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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Keith Brierley

Hello, welcome to Preston Grasshoppers to today's opponents Scunthorpe and to visitors, guests, sponsors, coaches, players, ex-players, supporters and spectators for our first home game of the season.

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 happy memories.

We have always had competitive games against Scunthorpe and I am sure that today, Hoppers will be doing all in their power to take the home advantage in our second home league game of the season particularly after a strong comeback against Fylde last week. Hopefully, today's game should offer some entertaining and competitive rugby, each team looking for the win to set down a marker for the season ahead.

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 we are looking to improve on that.

I feel I must thank Paul (Arnie) Arnold and his excellent coaching staff and not least the players who are all playing their part this season.

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 this and next season. I would also like to thank all the army of staff and volunteers for their great work during the forthcoming season.

Keith



IN TODAY'S PROGRAMME

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Message from the President..... | Page 3 |
| Who's Who on 'Hoppers Match Days..... | Page 5 |
| Today's Visitors..... | Page 7 |
| Today's Match Sponsor | Page 9 |
| The Team behind The Teams..... | Page 11 |
| A View from the Top..... | Page 13 |
| Rugby World Cup Preview..... | Page 15 |
| Today's team | Page 19 |
| Today's team sheet..... | Page 22 & 23 |
| Other Sports at the Hoppers..... | Page 25 |
| Mini & Juniors..... | Page 26 & 27 |
| New Faces..... | Page 32 |
| Player Sponsors | Page 34 |
| Hoppers Cricketing Heroes | Page 36 |
| Womens Rugby..... | Page 40 |
| Fixtures and results..... | Page 42 |



Front cover photo. Newcomers to Hoppers this season shows Prop John Blanchard and Back Row Toby Harrison taking care of Ben Gregory in last week's game against Fylde.

Front Cover Photo: Photo courtesy Mick Craig.

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

CLUB BLAZERS

You may have noticed that there are plenty of club blazers on show at Hoppers matches. We are putting together requirements for a new order to the blazer manufacturers. The price of the first batch came in at £165 but there may be a slight increase in the cost. We'll need at least 10-12 orders before they will commence manufacture as all the original cloth was used up. If you are interested in purchasing a blazer please contact the club.

Tel: 01772 863546 or email: info@pgrfc.co.uk for further instructions.



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- 
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WHO'S WHO AT PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS ON MATCH DAYS

President: Keith Brierley
Chairman: George Erdozain
General Manager: Ben Hedley
Operations Manager: Sam Hutchinson
Matchday Coordinator: Ken Moore
Fixture/Match Secretary: John Powell

PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL VISITORS TO THE CLUB AND TRUST THAT YOU WILL ENJOY OUR FACILITIES AND THE GAME TODAY.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

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TODAY'S VISITORS - SCUNTHORPE RUFC

Preston Grasshoppers entertain Scunthorpe today in what will be their first visit to Lightfoot Green since they spoiled the party in Hoppers first game on the AGP with a late try and conversion to win by a single point. Something that was a common occurrence that relegation season.



After being relegated along with Hoppers, our visitors took one more season than their hosts to regain their place in National 2 North. Scunthorpe topped Midlands Premier League at the end of last season, pipping Luctonians for the automatic promotion position by a single point.

Looking back to last Saturday, with just ten minutes remaining Hoppers gained what had looked like an improbable draw at Fylde thanks to a couple of tries and a coolly taken second conversion by new recruit Nick Gregson from out wide. The draw was Hoppers first for almost exactly two years to the day since the ten-all affair at Hull on the 16th of September 2017. If Hoppers could take their last twenty minutes of each half from this game forward better results will certainly be forthcoming!

Apart from bonus points, the draw gave Hoppers their first points at The Woodlands Memorial Ground since gaining victory there in 2001 and it was the first drawn game between the two since Mike 'Bill' Bailey's side shared the spoils in the 1996 Easter Monday match. This followed up a rare Hoppers victory at and over Fylde just a few weeks previous. These were the only games played between the two that season, with the Boxing Day fixture at Lightfoot Green being cancelled.

