

NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 NORTH

Saturday 7th March 2020 - Kick Off 2.30pm

official programme £2





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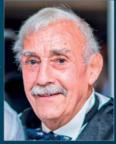
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Keith Brierley

Hello, welcome to Preston Grasshoppers to today's opponents Caldy and to visitors, guests, sponsors, coaches, players, ex-players, supporters and spectators for our latest home game of this campaign. We have always had competitive games against Caldy and I am sure that today, Hoppers will be doing all in their power to take advantage of the home fixture with a win to spoil Caldy's 100% record so far this season. Hopefully, today's game should offer some entertaining and competitive rugby, and I hope the current disparity in our league positions is not too evident on the pitch this afternoon.

It gives me immense pride to be President of Preston Grasshoppers in our Sesquicentenary year and it seems only yesterday that I was celebrating our Centenary year as a 1st XV player, which has provided me with life long friendships and many happy memories.

This is my second year as President and I have been to some new destinations and met lots of new and interesting people from the various clubs that we

visited last season. Our success after promotion to League 2 North last season left us in a creditable 7th position in the league but this year although we were looking to improve on that position, we appear to be struggling to find our form of last season at the moment which has plunged us into the relegation zone. It has been a great honour and privilege to have served as your President and I am looking forward to carrying on in the same vein through the rest of this and next season. I would also like to thank all the army of staff and volunteers for their great work during the current season. Keith



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Front cover photo the mean looking forwards exerting their dominance over Hinckley after a line out.

To see more 'Hoppers photos visit www.flickr.com/photos/mickcraig

TODAY'S RAFFLE PRIZES

1st Prize of an Accor Travel Pack once again very kindly provided by Chris Ford from Accor Hotels . The Pack consists of: Urban design security Backpack / Rucksack, high quality USB World Travel adaptor, Miami Jersey Travel Set including inflatable pillow, ear plugs & eye mask all packed in a soft pouch, Aluminium metal sports bottle, Bamboo & rice fibre travel cup and Suntan lotion.

2nd Prize is free entry for 6 on the Friday night for the Hoppers Beerfest.

3rd Prize is a Hoppers scarf.

4th Prize is a bottle of Prosecco



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Preston Grasshoppers invite you to our Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunday, 12th April 2020 with special guest 'The Easter Bunny' here at Lightfoot Green.

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M. D. Jim Moore

Managing Director, Jim Moore, is a former 1st XV player at Hoppers, having progressed through the club's successful Mini-Junior and Colts sections, playing since the age of four. This summer, Jim will captain Hoppers Cricket for an unprecedented fourth term, with the team having DOMINATED the Boddingtons Village Cricket League in each of the previous three seasons.

Jim said, "We're proud to be able to support Arnie and the boys as we enter the latter stages of what has been a frustrating season and build for next year." Tearing up the form book and in complete denial of current league standings, Jim is confidently predicting an impressive 60-0 home win today!



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TODAY'S VISITORS - CALDY

Preston Grasshoppers host undefeated league leaders Caldy at Lightfoot Green today, a game in which the visitors require just a couple of points to be crowned Champions. It will take a great effort from Hoppers to put a hold on any celebrations and make the visitors wait another week, but the visitors and their supporters can be sure there won't be any lack of effort on their part.

Caldy are set to make a quick return to National 1 with four or five games to spare, and with the prospect of becoming National 2 North Champions after today's game, the Lightfoot Green club-house will no doubt play hosts to a great number of travelling supporters from the Wirral.

Caldy's promotion at the end of the 2016/17 season ended a sequence of ten when both teams had faced each other in league contests, but the end of this season looks like seeing both clubs heading in different directions. The inaugural senior game between Caldy and Hoppers was a pre-season warm-up fixture at Lightfoot Green prior to the 2004/5 season. Caldy had climbed the league ladder with a succession of promotions from the depths of South Lancashire and Cheshire 3, eventually gaining promotion to N2N as Champions of North 1 in 2007.

