



WASHINGTON RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



Statler & Waldorf Game report

Competition:	3 rd Team County Cup, Quarter-Final.	
Teams:	Sunderland 3rds (KEELMEN)	Washington 1sts
Date:	22 November 2025 KO 14:00	
Venue:	Hill View Playing Fields, SR2 9JT.	
Match Official:	Tim Lang, Durham County Association.	
Result:	5	58

No.	NAME & SURNAME	SCORERS				JUDICIARY	
		Tries	Conv	Penal	Drops	Yello	Red
1	Ollie O'Connor						
2	David Fisher						
3	Michael Bishop						
4	Andy Young						
5	Michael Reilly						
6	Liam Reay	2					
7	John Cocker						
8	Dean Ryan	1					
9	George Alley [Capt.]						
10	Matthew Clark	1	4				
11	Peter Hardy	1					
12	John Pope						
13	Max Brown	1					
14	Andre Marrah						
15	Scott Oliver	3					
Penalty Tries							

RESERVES

16	Owen Dobson						
17	Joshua Hardy						
18	Joshua Carter						
19	Jack Asbery	1					
20	Darren Mason						
21	Archie McDonald						

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, C, P, PT, DG.]	Score
6	Scott Oliver	T	0 – 5
18	Liam Reay	T	0 – 10
18	Matt Clark	C	0 – 12
25	Dean Ryan	T	0 – 17
28	Sunderland	T	5 – 17
33	Peter Hardy	T	5 – 22
33	Matt Clark	C	5 – 24
37	Matt Clark	T	5 – 29
37	Matt Clark	C	5 – 31
46	Jack Asbery	T	5 – 36
48	Liam Reay	T	5 – 41
52	Scott Oliver	T	5 – 46
57	Max Brown	T	5 – 51
57	Matt Clark	C	5 – 53
73	Scott Oliver	T	5 – 58
Timings are approximate.			

Weather Conditions: Temperature 8°C, little to no wind, pitch damp but firm.

Game Summary:

First Half;

Washington kicked off the first half with a good kick just short of the Keelmen 22-yard line. Ruck formed by Keelmen. Ball goes loose and Washington knock-on attempting to gather the ball. scrum to Keelmen.

Keelmen win good ball from the scrum and take the ball into the tackle. Ball turned over by Washington with Dean Ryan taking the ball into the Keelmen defensive line. Ball goes loose gathered by Washington and tackled into touch for a Keelmen line-out. Referee calls play back for a Washington scrum. Good ball from back of the scrum allows George Alley to pass clean ball to Matt Clarke who passes to John Pope. A good run through the Keelmen defence sees good ground gained. Referee awards penalty to Washington.

6 min. A quick Tap & Go and good passing and support in the backs, results in Scott Oliver going over for the first try of the game. Conversion missed. Score 0 – 5.

Restart by Keelmen drops just short of the Washington 22-yard line, where it is caught well by David Fisher who takes the ball into tackle to form a ruck. Referee calls play back for a penalty to Washington. A good kick to touch sees a line-out for Washington. Washington wins the ball but a knock-on by Washington sees Keelmen with a scrum. A good push and drive by the Washington pack sees clean ball passed by George Alley to Matt Clark who makes a good kick to touch on the Keelmen 22-yard line.

10 min. Keelmen get good ball from the line-out and is passed to the backs. Unfortunately, a duff kick sees the ball go loose. Keelmen regain possession and kick the ball into towards the half-way line. A good chase by Keelmen means that they take possession of the ball and take into over the half-way and into Washington territory. Referee calls play back for a scrum to Keelmen.

13 min. Penalty for Washington at the scrum. Matt Clark kicks the ball high for an up-and-under \ Gary Owen. Keelmen catch the ball and run it back into the Washington defensive line.

15 min. Washington penalty for Keelmen not releasing the ball. Kick to touch not made and Keelmen knock-on the ball giving Washington a scrum. The scrum had to be reset twice, with the referee speaking to both sets of front rows.

Washington wins good ball from the back of the scrum, resulting in good interchange of passing from the Washington backs (mention for Scott and Andre). Penalty to Washington for a high tackle.

