

YORKSHIRE CUPS RETURN TO HUDDERSFIELD

HUDDERSFIELD RUFC enjoyed a successful season with both their First XV and Academy side bringing home Yorkshire Cups to Lockwood Park. Inaugurated in the 1877/78 season, the Yorkshire Cup (or 'T'owd Tin Pot) is probably the oldest rugby union competition in Great Britain, with the original trophy still used.

Huddersfield's First XV triumph in the Centurion Yorkshire Cup was their first since 1890. The Yorkshire Cup success came at the end of Huddersfield's third season in National League 2 North, and included a 51-13 rout of Wharfedale in the semi-final. In an action-packed final against Hull, Huddersfield's stand-out players were Chris Johnson, who scored four penalties and a drop goal, and Lee Paxman, who ran 40 yards to score a try. The final score was 25-18.

The route to Huddersfield Academy's Yorkshire Cup win wasn't an easy one, with Huddersfield beating Sheffield 2-1 in a deciding kick off after a final scoreline of 14-14. The Academy side lifted the cup after a 10-5 win over York, after being 5-3 down at the break.

Mike Baggs, Huddersfield's Junior/Academy coach of 14 years said: "I've coached many of the lads from when they were in the U6 teams, and it's a fantastic way of finishing my coaching career."

The season was also notable for Dereck Tasker, Huddersfield's treasurer, who celebrated 25 years in the post. He has been instrumental in raising funds for the club, including securing a lottery grant of £2 million. Huddersfield's chairman, Mick Brown, said: "Dereck is very proud of the facilities on offer, and shows boundless enthusiasm for running the club and balancing the books."



RIGHT ROYAL RUGBY AT CIRENCESTER 7S



Cirencester RFC's annual sevens tournament marked 34 years of sevens at the club, with over 400 players competing and financial support from Friar Tuck, Urban 18, Relish and The Rotary Club of Cirencester.

Cirencester won the U18s Hugh Evans Memorial Shield and the U11s D & J Sports Shield, and finished runners-up at U16, U15 and U14. In the U16s an unbeaten Cleve won the Halcrow Shield following an excellent 38-5 win against Cirencester, whilst Bredon Star snatched the Alder King U14s shield, Bath winning the Kellanda Cotswolds U13s shield and Dursley successful in the John Sawyer U12s shield. The two girls' competitions were won by Chipping Sodbury at U18s and Super Miren in the U15s. Peter Barefoot of CRFC closed the event by presenting Youth Chairman, John Fowler, with the 'Cones Award' to mark his valuable input over the years.

YARBURY TRIBUTE TO YOUNG CANCER VICTIM

Tony Simpson

SPECIAL MEMORIES of a young rugby union player who lived life as a true sportsman were refreshed recently at Yarnbury RUFC when friends and team-mates of Oli Simcoe-Shelton, a former Colts player at Brownberrie Lane, played a fund-raising match in his honour raising £1,500 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The 20-year-old died of cancer earlier this year and his team mates arranged a match against the current Colts to raise funds for the Trust. Players returned from universities and jobs all over the country and one player returned from Germany where he is based with the Army.

Oli was treated in the Teenage Cancer Unit at St James Hospital in Leeds and funds from the Yarnbury effort will be going to the unit, which relies heavily on voluntary contributions. Eric Simpson was instrumental in securing donations for a post-match auction and thanks are due to the many businesses in Yeadon, Horsforth, Guiseley and Rawdon who donated generously, together with the people who made bids and contributed to other fund-raising schemes. Money was also raised for a bench at Yarnbury in celebration of Oli's life.



BARKERS BUTTS IN THE PINK

Tom Somerville

THE WEST COUNTRY was recently invaded by the pink shirted legions of Barkers Butts RFCs mini and junior players touring to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Over 180 children donned pink tour shirts, the charity's colour, for games at Barnstaple and a triangular tournament against Bude and Wootton Bassett's youngsters. The tour was hugely enjoyed and over £1700 was raised for Breast Cancer Research.



HEMSWORTH JUBILEE

Tony Simpson

RUGBY UNION in Hemsworth, South Yorkshire, was first played when Old Hilmians, the Old Boys of Hemsworth Grammar School, took on British Bemberg (Doncaster) RFC in 1934. Out of a thriving Old Boys Association, Hemsworth RUFC was formed in 1960 and opened up to all-comers, and now celebrating its 50th Anniversary, the club continues to draw players from across the area. They have been



using the milestone to raise funds for Yorkshire Air Ambulance charity through a game against Pontefract RUFC Select Pythons.

The highlights of Hemsworth's 50 year history are their victory in the Yorkshire Silver Trophy in 1983/84 and winning the prestigious Yorkshire Shield in 1986/87. Last season Hemsworth won the Gerry Roberts Memorial Trophy for South Yorkshire clubs, with only six players who played in that final having played regularly for the senior side this season, a sign of the club's progression. The second team has achieved great success this season; losing just once and winning the South Yorkshire Merit table.

The main celebration event is the Anniversary Reunion at Moxon Fields on Saturday, September 10, and club officials are keen to get as many former players along as possible.