The first league meeting was at Paton Field back on the 6th of October 2007 when Hoppers turned round a narrow half time deficit to eventually run out winners by twenty points to sixteen. Since then just a couple of consecutive wins under Dave Baldwin's leadership have given Hoppers the spoils at Paton Field from a total of eight further visits.

There have been twenty one league meetings between the two clubs since Caldy's promotion in 2007. Our visitors currently hold the advantage with thirteen wins to Preston Grasshoppers tally of seven. Back in 2016, the game in Cheshire was drawn thirteen all.

MILESTONES

Sam Wallbank will make his fiftieth appearance for Preston Grasshoppers in his next game for the club. The forward made his debut on the 7th of September 2013 at Dore Moor, in a winning game against Sheffield Tigers missing only one game that season before moving away from Hoppers until his return this season. Congratulations Sam!

Digger (Mike Forshaw)





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Gareth Dyer

Paul Arnold

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Craig Steel

Ade Jebb 2nd XV

Coach

Ian McFarlane

2nd XV

Coach

Mark Taylor

2nd XV Manager







2nd XV Sports Rehabilitator

Bill Kin



Mick Mortimer

Steve Tiernan

Mark Murray

Kathryn Stevens

TODAY'S OTHER LEAGUE GAMES

FYLDE V **LUCTONIANS**

V HUDDERSFIELD HINCKLEY

> V SHEFFIELD TIGERS OTLEY

SCUNTHORPE V LOUGHBOROUGH

SEDGLEY PARK V HULL

> V **TYNEDALE STOURBRIDGE**

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Head of Rugby Operations, Gareth Dyer

HEAD OF RUGBY OPERATIONS Gareth Dyer welcomed our visitors this week and said

"Good Afternoon and welcome to Champions Elect Caldy for today's National Two North fixture.

Clearly it is only a matter of time before the men from the Wirral are crowned Champions and we wish them well on their return to National One.

Congratulations go to Gareth Davies and Matt Cairns together with the rest of the coaching and of course the most important people, the players.

That Caldy have repeated what Hull Ionians did by bouncing back at the first attempt does perhaps indicate that the experience of playing at Level 3 does introduce an intensity and mindset that allows for a level of sustained performance in National Two that the seasoned incumbents are unable to match.

For our part, we will be looking to improve on last week's showing at Chester. Again, key decisions prevented us from really taking the game by the scruff of the neck. We were good enough to create chances to be further clear at the end of the first quarter than we were but if you don't take gilt edge opportunities then you cannot expect to win games. We stuck manfully to the task but the second half had a familiarly disappointing feel to it in terms of our game management and discipline under pressure.

We continue to re-shape the squad and discussions are ongoing with players about where they stand for next season. We will continue our recent policy of giving youngsters opportunities over the coming weeks when we believe it is the right opportunity to do so.

Relegation has consequences and I think the meetings that we are currently having are bringing that home to people.

It is clear where we need to improve the squad and we are working hard to do that.

One announcement I can make is that we have appointed Byron McGuigan to our coaching staff for next season. Byron is a current Sale Sharks and Scotland winger and is part of the Scottish Six Nations squad that will face France tomorrow.

Byron will become our backs and defence coach and I believe he will bring significant value to our set up. He has impressed in the discussions we have about how he wants to approach the role and his key areas of focus. I believe they will dovetail well with what our needs are and I expect him to have a big influence on our squad next season."

HEAD COACH Paul 'Arnie' Arnold had this to say this week

"Firstly, welcome to everyone from Caldy and let me congratulate them all on an unbelievable season. They are a good bunch of lads and I wish them well on their return to National League 1 next season. As for us, as massive underdogs, we just have to believe in ourselves and play with confidence.

Last week's performance against Chester was better in parts compared to previous games and we have to try and build on that until the end of the season.

Our season continues to be plagued by injuries and last week we have lost Nick Gregson with a knee injury and Luke Procter with a broken foot

On the positive side, it was great to see Matt Lamprey making his comeback from injury.

