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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Keith Brierley

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

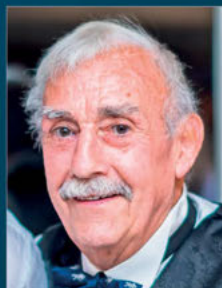
It gives me immense pride to be President of Preston Grasshoppers in our Sesquicentenary year and it seems only yesterday that I was celebrating our Centenary year as a 1st XV player, which has provided me with life long friendships and happy memories.

We have always had competitive games against Sedgley Park, and I am sure that today, Hoppers will be doing all in their power to take the home advantage in our first league game of the season. 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

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Front Cover Photo: A closed season fixture against Lostock saw Arnie, PJ and Craig Steel don their boots again in the May sunshine. Steely made a 50 metre sprint to score an amazing try. Front cover photo shows a delighted Paul Arnold congratulating a very pleased but exhausted Craig Steel. Well done Steely.

Photo courtesy Mick Craig.

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

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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

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TODAY'S VISITORS

Preston Grasshoppers kick off the new season of league fixtures with a home game against one of their closest rivals in Sedgley Park who travel from Prestwich situated between Manchester and Bury.

Last season's encounter at Lightfoot Green was an exciting end to end game with the lead changing hands throughout, with Hoppers ending up on the wrong end of a five point margin in a sixty seven point contest.

News of pre-season games played at Park Lane sees Scottish Tennent's Premiership side Currie Chieftains (W) and Leeds Beckett (L) were their visitors whilst Hoppers have had a busy August entertaining Glasgow Hawks (L) who play in the same league as Park's opponents plus Yorkshire National 1 side Rotherham (L) before their first Lancashire Cup-Tie for seven seasons against current holders Blackburn (W) who fielded a number of familiar ex-Hoppers players.



Matt Lamprey, 50 tries for Hoppers

Matt Lamprey sealed the victory with his fiftieth try for Hoppers. Ironically, that last Cup-Tie was against Sedgley in the Final on their own ground in which the home side defeated Hoppers by less than a one try margin. News of the semi-final tie has yet to appear from the Lancashire County Cup Committee.

Blackburn, who were promoted through the play offs at the end of last season into the Northern Premier League, look to have the sort of side that will do well in that League if Hoppers experiences there are anything to go by.

Encounters with our hosts from Greater Manchester commenced just about ten years after our move from Lea to Lightfoot Green with an away game and victory by twelve points to six.

The next time the two clubs met was in the first ever League fixture which was played at Park Lane back in 1997 when Hoppers continued their winning ways with a narrow twenty points to sixteen victory. Hoppers went on to complete the double that season and it wasn't until we played a Lancashire Cup tie at Lightfoot Green during the 2000/2001 season that Sedgley Park achieved a victory over Preston Grasshoppers, something that was repeated in league form at the double during the following season when Hoppers were relegated from National 1. Sedgley Park however remained at Level 3 and apart from a number of Lancashire Cup ties and a pre-season fixture during 2011, the two teams hadn't met again in league action until the 2013/14 season.

The complete playing record between the two club's 1st XV's shows that the three club games back in the 1980's were all won by Hoppers plus seven league wins, whilst this weeks visitors have the edge with nine thanks to completing a double last term.

Lancashire Cup clashes stand in Hoppers favour by four to three and a pre-season game played at Lightfoot Green back in 2011 turned out to be a comprehensive victory for the visitors. So, apart from the pre-season game, there have been twenty six games in all between the two clubs, Hoppers winning fourteen to Sedgley Park's twelve.

Digger (Mike Forshaw)

A MESSAGE FROM WILL GREENWOOD (for our Sesquicentenary Celebration Dinner)



To all my friends at Preston Grasshoppers I send a huge amount of love, my first club at Lightfoot Green.

I remember the 800m and 400m and 800m training, the fitness and as a skinny, (well I'm still skinny) 13/14 year old, the opportunity to see Wade Dooley up close and in action, Paul Grayson and that whole collective that I played with and had so much fun with.

