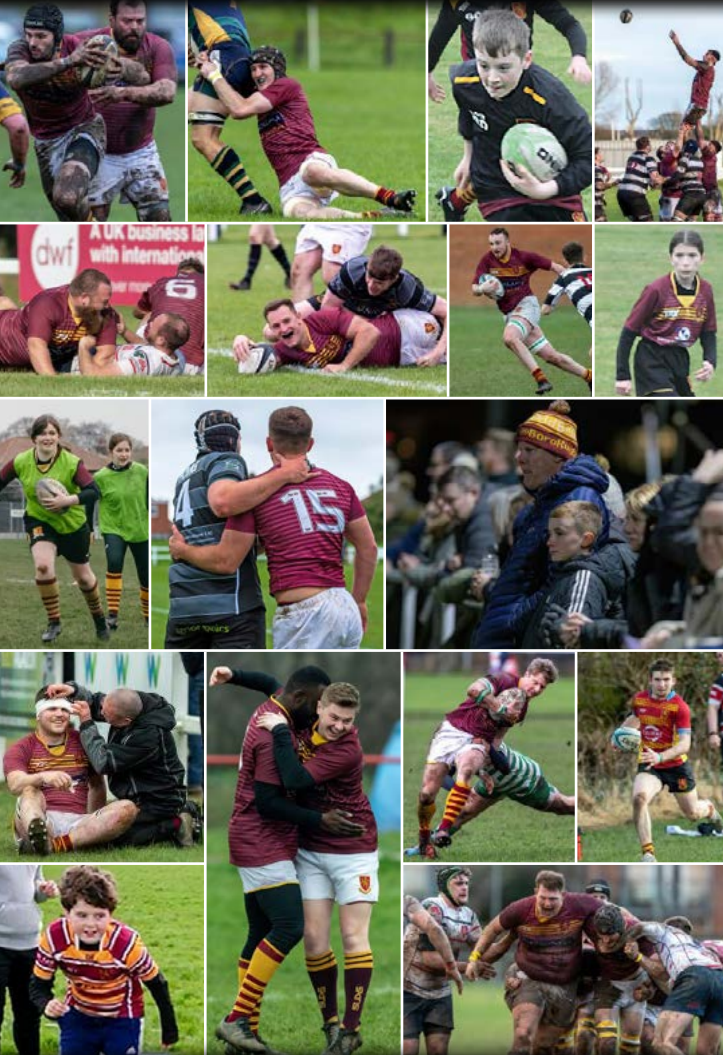




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SEASON 2024/25



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Welcome from the President



Three cheers! No more weekends spent grass-cutting or fence-painting, as a new rugby season dawns at Acklam Park and Tolesby, but sadly not at Twickers.

Welcome to old and new players, supporters, sponsors and, of course, old and new friends from visiting clubs. A special welcome to our new coach Ollie Hodgson. Good luck Ollie, and to all our teams at every level and age group. Let's hope our new Ladies team continues to grow and flourish. I hope that this season is as good as the last two or three, if not better. But, whatever the outcome, win or lose, I hope that the game of rugby is the winner.

A very big thank you, to all the members who put so much hard work into the purchase and renovation of the Tolesby Road ground, our new junior rugby academy. I am sure it will be a great asset to the club, and the community, for many years to come. Thanks again guys.

We are currently trying to change the way the club is administered, by delegating some activities to sub-committees, and also involving more members, particularly ex-players, in running the club. One of the objectives is to allow the Management Committee more time to plan and develop the future of the club. If you think you can help in any way please come and have a chat with myself, or any club official (perhaps over a beer!)

I am very proud to be President of this GREAT club, of which I have been a member for 70 years. Yes, I am that old! I played at all levels from colts to 1st XV, and then worked in several admin. roles, and enjoyed every minute! I'm looking forward to even more enjoyment this season and I hope you will join me in offering our teams all your support and encouragement.

Thank you

Dave Storey

YORKSHIRE CUP

Following a walk-over in Round 1 the draw for the quarter finals has pitched us against our old cup nemesis Sandal, at home, on 5 October. This will be a repeat of the Final two years ago, and I'm sure Sandal will be going all out for revenge, so do come along and support the boys.



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Coaches Comments

This pre-season has been a tremendous success, and I couldn't be more excited for the upcoming season.

