



Competition:	County League 3. Central	
Teams:	Hartlepool Friers	Washington Firsts
Date:	10 th of January 2025, Kick off 2:00 PM	
Venue:	Hartlepool Rugby Football Club, Easington Road, Hartlepool, TS24 9BA	
Match Official:	TREVOR ALLEY, Durham Association.	
Result:	7	37

No.	NAME & SURNAME	SCORERS				JUDICIARY	
		Tries	Conv.	Penalty	Drops	Yellow	Red
1	OLLIE O'CONNER						
2	DAVE FISHER	1					
3	RICHARD VARLE						
4	SCOTT WILCZEK						
5	JOSH DAVISON						
6	JAMES ALLISON	1					
7	PETER HARDY						
8	DEAN RYAN						
9	GEORGE ALLEY (Capt.)						
10	MATTHEW CLARK		2	1			
11	JOSH CARTER						
12	JAY CUNNINGHAM						
13	MAX BROWN	1					
14	SEAN MONAGHAN	3					
15	SCOTT OLIVER						
Penalty Tries			X	X	X	X	X

RESERVES

16	LIAM HIGGINS						
17	ANDY YOUNG						
18	JOSH HARDY						

Shirt numbers on the player list may not reflect the number shirt on the field, apologies for any names missed off the list.

OPPOSITION	1	1					
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Scoring Sequence			
Minute	Player [team number or opposition]	[T, C, P, PT, DG.]	Score
2	JAMES ALLISON	T	0 – 5
20	SEAN MONAGHAN	T	0 – 10
34	MAX BROWN	T	0 – 15
34	MATT CLARK	C	0 – 17
38	MATT CLARK	P	0 – 20
48	SEAN MONAGHAN	T	0 – 25
48	MATT CLARK	C	0 – 27
53	DAVID FISHER	T	0 – 32
59	SEAN MONAGHAN	T	0 – 37
80	HARTLEPOOL	T & C	7 – 37
Timings are approximate.			

Weather Conditions:

Temperature cold -2°C with some ice/snow on the pitch. Damp underfoot and top surface muddy, but holding studs well in most areas of the pitch. Very slight breeze.

Noteworthy Information:

Difficult decisions for the coaching team due to lack of squad availability.

Game Summary:

First Half;

Kick off by Washington drops short of the 22-yard line, ball bounces forward off a Hartlepool players leg and is collected by another Hartlepool player who is off-side, penalty to Washington. Matt Clark kicks For touch for a line-out to Washington.

2 min. Ball to middle of line-out taken cleanly by Washington and a good run through the Hartlepool defence results in a try by James Allison. Conversion missed. Score 0 – 5.

Restart by Hartlepool sees the ball knocked forward by the Washington defence, giving Hartlepool a scrum on Washingtons 22-yard line. Hartlepool win good ball from the back of the scrum and release the ball to their backs. Hartlepool play through a number of phases with their backs making progress beyond the gain line. Eventually tackled into touch for a Washington line-out. Washington wins clean ball from the line-out, and Matt Clark kicks to touch for a Hartlepool line-out on the half-way line.

Hartlepool wins line-out and sends ball to their backs, where the ball is lost and gathered up by Washington. Washington run through a number of phases keeping good possession and going over the gain-line. Penalty awarded to Hartlepool for crossing interference by Washington. Hartlepool take a quick Tap & Go and drive into the Washington defensive line. A break by Hartlepool see's them gain ground into the Washington 22 area. Washington manages to get possession of the ball and kick downfield. Hartlepool full back collects the ball and runs back into the Washington defence. Referee stops play and awards Washington a penalty. Matt Clark kicks the ball deep into the Hartlepool 22 for a Washington line-out.

Washington wins clean ball and sends it out to the backs, who take the ball into tackle, ball lost from hands and is gathered by Hartlepool who kick the ball into open ground. Scott Oliver takes the ball and runs it back into the Hartlepool half. Washington work through phases and take the ball over the gain line into the Hartlepool 22. The referee awards a scrum to Hartlepool. Scrum ball won by Hartlepool who kick the ball into touch, great pressure from the Washington back row. Washington line-out inside the Hartlepool 22.