Our rebuilding process has started in anticipation of next season including Byron McGuigan joining us as backs coach and a number of players re-signed already for next season.

As always, thank you for your support and please try to get behind the young lads today.



Head Coach, Paul Arnold



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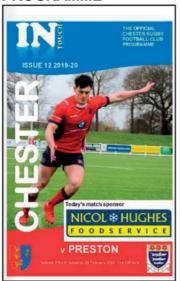
Preston Grasshoppers are pleased to announce that we've teamed up with Net World Sports. The online sports equipment company stocks a wide range of rugby equipment and the partnership will see the club receive new rugby tackle bags and water bottles.

Speaking on the subject of the partnership, Hoppers Head Coach Paul Arnold said "We are delighted to start this partnership with Net World Sports, I have heard some great things about them. It is clear they share our vision for excellence and high performance. The kit they have supplied is great quality and we hope they can grow their business, through us".

Ryan from Net World Sports was equally pleased about the partnership saying "We already stock a wide range of rugby

products and we plan to continue building out our rugby equipment offering in 2020. Having a wellestablished and well supported club like Preston Grasshoppers using our products is great as we look to build awareness of our growing range of rugby products.

PROGRAMME



Away supporters to our last game against Chester may have been surprised that there was no programme on sale, in that the programme was only available electronically online. Chester featured the team sheet on one of the televisions in the club house. (At best on a good day they say they only sell approximately 40 copies for each game.)

Following a number of questions to the Chester club officials, they see this format for the programme as the way forward. We would like to hear feedback from not only the away supporters who travelled to Chester, but people who support Hoppers at home games too.

Would you rather have a paper programme to take away with you to read at your leisure or just a link to a website? (Our programme is featured on our website just in case you couldn't make it to the game.)

If you have an opinion as to our future programme productions, please email the programme editor Joe at

the moxhams@tiscali.co.uk or approach me personally in the club house.

Editors note: Chester couldn't even include our proper name on their programme.

JUST FOR FUN

"There's a little triangle, five left-footed players..."

"Either side could win it, or it could be a draw."

"I never comment on referees, and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat!"

"I'm going to make a prediction; it could go either way."

"Zinedine Zidane is not very happy because he's suffering from the wind."

All attributed to Ron Atkinson.



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18 Rob Meadows

19 Will Clapham

20 Tom Walker

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CALDY

STARTING XV

- 15 Rhys Hayes
- 14 Nick Royle
- 13 Gavin Roberts
- 12 Mike Cartmill
- 11 Tom Cornall
- 10 Lewis Barker
- 9 Jacob Ainscough
- 1 John Whittaker
- 2 Tom Clarke
- 3 Jack Parker
- 4 Jack Collister
- 5 Martin Gerrard
- 6 Harrison Crowe
- 7 Callum Ridgeway
- 8 Josiah Dickinson (C)

GAME CHANGERS

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- 17 Ryan Spencer Wolfe
- 18 Niall Davidson
- 19 Tom Sanders
- 20 Cameron Davies

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SQUASH

Members can book courts from 9.00am to 10.00pm seven days a week. Coaching is available from junior level to expert level by Mike Farrington, one of the top coaches around. For more squash information please contact Gary Jackson 07775 753968.

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Hoppers Rollers provide a platform for cyclists to participate and/or compete in road cycling to a level that suits their aspirations. This varies from social cycling in club runs through to elite racing. Throughout the summer the club runs social rides on a Wednesday evening. To keep up to date with departure times and routes visit @HoppersRollers on Twitter, through the Hoppers website, or contact Ben Hedley 01772 863546.

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MINI JUNIOR AND COLTS RUGBY AT LIGHTFOOT GREEN

Hugh Duckworth



In terms of registered players, 2018/19 saw 400 plus youngsters enjoy the rugby experience at Hoppers. Not only did the number of volunteer coaches and managers increase by 20%, but also there was a planned and effective focus on achieving the England Rugby Coaching Award. This in itself is a tremendous platform for future growth. Two Junior age groups with high numbers played double fixtures throughout the season, thereby ensuring all youngsters enjoyed game time.