The lads have really gelled as a team, showing both great camaraderie and skill on the field. We secured two solid wins, first against Ripon and then Blaydon, which were both hard-fought but well-deserved victories. These games highlighted the progress we've made as a unit, and the teamwork and communication have been fantastic. It's clear that everyone is putting in the hard work, and the results are beginning to show. I'm excited to see how much this group can develop as the season progresses. With the determination and talent within the squad, I believe we're set for an excellent season ahead.



On a personal note, I've been truly overwhelmed by how welcomed I've felt coming back to the club. From the players to the coaching staff and everyone behind the scenes, the warmth and support have made it easy to settle back in. It feels like coming home, and I'm eager to contribute to what promises to be an exciting season.

As we prepare to kick off the season, the positivity and unity in the squad are palpable. Training sessions have been intense yet enjoyable, with everyone pushing each other to be better. The commitment from every player has been outstanding, and it's been inspiring to see how everyone is buying into the same goals. The senior players have done an excellent job leading by example, and the younger lads have stepped up, eager to prove themselves. This blend of experience and youthful energy is shaping up to be a real asset for us.

Looking ahead, we know the challenges that lie ahead, but with the way things have been going, there's a strong sense of optimism. The early victories have boosted our confidence, but we're keeping our feet on the ground and focusing on continued improvement. I'm particularly excited to see how our game plan evolves as we build on the foundations we've laid in pre-season.

Ultimately, it's about taking it one game at a time, continuing to build that team spirit, and maintaining the work ethic that has served us well so far. I have no doubt that if we stick together and keep pushing forward, this season could be something special. I can't wait to see how far this group of lads can go, both individually and as a team.

Ollie



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Player Profile: Ollie Hodgson

Age: 29 Boro Appearances: Not Enough

Honours: England Counties Previous club: Darlington Mowden Park



Q. How old were you when you first made your debut for the first team?

A. 17.

Q. Who is the best player you've played against?

A. Maro Itoje.

Q. Which is the best team you've played in for Boro?

A. This year's team.

Q. Which is the best team you've played against?

A. Saracens.

Q. Most memorable Boro game?

A. Wheatley Hills (A)

Q. What do you do in your spare time?

A. Try to play golf.

Q. What is the best social night of the year at the club?

A. Has to be the Lizard Run or Christmas jumper day.

Q. Thoughts about pre-season?

A. Pre-season went really well. We've had a good buy in and numbers have been excellent. It's been a good mix of fitness, rugby and socials which will hopefully set us up for the season.

Q. Ambitions/aims for the season?

A. Aim to get promoted into the league above whilst enjoying the journey.

Q. Any final words for the rest of the season?

A. Everyone involved is looking forward to what this season might bring. Hopefully we can play an exciting style of rugby that will keep smiles on the players faces and the supporters on the touch line. I'm sure there will be plenty of good nights in the club as well. #UTB



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A few words from George Speakman

MRUFC's Rugby Development Officer

Since last year the Club has been in partnership with Middlesbrough College to provide rugby sessions within schools across Middlesbrough. The partnership continues this year with the College restarting the rugby academy, which allows students to participate in training and games alongside their studies.

The Club's intention is to improve numbers in the already thriving mini and junior section, as well as promote sport, in particular rugby, to children who may not be exposed to it anywhere else. Over the last year I have delivered sessions in a number of primary and secondary schools, with the emphasis on introducing rugby to children who in the most part have not played or even watched it before, in a fun environment. Students have enjoyed their first taste of the sport and some have even started at the club on Sunday mornings, with the older students getting a more practical start at the Middlesbrough schools rugby festival hosted at MRUFC.



With multiple schools already booking sessions to be delivered in their PE classes I hope that we can continue to introduce more children to rugby with the hope that some of them will take it up as a weekly activity.

LOOKING BACK 70 YEARS...



...we played West Hartlepool at the Billingham Sevens. 1955 it was, so I don't expect anyone can remember the score – or even who the players were! Any suggestions would be gratefully accepted by Chris, the Hartlepool rugby historian.

Welcome

With the clock ticking and excitement mounting let me extend a very warm welcome to everyone today, especially our guests from West. There can be no better way to begin the serious business of league rugby than to meet up with our old friends, rivals and close neighbours from the Pools. We also welcome the young men from Wetherby who are kicking off today's activities against our Colts.