18 min. Good passing by Washington sees the ball into the hands of Liam Reay who goes through the Keelmen defence and goes over for a try. Conversion by Matt Clark good. Score 0 – 12.

Restart by Keelmen sees the ball well taken by Dean Ryan who takes the ball to the Keelmen defence, Washington keep possession over a number of phases.

22 min. Washington awarded a penalty; referee advances the mark of the penalty 10-yards for Keelmen players off-side (not being 10-yards). Good kick to touch by Matt Clarke gives Washington a line-out on the half-way line. Washington win ball at the line-out but a bad pass sees the ball go loose. Washington regathers the ball and it is kicked down field. A good chase by Max Brown puts the Keelmen player under pressure. Keelmen take the ball into the tackle to form a ruck. Good tackling and ruck work prevent Keelmen making any ground. Keelmen kick the ball behind the Washington defence, Matt Clark gathers the ball and returns the kick. Keelmen full back catches the ball and runs it back into the Washington defence. Penalty to Keelmen for a Washington hand in the ruck.

The kick fails to reach touch and is caught well by Andre Marrah, who passes the ball to Dean Ryan. Referee stops play for a high tackle on Dean Ryan, and gives the Keelmen player a yellow card.

24 min. Penalty for Washington, Matt Clark kicks and finds touch on the Keelmen 5-yard line for a Washington line-out.

25 min. Good line-out work by Washington forwards sees Dean Ryan go over for a good try. Conversion missed. Score 0 – 17.

Restart by Keelmen sees the ball drop just over the 5-yard line. Washington knock-on, but referee plays a scrum advantage for Keelmen who drive the ball into the Washington 22. Penalty for Keelmen taken with a quick Tap & Go. Keelmen take the ball to the Washington 5-yrd line.

28 min. Try for Keelmen, conversion missed. Score 5 – 17.

Restart by Washington sees the ball being knocked on by Keelmen resulting in a scrum for Washington. Good pickup from the base of the scrum sees Dean Ryan and David Fisher combine to take the ball over the gain line. Penalty to Washington, a Tap & Go sees the ball go loose from Washington and Keelmen gather the ball but they knock-on the ball for another Washington scrum.

31 min. Referee calls play back for a Keelmen scrum, just inside the Keelmen 22. Referee stops the clock for an injury to a Keelmen prop. Clock on. Keelmen knock on the ball at the base of the scrum.

32 min. Washington scrum, sees clean ball won, and passed to the backs. Good passing and support results in Peter Hardy going over for a try. Conversion by Matt Clark good. Score 5 – 24.

Restart by Keelmen. Michael Bishop catches a difficult ball and releases the backs with a good pass. Max Brown and Andre Marrah combine to make a good run down the side-line. Unfortunately, a forward pass gives Keelmen a scrum.

34 min. Great push by Washington sees clean ball for George Alley. Washington awarded a penalty for a deliberate knock-on. Keelmen player given his second yellow card of the game and is issued a red card. Keelmen down to 14 men.

Kick from Matt Clark finds touch for a Washington line-out. Washington wins good ball and is passed to the backs. Washington backs take the ball to the Keelmen 5-yrd line.

37 min. Another good ruck sees the ball passed to Matt Clark, who crashes through the Keelmen defence and puts the ball down for a try. Matt converts his own try. Score 5 – 31.

Keelmen restart sees John Cocker make a clean catch and he takes the ball over the gain line where he is eventually tap-tackled. Ball gathered up by Keelmen and into ruck. Penalty to Keelmen for Washington off-side. Keelmen find touch on the Washington 22-yard line.
39 min. Keelmen line-out sees the ball go loose from a Keelmen knock-on. Referee blows for half-time. Score Keelmen 5 V Washington 31.

Second Half;

Keelmen kick-off the second half. David Fisher catches the ball and drives into the Keelmen defence to setup the ruck. Penalty to Washington. Matt Clark's kick finds touch for a Washington line-out. line-out ball won by Washington and ball out to the backs, and taken into tackle to set-up the ruck. Kick to touch good by Matt Clark, for a Keelmen line-out. Keelmen win ball at the line-out and drive the ball into the Washington defensive line. Ball lost by Keelmen and gathered by Dean Ryan, some loose passing by Washington sees Keelmen awarded a scrum.