Back to this week's fixture. Preston Grasshoppers first met Scunthorpe during the 2002/2003 season then again during 2016/2017 when both were relegated to their respective Premier Leagues. Hoppers won both games in the first meetings before Scunthorpe took the spoils in the only other two games.

MILESTONES

Congratulations go to new boys Nick Gregson and John Blanchard who both made their debuts off the bench last Saturday with Nick's accurate conversion in the final few minutes giving us the draw. Ben Dorrington also featured in the game scoring one of the late tries which set up the comeback, his try coming less than ten minutes after he came on as a replacement!

After making his fiftieth appearance for Hoppers last week at Fylde, James Fitzpatrick will reach the same milestone in League games with his next appearance.

NEW GENERAL MANAGER



Preston Grasshoppers are pleased to announce the appointment of a new General Manager, Ben Hedley (pictured). Ben joined the club on 1st July 2019 and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of the hospitality and catering industry. Originally from Farnborough, Ben went to university in Liverpool, where he has since spent his working life.

Prior to joining Preston Grasshoppers, Ben was Head of Hospitality and Catering at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society. This followed a period of two years as General Manager.

Prior to the Liverpool Philharmonic, Ben was General Manager for the Revolution Bars Group in Liverpool.

Ben resides in Thornton in Sefton Borough with his wife Emma and young son and daughters, Oliver, Elsie and Sylvie.

Whilst overseeing the sponsorship opportunity, Ben's priority will be to grow the conferencing and event business at Preston Grasshoppers, with a specific focus on providing an outstanding customer experience. Ben looks forward to working closely with Louise Williams, Finance Manager and Sam Hutchinson, Operations Manager in developing our role in the community and ensuring Hoppers becomes the sought after venue for both business and family events.

To contact Ben please telephone 01772 863546 or email ben.hedley@pgrfc.co.uk



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SACRIFICE THERE IS NO DISCIPLINE AND WITHOUT
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TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR



Today's match is sponsored by the Hoppers' Business Network (HBN). If you don't know anything about the HBN, please read on.

The Hoppers Business Network is made up of local companies, some who have been involved with the club for years, having played for the team or supported it through sponsorship, and others who just like to pop along to the networking meetings and meet other local businesses. If you look at the boards around the pitch perimeter you will see the names of some of the Network's members; quite a 'who's who' of Preston businesses!

The Network has two central aims:

- To support the club.
- To promote the member businesses and encourage mutually beneficial business relationships between each other.

The Network aims to host meetings each month where there is always an opportunity to network in a friendly and unpressured way. Often one of the members will give an informative presentation, but there have also been wine tasting evenings, a tour around the Inchcape Jaguar Land Rover premises and a fantastic evening at The Flower Bowl in Barton where members had the opportunity to experience the entertainment and participate in crazy golf and bowling as well as eat fish and chips!

The Network is open to any local organisation that would like to get more involved with events at the club and meet other like minded businesses. If you'd like to receive the occasional email informing you of HBN events, please email marketing@pgrfc.co.uk and ask to be added to the mailing list. You can also drop us an email with any questions you have about the network. We look forward to welcoming you to Hoppers Business Network.

ON OTHER TABLES TODAY



President **Keith Brierley** is entertaining our guests from Scunthorpe. Former General Manager **Richard Ellis** (pictured) is enjoying a belated retirement party with his invited guests. The current Hoppers Management trust he can relax and enjoy the lunch and the afternoon's proceedings together with the very best wishes of all the Hoppers Management, Staff, Players, Supporters and Volunteers for a long and happy retirement.

TODAY'S RAFFLE PRIZES

Please be generous when buying your raffle tickets, the proceeds of which are allocated to various elements of the club.