And to guide us through the season can I formally welcome Ollie Hodgson, our player coach, a former Boro player who progressed through our Junior Section and is returning after 10 years at Darlington Mowden Park. Ollie made 168 national league appearances at Mowden, where at the age of 24 he was made captain. We are delighted to see him back in Boro colours and wish him every success as we look forward to a happy and fulfilling association.

PRE-SEASON The boys have enjoyed their build up to the season. After a team-building day and inter-club matches we took a full squad to Ripon and then last week we entertained a strong Blydon outfit whilst sending a squad to play Blyth. All games were won, with the pick of the crop being a fine performance against Blydon. With the result in the balance for much of the time we ended an exciting match with a deserved victory. Afterwards it was good to see throngs of players, families, supporters and friends making the most of the barbeque!

LEAGUE RUGBY After a ten-year gap it was a real pleasure to join in competition with West last year, their first season in R2N. In a thrilling 58 point match at Catcote Road a breathless finale resulted in both sides sharing the spoils. In the return fixture we again scored 29 points, but, happily for us, West were restricted to five points. West finished in the top half of the table to round off a satisfactory debut season. To prepare for the new campaign they played a match against Medicals (late replacements for Penrith). After a scoreless first half the second period produced 57 points as West ran out comfortable winners, scoring seven tries.

However, before kick-off this afternoon, there will be a minute's silence for **Richard Ward**, long-standing Vice President and former Treasurer. He died back in April but this is our first home game opportunity to show our respect. This tribute was suggested by the players, which is a measure of the universal high regard in which Richard was held.

Next week we travel to Durham City before we entertain Carlisle – back up into R2N again – and then Kirkby Lonsdale, new to our league. Kirkby were R2NW but are quite lucky to remain at R2 level (although I'm sure Stockton will disagree). Due to be relegated as the bottom club Kirkby were saved by the knock-on effect of Jersey RFC going out of business. However they were transferred into R2N, sending Stockton down.

COLTS Meanwhile **the Colts** have also had a hectic pre-season. As part of a team-building exercise a 30-strong group travelled up river to, amongst other activity, perfect their diving technique. I'm told they can now belly flop with the best of them! An even bigger group – a team of 47 Colts, parents and volunteers, some from Wilton Engineering, took part in the Middlesbrough 10k run on Sunday and raised £5,500 for the Teesside Family Foundation in appreciation of TFF's support for grassroots rugby and the local community. Each and every one of them deserve our heartfelt congratulations.

They also managed to fit in matches against DMP, which they won 47-5, with Man of the Match performances from the ever dependable **Brook Powner** and highly promising newcomer **Will Tait**, and then West Hartlepool, claiming another victory 22-0, with the Man of the Match accolade going to **Logan Lacey**. Today they play Wetherby in a curtain raiser to the 1st XV game before the Colts league gets underway next weekend, when Ripon are the visitors.



Brook Powner, Will Tait & Logan Lacey

YORKSHIRE CUP Although not the force it once was (in recent years it has suffered more walk-overs than ties played!) enough clubs expressed support for the Cup to prompt YRU to continue the competition this season, with the majority in favour of playing the matches throughout the season rather than lumped together when the leagues are finished, as in the RFU community cup competitions. There was some initial confusion about the date of R1, in which we were drawn at Ilkley. However our opponents withdrew from the competition, as did Doncaster Phoenix and Malton & Norton, and with ties being played on 16th, 31st and today, when Wetherby meet Pontefract in a league and cup double-header, the quarter finals have been drawn. We are at home to Sandal, a club with which we have enjoyed many a Cup battle over the years, noticeably two seasons ago in the Final when we beat them with a last gasp try. It's more than likely that their disappointment still lingers...The other ties are Cleckheaton v Heath, Huddersfield v Bradford Salem and York v Wetherby/Pontefract.

CLUB NEWS The passing of **Richard Ward** is mentioned above, Sadly others associated with club have also died over the summer. They include **Mike Sheffield**, a Club Trustee and former Chairman, **Keith Felce**, one half of the dynamic duo of wingers **Foster & Felce** who played in our memorable Centenary match against the all-conquering London Welsh, which we came so close to winning, and **Jack Rowell**, a member of our Harrogate Sevens winning team of 1963/54 who went on to coach England. Our sincere condolences go to their families and friends.

