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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Keith Brierley

Hello, welcome to Preston Grasshoppers to today's opponents Stourbridge and to visitors, guests, sponsors, coaches, players, ex-players, supporters and spectators for our latest 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.

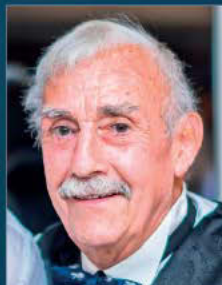
We have always had competitive games against Stourbridge and I am sure that today, Hoppers will be doing all in their power to take advantage the home fixture. Hopefully, today's game should offer some entertaining and competitive rugby, each team looking for the win to set down a marker for the rest of 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



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Front cover photo. Centre and occasional kicker Alex Hurst shown completing a successful kick in our recent game against Sheffield Tigers.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from the nasty knock that Alex took last week. 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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WHO'S WHO AT PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS ON MATCH DAYS

President: Keith Brierley
Chairman: George Erdozain
General Manager: Ben Hedley
Operations Manager: Sam Hutchinson
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.
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TODAY'S VISITORS - STOURBRIDGE

Stourbridge rugby club are the visitors to Lightfoot Green today, bringing with them their usual loyal band of supporters who will be travelling up the M6 to Preston.

Hoppers season long list of injuries was extended even more up at Tynedale last Saturday with the game being held up for almost thirty minutes whilst Alex Hurst was attended to. Good news in that his injury isn't as serious as initially feared and wish Alex a speedy recovery. The least said about the team's performance and result the better! I'm sure the players would agree with this sentiment and only be looking forward.

The amount of injuries sustained since Oga left the field last season is of seismic proportions, and a look at this season's playing statistics shows that only four players have started in every game, with a further three either starting or appearing as a replacement. This Saturday's visitors are currently in the top half of the table in fourth position with four wins from seven outings to their name whilst Hoppers have slid down the table after losing their last three games.

Meetings last season between the two sides amassed a total of one hundred and forty four points with the game at Lightfoot Green being a nervous one for the home supporters as the Hoppers leading margin opened and closed throughout. A last minute Conor Trueman try giving a little more breathing space. The home side eventually hung onto a six point winning margin which gave them a double win over the Midlands side. Apart from the two victories over Stourbridge, Hoppers only other double successes last season came in the games against the three relegated sides.

Digger (Mike Forshaw)



TODAY'S RAFFLE PRIZES

1st prize today is gratefully provided by Chris Ford from Accor Hotels and comprises: Dinner for two in the Five Barred Gate restaurant, at the NEW Mercure Samlesbury Hotel Preston. The brand new fully licensed restaurant serves classic locally sourced quality British cuisine cooked perfectly by their talented chefs and can boast an extensive range of wines, cocktails, beers and spirits to complement your meal.

2nd prize 2 x hospitality tickets for the match against Loughborough Students

3rd prize is a bottle of wine and a Hoppers cap

SLEAP

On the 28th September Luke Crawford and his colleagues took to the streets to raise awareness for our local charity partner, SLEAP.

SLEAP, formed in 1992, works hard to help teenagers and young people who have become homeless and who are in need of support throughout South Ribble, Chorley and Preston. To this day they have helped hundreds of young people get back on their feet through their continuous support; from re-housing to advice and teaching of valuable life skills.

Luke said "SLEAP is a charity very close to my heart. They have been a huge inspiration to me since I was a child as we regularly had young people from SLEAP staying at our house whilst I was growing up. This gave me a first-hand view of how SLEAP can have an incredibly positive impact on the lives of young people in these vulnerable situations."

A bucket collection during Lunch before our game against Scunthorpe earlier in the season raised an impressive £800+. Luke was overwhelmed with the charitable donations and would like to thank all who contributed.



BOOT APPEAL

We regularly have people, particularly youngsters, turning up to use the AGP who don't have studded boots. In order to help them we are starting a Boot Bank so if you have any old boots lurking around your home please feel free to bring them down to the Club. If you leave them on top of the lockers at the changing room entrance Dave Preston will sort them out.