1st Prize - Hoppers T-shirt and bobble hat

2nd Prize - Hoppers Hat and water bottle

3rd Prize - 2 x bottles of wine



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THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAMS

| Head of Rugby Operations | 1st XV Head Coach | 1st XV Assistant Coach | 1st XV Coaching Support |
|--|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |
| Gareth Dyer | Paul Arnold | Donny Sutherland | Craig Steel |

| 1st XV Kicking Coach | 1st XV Conditioning Coach | 1st XV Manager & 4th Official | Player Registrar & 4th Official |
|--|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |
| Steve Kerry | Alex Hurst | Ade Jebb | Ian McFarlane |

| Head Physiotherapist | 2nd XV Manager | 2nd XV Coach | 2nd XV Coach | 2nd XV Sports Rehabilitator |
|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Mark Taylor | Bill Kin | Steve Tiernan | Mark Murray | Kathryn Stevens |

| 3rd – 5th Team Coordinator |
|--|
|  |
| Mick Mortimer |

DAVIDSON BROTHERS SHINE FOR LATVIA

Hoppers brothers Tom and Will Davidson (pictured left and right) were in international action during the summer when they lined up at 10 and 12 for Latvia against Denmark in the Latvian Capital Riga playing at the Baldones Stadium in the 2019 FIRA Championship. The game was part of the Rugby Europe Conference 2 North with Latvia undefeated in the campaign after victories over Finland and Austria earlier in the season. Latvia won the game 38-3 making it three games unbeaten, whilst Tom Davidson was also awarded Man of the Match for his performance. Well done Tom and Will.





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**Head of Rugby Operations,
Gareth Dyer**

HEAD OF RUGBY OPERATIONS Gareth Dyer welcomed our visitors this week.

"Good Afternoon and a warm welcome to all from Scunthorpe RFC for this afternoon's National Two North encounter. I am sure no one needs reminding of their last visit to Lightfoot Green and the last minute winning try that felt at the time a nail in our relegation coffin of three seasons ago. For our part, we come into this week's game on the back of a draw following a late comeback at the Woodlands last week. Being a miserable bugger I was a little critical of us afterwards stating that we don't celebrate draws. Perhaps for clarity, I was very proud that we had enough character to keep going last week and in hindsight our defensive effort at the start of the second half was a huge turning point. Many Hoppers teams of the past have folded in those circumstances at the Woodlands so credit is due to the lads. However we can't get carried away. We need to start putting in the 80 minute performances that we are capable of. We need to cut out the repeat errors that are harming us each week and show we are learning. If the lads want to ram my words back down my throat by putting in that complete display today, then no one will be happier than me."



**Head Coach,
Paul Arnold**

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

"Firstly a warm welcome to the Scunthorpe players, coaches & fans. They have had two good performances against good opposition so we know today will be a tough game. Last week at Fylde I was very proud of the character shown by the lads to come back and get a draw. Fylde are a good side and will be right up there at the end of the season. We didn't make them work that hard for their points which was disappointing but we are improving. There are a lot of new faces in the squad but at times on Saturday we looked very dangerous and all singing from the same song sheet! I'm really pleased with our new 10 Joe Prior, and considering last week was only his second ever game at 10 his control and communication was first class. The impact our other new recruits made off the bench was also very satisfying and selection has been very tough with the seconds also putting in a very good performance against Caldy last week. All that said last week's efforts mean absolutely nothing if we don't back it up. With two games on the bounce at home we need to get some league points on the board. As always thank you for your support."



**Captain,
Paul "PJ" Millea**

CAPTAIN Paul 'PJ' Millea said this week

"Following the game against Fylde last Saturday we had an intense training session this Tuesday evening. Whilst the performance and result against Fylde away were in parts pleasing on Saturday we have to back that up and improve further this week against Scunthorpe. Following training on Tuesday we were treated to Fish (or babys'ed) and chips for the Wiganers provided very kindly by Jonathan Noblett from Noblett's Fish and Chips. The money we would usually put towards our supper has instead been donated by Noblett's and the players to the "Thumbs up for Charlie" charity. We are hoping to present Charlie and his family with a Hoppers shirt following his latest surgery after which all of us at the club wish him all the best in his recovery. Hope to see you in the bar for a celebratory pint after the game."