Turning to happier news, tonight, for one night only, our very own **PROVENANCE** will give us one last set of their fantastic music before they set off for Manchester University. They will play some classic covers, some great originals and will do a band-eoke session; if you fancy being a lead singer, tonight could be your night. Come along and join the fun.

You will find on p23 a summary of the Club's Strategic Plan. The full version is a weighty tome and will shortly be available for your perusal on the website.

REFEREE'S CORNER I am delighted to welcome **Andy Williamson** back to Acklam Park. He has been a regular visitor in recent years – we had the pleasure of his company twice last season, and I hope we see him again during this campaign. He took up the whistle nine years ago, before when he played at No8 for Ripon. He is a telecoms engineer. I hope he has a trouble-free and enjoyable afternoon with us.

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15 Matthew Marsay

14 Brendan Hill

13 Aedan Moloney

12 Peter Homan. (Capt)

11 Harry Bryce

10 Shay Barritt

9 Conner Foley

1 Josh Lynas

2 Joe Sawdon

3 Myles Colvin

4 Henry Nyinguro

5 Adam Marron

6 Ali Lang

7 Rohan Brown

8 Ollie Hodgson

16 Sean Moloney

17 Steven Hoare

18 Joe McNeill

Referee; Andy Williamson,

L 2 NORTH

WEST HARTLEPOOL

Sam Knight 15

Will Hilditch 14

Ollie Connolly 13

Peter You'll 12

Max Tennant 11

Matt Siddle 10

Ryan Painter (Capt) 9

Adam Hutchinson 1

Aidan Jackson-Smith 2

Andy Rollins 3

Will Corbett 4

Nick Bennions 5

Jake Linighan 6

Isaac Robinson 7

Alex Barker 8

Liam Pennick 16

Connor McLurg 17

Zac Southern 18

CODE OF RUGBY

EVERYONE involved in rugby in England, whether as a player, coach, referee, administrator, parent or spectator is expected to uphold the Core Values of our sport.

Teamwork • Respect • Enjoyment Discipline • Sportsmanship

- **Play to win** - but not at all cost
- **Win with dignity**, lose with grace
- **Observe the Laws** and regulations of the game
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- **Reject** cheating, racism, violence and drugs
- **Value** volunteers and paid officials alike
- **Enjoy the game**

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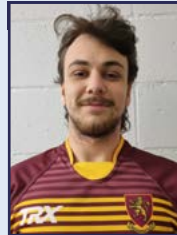
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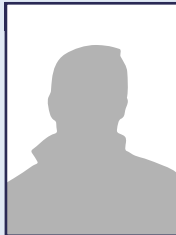
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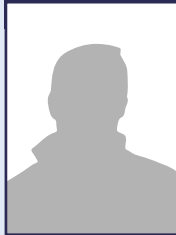
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SUMMARY OF CLUB'S STRATEGIC PLAN

1) Middlesbrough Rugby Union Football Club – a ‘Centre of Excellence’.

- Develop and sustain a player base at all levels.
- Be **the** club that is attractive to residents of Teesside and newcomers to the area.
- Provide facilities so that all can experience and enjoy rugby in a safe & healthy environment.
- Encourage individuals to play rugby at the highest level possible.

2) Inclusivity.

- Encourage people from all backgrounds to play, watch, administer, but most of all **enjoy** rugby.
- Make all activities fun and engaging.

3) Administration.

- Get more people involved in making the club work.
- Share the load by developing sub-committees and develop successful succession planning.
- Be proactive in seeking out potential volunteers – don’t wait.

4) Development.

- Continue to develop Acklam Park and Tollesby to provide better playing and social facilities.
- Create a sustainable re-investment plan to facilitate improvements.

5) Finance.

- Ensure that MRUFC is financially sound.
- Grow membership: players of all levels and genders, memberships; full members and social members.
- Optimise and develop our relationships with existing sponsors and seek out and involve new sponsorship opportunities.
- Explore and apply for any and all grants available: RFU, sporting bodies, central and local government etc.
- Improve social events at Acklam Park.
- Grow Acklam Park as a source of funding and a pleasant social hub.



shipping & transport



COMPANY PROFILE

LV Shipping & Transport is an international logistics provider. We offer a full range of logistical services to our clients through our worldwide network of own offices and dedicated agents.