The Artificial Grass Pitch, entering its fourth year, has proved to be an invaluable asset, not only allowing more rugby to be played by an increasing number of youngsters but also leading to improved management of the grass pitches. The RFU now appreciates the challenge of providing mid-week training for over two hundred youngsters and has arranged for the club to pre-book two hours on the AGP every Wednesday evening. This represents a tremendous concession and can only lead to an improved standard of Junior Rugby here at Preston Grasshoppers.

The Colts demonstrated tremendous team spirit throughout the season, which culminated in a successful end of season tour to Bristol. Several of the ex-Colts are currently enjoying pre-season training with the first and second team squad. Phill Mills will be lead coach for 2019/20, supported by First XV player Ryan Carlson and Ollie Hoban, a former Colt.



Charlotte Kenny Mcinally

The local Land Rover retailer has sponsored Mini Junior Rugby at Preston Grasshoppers since 1997 and last season saw the fourth name change - to Inchcape. In celebration, our sponsor funded the purchase of brand new kit for the Under 7s to 16s inclusively and for the first time the playing shirts reflected the dual brands of Jaguar and Land Rover. These were not only a great source of pride to the youngsters but also the envy of the opposition!



The club is particularly indebted to UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire) for providing First Aid cover on a Sunday throughout the season. The students have achieved an extremely comprehensive and professional standard, and generated favourable feedback from visiting



Ryan Carlson



Simon Seekings and the catering team deserve a special thank you for serving approaching three thousand portions of sausage and chips to visiting teams. This fact alone reflects the scale of Mini Junior Rugby at Hoppers.

Finally a big thank you to Dave Preston and Derrick Cray for their outstanding commitment to preparing and maintaining the pitches to such a high standard.



In terms of representative honours in 2018/19, fourteen players from the Under 15s and Under 16s were selected for Lancashire, and four for the Sales Sharks Junior Academy. Four ex Preston Grasshoppers players were selected for the Sale Sharks Senior Academy and all played for Sale Sharks during last season. Arron Reed played for England in the Under 20s World Cup in Argentina, and Kieran Wilkinson in the Under 20s Six Nations.

New milestones were achieved with the Hoppers Festivals, the long-standing and successful one day events for the Under 7, Under 8 and Under 9s and separately for the Under 10, Under 11 and 12s were repeated. For the very first time these were supplemented by an Under 13s Festival, the success of which providing the platform for a much bigger event in 2019/20. The club is indebted to Vivienne Davenport of Westholme School for confirming the continued sponsorship of the Hoppers Festivals in 2019/20.

The Sportsman's Dinner, with Jason Leonard as Principal Speaker, was a sell out. The monies raised contributing to the ongoing pitch improvement programme.

The Presentation Dinners at the end of the season were successful events and achieved record attendances. The Masters of Ceremonies, Ian Gaskell and Daniel Weed deserve a particular vote of thanks. Alex Carson, captain of the Under 16s, presented the awards at the Junior Dinner, he himself receiving the Founders Cup for 2018/19 towards the close of the event.

Oga Mabaya from the First XV proved a popular choice at the Minis Dinner.

The Hoppers Tours go from strength to strength and reflect the scale of Mini Junior Rugby here at Lightfoot Green, with approaching five hundred departing on six separate tours.

Looking forward, the plans for 2019/20 will be threefold.

- Firstly, aim to achieve an improvement in skill levels in the Junior age groups, based on the increased availability of the AGP for midweek training.
- Secondly, retain the focus among the volunteer coaches on achieving the England Rugby Coaching Award.
- Finally, improve the availability of professional coaches to the Junior age groups.

Commitment to these three areas will not only assist in the management of our numbers but also

agement of our numbers but also improve the standard of Mini Junior and Colts Rugby offered by Preston Grasshoppers.