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HOPPERS HEAD OF RUGBY OPERATIONS GARETH DYER PREVIEWS THE RUGBY WORLD CUP GROUP STAGES



After weeks of pre world cup friendlies and debates about selection, it is time for the talking to stop and for the action to begin.

Rugby World Cup 2019 starts this weekend and it is possibly the most open tournament in the history of the cup.

New Zealand, South Africa, England, Ireland, Australia and Wales are all being talked up as being potential champions whilst France, Argentina and Fiji could all go deep into the tournament too. Watch out also for the hosts Japan. In a group with Ireland and Scotland, they will be hoping home advantage will give them a chance to make the knock out stages.

So with all features just like this, it's time to nail my colours to the mast and provide my predictions for the pool stages. (But given my historical record on predicting, don't rush to the bookies or bet the ranch on them!)

Pool A - Ireland, Scotland, Japan, Russia, Samoa

The Irish would appear to be group favourites but tomorrow's game with Scotland is crucial but perhaps even more so for the Scots. Scotland look a confidence team that if they get some momentum can then kick on. Lose and suddenly the game against Japan would seem to be a shootout for qualification. I don't think Ireland will struggle to put Japan away as their pack would seem more capable of subduing Japanese intentions to play at a furious pace to unsettle their more physical opponents. Samoa don't appear to be the force of old and a lack of

detailed preparation will count against them. Russia will unfortunately be the whipping boys of the group.

Prediction: Group Winners: Ireland. Also Qualify: Scotland (after a few tense moments along the way against Japan and Samoa)

Pool B - New Zealand, South Africa, Italy, Namibia, Canada

In terms of the two to qualify this would seem the most straightforward of groups to predict with the two heavyweights certain to go through. By the time you read this the key game between the All Blacks and the Boks will have taken place earlier today and the winners of that will top the group. The winners of that might just be the winners of the whole thing. It will be an epic battle and very close to call. Could a draw be a possibility? The rest of the group will be hoping not if both sides then need to rack up the points against the rest of the teams to top the group. Even if not, their tournaments look like they will be long and far from enjoyable.

Prediction: Group Winners: New Zealand (after a tight win over the Boks). Also Qualify: South Africa

Pool C - England, France, Argentina, USA, Tonga

This looks the toughest of groups with this morning's game between the French and Argentina being another key pool game in the wider context of the tournament. The winners of that will then go head to head with England to top the group. England will welcome games with Tonga and USA first up to fine tune before the games with Argentina and a last round game with France. Argentina seem to peak for World Cup's but France look like they are starting to meet the required levels of conditioning and discipline to make the most of the skill at their disposal. Hence I expect both England and France to arrive at the final pool game unbeaten for a winner takes all encounter.

Prediction: Group Winners: England (battle hardened but in good shape for the knock outs). Also Qualify: France (still a little short of winning the group but improving nicely)

Pool D - Australia, Wales, Fiji, Georgia, Uruguay

Can Fiji shock either Australia or Wales? Their backline looks frighteningly capable of upsetting someone and this morning's game between the Wallabies and Fiji will have answered one of those permutations. The Wales Australia game also appears another of the key pool games. Wales like Scotland are a momentum team and hence need some positive results early in the pool if they are to avoid complications later in the pool stages. Australia could also do with a shot in the arm after a period of indifference.

Prediction: Group Winners: Australia (their greater cutting edge might just be enough to beat the Welsh defence). Also Qualify: Wales (already injuries appear to be causing concern).



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TODAY'S TEAM AND THEIR SPONSORS

15 Jordan Dorrington



14 Tyler Spence



13 Sam Stott



12 Nick Gregson



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Helen Schofield - Hempworx Lloyd South Lakes BMW Bailey Financial Services

11 Matt Crow



10 Joe Prior



9 Jake Squirrell



1 John Blanchard



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3 Noah Miller



4 Luke Procter



5 Ally Murray



Peter Carter

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6 Ryan Carlson



7 Toby Harrison



8 Matt Lamprey



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17 Tyler Sloane



18 Sam Wallbank



19 Ben Dorrington



20 Alex Hurst



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GRASSHOPPERS

(White with narrow navy hoops)

