



# WASHINGTON RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



## Statler & Waldorf Game report

|                 |                                                               |                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Competition:    | Durham County 3 <sup>rd</sup> XV Cup                          |                 |
| Teams:          | Darlington 3rds                                               | Washington 1sts |
| Date:           | 18 October 2025, KO 3pm                                       |                 |
| Venue:          | Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows, Darlington, DL1 5NR |                 |
| Match Official: | Alan Irvin, Durham Society                                    |                 |
| Result:         | 7                                                             | 15              |

| No.           | NAME & SURNAME        | SCORERS |       |         |       | JUDICIARY |     |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|-----|
|               |                       | Tries   | Conv. | Penalty | Drops | Yellow    | Red |
| 1             | Kevin Lamb            |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 2             | James England         |         |       |         |       | 1         |     |
| 3             | Alix Hume             |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 4             | Josh Davison          |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 5             | Michael Reilly        |         |       |         |       | 1         |     |
| 6             | Liam Reay             |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 7             | Liam Higgins          |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 8             | Dean Ryan             |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 9             | George Alley          |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 10            | Matthew Clark (Capt.) |         | 1     | 1       |       |           |     |
| 11            | Max Brown             | 1       |       |         |       |           |     |
| 12            | James Ross            | 1       |       |         |       |           |     |
| 13            | Jay Cunningham        |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 14            | Andre Marrah          |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| 15            | Scott Oliver          |         |       |         |       |           |     |
| Penalty Tries |                       |         |       |         |       |           |     |

### RESERVES

|    |                |  |  |  |  |   |  |
|----|----------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| 16 | Ollie O'Conner |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 17 | Owain Futers   |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 18 | Joshua Hardy   |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 19 | Jashua Carter  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 20 | Ben Emmerson   |  |  |  |  |   |  |
| 22 | Peter Hardy    |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |

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

| Scoring Sequence         |                                     |                    |        |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Minute                   | Player [team number or opposition]: | [T, PT, C, P, DG.] | Score  |
| 10                       | Matthew Clark                       | P                  | 0 - 3  |
| 13                       | Darlington                          | PT                 | 7 - 3  |
| 23                       | Max Brown                           | T                  | 7 - 8  |
| 23                       | Matthew Clark                       | C                  | 7 - 10 |
| 51                       | James Ross                          | T                  | 7 - 15 |
| Timings are approximate. |                                     |                    |        |

#### **Weather Conditions:**

Temp 12°C, Dry, no to very little wind and firm underfoot.

#### **Game Summary:**

##### **First Half;**

Washington kicked off with a high ball just short of the Darlington 22. The ball slipped loose from the catcher and Washington fell on the ball to take possession. Unfortunately, Washington conceded a penalty at the ruck, giving Darlington an opportunity to clear their defence and progress down field. Darlington with line-out on the Darlington 5-yard line. Line-out won by Washington, good possession led to Liam Reay breaking through the Darlington defence and making good ground beyond the gain line. At the ruck, a rather telegraphed pass was intercepted by Darlington, who ran the ball into the Washington 22. A fantastic chase back by Dean Ryan and Scott Oliver saw the ball carrier tackled, with the ball gathered by Scott and kicked into touch despite pressure from the supporting Darlington players.

Line-out won by Darlington, a bad pass by the Darlington #9 meant the ball went low. Darlington kicked the ball forward into the Washington 22. Referee called the play back to the line-out for a scrum to Washington.

5 min. Good solid scrum from Washington allowed clean ball to be passed by George Alley to Matt Clark, who kicked the ball into Darlington territory. Good chasing and tackling by Washington led to a Washington penalty, Darlington player holding onto the ball. Ball kicked into touch for a Washington line-out. Ball loose from the line-out gathered by Darlington, who drove the ball forward in the maul. Penalty awarded to Darlington for Washington going in at the side. The referee advanced the mark of the penalty 10 meters for dissent from Washington. The kick to touch was good, giving Darlington a line-out on the Washington 5-yard line. Ball won by Darlington but went loose and gathered by Washington, ball kicked to touch just short of the Darlington 22.

8 min. Darlington line-out, ball won by Kevin Lamb at the back of the line-out. Washington drives the ball into the Darlington defensive line. Good tackling by Darlington causes Washington to lose the ball with a knock-on, giving Darlington a scrum 10-yards from their try line right in front of the posts.

10 min. Darlington get possession of the ball from the back of the scrum and drive into the Washington defence. Penalty for Washington with Darlington going offside. Penalty kick by Matt Clark, goes over for three points. Score 0 – 3.

Darlington restart the game with a high kick into Washington half. Good clean catch by Josh Davison, leads to a good forward drive over the half-way line. Darlington gain possession of the ball from the ruck, but the referee calls play back for a Washington scrum, knock-on by Darlington.