1869 CLUB AWAY TRIP

The next away trip for the '1869' Club coach is to Caldby on Sat 16th Nov 2019.

Time: 10.30am from the club car park. (Early start due to 2.15pm ko) Cost: £20

Lunch will, as usual, be taken at a suitable hostelry en route.

A notice will be on the notice board by this weekend. Please put your names down asap or alternatively contact Les Harrison (dawn.lh@btinternet.com).



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Our people

From the brewery teams, to the distribution fleet, to every single team member in our pubs, have helped us to become a thriving FTSE All Share listed company.

We have pubs that are traditional locals, family pub restaurants and fashionable town centre bars. While pubs may have changed a lot over the years, the reasons people use them hasn't. The pub is where we go to socialise, celebrate, commiserate, relax, reflect, regroup or simply enjoy a cold beer or a bite to eat at the end of a long day.

We are now one of the country's top pub businesses and the leading brewer of premium cask and bottled beers. We operate six breweries producing over 60 of the country's best loved ales at our sites in: Burton on Trent (Marston's), Oxfordshire (Wychwood & Brakspear), Cumbria (Jennings), Hampshire (Ringwood), Bedford (Eagle) and the West Midlands (Banks's).

We're rightly proud of our heritage - our people, our pubs and our beers. We work hard making sure that everything we do, from the beers we brew, to the pubs/clubs they are enjoyed in, and the people that serve them, are always the best that they can possibly be.

Why Hoppers?

We are a primary sponsor of Preston Grasshoppers with one of our key national brands, Wainwright Golden Beer as lead brand and also supply all other drinks products to the club's bars.

We are extremely proud to have been associated with the club for over 20 years now, previously with Thwaites and now with Marston's.

Marston's brands have a long history of supporting sports teams and venues in the UK and paired with the love for our Wainwright brand in the local area, this makes Preston Grasshoppers 1st XV team an ideal fit for support and sponsorship.

Predictions are for the game

I'm predicting a close game! We are also a primary sponsor at Stourbridge Rugby, who we have also been associated with for over 12 years now. Our Sales Director, Simon Barnes is an ex player and supporter of Stourbridge RFC and I am a supporter of Preston Grasshoppers and live in Preston, so my hope is a close game, with a narrow Preston Grasshoppers win! I'll go for a win to Grasshoppers by 5-8 points.

Ben Nichols - Regional Sales Manager – North Lancs and Cumbria



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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

TODAY'S OTHER LEAGUE GAMES

HULL	V	LUCTONIANS
OTLEY	V	LOUGHBOROUGH
SEDGLEY PARK	V	CALDY
FYLDE	V	CHESTER
HUDDERSFIELD	V	SHEFFIELD TIGERS
SCUNTHORPE	V	HINCKLEY
WHARFEDALE	V	TYNEDALE



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A VIEW FROM THE TOP



**Head of Rugby Operations,
Gareth Dyer**

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

"A warm welcome to our friends from Stourbridge for today's National Two North encounter.

I think it is fair to say that last Saturday was a day to forget both in terms of the result and the performance.

The injury to Alex Hurst was worrying at the time and thankfully he was later given the all clear. Our thanks for to our own Mark Taylor and the medical team at Tynedale who were professional and superb in equal measure.

It's for the players to answer if the injury affected them. We were certainly slow out of the blocks on the resumption and the game just passed us by.

What can't be denied is we've now lost three on the bounce. It's up to the players now to put in a performance. If they don't, and with injured players returning, it might be that the opportunity to put things right in coming weeks will not be theirs."

BONFIRE NIGHT — YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU

Preston Grasshoppers is delighted to announce its flagship Bonfire Night event will be taking place on Tuesday 5th November. It promises to be a fantastic evening for children, teenagers and adults with a wide range of food, drink and entertainment on offer.

Visitors will have the opportunity to choose from hot dogs and burgers, chilli, curry, pies and chips as well as the traditional bonfire night treat of Toffee Apples!

There will be lots to entertain the children including the fabulous funfair!