'Hoppers Players

- 15 Jordan Dorrington
- 14 Tyler Spence
- 13 Sam Stott
- 12 Nick Gregson
- 11 Matt Crow
- 10 Joe Prior
- 9 Jake Squirrel
- 1 John Blanchard
- 2 Paul Millea (C)
- 3 Noah Miller
- 4 Luke Procter
- 5 Ally Murray
- 6 Ryan Carlson
- 7 Toby Harrison
- 8 Matt Lamprey

- 16 Chris Taylor
- 17 Tyler Sloane
- 18 Sam Wallbank
- 19 Ben Dorrington
- 20 Alex Hurst

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S Jones Hearing

SCUNTHORPE

(Green and White)

- Paul Cook 15
- Ben McStay 14
- Will Robinson 13
- Will Scammell 12
- Colin Chapman 11
- Sam Morgan 10
- Josh Bird 9
- Matt Probert 1
- Gareth Mist (C) 2
- Ollie Cole 3
- Nick Syddall 4
- Nick Dyson 5
- Will Harrison 6
- Grant Elliott 7
- James Walker 8

- Elliot Caunt 16
- Josh Sarsfield 17
- Mick Dunk/Jack Leaning 18
- Rory Rendall-Tyrrell 19
- Alasdair Fagan 20

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OTHER SPORTS AT PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS

CRICKET

Hoppers has its own cricket team which take part in the Boddington's Village Cricket League every summer. For more information please contact Ken Moore 01772 863546 or email the Hoppers office: info@pgrfc.co.uk

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.

ARCHERY

There are two archery sections at the club; conventional shooting and long bow via the Samlesbury Longbow Archers. For further information please contact David Howard 01772 744009 or Alan Cowie 01772 743916.

RIFLE SHOOTING

Preston and District Rifle and Pistol Club currently use the Hoppers facilities for small calibre shooting disciplines. For more information visit www.prestonshooters.org

HOPPERS ROLLERS

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

Welcome back to players and parents alike to the forty sixth season of Mini Junior Rugby at Lightfoot Green. A particularly warm welcome to those registering for the first time.

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.

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 teams.



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 improve the standard of Mini Junior and Colts Rugby offered by Preston Grasshoppers.

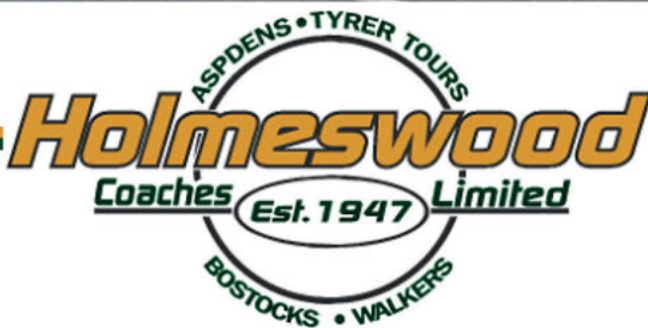
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BEN DORRINGTON JOINS HOPPERS



Preston Grasshoppers is pleased to announce the addition of Ben Dorrington to this season's playing ranks. The older brother of another new recruit Jordan, Ben joins Hoppers after a successful spell at Vale of Lune where he was a key part of their league winning North West One squad in 2017/18.

Prior to his time at Powderhouse Lane, Ben had three successful seasons with Hull RUFC whilst studying at Bishop Burton Rugby Academy. Whilst at the Ferens Ground he made 83 appearances for the Humbersiders scoring 16 tries and also notching points with the boot when called upon. Equally comfortable at both fly half and centre, he began life in the back

row whilst he has been a regular goal kicker during his time with Vale.

Commenting on his move to Lightfoot Green Ben said "I am really looking forward to playing for Preston rather than being an opponent! During my time playing in National Two with Hull I found Hoppers to always be a tough and formidable side. The opportunity to also continuing playing with my brother is also something I'm keen to do and see how we both fare in the Hoppers jersey. Another big factor was the chance to play at this level again before I get too old and start making my way down the social teams. I'm keen to give this my best shot and get stuck in with a good set of lads and coaches".