HUGH DUCKWORTH

Chairman- Mini, Junior and Colts Rugby











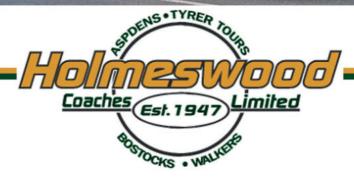


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Noah Miller	George Erdozain
Ally Murray	Blue Wren
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Luke Procter	Nicky Donnelly Associates
Ryan Purcell	Sandham's Cheese
Tyler Sloane	Horsfield Business Services Engineers
Tyler Spence	Helen Schofield - Hempworx
Jake Squirrel	Horsfield Building Services Engineers
Sam Stott	Lloyds South Lakes BMW
Christian Taylor	Bailey Financial Services
Oliver Trippier	Westland Horticulture
Conor Trueman	GymWolfPT
Sam Wallbank	Fun at Work
Jon Wells	Westland Horticulture

PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS APPRECIATE THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF PLAYERS THROUGH SPONSORSHIP AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE CLUB. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CAPITALISE ON SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLUB TEL: 01772 863546 OR EMAIL: info@pgrfc.co.uk

Background Photo courtesy Mike Craig. To see more 'Hoppers photos visit www.flickr.com/photos/mickcraig

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HOPPERS WOMEN'S RUGBY

Report by Victoria Kenyon. Photo's courtesy Gareth Lyons.

Preston Grasshoppers Women vs Broughton Park Ladies







Every Hoppers player put in 100% and although that was not reflected in the score they came away knowing how to improve and looking forward to the game next week to Broughton Park. (See above).



PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS

Going into this game after a week of improving on our defence in training, we were positive we would come away with a better score than our last match. In the first 4 minutes Broughton Park scored a try with their number 4 converting making the opening score 7.0

Broughton Park were penalised for a high tackle to Hoppers 9 resulting in a penalty to Hoppers. Unfortunately we were unable to add any points to the board from this. Hoppers played with all their hearts determined as ever and we were rewarded with our own Poppy Welsh scoring a try from a pick and go with Sinead Doria scoring the conversion making the score 7-7.

Broughton Park went on to score one more try in the first half with a successful conversion making the half time score 14-7 to Broughton Park.

In the second half Hoppers work ethic was shown in what can be described as a ping pong half with each side constantly attacking the others half. Before the end of the game Rosie Fane scored another try for Hoppers with Col Weepman successfully kicking to make the final score 14-14.

This game proved Hoppers we're able to bounce back and gain a draw from the defeat against Sale 1861 the previous week. Every girl put in 100% on the pitch which was reflected in the score and improvements from the previous game we played.

Preston Grasshoppers Women v Sale 1861

On Sunday 23rd February Preston Grasshoppers Women travelled away to play against Sale 1861 Ladies who are currently top of the league. Hoppers went into the game with enthusiasm and a want to prove ourselves against the side we suffered a close loss to at home.

During the first 5 minutes of the game Sale put a try on the board but missed the conversion making the opening score 5-0. Hoppers went on to gain a penalty 10 minutes into the game with Sinead Doria successfully kicking, making the score 5-3. However Hoppers were unable to put any more points on the board despite best efforts for the rest of the game. Sale went on to score 5 more tries in the first half making the half time score 32-3. Unfortunately for Hoppers, after half time, they were still unable to put more points on the board, whilst Sale gained several more tries making the final score of the match 67-3. This meant Sale had won the entire league. Hoppers were able to come away from the game knowing what needeed to be worked on and feeling proud of the effort shown on the pitch in what was a difficult game.