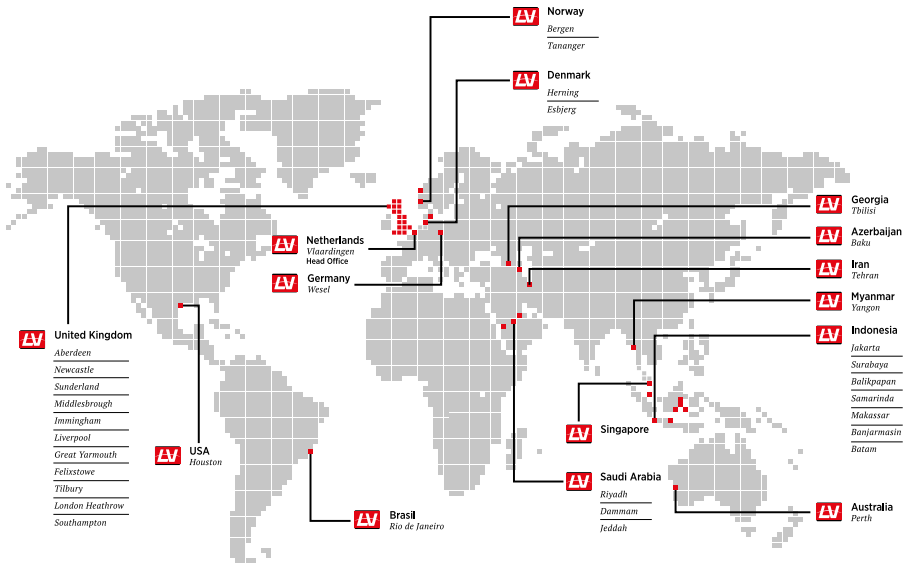
As an independent, privately owned company, established in 1921 in The Netherlands, we focus on long-term relationships with our customers.

Our international teams of specialists are dedicated to offer our clients a personal service that can be summarized as pro-active and responsive. It is in our company's DNA to offer our clients reliable and cost effective transport solutions that can be qualified as best in industry.

For this reason many of the world's leading companies in the oil and gas, energy, construction and steel industry have chosen our company as their preferred supplier for their logistic challenges.

We thank you for considering our service and invite you to become more familiar with our company and our people.

GLOBAL OFFICE LOCATIONS





6 NATIONS FIXTURES 2025

Date	Match	Kick Off (GMT)
Jan 31 (Fri)	France v Wales	8.00pm
Feb 1	Scotland v Italy	2.15 pm
	Ireland v ENGLAND	4.45 pm
Feb 8	Italy v Wales	2.15 pm
	ENGLAND v France	4.45 pm
Feb 9 (Sun)	Scotland v Ireland	3.00 pm
Feb 22	Wales v Ireland	2.15 pm
	ENGLAND v Scotland	4.45 pm
Feb 23 (Sun)	Italy v France	3.00 pm
Mar 8	Ireland v France	2.15 pm
	Scotland v Wales	4.45 pm
Mar 9 (Sun)	ENGLAND v Italy	3.00 pm
Mar 15	Italy v Ireland	2.15 pm
	Wales v ENGLAND	4.45 pm
	France v Scotland	8.00 pm.



Communications

QUITE INTERESTING...

The **SUMMER OLYMPICS** reminded me of those far off times in 1920 when, at Antwerp, the **USA** women could at last compete in the swimming events, having previously been banned by a draconian US ruling that banned any show of female legs.

Bizarre sporting events at earlier Olympics included live pigeon shooting, the long jump for horses and croquet. And at the 1908 London Games Britain won gold, silver and bronze in the tug of war.

There are also examples of non-sporting events being included in the Olympics, including, would you believe, Town Planning. And in Ancient Greece, an early version of the Olympics included a kissing contest – but only boys were allowed to enter.

This year the French really excelled themselves, when the £300million La Defense Arena in Paris, home of the Racing 92 rugby team, underwent an incredible transformation into two Olympic swimming pools. What's more, it was all done in just 36 days.

After the GB men's eight won gold in the rowing final a member of the medical staff arrived at the doctor's tent beside the water and offered to push Rory Gibbs to the medal podium in a wheelchair. The stomach-churning reason will be explained in our next edition...