I Know the Hoppers means so much to my father, he was the number 8 with back rowers Roy Dransfield and Micky Parker, they did all the running and grafting and he pretended to be the great thinker.

I'm so sorry I can't be with you on this unbelievable occasion, what a historical moment it is! Take great care and genuinely from the bottom of my heart I have had so much fun and so many fond memories of being at Preston Grasshoppers as a young scamp.



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Director **Michael 'Bill' Bailey** is also the Chairman of Rugby at the Club and a former player and captain during which time he was also capped by Lancashire County.

'Bill' said: *"This day has become an annual event for our business and provides an excellent opportunity to socialise with clients and local businesses and to thank them for their ongoing support.*

We always receive excellent feedback on the facilities and the food. The hospitality shown by Preston Grasshoppers provides a great day out for all involved. As a business, we provide independent financial advice in all areas both to individuals and businesses. Pensions in general are high on the agenda currently with the tax relief they attract on funding and flexibility when drawing benefits. Another key area of our business is mortgage advice and with all the building in the area we are seeing plenty of first time buyers and home movers. We look forward to another fabulous day and hope to enjoy an entertaining game with a win for Hoppers".



SQUAD UPDATE

Speaking on the shape of the squad for the 2019/20 campaign, Head of Rugby Operations Gareth Dyer (pictured) said "I've been asked why we haven't had a raft of re-signing announcements like most clubs do at this time of year and the simple reason is that most of our lads have committed themselves for the foreseeable future some time ago! Hence, we have already retained 99% of the squad we already had in place and we will be featuring some new faces who have joined us in this programme and future programmes. I think it's exciting to see the depth we are building across the squad. It's clear that the players sense that competition for places in the squad is going to be intense and we are seeing some outstanding marks in our pre-season fitness testing.

In addition to the new faces, we have Jake Squirrel back from his loan spell at Caldy and it's clear his loan spell has really benefitted Jake. James Gough had a strong season last year and is working hard to get back to full fitness. Oga Mabaya too is already ahead of schedule on his return. I'm also keen to see how the likes of Ewan Naylor and Connor Johnson push on now they out of our Under 20's rugby. It's also great to see John Wells and Jacob Browne back at the club. They both have the assets to be a very good National League rugby players and they are both working hard to get themselves in the correct shape to make their case for selection".

The club has said farewell to three players who have moved onto new pastures. Alex Ward has joined Waterloo as a player coach, centre Jack Akrigg has moved away with work whilst back rower Jack Edwards has joined Blackburn. We wish all three guys the very best and look forward to seeing them back at Lightfoot Green in the future.



SESQUICENTENARY DINNER – 9TH AUGUST 2019



HEAD OF RUGBY OPERATIONS GARETH DYER'S MESSAGE FOR THE SEASON AHEAD



Welcome to a new season at Lightfoot Green.

As we are all hopefully aware, this is a milestone season in the club's history as it marks 150 years of Preston rugby. Given the magnitude of that anniversary then everything we do this season will carry more significance than in any normal season. What happens over the course of this season will be etched into club folklore with future generations of Hoppers looking back to this season as a marker in time.

Therefore we are well aware that what we do on the pitch this season is important, but equally how we conduct ourselves off it will also provide a window in time as to the health and culture of the club.

I have in my time, since I returned to the club some 12 seasons ago, always tried to paint a picture of how Hoppers now fares with Hoppers of yesteryear.

Our history is important and it is important that our players and coaches understand the part they play in the continually evolving story of Preston Grasshoppers. I've encouraged everyone to understand how the club began, the battles our forefathers have had to endure just to keep the club going at times and that we have not always had the facilities we have now that are the envy of most of the clubs who visit Lightfoot Green.

Nowadays with the prominence of social media, we often see media prepped players spill out a few lines around the "privilege" and "honour" of representing clubs. In the main, the sincerity is lacking. I trust the players at this club will take their time to understand what they are representing

and the opportunity they have by being involved in this important season.