17 min. Washington get clean ball at the line-out and the forwards drive the ball over the gain-line. Ball released to the backs, where Jay Cunningham kicks the ball down field. A good chase by the Washington backs sees Hartlepool under a lot of pressure and the full back kicks the ball out over the dead ball line. 5-yard scrum to Washington.

20 min. good clean ball from the scrum means that #9 George Alley is able to release the ball to the backs, the ball ends up in the hands of Sean Monaghan who goes through the Hartlepool defence to score. Conversion missed. Score 0 – 10.

Hartlepool restart the game with a kick just short of the Washington 22. Well caught by Dean Ryan who runs the ball into the Hartlepool defence. Unfortunately, the ball goes loose and is gathered by Hartlepool, who then Knock-On giving Washington a scrum, just outside the Washington 22. Good ball from back of scrum passed to Matt Clark who kicks into the Hartlepool half. Ball bounces out in the Hartlepool 22, giving a 50/22 line-out to Washington. Washington wins ball from the line-out and a kick attempt is charged down by Hartlepool. Washington regathers the ball and kick deep into Hartlepool territory. The ball bounces long and goes out over the Hartlepool dead ball line, giving Hartlepool a scrum just outside their 22. Hartlepool win clean ball, despite a strong drive by Washington forwards, Hartlepool kick the ball into touch for a Washington line-out.

25 mins. Good catch by Washington sees quick ball passed to the #10 Matt Clark, who kicks into Hartlepool territory. Hartlepool gather up the ball, but a good chase sees Josh Carter tackle the Hartlepool full back before he can make much ground. Ruck formed and Hartlepool release the ball to their backs who take the ball into tackle to form ruck. Hartlepool retain possession and continue to drive at the Washington defence. Penalty to Hartlepool for a high tackle. Hartlepool with a quick Tap & Go, the ball goes loose but is smothered on the floor by Hartlepool who retain possession through a number of phases. But the Washington defence stands firm keeping gained yardage to a minimum. Penalty to Hartlepool for another high tackle (*coaching staff may be having a word during training about tackle height*).

Another quick Tap & Go sees Hartlepool take the ball into the Washington 22. Referee stops play for yet another penalty to Hartlepool. Referee has a chat with the Washington captain. Hartlepool with a Tap & Go, but the ball goes loose and is gathered by Josh Carter who kicks into the Hartlepool half. Hartlepool gathers the ball and takes it to the half-way line, where a ruck is formed.

30 mins. Referee stops play for an injury to a Hartlepool player. Referee awards penalty to Hartlepool, who restart the game with a Tap & Go. Hartlepool keep good possession through phases and take the ball into the Washington 22. Referee blows for a penalty to Hartlepool, who take a quick Tap & Go. Good defensive line work and tackling by Washington keep Hartlepool pinned down and not able to go beyond gain-line. Ball stolen by Washington in the loose, ball into Matt Clark's hands who kicks long into Hartlepool territory.

34 mins. Good kick chase by Washington backs puts Hartlepool under pressure, Washington gathers the ball and Max Brown goes over to score a try. Conversion by Matt Clark good. Score 0 – 17.

Hartlepool restart with a kick into Washington 22, ball caught cleanly by Scott Oliver who runs the ball into the Hartlepool defensive line to form ruck. Good possession from the ruck sees the ball into the hands of the Washington backs, who take the ball into the Hartlepool half.

Referee awards scrum to Washington, ball from rear of scrum passed to backs with Scott Oliver running the ball into the Hartlepool 22. Washington work through the phases but can't make much ground. Ball to Matt Clark who kicks into touch deep in Hartlepool's 22 for a Hartlepool line-out.

38 mins. Hartlepool get clean ball from the line-out and kick the ball to half way. Bouncing ball causing havoc first Hartlepool knocks-on then Washington knocks-on. Referee awards scrum to Washington on

the Hartlepool 22-yard line. Ball delivered to backs, who take the ball into the tackle to form ruck. Penalty to Washington, a quick Tap & Go sees Hartlepool off-side and the referee gives Washington a penalty.

