



Lancashire
RFU

VALE OF LUNE

V

WIDNES

JOHN BURGESS LANCASHIRE CUP FINAL

WIGAN RUFC

SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026

KICK OFF 15:00

Lancashire County RFU
2025-2026

President:
I Spivey

Senior Vice President:
R Jones

Vice President:
S Godfrey

Chairman:
D Clarke

Honorary Secretary:
M Downs

Board of Directors:
CA Baker, K Bennetta,
GA Burns MBE, D Clarke,
AN Crabtree, P Deakin,
M Downs, C Gaffey,
H Hughes.

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.

**Womens County
Champions:**
2017, 2023

U20 County Champions:
2025



Lancashire
RFU

As Lancashire President for 2025–2026, it gives me great pleasure and pride to welcome you all to today's Lancashire County Cup Final.

As someone who has been involved in this great game for many, many years, I have continued my participation within this grand County of Lancashire, to enable others to get the same enjoyment from Rugby that I have had.

A special mention of thanks goes to the Players, Match Officials, Coaches and Team Managers for their collective effort and commitment and I would especially like to extend my thanks our host, Wigan RUFC, for making today possible.

We all appreciate how much hard work and organisation goes into hosting events like this, and we sincerely value the support of staff and volunteers in delivering rugby to the community.

I wish the finalists the very best of luck and look forward to seeing some great rugby played with Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

Ian Spivey
President
Lancashire County RFU



It gives me great pleasure to welcome the players, officials and supporters of Vale of Lune and Widnes to Douglas Valley for this afternoon's John Burgess Lancashire Cup Final.

Both sides have performed capably in Regional 2 North West, finishing in the play off positions, and sharing the spoils in their two league encounters. Congratulations go to Vale who fought their way through the play offs to secure promotion with a 16-13 victory over Manchester. Unfortunately their celebrations were tempered by a serious injury to one of their players and we wish him well in his recovery.

I am confident that our Douglas Valley ground will be in such condition as befits Lancashire's premier club competition and credit must go to our groundsman, Jerome Weall and his assistant David Clarke who is well known in Northern rugby circles.

Finally, I would like to thank those volunteers at Wigan without whom we would be unable to stage today's game and also the team of match officials. Let's hope that the weather holds and our finalists serve up a feast of rugby. Good luck to all concerned.

Martin Rigby
President
Wigan RUFC



The John Burgess Lancashire Cup

The Lancashire County Rugby Challenge Cup was introduced in the 1893-94 season and was initially well supported with Oldham, Tyldesley, Morecambe and Littleborough being the early winners. However, following the 1895 schism and departure of clubs to Northern Union the competition demised and was eventually reintroduced in 1971 with Orrell, Waterloo and Liverpool being regular holders during the seventies and eighties.

In 1997 the magnificent silverware was renamed the John Burgess Lancashire Cup in tribute to the former celebrated player, coach and administrator. Salfordian John Burgess CBE, played for Old Salfordians and Broughton Park, representing Lancashire 20 times 1956-64 and North West Counties against the All Blacks in 1964 before coming to prominence as the coach of Lancashire 1968-1973, with the Red Rose county providing over 20 internationals, four England captains and a British Lions captain during his tenure. John Burgess went on to coach England 1971-75 and became Lancashire RFU President in the 1981-82 centenary season and President of the RFU 1987- 88.



The Finalists



Vale Of Lune

R1 Aldwinians 0-31 Vale of Lune
SF Vale of Lune 34-24 Burnage

R1 Widnes 22-17 Eccles
SF Widnes 29-16 Didsbury Toc H

Widnes





VALE OF LUNE RUFC

1. Archie Fowler
2. Harm Dokter
3. Mike Bradshaw
4. Harry Fellows (VC)
5. Josh Sutcliffe
6. Mark Goodwin
7. Sam Walton
8. Jack Ayrton (C)
9. Billy Swarbrick
10. Harry Finan
11. Jack McFarlane
12. Jamie Mayall
13. Eddie Abdelghafar
14. Ryan Busby
15. Henry Clifton

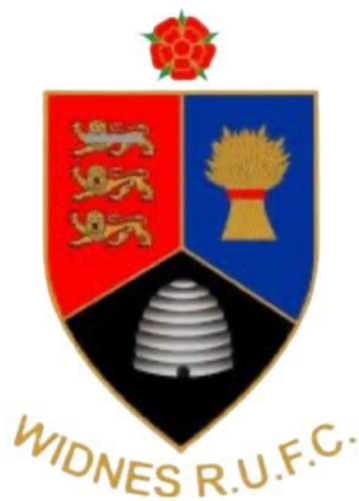
Coach

Mark Goodman
Scott Armstrong

Physio

Xavier Smith

16. Joe Crompton
17. Ross Pillow
18. Alfie Bolton
19. Dan Leighton
20. Oliver Ball



WIDNES RUFC

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Dan Rourke | Coach |
| 2. Ben Mercer | Liam McGovern |
| 3. Matt Blakey | |
| 4. Mike Garrity | Manager |
| 5. Ed Price | Paul Woodward |
| 6. Charlie Feeley | |
| 7. Allan Breeden | Physio |
| 8. Tom O'Neill (C) | Kamila Blyskal-Pawlowska |
| 9. Josh Kenyon | |
| 10. Liam McGovern | |
| 11. Lewis George | |
| 12. Kevin Leadbetter | |
| 13. Liam Lawton | |
| 14. Jamie Patient | |
| 15. Alex Jones | |
| 16. Josh Percival | |
| 17. Craig Lawton | |
| 18. Tom Spencer | |
| 19. Adam Menia | |
| 20. Rio Hamlett | |
| 21. Gavin Hatton | |
| 22. Josh Salter | |

Thank you to the Manchester & District Rugby Union Referee Society and our Match Officials today:

Referee: John Pemberton
AR1: Andy Irvine
AR2: Chris Astley



MADREFS

Please support our match officials this afternoon in their efforts to keep the game safe and fair. Rugby is a physical and passionate contest requiring discipline - which is why we love it - and we ask all players, coaches and spectators to respect and accept decisions gracefully, even when you disagree.



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Lancashire RFU

In 1806 William Webb Ellis was born in Salford, Lancashire and in 1823 whilst a pupil at Rugby School, legend has it he first picked up the ball and ran with it, thereby defining the game that has since flourished around the world.

Long before Rugby Football had acquired commonly accepted laws Lancashire and Yorkshire were eager to compete with each other. From 1860 a Lancashire team played Yorkshire in an annual “Battle of the Roses” which was considered the blue ribbon of Northern Rugby.

The invitational Lancashire side was made up predominantly of players from the established clubs of Manchester and Liverpool. On the 22nd December 1881 at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, a meeting was convened of 16 invited clubs and the Lancashire County Rugby Football Union was formed.

Today, Lancashire RFU represents over 60 clubs and our unifying purpose is to bring people together to enjoy Rugby, so the game and its values grow and thrive across the region. We do this by organising competitions, fielding representative teams and supporting our member clubs, schools and universities.

To learn more about Lancashire RFU and what we provide to the rugby community, or to volunteer your support, please send us a message on social media @lancashirerfu, email honsecretary@lancashirerfu.com or visit our website.

LANCASHIRERFU.COM