We come into this season with two years of progress after relegation. This season would appear to represent our toughest since this group of coaches and players came together. There will be no catching teams by surprise by our style of play or what we do well in games. Teams will know what we bring and it is therefore up to us to be as well prepared as possible. The division looks stronger than ever with no clear favourites and no clear strugglers so every point will be hard earned this year.

We have added several new faces to the squad and tinkered with our approach in terms of squad management. This is part of our evolution and with all changes, there will be a period of adjustment. But if we want to progress to the next level, it is vital we mature our thinking and adapt to what is required.

Our loyal supporters will as ever be vital to everything we do. From cheering and supporting us on the sidelines, to guiding us on what it takes to be part of this special club, I look forward to the close bond between players and supporters continuing their special relationship.

In a season where we have lots to celebrate and recall, we also have to ensure our club keeps moving forward in every aspect.

To Hoppers everywhere, enjoy the season, celebrate this amazing milestone and keep working hard to push your club to even greater heights for the generations to come who will be the guardians of our next 150 years.

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

LEAGUE 2 NORTH 2018-2019 DREAM TEAM

Hoppers prop Oga Mabaya and scrum-half James Gough were both named in The Rugby Paper's National League 2 North Dream Team for the 2018/19 season. The team was selected by the match reporter from each club based on the players they have watched throughout the 2018/19 season. The full selection can be viewed below. There were some near misses for other Hoppers players with the article stating: 'There was a case to be made for all of Preston's front row and Pete Altham and Paul Millea can count themselves unlucky to have missed out.' Hoppers centre Alex Hurst and back row Ally Murray were also mentioned as contenders in their positions too.

15 Lewis Minikin (Hull Ionians) 14 Morgan Passman (Tynedale) 13 Jamie Broadley (Sheffield Tigers) 12 Matt Riley (Sedgley Park) 11 Henri Packard (Sheffield Tigers) 10 James Robins (Chester) 9 James Gough (Hoppers) 1 Ben Bell (Hull Ionians) 2 Dan Maher (Sedgley Park) 3 Oga Mabaya (Hoppers) 4 Joe Makin (Hull Ionians) 5 Rob Birtwell (Sedgley Park) 6 Lewis Bradley (Huddersfield) 7 Mike Craven (Chester) 8 Shay Owen (Chester).



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**Head of Rugby Operations,
Gareth Dyer**

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

"Good afternoon and welcome to Lightfoot Green for the season's opening National Two North fixture. A warm welcome to all our friends from Sedgley Park. We hope you enjoy your day at Lightfoot Green. It is nice to start the season with a home league fixture. In recent times we appear to have started most campaigns on the road so it is nice that for once we have home comforts to enjoy. In fact in a reversal of last season we have four of our opening six games at home and given how competitive this season looks on paper, that is an opportunity to lay down an early marker.

The off season has been as busy as ever and having been through a number of pre-seasons now in an off field capacity, I have become sanguine to the frustrations that generally come hand in hand with trying to prepare a team at this level for the start of the season! Holidays and summer unavailability are part and parcel of life and it is to be hoped that after a tough series of pre-season games we have all had the right level of game time in preparation for today.

Elsewhere in today's programme I talk about the significance of this season with it being our 150th. Lets hope we can make a positive start to what promises to be a big year for the club.



**Head Coach,
Paul Arnold**

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

"Welcome back to Lightfoot Green for the new season and what a great game to start us off with a Lancashire derby against a very well coached Sedgley Park side.

I predict it will be once again a very competitive National 2 North this season and the intention of the whole squad is to better our 7th place finish from last season.

Our off season has seen a few new and old faces returning to the club. Competition for places during pre-season has been good and gives me a selection headache which is a good thing.

As always we thank you for your support and I'm looking forward to having a pint and catch up in the bar after."



