



Lancashire
RFU

**LANCASHIRE
MIXED ABILITY
V
YORKSHIRE
MIXED ABILITY**

**SEDGLEY PARK RUFC
SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 2026
KICK OFF 13:30**

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 'Roses' encounter between Lancashire and Yorkshire - the country's first ever Mixed Ability Rugby county representative game. I hope it will help to promote and raise awareness for the sport.

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.

I congratulate and thank the Players, Coaches, Team Managers and Match Officials for their collective effort and commitment, and I would especially like to extend my thanks to our host, Sedgley Park RUFC, for making this game possible.

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

I wish all involved 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



Good afternoon and welcome to Sedgley Park.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to everyone involved in the organisation and participation of this historic game today.

It truly is an honour to be involved with such a great team and I extend a massive thank you to all who have supported me in bringing the occasion to fruition, in particular to Sedgley Park for hosting us, Tryit Rugby for sponsoring the match, and D3 tape for supplying strapping and tape for the players.

I wish a warm welcome to our friends from Yorkshire RFU and good luck to all the players. I am sure there will be a lot of smiles on a lot of faces today, including mine. Now let's go make history and show people what MA rugby is all about.

Catherine Jones

Inclusion and Diversity Lead

Lancashire RFU





LANCASHIRE MIXED ABILITY

1	Matty Brennan (VC)	Bolton Buccaneers
2	Spencer Rowbotham (C)	Bolton Buccaneers
3	Paul Brennan	Bolton Buccaneers
4	John Caulfield	Littleborough Rams
5	Elias Price	Littleborough Rams
6	James Whittaker	Littleborough Rams
7	Nick Palmer	Bolton Buccaneers
8	Ryan Waters	Littleborough Rams
9	Benny Evans	Bolton Buccaneers
10	Leo Hope	Bolton Buccaneers
11	Nicholas Lewis	Bolton Buccaneers
12	Keiron Broxton	Bolton Buccaneers
13	Richard Polley	Bolton Buccaneers
14	Dominik Hargreaves	Littleborough Rams
15	Tom Brocklehurst	Bolton Buccaneers
16	Logan Woodmansey	Bolton
17	Nathan Webb	Aldwinians
18	Rob Russell	Bury
19	Evans Ojuruwa	Typhoons
20	Mark Brocklehurst	Bolton Buccaneers
21	Mike Hillary	Leigh

Head Coach **Gareth Payne**
Team Manager **Catherine Jones**
Physio **Rachel Jones**



YORKSHIRE MIXED ABILITY

1	Ben Bergin	Halifax Magpies
2	Chris Taylor	Bumble Bees
3	Craig Serbert-Smith	Halifax Magpies
4	Damien Jones	Halifax Magpies
5	Darren Highgold	Bumble Bees
6	Darryl Wilson	Bumble Bees / Baildon
7	Dylan Lightowler	Bumble Bees
8	Hamish Pratt	Bumble Bees / Keighley
9	Jack Thomber	Bumble Bees
10	James Dainton	Halifax Magpies
11	Josh Wilkinson	Halifax Magpies
12	Karl Jacques	Bolton Buccaneers
13	Kyle Ruding	Halifax Magpies
14	Lee Hainsworth	Bumble Bees
15	Leon Taylor	Bumble Bees / Baildon
16	Mark Goodwin	Bumble Bees
17	Mark Owens	Halifax Magpies
18	Martin Calvert	York Steamers
19	Michael Botting	Halifax Magpies
20	Michael Hayward	Halifax Magpies
21	Mohammed (Ashan) Sakander	Bumble Bees
22	Paul Willis	Halifax Magpies
23	Ryan Wilson	Bumble Bees / Bradford & Bingley
24	Scott Parsons	Halifax Magpies
25	Tom Beattie	Bumble Bees

Coaches **Dan Cookson, Paul Willis, Phil Wilson, Steve Waites**



MADREFS

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

Referee: Neil Everett

AR: Tony Parker

AR: Peter Keers

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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NEW ONLINE STORE NOW OPEN**

<https://www.lancashirerfu.com/store>



"I am really proud to be supporting this game of Lancashire v Yorkshire Mixed Ability. After all the hard work that Catherine has put in to this to set it up, it's the least we could do. I hope everyone enjoys the day and can see what true rugby and our values should look like."

Josh Jones
Try It Rugby

"Supporting this game is an honour, it coincides with what we promote at D3 Tape. A massive well done to Catherine for organising this. Go well everyone."

Mark Plumridge
D3 Tape

d3 #d3unstoppable

X6.0 extreme kinesiology tape K6.0 kinesiology tape drink personal hydration cohesive bandage compression wrap fixed neoprene strap Rigid single wrapping tape instant ice packs AST double wrap mouth guard double gel Light eab bandage First aid d3 PVC tape rubs & waxes



The Battle of the Roses (also known as **The Roses Match**) by William Barnes Wollen depicts a match between Lancashire and Yorkshire at a packed Fallowfield Stadium in Manchester on 24 November 1894. Completed during 1895, with many of the players sitting for the artist, it was exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 1896 and went on to be displayed in Huddersfield and Newcastle. In 1957 members of Yorkshire RFU found the painting in a second hand shop in Newcastle, bought it for £25 and displayed it in the clubhouse of Otley RUFC until the 1960s when it was moved to the President's Suite in the West Stand, Twickenham.

Restoration of the portrait revealed at least one player had been overpainted and erased from the scene. An initial theory suggesting that Wollen had removed players who had left Rugby Union in the 1895 Great Schism to join the Northern Rugby Football Union (which became the Rugby Football League) was dismissed when it was pointed out if Wollen removed those who had switched codes there would only be a couple of players left in the picture!

An alternative interpretation proposes Wollen's painting is not only telling the story of the match but also reporting the context in which it was being played, with the ghost player removed in order to portray the gentleman in the far background, Mr George Rowland Hill, Secretary of the Rugby Football Union, as an isolated, static observer, left behind as the game moves forward.

Regardless of this conjecture, we can be certain that Alf Barraclough (Captain of Manningham, later to become Bradford City Football Club) is the Yorkshire forward making the forward pass. ☺



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