40 mins. Matt Clark kicks penalty for three points. Score 0 – 20. Referee blows for half time.

Second Half;

Hartlepool kick off the second half with a long kick into Washington 22. Ball caught by George Alley who kicked the ball into touch for a Hartlepool line-out. Hartlepool wins clean ball from the line-out and their forwards drive the ball into the Washington defence. Matt Clark rips the ball from the Hartlepool forward to give Washington possession. Referee calls play back for a Hartlepool scrum. Hartlepool get clean ball from the back of the scrum and #8 drives the ball beyond the gain line. Hartlepool continue to make ground and their backs take the ball into the Washington 22. Good tackling from Washington sees the forward momentum stopped, and the ball goes forward from Hartlepool hands.

45 mins. Washington scrum on Washington 22-yard line. Penalty to Washington for Hartlepool prop standing up in the scrum. Matt Clark kicks and finds touch on the half way line, for a Hartlepool line-out. Good line-out jump by Dean Ryan sees the ball in Washington possession. Ball released to backs, but good tackling by Hartlepool prevents Washington taking the ball over the gain-line. Washington keep possession through a number of phases with some good pod work.

48 min. Dean Ryan breaks through the Hartlepool defence and takes the ball into the Hartlepool 22. Ball is kicked forward. Good chase by Sean Monaghan, and failure by the Hartlepool full-back to collect the ball, results in Sean gathering the ball and going over for a try. Conversion by Matt Clark good. Score 0 – 27.

Restart kick by Hartlepool caught well and ran back into the Hartlepool defensive line. Ball from the ruck released to Washington backs. Washington retain possession through a number of rucks and good pod work, and take the ball into the Hartlepool half.

50 mins. Referee stops play for Washington player injured on the floor. After some treatment 🤔 Scott Oliver leaves the field of play, ably assisted by Caroline Crilley.

Play restarts with a Hartlepool scrum. Hartlepool #8 picks up the ball from the scrum and feeds the Hartlepool backs. Knock-on by Hartlepool gives Washington a scrum. Clean ball from base of scrum allows George Alley to get the ball to Matt Clark who kicks the ball into open space. Great chasing by David Fisher results in David collecting the ball and scoring a try on 53 mins. Conversion missed. Score 0 – 32.

Restart kick by Hartlepool is dropped by Washington and the ball goes forward, gathered by Hartlepool who take the ball into the Washington defensive line. Good tackling by Washington stops the Hartlepool charge from gaining any ground. Referee calls play back giving Hartlepool a scrum for the Washington Knock-On.

55 mins. Hartlepool Knock-On at the scrum, giving Washington a scrum in their 22. Washington gets the ball from the scrum and release the backs, who take the ball into the tackle to form ruck. Some scrappy play from Washington sees no ground gained and some loose passing. Referee calls play back for a Hartlepool scrum. Hartlepool get clean ball from the scrum and drive through the Washington defence.

Penalty to Washington, who take a quick Tap & Go.

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Penalty to Washington, referee has a chat with the Hartlepool captain.

Washington takes another Tap & Go.

Ball lost forward, gathered up by Hartlepool who kick the ball into the Washington 22.

Washington gathers the ball and runs it back into the Hartlepool 22. Washington awarded a penalty deep in the Hartlepool 22. Washington takes a quick Tap & Go feeding the backs, good tackling from Hartlepool sees the Washington player tackled into touch for a Hartlepool line-out. Hartlepool wins ball from the line-out and form ruck, referee awards penalty to Washington for Hartlepool entering the ruck from the side.

59 mins. Washington with another quick Tap & Go gets the ball to Matt Clark who kicks the ball into space for Sean Monaghan to run onto. Sean takes a clean catch and goes over for his third try of the game. Great vision by the backs. Conversion missed. Score 0 – 37.