**Captain,
Paul "PJ" Millea**

CAPTAIN Paul 'PJ' Millea said this week

"Welcome back to all for what I am sure is going to be one of the toughest and exciting National 2 competitions to date. As a squad we are eager to get going in the league after an up and down pre-season in terms of results. The squad has been bolstered in the off season with the new and returning faces fitting in well adding competition to places. The new lads have already bought into our squad and club values and understand the importance of representing the club and what it means to be a Hopper.

We have held a players meeting to discuss the importance of this 150th year for the club and everyone is fully committed to ensuring it is one to remember both on and off the field.

Today we welcome our Lancashire rivals, Sedgley, in what I hope will be a good start to the season. We didn't cover ourselves in glory both at home or away against them last season and something we are looking to change today. Hope to see you all in the bar for what I hope will be the first of many celebratory pints this season."

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2018-2019 SEASON REVIEW

The dust has now settled on another wonderful season in the fourth tier of English rugby and there was no shortage of drama in National Two North last season.

Looking back on the campaign in Two North and reflecting on some of the key battles throughout the course of the term.

Trying to immediately bounce back into National One was always going to be a job, and at one stage during this season it looked as if **Hull Ionians** were going to let their excellent start to the season slip away from them. Eleven wins from their first 12 games left them in a strong position in the promotion race, but five defeats from nine matches over the Christmas period threatened to derail their title bid.

However, Martyn Wood's side regrouped and eight victories from their remaining nine fixtures saw them clinch the National Two North crown at the first time of asking. The I's finished the season on 113 points, just four clear of second-placed **Chester**.

After a couple of seasons of finishing away from the promotion battle, Chester took the next step this year and deservedly ended the campaign in second spot. They did push Hull Ionians all the way and despite defeat in the National Two play-off against Canterbury, this was a massively positive season for Jan van Deventer's men.

Matt Bebbington's second season in charge of **Sedgley Park** was his last after deciding to join Sandbach this year, but the Tigers have been superb during his tenure. At Christmas, 'superb' wasn't a word associated with Sedge as last year's National Two North runners-up had had mixed opening half of the season, but nine straight wins from the start of February helped the men from Park Lane conclude the term in third spot. A top four finish will certainly be their number one goal for this season.

Whilst Sedge's storm towards the top two may have come too late, **Huddersfield** and **Fylde** were two clubs who were embroiled in a promotion battle for large chunks of the season. At the end of February, 'Field were holding all the cards as they had a game in hand over some of their rivals, but a run of four defeats proved to be costly despite making a recovery towards the end of the season.

Similarly, for Fylde, they found themselves in a very strong position towards the end of March and they entered a crucial fixture with Chester in excellent form. However, four losses on the spin ended their hopes of an instant return to National One, but Warren Spragg's side will be contenders this season as they possess a very exciting squad at Woodlands.

Now for some notable mentions in National Two North. We start with **Otley** who were in the mix for a potential top two finish for a sustained period during their strong season while **Tynedale** also had a very successful campaign under the stewardship of Ben Woods.

Preston Grasshoppers performed superbly after promotion from North Premier last year to finish in seventh place whilst **Wharfedale** managed to steer clear of any relegation trouble this time around to end the campaign in eighth.

In terms of the drop, there was rarely much movement as **Peterborough Lions**, **South Leicester** and **Macclesfield** all said goodbye to the National Leagues. The Lions, who earned promotion last year, found life tough in the fourth tier and they only managed four wins all season while for South and Macclesfield, their respective stints at this level came to an end.

Both sides won on just seven occasions last season and long streaks without a victory saw them slip into the bottom three and neither team could recover. South's four year stay in National Two North is over whilst after competing in National One in 2017, Macclesfield will now be aiming to rebuild in the fifth tier.



Preston Grasshoppers Number 8 Matt Lamprey was named by the NCA in their 'Top 48' which picks one player from each club in National 1, 2 North and 2 South to form a list of players who have enjoyed an outstanding season in the National Leagues.



