



Lancashire
RFU

**LANCASHIRE
WOMEN**

V

**NORTHUMBERLAND
WOMEN**

GILL BURNS CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRWOOD WATERLOO RFC

SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2026

KICK OFF 14:00

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

As Lancashire President for 2025–2026, it gives me great pleasure and pride to welcome you all to today’s game, which promises to be a fierce “Roses” contest.

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 should go to the Players, Coaches, Team Managers and Match Officials for their collective effort and commitment and I would especially like to extend my thanks to Firwood Waterloo RFC, for hosting this County Championship match.

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

Thank you to Northumberland for making the journey today, we are all looking forward to a great game played with Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

Ian Spivey
President
Lancashire County RFU



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to our visitors Northumberland, our match officials, supporters, invited guests and volunteers to today's opening game of our 2026 Gill Burns Championship campaign.

County rugby is always a special opportunity for players to represent their region with pride, commitment and passion, and today is a celebration of everything that makes our game so strong — teamwork, respect, sportsmanship and community.

A great deal of hard work goes on behind the scenes to make occasions like this possible, and I would like to take a moment to thank everyone here at Firwood Waterloo who has contributed their time and effort in preparing for today's match. Your continued dedication and commitment are hugely appreciated.

To our visitors from Northumberland, we hope you enjoy your time with us both on and off the field. We look forward to building strong relationships and enjoying a competitive and hard-fought game played in the very best spirit of county rugby.

Finally, thank you to everyone attending and supporting the occasion. Your encouragement and support play a huge part in making county rugby such a special environment for all involved. We wish both teams the very best of luck and hope everyone enjoys the occasion both on and off the pitch.

Thank you once again for joining us today and a safe travels home after the match.

Kate Bennetta

Manager

Lancashire RFU Women



U18 Girls Match Action

Photography by Terry Standish and Dot Lee-McCoy









Lancashire v Northumberland (2022) Match Action

Photography by Angus Matheson







LANCASHIRE

1. **Klaudia Urban** Sale 1861
 2. **Lucy Bridge** Liverpool St Helens
 3. **Lucy Morris (C)** Sale 1861
 4. **Penny Gunn** Liverpool St Helens
 5. **Hannah Cotton** University of Manchester
 6. **Erin Durston-Hillyer** Sale FC
 7. **Grace Doodson** Liverpool St Helens
 8. **Bekah Anthony** Liverpool St Helens
 9. **Alys Smith** Sale 1861
 10. **Alexis Holden** Clitheroe
 11. **Olivia Jessup** Southport
 12. **Gabi Ashby** Sale FC)
 13. **Izzy Turner** Sale FC
 14. **Eilish Turner** Sale 1861
 15. **Amelia Lawton (C)** Manchester
-
16. **Georgia Dale** Broughton Park
 17. **Beth McColgan** Broughton Park
 18. **Maisie Dunn** Liverpool St Helens
 19. **Shania Lord** University of Liverpool / Sefton
 20. **Bryony Cluskey** University of Manchester
 21. **Emily Cottam** Sale FC
 22. **Hannah Roberts** Liverpool St Helens
 23. **Mae Falkinder** University of Manchester
-
- TR. **Lilly-Rae Shaw** Aldwinians
- TR. **Chloe Hull** Sale 1861
- TR. **Sophie Caldwell** Broughton Park



NORTHUMBERLAND

1. **Jolene Ellwood** Novos
2. **Emily Hunter** Novos
3. **Victoria Barrow** Blaydon
4. **Erin Murray** Newcastle University
5. **Lucy Christie** Newcastle University
6. **Abbie Dixon (VC)** Novos
7. **Rosie Quinn (C)** Blaydon
8. **Emily Hazledine** Scarborough / Newcastle University
9. **Charlotte Sparks** Novos
10. **Toni Robinson** Novos / Newcastle University
11. **Faye McQuillan** Novos / Newcastle University
12. **Abbie Mulholland** Novos
13. **Sophie Oldridge** Newcastle University
14. **April Ishida** Novos
15. **Macey Leach (VC)** Novos / Northumbria University

16. **Sophia Diggins** Novos
17. **Ella Brewster** Novos
18. **Olivia Copley** Pontefract / Newcastle University
19. **Connie Holmes** Novos
20. **Amie Hatton** Newcastle University
21. **Priya Crawford** Novos / Strathclyde University
22. **Lucy Quinn** Blaydon
23. **Brooke Neale Wright** Rockcliff / Northumbria University

- TR. **Charlotte Nicholson** Novos
- TR. **Adelle Telford** Rockcliff
- TR. **Lucy Williamson** Novos / Northumbria University



MADREFS

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

Referee: Chrissy Clarke

AR1: Jonathan Cartwright

AR2: Liam Reilly

Fourth Official: Vicki Offland

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 caught 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.

Yorkshire formed a Union in 1869 and continued to play an invitational Lancashire side made up predominantly of players from the established clubs of Manchester and Liverpool. This all changed on the evening of 22nd December 1881 at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, when a meeting was convened of 16 invited clubs and the Lancashire County Rugby Football Union was formed.

Lancashire RFU now represents over 60 clubs and are proud to be 25 times English County Champions. Our unifying purpose is to bring people together to enjoy Rugby, so the game and its values flourish across the region. We do this by organising competitions, fielding representative teams and supporting our member clubs, schools and universities to grow and thrive.

To learn more about Lancashire RFU, or to volunteer your support, email honsecretary@lancashirerfu.com, send us a message on social media @lancashirerfu, or visit our website.

LANCASHIRERFU.COM