13 min. Referee awards a scrum penalty to Darlington for dropping the scrum. Clock stopped by referee for injury to Washington prop (Kevin Lamb). Unfortunately, Kevin had to leave the field, and was replaced by Ollie O'Conner.

Penalty kick by Darlington into Washington 22 for a Darlington line-out on Washington's 5-yrd line. Line-out ball won by Darlington and where awarded a penalty. Referee had a chat to the Washington Captain. A tap-and-go by Darlington led to a forward drive towards the Washington try line.

13min. Yellow card for James England and the referee gives a penalty try to Darlington. Score 7 – 3.

Restart by Washington with a good ball into the Darlington half, Darlington don't catch the ball, allowing Liam Reay to take possession and drive the ball at the Darlington defence. Washington given a penalty for not releasing in the tackle. A quick tap-and-go by Washington took the ball into the Darlington defence. The ball was ripped from the ball carrier by Darlington, and kicked into Washington territory. Clean catch by Washington allowed the ball to be taken into the Darlington 22. Washington awarded a penalty for an offence in the ruck. Kick found touch on the Darlington 5-yrd line.

19 min. Washington given a scrum for an infringement at the line-out. Scrum was uncontested, giving good clean ball for Washington. Ball passed out to the backs, who take the ball into the Darlington defensive line. Good ruck discipline sees Washington with good possession. Ball goes loose and is gathered by Darlington who kick to touch for a Washington line-out. Line-out ball won by Darlington who drive the ball through the Washington defensive line, and out of the Darlington 22.

23 min. A loose ball in the ruck gives Washington possession, whereupon Max Brown gets the ball outside the Darlington 22 and breaks through the Darlington defensive line to score a try. Conversion by Matt Clark good. Score 7 – 10.

24 min. Darlington restart sees Josh Davison make a clean catch and a good run into the Darlington defensive line. Referee stops play for an injury to Josh, sustained in the ruck following the tackle. Unfortunately, Josh had to leave the field.

The referee again deemed it necessary to speak to both captains.

Game restarted with a Washington scrum, (again uncontested). Clean ball from back of scrum passed to Washington backs, with Matt Clark putting in a long kick. Some 'quarrelling' between the two teams resulted in the referee having a chat to the two captains. This resulted in the referee giving Darlington a penalty.

James England returns to the field at the end of the yellow card. Referee takes the decision that it is appropriate to talk to James and the Washington captain before play resumes.

26 min. Darlington takes the penalty with a kick into touch. Darlington win the line-out and get clean ball to the Darlington #9, who takes the ball into the Washington backs, clean ball for Darlington from the ruck gives the Darlington #9 an opportunity to again run into the Washington defensive line and form a good ruck. Referee calls play back for a penalty to Darlington on the 5-yard line.

28 min. A good kick to touch gives Darlington a line-out on the half-way line. Penalty for Washington for Darlington off-side. Good kick to touch by Washington for a line-out. Washington win good ball at the front of the line-out. Ball distributed to the backs, with Liam Reay making another good run through the Darlington defence and beyond the gain line. A loose pass gives Darlington possession; however, the referee calls play back for a Washington penalty for Darlington being off-side.

30 min. An attempt at the posts for three points dropped short. Ball caught by Darlington and take the ball into the tackle to form a ruck. Good tackling by Washington forced Darlington to kick to touch.

33 min. A loose ball from the Washington line-out resulted in Michael Reilly grubber kicking the ball towards the Darlington try line. Darlington kick the ball out over the dead ball line, giving Washington a scrum on the Darlington 5-yard line. Back to contested scrums. Ball from back of scrum passed out to the Washington backs, where a knock-on gives Darlington a scrum. From the scrum Darlington kick the ball to clear their lines. Touch not found and the ball is cleanly caught by Scott Oliver, a good pass to Matt Clarke gives him good space to kick the ball into the Darlington 22. A really good chase by Washington, sees the Darlington defender tackled and Washington turnover the ball in the ruck. Blind side run by Washington sees the ball carrier tackled into touch for a Darlington line-out.

37 min. Darlington make a good clean catch to create a maul and drive forward over their 22-yard line. Darlington release the ball and take possession to the half-way line. A loose ball from a ruck saw Ollie

O'Conner take possession. Penalty to Darlington on 10-yards into their half. Poor kick to touch only reaches the half-way line for a Darlington line-out. Darlington make clean catch and drive the maul forward and release the ball to the backs, who take the ball over the gain line. Scrum awarded to Darlington. Good scrum from Darlington provides clean ball for #9 to run at Washington defence.