Gates open at 6pm and all visitors are urged to get there on time so they can make the most of the evening's entertainment and refreshments.

This really is the largest and most popular bonfire night in the area and is usually a complete sell out. So please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

We are expecting a bumper crowd to attend our annual Bonfire Night firework display and funfair and in order for the celebration to go smoothly we need plenty of volunteers to steward the event. Duties will include managing car parking, ensuring that no-one ventures on to the artificial pitch, litter picking and general crowd management.

All volunteers will be rewarded with drinks vouchers and supper.

Please do not forget the morning after the night before where there are lots of things to do

Including litter picking and general tidying up. If you are available please just let the club know as soon as possible.



ON OTHER TABLES TODAY

Keith Brierley is entertaining our guests from Stourbridge and also enjoying the pre-match lunch today diners include **Brian and Claire Weston** and their guests.

Andy Donovan is hosting a table with his friends

Hadyn Gigg takes another table for his guests

Heather Holden is hosting a party to celebrate her father's David Sims 78th birthday. Best wishes to David from Emma, Heather, Morgan, Natasha and Paul, Jean and Paul.

Oliver Viney (Atlantic Geomatics UK Ltd) is entertaining his guests and **Darren O'Neil** (County Insurance) is also hosting a party. **UCLAN** are represented today and last but not least, **Les Harrison** and guests are also dining.

Sir Clive Woodward –Former England Coach

The night before a game I used to list the two teams, and I said in a team meeting "There's absolutely nobody I'd swap man for man." I was doing my motivational talk. I got to the end and Will Greenwood put his hand up and said "Clive we're all with you but on behalf of the whole team I think we'd swap Austin Healey for Jonah Lomu."

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Return travel from Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Club and your seated ticket is priced at:

£25 per Adult (over 16)

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Please confirm your place by emailing
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When emailing please state your name, contact details and how many Adult or Child tickets you require.

Deadline for ticket orders is Friday 1st November 2019.



The Coach will depart PGRFC at 18:00, leaving the AJ Bell 30 mins after the final whistle.



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15 Jordan Dorrington



Atlantic Geomatics

14 Jacob Browne



Poly Crew

13 Alex Hurst



S Jones Hearing

12 James Fitzpatrick



Jacques Joinery

11 Tyler Spence



Barton Grange

10 Ben Dorrington



Hosokawa

9 Jake Squirrell



Horsfield Bldg. Serv's Engs.

1 John Blanchard



Hadyn Gigg

2 Chris Taylor



Bailey Financial Services

3 Ryan Purcell



Sandham's Cheese

4 Adam Howard



Ainscough Training Services

5 Sam Wallbank



Fun at Work

6 Ryan Carlson



Tiernan A&D Systems Ltd

7 Toby Harrison



Gary Stanley

8 Matt Lamprey



Haleys Business Advisors

16 Paul Millea



Peter Carter

17 Dan Madden



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18 Luke Procter



Nicky Donnelly Associates

19 Sam Stott



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20 Nick Gregson



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GRASSHOPPERS STARTING XV

- 15 Jordan Dorrington
- 14 Jacob Browne
- 13 Alex Hurst
- 12 James Fitzpatrick
- 11 Tyler Spence
- 10 Ben Dorrington
- 9 Jake Squirrel
- 1 John Blanchard
- 2 Chris Taylor C)
- 3 Ryan Purcell
- 4 Adam Howard
- 5 Sam Wallbank
- 6 Ryan Carlson
- 7 Toby Harrison
- 8 Matt Lamprey

FINISHERS

- 16 Paul Millea
- 17 Dan Madden
- 18 Luke Procter
- 19 Sam Stott
- 20 Nick Gregson

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Colin Burrell
Ade Jebb
Mr Alex Baker
Shay Holden, Zac Morris, Max Richards, Keenan Markar, Louie Denman
James Kirkbride

STOURBRIDGE STARTING XV

- Noah Heward
- Afeafe Haisila Lokotui
- Joe Heatley
- George Morgan
- Dan Rundle
- Sam Wilson
- Callum Morris
- Alex Maxwell
- Jack Lea
- Stef Thorp
- Matt Perks
- Nick Murphy
- Nigel Mukarati
- James Rodley
- Sam Montieri (C)

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- 16 Mike Worthington
- 17 Adam Sturdy
- 18 Llyr Griffiths
- 19 Reece Beddows
- 20 Joe Collingham



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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.