Head Coach Paul Arnold said "Ben is a good fit for us as he can play at both 10 and 12 and we felt we needed to add more competition, particularly at outside half. He has done well in pre-season to date and talking to him its clear he wants to have a real crack at National Two rugby and have no regrets that he didn't push himself to play this level before he decides to step back from regular rugby. I like that level of motivation and I am sure he will push hard for a starting shirt. I'm getting some real selection headaches – of the right kind – and all players are getting a sense that they will have to perform if they want to earn and then keep a shirt this season".

TOBY HARRISON JOINS HOPPERS



PGRFC is thrilled to announce the signing of back rower Toby Harrison. He joins Hoppers after spells with Fylde and Wigan whilst he was also part of the Myerscough Rugby Academy. He has represented Lancashire and the North at U20 level. He was also part of the Lancashire Senior Squad in 2017/18. Equally at home across the back row, he will bring further competition to the squad.

Speaking on his decision to join Hoppers, Toby said "I'm really happy to be joining such a great club and I'm looking forward to ripping into the season with a good bunch of lads. I believe I can really improve my game with the help of some excellent

coaches and there is a real sense that we can have a great year this season".

Head Coach Paul Arnold said "Toby is someone I've been keen on getting to the club for a while. He's got power and pace and is also a very good lineout option, so he again adds further options to the squad. As I've said previously, competition in the back five of the pack is looking intense but it's vital we have that depth. At times last season we got a little stretched so the additions of Toby and Christian (Taylor) plus the retention of the guys who were involved last season means we have the depth and quality of squad to build on last season's campaign".

Good luck Toby, welcome to Lightfoot Green!!



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HOPPERS CRICKETING HEROES



Hoppers cricket team produced a fine performance in the evening sun to claim the Boddingtons Village Cricket League Knock Out Cup by beating Fulwood & Broughton CC.

Winning the toss, inspirational skipper Jim Moore decided to put faith in his bowlers and invited Fulwood & Broughton to bat on the artificial surface at Guy's Thatched Hamlet.

Tom Peterson and Michael Lough took the new ball and kept things very tight with F&B struggling to find the boundary. This was followed up by an injection of pace and bounce from Craig Steel and Cameron Berry with Berry rolling back the years to take 2 wickets. Moore then turned to Ally Murray who also chipped in with 2 wickets whilst himself keeping things tight from the other end with his guile and variation.

As the innings reached the final quarter F&B's danger men entered the fray only to be dismissed with some fantastic work from Steel in the deep using his tall frame to take a couple of excellent catches. After a tremendous performance in the field from Hoppers, F&B had reached a total of 111 from their 20 overs.

Pete Ingham and Liam Zolotarczuk padded up first for Hoppers and despite some dubious running between the wickets got the team off to a steady start. Poor running between the wickets eventually caught up with the pair and after a calling mix up Zolotarczuk was run out and walked despite the umpire not giving the decision. This brought in form man Tom Peterson to the crease who went about his business in his usual hustle and bustle style.

Just a few overs later and Ingham and Peterson had retired putting Hoppers in a commanding position to win the match. Despite a short innings from John Peterson, the Hoppers team went into overdrive with Berry and Murray launching the ball all around the ground to carry the team home in just 16.1 overs.

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2019/2020 Fixture List



2019

08/09 Leigh (H)

15/09 Ashfield (H)

06/10 Southport (A)

13/10 Burnley (H)

02/11 Vagabonds (H)

17/11 Sale (H)

24/11 Broughton Park (A)

08/12 Ashfield (A)

2020

05/01 Southport (H)

12/01 Burnley (A)

01/02 Vagabonds (A)

23/02 Sale (A)

01/03 Broughton Park (H)

15/03 Leigh (A)

**A SELECTION OF PHOTOS TAKEN BY MIKE CRAIG AT LAST WEEK'S 24-24
GAME AGAINST FYLDE** *To see more Hoppers photos visit www.flickr.com/photos/mickcraig*



