

Lancashire County Rugby Football Union



Lancashire

v

Somerset



Fylde RFC

Kick Off - 2:00pm

Saturday 18th May 2024



**Lancashire County RFU
2023-2024**

President: Carol Baker

Senior Vice President:

Brian Hurst

Vice Presidents:

JRS Greenwood, M Nelson.

Chairman: Dave Clarke

Hon. Sec: Mark Downs

Board of Directors:

CA Baker, K Bennetta,
GA Burns MBE, D Clarke,
P Deakin, M Downs,
H Hughes, JT Hughes,
MJ Worsley.

County Champions:

1891, 1935, 1938, 1947,
1948, 1949, 1955, 1969,
1973, 1977, 1980, 1982,
1988, 1990, 1992, 1993,
2003, 2006, 2009, 2010,
2011, 2013, 2014, 2017,
2018.



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Lancashire Rugby

www.lancshirerugby.co.uk

Welcome from the President of Lancashire County RFU

To each and every person here today, welcome.

As the second female President of Lancashire Rugby, it is my great honour and with pride I write this and thank you for your attendance.



A very special welcome to the Players, Coaches and Supporters of Somerset who have made the long journey North to join us today, especially my Somerset counterpart, Steve Arnold.

It's been a while since our first fixture on the 19th February 1887 where at Whalley Range Lancashire were on the losing side by 1 Goal & 2 Tries to 3 Tries using a scoring system that now only Downsy can explain.

A special thanks to the management team John Greenwood, Mark Nelson, Alex Loney, Paul Arnold, Steve Briers, Guy Lovgreen, Greg Littler, and Roly Heptonstall for all their time and hard work.

On behalf of the County, I would like to thank Fylde RUFC for hosting the match today. I realise how much hard work and organisation goes into hosting the fixture. And we appreciate the efforts of staff and much valued volunteers.

I would like to thank today's match officials as they are essential in assuring that the match is played in a fair manner to the enjoyment of all.

Please remember the core values of our game.
TEAMWORK, RESPECT, ENJOYMENT, DISCIPLINE and SPORTSMANSHIP.

Carol Baker
Lancashire County RFU

Mark Nelson - Lancashire Squad Coordinator.



We are delighted to be playing a “new team to us“ in the Northern Section for the first match of the Competition this season. It is fair to say that Somerset and ourselves have not been regular opponents down the years. I note we met in the 1935 Final and I believe that there were regular pre season tours to the South West back in the day. It is in fact the third meeting of the two Counties at Fylde, the first in 1932 and the second in 1937, its been a long wait for this the next encounter on the Lancashire coast, so it will be a great experience for both sets of players to play against different opposition and for supporters to watch different opposition for both counties.

The County Championship is the oldest competition in English Rugby starting in 1889 and there have been over 120 championships contested since then.

The tournament may have gone through several formats and changes but to every player who has ever pulled on a County shirt it has provided the chance to play representative Rugby against counties from all over the Country and often tour overseas. In short it is a fantastic opportunity for players and coaches to test themselves in a different competition and environment and remains to only chance outside the full England side for adult players to play representative rugby.



Today it is a very diverse competition. In this seasons Northern Group consisting of Somerset, Yorkshire and Lancashire the wider squads consisted of players from 30 different clubs from levels 3-7. Where else could a player from Midsomer Norton get to play alongside a player from Taunton against lads from Rotherham and Heath. It is a unique and special competition and the amount of enthusiasm from the players, coaches and management at the end of long hard League is always fantastic to see. The pride that is felt by players when they are awarded ties, badges and caps at the post match dinner is testament to the special place the county championship still commands for these players.

Mark Nelson—Lancashire Squad Coordinator. cont.

It is desperately sad that it appears elements within the RFU seek to diminish the status of the competition through lack of funding and proper promotion of the event. True the final is still at Twickenham, but we should be grateful for that ?. Twickenham is ours, our “Big Clubhouse”. The Game is administered through the Counties and without that volunteer army running things on a daily basis, the game would implode . We should take a long hard look at ourselves as a sport.