HUGH DUCKWORTH

Chairman- Mini, Junior and Colts Rugby



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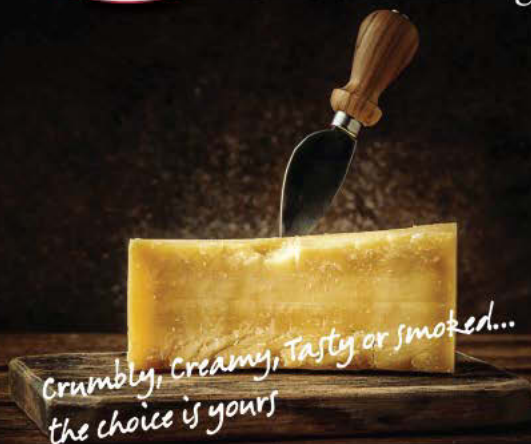
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Scott Jordan	Barton Grange
Matt Lamprey	Haleys Business Advisors
Oga Mabaya	JSI Krempel
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Background Photo courtesy Mike Craig. To see more 'Hoppers photos visit www.flickr.com/photos/mickcraig

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A SELECTION OF PHOTOS AT LAST WEEK'S 34-5 DEFEAT AGAINST TYNEDALE. *Photos courtesy John Austin.*



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There will be things that affect your mental health, say, a really good (or bad!) result in the rugby for example.

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But there may be times, at different points in our lives, when we may start to struggle with our mental health.

Now, there may be obvious reasons for that, say relationship,

money or work difficulties for example, but at the same time there may not - and that is ok.

The thing that matters the most is that, if you do ever begin to struggle, you know what to do.

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We have compiled those options into one, go-to mental health database - **The Hub of Hope**.

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You can also text **HOPE to 85258** at any time, any day for free confidential support.

You are never alone. There is help available. Every single day.



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	48-24	W	Fylde 2	A	33-27	L	
28 Sept	SHEFFIELD TIG'S	H	10-9	W	ROSSENDALE 2	H	12-31	L	
5 Oct	Wharfedale	A	20-19	L	Sedgley Park 2	A	53-7	L	
12 Oct	HUDDERSFIELD	H	22-27	L	Lymm 2	A	39-17	L	
19 Oct	Tynedale	A	34-5	L					
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

Green background is the promotion place. Blue background is the play-off place. Pink background are relegation places.

		P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	TBP	LB	PTS	ADJ
1	CALDY	7	7	0	0	260	97	163	5	0	33	
2	FYLDE	7	6	1	0	266	138	128	6	0	32	
3	SEDGLEY PARK	7	6	0	1	171	134	37	3	1	28	
4	STOURBRIDGE	7	4	0	3	210	171	39	4	2	22	
5	TYNEDALE	7	3	1	3	228	169	59	5	3	22	
6	LOUGHBOROUGH	7	4	0	3	210	187	23	3	2	21	
7	SHEFFIELD TIG'S	7	4	0	3	170	169	1	3	2	21	
8	WHARFEDALE	7	4	0	3	150	145	5	1	1	18	
9	CHESTER	7	3	0	4	137	137	0	2	3	17	
10	OTLEY	7	2	2	3	131	176	-45	1	2	15	
11	HUDDERSFIELD	7	2	2	3	139	190	-51	2	0	14	
12	HOPPERS	7	2	1	4	148	168	-20	2	2	14	
13	HINCKLEY	7	2	0	5	129	199	-70	3	2	13	
14	HULL	7	2	1	4	134	168	-34	1	1	12	
15	LUCTONIANS	7	1	0	6	153	250	-97	2	3	9	
16	SCUNTHORPE	7	0	0	7	146	284	-138	3	2	5	

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