FIXTURES/RESULTS 2019/20

| 1 st XV | | | | | 2 nd XV | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----|-------|-----|--------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| 2019 | OPPONENTS | H/A | RES | WLD | OPPONENTS | H/A | RES | WLD |
| 7 Sept | SEDGLEY PARK | H | 20-30 | L | Chester 2 | A | 78-14 | L |
| 14 Sept | Fylde | A | 24-24 | D | CALDY 2 | H | 31-38 | L |
| 21 Sept | SCUNTHORPE | H | | | Fylde 2 | A | | |
| 28 Sept | SHEFFIELD TIG'S | H | | | ROSSENDALE 2 | H | | |
| 5 Oct | Wharfedale | A | | | Sedgley Park 2 | A | | |
| 12 Oct | HUDDERSFIELD | H | | | Lymm 2 | A | | |
| 19 Oct | Tynedale | A | | | | | | |
| 26 Oct | STOURBRIDGE | H | | | Macclesfield 2 | A | | |
| 2 Nov | Hinckley | A | | | | | | |
| 9 Nov | CHESTER | H | | | BLACKBURN 2 | H | | |
| 16 Nov | Caldy | A | | | Caldy 2 | | | |
| 23 Nov | LOUGHBOROUGH | H | | | FYLDE 2 | H | | |
| 30 Nov | Lutonians | A | | | Rossendale 2 | A | | |
| 7 Dec | HULL | H | | | SEDGLEY PARK 2 | H | | |
| 14 Dec | Otley | A | | | LYMM 2 | H | | |
| 21 Dec | FYLDE | H | | | | | | |
| 2020 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 Jan | Scunthorpe | A | | | MACCLESFIELD 2 | H | | |
| 11 Jan | Sheffield Tigers | A | | | Blackburn 2 | A | | |
| 18 Jan | WHARFEDALE | H | | | CHESTER 2 | H | | |
| 25 Jan | Huddersfield | A | | | | | | |
| 1 Feb | TYNEDALE | H | | | | | | |
| 8 Feb | Stourbridge | A | | | | | | |
| 15 Feb | HINCKLEY | H | | | | | | |
| 22 Feb | Weather Weekend | | | | | | | |
| 29 Feb | Chester | A | | | | | | |
| 7 Mar | CALDY | H | | | | | | |
| 14 Mar | Weather Weekend | | | | | | | |
| 21 Mar | Loughborough | A | | | | | | |
| 28 Mar | LUCTONIANS | H | | | | | | |
| 4 Apr | Hull | A | | | | | | |
| 11 Apr | Weather Weekend | | | | | | | |
| 18 Apr | OTLEY | H | | | | | | |
| 25 Apr | Sedgley Park | A | | | | | | |

NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 NORTH

| | | P | W | D | L | F | A | PD | TBP | LB | PTS | ADJ |
|----|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | STOURBRIDGE | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 76 | 39 | 37 | 2 | 0 | 10 | |
| 2 | CALDY | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 23 | 24 | 1 | 0 | 9 | |
| 3 | SEDGLEY PARK | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 34 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 9 | |
| 4 | SHEFFIELD TIG'S | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 46 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | |
| 5 | FYLDE | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 76 | 56 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 7 | |
| 6 | HULL | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 58 | 51 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 7 | |
| 7 | LOUGHBOROUGH | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 61 | 38 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 5 | |
| 8 | WHARFEDALE | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 25 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 5 | |
| 9 | LUCTONIANS | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 55 | 78 | -23 | 1 | 0 | 5 | |
| 10 | HUDDERSFIELD | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 37 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | |
| 11 | OTLEY | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 30 | -7 | 0 | 1 | 3 | |
| 12 | TYNEDALE | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 62 | 72 | -10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 13 | HOPPERS | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 44 | 54 | -10 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| 14 | SCUNTHORPE | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 59 | 83 | -24 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| 15 | CHESTER | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 59 | 43 | -14 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| 16 | HINCKLEY | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 70 | -50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

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