with a knack of twisting out of a tackle.

**Connor Flynn** - Connor was a little unsure at the start of the season, but with encouragement and coaching, he is growing in ability and confidence all the time. With his commitment he is one to watch for the future.

**Alfie Macadam** - Alfie has made massive improvement this season. He scores tries and does what is needed to win. Alfie is a good all round player with good vision.

**Elliot Hicks** - Big and strong is our Elliot, he has improved all season, is a good tackler and runs well in support. He has learnt the game quickly and is showing good potential for next season.

**Jacob Roberts** - Jacob has grown in confidence this year, he has learnt quickly and is willing to run with the ball. He is an ever present member of the squad who is growing in ability.

**Conor Carroll** - Conor has come on leaps and bounds this year by doing exactly what he has been asked to do. He is quick, strong and skilful and had scored some good tries, one to watch!

**Harry Perritt** - One of our youngest players and the quiet man of the team – he lets his rugby do the talking! A lot of what Harry does can go unseen, but if you watch him in a match you would see his work rate, another one to watch for the future.

**Calem Whelan** - One of our newer players, who has taken to rugby like a duck to water. An evasive runner, with an excellent natural ability who shows a lot of promise.

**Ryan Stansfield** - One of our newer members who is learning the game quickly, he is a very good ball carrier and has scored some vital tries. He has plenty of determination and is showing good potential for next season.

**Charlie Acheson** - Another one of our newer members, he has grown in confidence and stature as the season progressed, and has popped up with some important tags and a big proud smile – well done Charlie.

**Thomas Waterworth** - Thomas has only joined us in the latter part of the season, he has settled into the team very easily and is now one of the lads!, he is beginning to show good skills and will be an asset next season.

**Charlie Millins** - Charlie is our youngest and smallest player who has only been with us for a few weeks, again he has settled into the squad very easily, played his 1<sup>st</sup> game at the Hoppers festival smiled all day and kept us all entertained! - Keep it up Charlie