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13 Alex Hurst



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12 Sam Stott



Lloyd South Lakes BMW

11 Scott Jordan



Barton Grange

10 Joe Prior



Helen Schofield - Hempworx

9 Jake Squirrel



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4 Ally Murray



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5 Adam Howard



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**Saturday 7th September
NATIONAL LEAGUE**

GRASSHOPPERS

(White with narrow navy hoops)

'Hoppers Players

- 15 Jordan Dorrington
- 14 Tyler Spence
- 13 Alex Hurst
- 12 Sam Stott
- 11 Scot Jordan
- 10 Joe Prior
- 9 Jake Squirrel
- 1 Tyler Sloane
- 2 Paul Millea (C)
- 3 Noah Miller
- 4 Ally Murray
- 5 Adam Howard
- 6 Ryan Carlson
- 7 Toby Harrison
- 8 Matt Lamprey

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Adrian Holmes

John Powell

Mr Alex Baker

Jake Blackhurst, Siren W

Addison Hunter

r, Kick Off : 2.30pm
QUE 2 NORTH



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s	Leon Simpson	15
Hempworx	Adam Cheshire	14
	Jack Metcalf	13
s BMW	Oli Glasse	12
	Jamie Harrison	11
Hempworx	Steve Collins	10
vs Engrs	Danny Openshaw	9
vs Engrs	Max Ashcroft	1
	Thomas Coe	2
	Ben Black	3
	Bob Birtwell	4
g Services	Connor James	5
stems Ltd	Mark Goodman	6
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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.



Charlotte Kenny McInally
Safeguarding Officer

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.

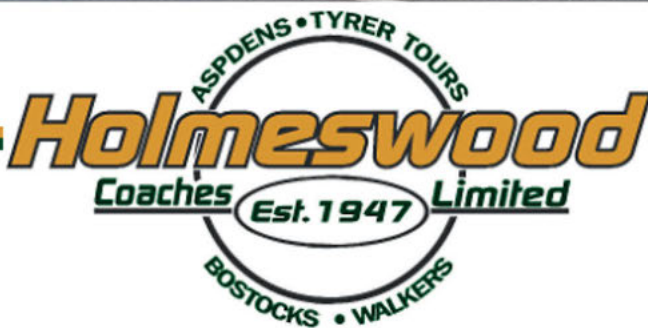
HUGH DUCKWORTH

Chairman– Mini, Junior and Colts Rugby



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CLUB AWARDS 2018-2019 SEASON

1869 Club Player of the Year

Pete Altham (Photo)

Brian Rhodes Memorial Trophy

Wayne Sharples

Dick Leigh Memorial Trophy Clubman of the Year

Mick Mortimer

Team of the Year

Womens 1st XV

1st XV

Player's Player

Tyler Spence (Photo)

Player of the Season

Pete Altham

Best Newcomer/Most Improved

Luke Procter

2nd XV

Player's Player

Harry Holden (Photo)

Player of the Season

Harry Holden

Best Newcomer/Most Improved

Nick Johnson

3rd XV

Player's Player

Luke Jackson (Photo)

Player of the season

Ian Byrne

Best Newcomer/Most Improved

Phil Reid

4th XV

Player's Player

Luke Jackson (Photo)

Player of the Season

Daz Hill

Best Newcomer/Most improved

Stephen Hardie

5th XV

Player's Player

Willy Peel

Player of the Season

Bob Leggat

Best Newcomer/Most Improved

Ollly Jackson

Womens 1st XV

Player's Player

Stephanie Gray (Photo)

Player of the Season

Fay Humphreys

Best Newcomer/Most Improved

Col Weepman

Colts XV

Player's Player

Owen Phillips (Photo)