39 min. A high tackle by Washington gives Darlington a penalty. Kick finds touch for a Darlington line-out. Darlington take a clean catch and once again drive the maul into the Washington forwards. A good counter push by Washington sees Darlington driven backwards. Ball released by Darlington and distributed to the backs, who run the ball through the gain line. Good tackling by Washington stops Darlington in their tracks. Referee stops play for an injury to Liam Higgins. Game restarted with a Washington penalty, a tap-and-kick to touch sees the end of the first half.  
Score 7 – 10.

The standout for Washington from the first half is the level of defensive work carried out by the whole team. Tackling has been fantastic, good cohesive defensive lines preventing Darlington making ground on numerous occasions. Kick chasing and putting Darlington defence under pressure is reaping benefits forcing Darlington to make poor clearing kicks. Apart from a very dubious penalty try, the team have kept Darlington from scoring any points.

### **Second Half;**

Darlington Kick-off to start the second half. Penalty against Washington, kicked out for a line-out to Darlington. Darlington won line-out, and penalty awarded to Darlington. Pressure by Darlington resulting in penalty in front of posts.

45 min. Excellent defence by Washington. Penalty to Darlington, line-out won by Darlington and ball out to touch.

47 min. Washington line-out won and cleared.

48 min. Darlington attack stopped by injury.

49 min. Washington scrum won and cleared. Excellent kick and chase results in a try by James Ross on 51 mins. Conversion missed. Score 7 – 15.

51 min. Restart by Darlington. Penalty to Washington for a late tackle. Line-out for Washington. Darlington scrum, penalty to Darlington for high tackle. Yellow card for Peter Hardy.

Play going both ways.

58 min. Game stopped for a yellow card incident. This time Michael Reilly was the recipient. Attacking play by Darlington resulting in a penalty.

64 min. Kicked to touch. Darlington won line-out, snaffled by Washington and penalty for high tackle. Another scrum to Darlington won but ball won and cleared line-out Washington.

69 min. Penalty to Washington, attempt for three points missed.

70 min. Scrum Darlington won by Darlington and kicked. Fielded by Washington and penalty kick not reaching touch and Darlington attack. Play stopped for injury.

Line-out Darlington Washington won, ball lost and kick knocked on.

Scrum Darlington and excellent defence leading to turnover.

Penalty to Darlington defence and ball turned over ball kicked to touch.

Penalty to Darlington? Scrum and reset.

Penalty to Darlington for collapsed scrum kick to touch.

Darlington line-out won by Washington penalty to Washington, ball tapped and kicked to touch.

Full time. Score 7 – 15.

"The defensive work by the team proved to be the winning factor. Good tackling positions, strong defensive lines and tight around the ruck. Darlington scrum proved difficult to handle, with penalties going Darlington's way. A big heavy pack and an unsighted referee, will always be tough to beat. Discipline could and should have been better, the captain should be the only player to speak to the referee. Keeping Darlington to a scoreless second half just reconfirms the team's commitment and skill through all aspects (well most) of the game. Another great win by a fantastic set of players."

**Notes;**

**Comment from Dave Addison [Director of Rugby].**

"We had to battle hard today, a fiercely contested cup tie, despite spending large portions of the game with reduced numbers due to yellow cards. We showed impressive grit and determination and defensive organisation that proved decisive. A statement of character when a lot went against us. Gutted to see us pick a couple of nasty looking injuries up and wish speedy recoveries for Kev Lamb and Liam Higgins adding to our injury list. The break in games is well timed as we hope our injuries clear up a little ahead of the Scott Oliver derby with Westoe in a couple of weeks.

Special mention to the lads who didn't get on the pitch. All showed their buy in and didn't complain. I owe you a pint next time we have chance"

**Comment from Andy Stephenson [Head Coach].**

"What an eventful cup encounter — I'm still absolutely buzzing, lads!

From the first whistle, you played with the hunger and unity of a pride of lions. Our defensive effort was immense — we closed space, tackled with heart, and showed incredible commitment in every contact. The attitude across the whole squad was second to none, and that's what truly made the difference.

Even when the odds were stacked against us we held firm. At one point, down to just 13 men, you continued to front up, knock them back, and defend our line with real pride. The opposition never genuinely broke us; the only points conceded came through what can only be described as a very subjective penalty try.

It was a hard-fought and well-earned victory that showcased everything our club stands for: effort, togetherness, and resilience. I can't thank everyone enough — the players, supporters, pitch-side medical team, and coaching staff — for the part you played in an unforgettable performance.

Now, we take a well-earned rest and recovery period before the next round of fixtures.

We march on, lads — The Washy Way! 💙💛🟡🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿"

**Yours Statler and Waldorf:**



**THE TWO OLD FOGIES**