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		FD	(TURE	S/RES	su	JLTS 2019/20					
	1 st	XV			2 nd XV						
2019	OPPONENTS	H/A	RES	WLD		OPPONENTS	H/A	RES	WLD		
7 Sept	SEDGLEY PARK	н	20-30	L		Chester 2	Α	78-14	L		
14 Sept	Fylde	Α	24-24	D		CALDY 2	Н	31-38	L		
21 Sept	SCUNTHORPE	Н	48-24	W		Fylde 2	Α	33-27	L		
28 Sept	SHEFFIELD TIG'S	Н	10-9	W		ROSSENDALE 2	Н	12-31	L		
5 Oct	Wharfedale	Α	20-19	L		Sedgley Park 2	Α	53-7	L		
12 Oct	HUDDERSFIELD	Н	22-27	L		Lymm 2	Α	39-17	L		
19 Oct	Tynedale	Α	34-5	L					2		
26 Oct	STOURBRIDGE	Н	20-17	W		Macclesfield 2 A		Postponed			
2 Nov	Hinckley	Α	27-17	L							
9 Nov	CHESTER	Н	10-27	L		BLACKBURN 2	Н	24-28	L		
16 Nov	Caldy	Α	49-21	L		Caldy 2	Α	57-17	L		
23 Nov	LOUGHBOROUGH	Н	21-34	L		FYLDE 2	Н	17-11	W		
30 Nov	Luctonians	Α	29-3	L		Rossendale 2	A Pos		poned		
7 Dec	HULL	Н	13-18	L		SEDGLEY PARK 2	н	32-5	W		
14 Dec	Otley	Α	0-0	D		LYMM 2	Н	52-31	W		
21 Dec	FYLDE	Н	3-28	L							
2020											
4 Jan	Scunthorpe	Α	7-30	W		MACCLESFIELD 2	Н	14-18	L		
11 Jan	Sheffield Tigers	Α	11-10	L		Blackburn 2	Α	28-10	L		
18 Jan	WHARFEDALE	Н	26-26	D		CHESTER 2	н	24-8	W		
25 Jan	Huddersfield	Α	25-15	L		Rossendale 2	A	24-10	L		
1 Feb	TYNEDALE	н	14-29	L							
8 Feb	Stourbridge	Α	52-12	L		ROSSENDALE 2	н	21-26	L		
15 Feb	HINCKLEY	Н	3-33	L							
22 Feb	Weather Weekend			1000							
29 Feb	Chester	Α	27-14	L							
7 Mar	CALDY	Н									
14 Mar	Weather Weekend										
21 Mar	Loughborough	Α									
28 Mar	LUCTONIANS	Н									
4 Apr	Hull	Α									
11 Apr	Weather Weekend										
18 Apr	OTLEY	Н									
25 Apr	Sedgley Park	Α							0		

	NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 NORTH Green background is the promotion place. Blue background is the play-off place. Pink background are relegation places.											
		P	W	D	L	F	Α	PD	TBP	LB	PTS	ADJ
1	CALDY	24	24	0	0	953	274	679	18	0	114	
2	FYLDE	24	16	1	7	742	437	305	15	4	85	
3	HINCKLEY	24	16	1	7	742	437	305	15	4	85	
4	SEDGLEY PARK	23	15	0	8	582	525	57	10	4	74	
5	LOUGHBOROUGH	23	13	0	10	681	566	115	12	5	69	
6	HULL	24	12	2	10	469	459	10	5	5	62	
7	STOURBRIDGE	23	10	1	12	635	570	65	12	8	62	
8	CHESTER	23	11	1	11	607	586	21	11	4	61	
9	TYNEDALE	22	9	2	11	541	532	9	9	6	55	
10	WHARFEDALE	23	10	2	11	495	505	-10	5	5	54	
11	LUCTONIANS	23	9	1	13	462	525	-63	7	8	53	
12	SHEFFIELD TIG'S	23	11	0	12	484	541	-57	5	3	52	
13	HUDDERSFIELD	23	8	4	11	482	553	-71	8	4	52	
14	OTLEY	23	8	3	12	443	572	-129	3	4	45	
15	HOPPERS	24	4	3	17	380	607	-227	3	4	29	
16	SCUNTHORPE	23	0	0	23	316	1184	-868	4	2	6	

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