There is an obsession with the Premiership, no one has a clue what to do with the Championship. Yet the National Leagues run efficiently and are pretty well self governing , the County sides should go hand in glove with the leagues as the representative rugby arm of the process. Where is all the funding

then, where is the underpinning support. The RFU should be falling over themselves to support us. They call us “grassroot “ the “community game“ which is demeaning, and by the way, are Gloucester not a Community Club does Northampton not service the rugby community around Franklin’s Gardens.

Today's players are all proud to represent Somerset and Lancashire, they will give their all for their county and none will receive any payment. It is literally the definition of playing for the love of the game, and the honour that representing Somerset and Lancashire gives to them. I think these virtues fall smack into the Core Values



that the RFU are so keen to promoteyes... you agree ? . So properly support it and make sure that it continues to be a massive part of the Rugby Landscape in the English Game .

Enjoy your afternoon of County Rugby here at Fylde.



Lancashire

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 15. | Zack Stephens | Rossendale |
| 14. | Jacob Browne | Preston Grasshoppers |
| 13. | Oli Glasse | Sedgley Park |
| 12. | Scott Rawlings (Capt) | Fylde |
| 11. | Jordan Dorrington | Fylde |
| 10. | Greg Smith | Fylde |
| 9. | Matt Sturgess (Vice Capt) | Sedgley Park |

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Corey Bowker | Fylde |
| 2. | Tom Burtonwood | Blackburn |
| 3. | Danny Rylance | Sedgley Park |
| 4. | Jake Barron (Vice Capt) | Sale FC |
| 5. | Matt Garrod | Fylde |
| 6. | Connor James | Sedgley Park |
| 7. | Lewis Bradley | Sedgley Park |
| 8. | Toby Harrison | Fylde |

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------------|
| 16. | Pete Altham | Fylde |
| 17. | Oli Trippier | Preston Grasshoppers |
| 18. | Ryan Karlson | Rossendale |
| 19. | Josh Longson | Preston Grasshoppers |
| 20. | Sam Russell | Blackburn |
| 21. | Will Hunt | Preston Grasshoppers |
| 22. | Adam Lanigan | Fylde |

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Squad Co-ordinator: | Mark Nelson |
| Chairman of Selectors: | John Greenwood |
| Team Manager: | Guy Lovgreen |
| Lead Coach: | Alex Loney |
| Coaches: | Paul Arnold, Stephen Briers |
| Physio: | Greg Littler & Molly Hart-Ryan |
| Kit: | Roy Heptonstall |



Somerset

15.	T. Bryan	Chew Valley
14.	C. Carter	Hornets
13.	J. Cook	Reds
12.	J. Elswood	Hornets
11.	F. Murphy	Reds
10.	A. Groves	Reds
9.	H. Tuttiett	Hornets
1.	R. Cano	Clifton
2.	K. Pike	Reds
3.	B Ncube	Taunton
4.	T. Fear	Reds
5.	A. England	Taunton
6.	O. Stratton	Reds
7.	S. Taylor (Capt)	Reds
8.	C. Mills	Dings / Royal Navy
16.	H. O'Donnell	Reds
17.	L. Appleton	Dings
18.	P. Paramore	North Petherton
19.	D. Lee	Wellington
20.	A. Butler	Reds
21.	J. Gapper	Reds
22.	A. Kilbane	Clifton
Team Manager:		Steve Arnold
Forwards Coach:		Brett Harvey
Backs Coach:		Luke Cozens
Attack Coach:		Geraint Lewis
Physio:		Lucie Peters

Today's Match Officials

Referee:
Mr James O'Brien

AR1:
Mr Josh Smith

AR2:
Mr Adam Hughes



Please Respect The Man in the Middle.

"I don't think we've met before, but I'm the referee...

this is not soccer."



LANCASHIRE

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Our aim - To deliver fun practical exercise to all children!



R - Respect
U - Understanding
G - Game
B - Behaviour
Y - You