Hartlepool restart sees the ball bounce into touch, short of the Washington 22-yard line, for a Washington line-out. Another good line-out by Washington sees the ball into the hands of Matt Clark who kicks deep into the Hartlepool half. Hartlepool return the kick taken by Matt Clark who kicks to touch to clear the lines and relieve pressure. Referee calls play back awarding a penalty to Washington for Hartlepool being off-side at their kick.

Matt Clark kicks the ball into the Hartlepool 22, Hartlepool full-back gathers the ball and returns the kick that lands short of the Washington 22. Washington fails to gather the ball cleanly and it goes loose. Hartlepool take possession of the ball and drive into the Washington 22. A period of very loose play by both sides ends with a Knock-On by Hartlepool, giving Washington a scrum.

From the scrum the ball is fed to the Washington backs who take the ball down the wing towards the Hartlepool 22. The ball goes loose, and referee gives a penalty to Washington. A Tap & Go sees the ball taken into tackle to form ruck. Tiredness and weather conditions taking its toll, with a period of scrappy play. Hartlepool in possession takes the ball into the Washington half. Referee stops play for player safety. Hartlepool and Washington players down on ground needing attention.

71 mins. Play restarts with a Washington scrum. Washington wins the ball at the scrum, but a strong push by Hartlepool forwards is rewarded by the referee penalising Washington. Penalty to Hartlepool, taking a quick Tap & Go.

Good tackling by Washington sees the ball stolen, drive forward is ended when Dean Ryan is tackled into touch. Referee calls play back for a scrum to Washington. Good push by Hartlepool sees scrappy ball from the scrum, Washington take the ball making ground beyond the gain-line.

There ensues 5 minutes of very scrappy play by both sides, kicking \ knock-on's\ bad passing \ etc. (Tired bodies and tired minds, maybe even too much Christmas pud and New Year celebrations 😊🙌)

36 mins. Washington scrum, clean ball passed to Matt Clark who passes the ball to Josh Carter but the ball is missed and goes into touch for a Hartlepool line-out. Untidy line-out sees the ball go loose, which results in the referee giving a scrum to Hartlepool.

40 mins. Hartlepool #8 picks the ball from the rear of the scrum, and breaks through the Washington defence. He carries the ball through the Washington 22 and sets down for a good individual try. Conversion good. Score 7 – 37.

Referee blows for no-side, ending the game.

Notes;

STATLER'S Comments

"A really good performance all around from each and every player. Kick chase paid dividends, with points on the board. Good line-out and scrum work meant good clean ball, despite the weight difference in the scrum. Hartlepool never gave up and worked hard for their 7 points. The game petered out with obvious tired legs and cold hands, due to the conditions and the hard work put in on the field. Well done to all for another excellent win. Congratulations to Sean on his hat-trick 🏉, and thanks to Caroline Crilley for her magic hands in healing the afflicted."

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Comment from Dave Addison [Director of Rugby].

"Back to winning ways, lads blew off some cobwebs and were rusty in places but also played some great rugby, a few lads playing through illness and injury but picking up a few more. Our small squad is really being tested. We really need to get some lads back involved, and hope some of our injuries clear up a little. Fair play to Hartlepool who never gave up, thought their number 8 was outstanding. Washy march on with Sunderland visiting in 2 weeks"

Comment from Andy Stephenson [Head Coach].

"What a way to start 2026 — a fantastic away league result and team performance against Hartlepool Thirds.

It was a slightly rusty performance in difficult, testing conditions, but what never wavered was the commitment, effort and attitude shown by everyone who pulled on the shirt. Despite the conditions, the lads worked tirelessly for each other, won the physical battle and showed real grit and togetherness to get the job done.

There were some great individual performances both in attack and defence, with players stepping up and making big contributions across the park. As a group, we know that time spent together — both at training and on match days — will help us continue to come together as a unit and work towards further collective improvements.

It's always great to pick up a strong away victory and even better to see a number of top-class tries being scored — long may that continue.

Great effort Washy, always a pleasure. "

Yours Statler and Waldorf:



THE TWO OLD FOGIES