LEAGUE RESULTS: 7 September

MIDDLESBROUGH v West Hartlepool
 Carlisle v Durham City
 Kirkby Lonsdale v Aspatria
 Guisborough v Morpeth
 Northern v Consett
 Upper Eden v Keswick

OTHER FIXTURES

Tynedale v WASPS
 COLTS v Wetherby

LEAGUE FIXTURES: 14 September

Durham City v MIDDLESBROUGH
 Carlisle v Kirkby Lonsdale
 Consett v Guisborough
 Keswick v Aspatria
 Morpeth v Upper Eden
 West Hartlepool v Northern

OTHER FIXTURES: 14/15 September

Northallerton v 'A' TEAM
 COLTS v Ripon

FINAL R2N LEAGUE TABLE 2023/24

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	BPs	Pts
1	Percy Park	22	19	0	3	775	340	435	22	99
2	Northern	22	19	0	3	660	337	323	16	92
3	MIDDLESBROUGH	22	15	1	6	638	405	233	20	82
4	Durham City	22	13	0	9	559	406	153	16	68
5	Aspatria	22	11	0	11	461	541	-80	8	52
6	West Hartlepool	22	8	1	13	436	544	-108	15	50
7	Morpeth	22	10	0	12	502	552	-50	9	49
8	Consett	22	10	0	12	545	596	-51	9	49
9	Upper Eden	22	9	1	12	423	439	-16	10	48
10	Keswick	22	8	0	14	397	520	-123	10	42
11	Stockton	22	8	0	14	397	576	-179	8	40
12	Cockermouth	22	0	1	21	169	705	-536	3	-5*



PORT OF MIDDLESBROUGH

An AV Dawson Facility

MORE THAN JUST A PORT

AV Dawson's Port of Middlesbrough is ideally positioned on the River Tees, in north-east England and provides a multimodal freight logistics service including:

- Transhipment from vessel direct to rail or warehousing
- Quayside warehousing, customs storage and office accommodation
- Automotive grade, climate controlled facilities
- Off-dock container and tank storage and handling
- Intermodal railhead
- Ships agency, chartering and customs expertise
- Own road transport fleet
- Heavy and high site access routes

Port of Middlesbrough has an 80-year track record building strong relationships and supporting key sectors including energy and renewables, construction, agriculture, automotive and waste.

Whether you require import, export, local hub distribution or on-port warehousing, Port of Middlesbrough can provide the versatility and relationships to deliver the efficiencies you require – it's certainly more than just a port.



t: +44(0) 1642 209195 e: enquiries@av-dawson.com w: portofmiddlesbrough.com

BORO FIXTURES

Date		Wasps XV CANDY Div 1		
Aug 17			Points F A	
24	F	Bishop Auckland		H
31				
Sep 7	L	Tynedale		A
14				
21	L	Percy Park		H
28	L	Billingham		A
Oct 5				
12	L	Northern		H
19	L	Medicals		A
26	L	Alnwick		A
Nov 2				
9				
16	L	Sunderland		H
23	L	Blaydon		H
30	L	Morpeth		H
Dec 7				
14	L	Percy Park		A
21	F	Carlisle		A
28				
Jan 4				
11	L	Northern		A
18	L	Billingham		H
25				
Feb 1	L	Sunderland		A
8	L	Alnwick		H
15	L	Tynedale		H
22				
Mar 1	L	Blaydon		A
8	L	Morpeth		A
15				
22	L	Medicals		H
29				
Apr 5				
12				
19				

		'A' XV CANDY Div 3S		
			Points F A	
F	Blyth			A
L	Richmondshire			P
L	Northallerton			A
L	Hartlepool			A
L	Darlington			H
L	DMP			A
L	Stockton			H
L	Barnard Castle			A
F	Ripon			A
L	Redcar			A
L	Acklam			H
L	Northallerton			H
L	Hartlepool			H
L	Darlington			A
L	DMP			H
L	Barnard Castle			H
L	Stockton			A
L	Richmondshire			H
F	Ripon			H
L	Redcar			H
L	Acklam			A
L	Richmondshire			A