Player of the Season

Louis Penswick

Best Newcomer/Most Improved

Nathan Hall

Clubman

Ben Pomeroy





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Oga Mabaya	JSI Krempel
Dan Madden	Noblett's Fish & Chips
Rob Meadows	Gainsborough Flooring
Paul Millea	Peter Carter
Noah Miller	George Erdozain
Ally Murray	Blue Wren
Joe Prior	Helen Schofield - Hempworx
Luke Procter	Nicky Donnelly Associates
Ryan Purcell	Sandham's Cheese
Tyler Sloane	Horsfield Business Services Engineers
Tyler Spence	Helen Schofield - Hempworx
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Oliver Trippier	Westland Horticulture
Conor Trueman	Wolf PT
Sam Wallbank	Fun at Work
Jon Wells	Westland Horticulture

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

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NEW FACES

JORDAN DORRINGTON JOINS HOPPERS



Preston Grasshoppers RFC is delighted to announce the signing of England Counties player Jordan Dorrington. Jordan joins Hoppers from Vale of Lune and has previously played for Fylde whilst also gaining representative honours with Lancashire and England Counties.

Equally comfortable at centre, wing and full back his versatility will bring a further option to the already intense competition for outside back positions. He is reunited with Head Coach Paul Arnold with whom he played with and under during his time at the Woodlands. In his career to date he has made 81 National League appearances scoring 24 tries in the process.

Commenting on his move to PGRFC Jordan said "I am really looking forward to joining Preston in what promises to be a huge season with the 150th anniversary celebrations going on. It's a great club with a great history but also lots of ambition to progress. That ambition was one of the biggest factors in why I've come to Hoppers. Already it is clear to see there is a great set of lads here with a really strong coaching team whilst the facilities are fantastic".

Head Coach Paul Arnold said "I am delighted to be reunited with Jordan. He is a proven finisher and offers a real cutting edge in attack. I think he will add something different to the squad and competition for places across the outside backs is already giving me the right sort of selection headaches".
Welcome to Lightfoot Green Jordan!

We are delighted to announce that Sam Wallbank has re-joined Hoppers from Vale of Lune. Sam, who is equally comfortable in the second and back rows or the pack was Hoppers player of the season in 2013/14 but due to work commitments he returned to Powderhouse Lane to Captain Vale. There he led them to the North One West title in 2017/18 but after a difficult campaign last season, he has decided to again commit himself to Hoppers and National League rugby.

Speaking on his return to Hoppers Sam said "It's good to be back at the club and I'm excited to get going. The start of the season can't come soon enough and it's a good set of lads here who are really working hard. I'm really looking forward to pushing myself again after a few years of playing down a level. I think the competition for places is intense but it means we are really pushing each other and it's bringing out the best in us all".

Head Coach Paul Arnold said "Gareth Dyer told me all about Sam and how keen he was to get him back to the club. I've been impressed with Sam's attitude and his work ethic. He can play across the back five of the scrum and just like the back three positions behind the scrum, I'm starting to see some really intense competition for places. Sam has a real hard edge to his play and is also a good lineout option so it's now up to all the lads in the back five of the pack to impress in the warm up games and put themselves in the frame for selection for the opening league game. We are building some real depth to this squad and I can't wait to see Sam in match action".

Great to have you back Sam!!

SAM WALLBANK RETURNS TO HOPPERS



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Preston Grasshoppers Women

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)

HOPPERS GIRLS PRESENTATION EVENING



Congratulations to all the Hoppers Girls who were presented with their club ties at an event during the summer break.

SALLY WATSON MEMORIAL TROPHY



St. Louis Sabres (USA) and the Sally Watson Memorial Team who celebrated the memory of Sally Watson with a game in the Sesquicentenary International Rugby Festival last weekend including more action shots below. Photos courtesy Mike Craig. 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			Chester 2	A			
14 Sept	Fylde	A			CALDY 2	H			
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	CALDY											
2	CHESTER											
3	FYLDE											
4	HINCKLEY											
5	HOPPERS											
6	HUDDERSFIELD											
7	HULL											
8	LOUGHBOROUGH											
9	LUCTONIANS											
10	OTLEY											
11	SCUNTHORPE											
12	SEDGLEY PARK											
13	SHEFFIELD TIG'S											
14	STOURBRIDGE											
15	TYNEDALE											
16	WHARFEDALE											

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