REGIONAL 2 NORTH – 2024/2025 FIXTURES & RESULTS

Aspatria	West Hartlepool	12-Oct						
Carlisle	Upper Eden	07-Dec	19-Oct	21-Dec	11-Jan	01-Mar	05-Apr	08-Mar
Consett	Northern	16-Nov	28-Sep	05-Apr	21-Dec	26-Oct	08-Mar	18-Jan
Durham City	Morpeth	21-Sep	01-Mar	19-Oct	09-Nov	07-Sep	04-Jan	12-Oct
Guisborough	Middlesbrough	15-Feb	21-Dec	07-Dec	14-Sep	18-Jan	16-Nov	04-Jan
Keswick	Kirkby Lonsdale	05-Apr	14-Sep	01-Feb	22-Mar	09-Nov	21-Dec	
Morpeth	Keswick	14-Dec	09-Nov	11-Jan	01-Feb	22-Mar		21-Sep
Northern	Guisborough	08-Mar	11-Jan	14-Sep	28-Sep		07-Dec	15-Feb
Upper Eden	Durham City	18-Jan	07-Sep	16-Nov		04-Jan	26-Oct	07-Dec
West Hartlepool	Consett	04-Jan	30-Nov		01-Mar	14-Dec	12-Oct	26-Oct
	Carlisle	26-Oct		08-Mar	05-Apr	12-Oct	15-Feb	14-Dec
	Aspatria		01-Feb	28-Sep	19-Oct	30-Nov	14-Sep	07-Sep
	Durham City	19-Oct	30-Nov	14-Sep	07-Sep	09-Nov	21-Dec	01-Mar
	Guisborough	30-Nov	14-Sep	28-Sep		04-Jan	26-Oct	12-Oct
	Keswick	14-Sep	07-Sep	09-Nov	21-Dec		08-Mar	16-Nov
	Kirkby Lonsdale	07-Sep	09-Nov	21-Dec		28-Sep	11-Jan	19-Oct
	Middlesbrough	09-Nov	21-Dec		28-Sep	11-Jan	19-Oct	30-Nov
	Morpeth	21-Dec	01-Mar	22-Mar		28-Sep	30-Nov	07-Sep
	Northern	01-Mar	22-Mar		28-Sep	30-Nov	07-Sep	19-Oct
	Upper Eden	22-Mar	18-Jan	21-Sep	21-Sep	09-Nov	09-Nov	01-Mar
	West Hartlepool	11-Jan	07-Dec	15-Feb	14-Sep	01-Feb	14-Sep	28-Sep

PLAYING RECORDS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff
Wasps							
'A' XV							
Colts	2	2	0	0	69	5	64

1st XV FIXTURES & SCORERS

Date		Opponents		F	A	Scorers	Tries
Aug 17							
24	F	Ripon		A			
31	F	Blaydon		H			
Sep 7	L	West Hartlepool		H			
14	L	Durham City		A			
21	L	Carlisle		H			
28	L	Kirkby Lonsdale		H			
Oct 5	YC	Sandal		H			
12	L	Northern		A			
19	L	Guisborough		H			
26	L	Upper Eden		A			
Nov 2							
9	L	Aspatria		H			
16	L	Keswick		A			
23							
30	L	Morpeth		H			
Dec 7	L	Consett		A			
14	L	Durham City		H			
21	L	Carlisle		A			
28							
Jan 4	L	Kirkby Lonsdale		A			
11	L	Northern		H			
18	L	Guisborough		A			
25							
Feb 1	L	Upper Eden		H			
8							
15	L	Aspatria		A			
22							
Mar 1	L	Keswick		H			
8	L	Morpeth		A			
15							
22	L	Consett		H			
29							
Apr 5	L	West Hartlepool		A			
12							
19							
26							
May 3							
10							

P 0 W 0 D 0 L 0 F 0 A 0 Diff 0

DROMONBY FARM FISHERY

KIRKBY-IN-CLEVELAND NR STOKESLEY
TS9 7AR

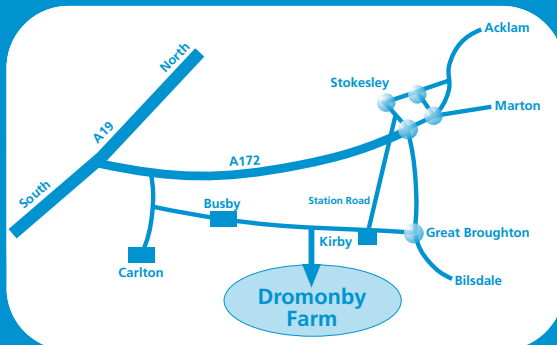
DAY TICKET FISHERY



FISHING LAKES SET UNDER
THE CLEVELAND HILLS
STOCKED WITH:

CARP TO 28LB

RUDD TO 2LB  TENCH TO 3LB



TICKETS SOLD ON BANK

OPEN DAWN TILL DUSK



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