44 min. Good scrum by Keelmen sees the ball taken from the back of the scrum and driven into the Washington defensive line, but a forward pass by Keelmen sees a scrum for Washington. A good heave by Washington sees George Alley pass the ball to Matt Clark who kicks long. A good chase by Washington sees the Keelmen backs under pressure who carry the ball into their own in-goal area and touch down for a Washington scrum on the Keelmen 5-yard line.

46 min. From the scrum Washington backs take the ball to the Keelmen defence (George Alley and Max Brown) with Jack Asberry crossing the line to score a try. Conversion missed. Score 5 – 35.

Keelmen restart is cleanly caught by Michael Bishop, who hands the ball to Michael Reilly. Michael makes good ground before passing the ball to Ollie O'Conner. Ollie breaks through Keelmen defence and passes the ball to Liam Reay.

48 mins. With Keelmen defence in disarray Liam Reay runs through the remaining defence to score a great try. Conversion missed. Score 5 – 41.

Keelmen restart with a very poor kick that is caught by Jake Ward, ball reaches Matt Clarke who kicks the ball into the Keelmen 22. A good chase by Andre Marrah forces the Keelmen back into touch, for a Washington line-out.

50 mins. Washington wins good line-out ball and the ball is passed to the backs. Matt Clark pass to Max Brown who breaks through the Keelmen defence and takes the ball toward the Keelmen goal-line.

52 mins. Great work from the backs end with Scott Oliver going over for another try. Conversion missed. Score 5 – 46.

Another poor kick by Keelmen sees Michael Reilly gather the ball and run into tackle to setup the ruck. Good ruck work sees the ball passed to Matt Clark who kicks the ball into the Keelmen 22 area. Another very good chase by Max Brown, putting the Keelmen fullback and wing under pressure, sees the ball go loose. Where it is kicked into touch by a Washington player.

54 min. Keelmen line-out. Keelmen win the ball and drive at the Washington defence to set up a series of rucks/phases.

57 min. Ball turned over by Washington and ball released to backs, resulting in Max Brown scoring a try under the sticks. Conversion good. Score 5 – 53.

Another poor restart kick by Keelmen sees the ball cleanly taken by Jack Asbery, who passes the ball to Dean Ryan. Dean takes the ball to the half-way line and sets up a good ruck. The ball is kicked deep into the Keelmen half, where it is gathered by Keelmen who take it into the Washington defence.

The ball goes loose and is gathered up by Archie McDonald. Washington retain possession. Penalty to

Keelmen sees a quick Tap & Go but yet again the ball goes loose. Washington gathers the ball but run into touch for a Keelmen line-out.

60 min. Keelmen win ball at the line-out and kick for gained-ground. Ball cleanly caught by Scott Oliver, good passing and support sees the ball end up in the hands of Joshua Carter. Who runs round the Keelmen defence and down the side-line. Where he is eventually tackled into touch after making good ground.

62 min. Keelmen line-out spoilt by Washington forwards, results in ball going loose. gathered and kicked by Matt Clark. Grubber kick by Keelmen sees a scrum awarded to Washington for Keelmen being accidentally off-side.

64 min. Good pack work sees clean ball delivered to Washington backs. Ball passed to Joshua Hardy who runs down the side-line, but is caught and tackled into touch for a Keelmen line-out. Line-out ball won by Jack Asbery who takes the ball into the Keelmen 22. Washington loses the ball in the tackle and Keelmen awarded the scrum.

66 min. A bit of a “Rufty-Tuffty” takes place between the Keelmen and Washington forwards. Referee issues a straight red card to one of the Keelmen players for foul play. Keelmen down to 13 men.

68 min. Penalty kick taken by Matt Clark finds touch for a Washington line-out on the Keelmen 5-yrd line. A short ball to front of the line-out results in a missed pass with the ball going into touch. This action sees the referee go down on top of a mix of Keelmen and Washington players. After a minute or so rest, the referee is fit to continue. [Poor lad must have felt he was back in his playing days ☹ ☹]

70 min. Keelmen line-out spoilt by Washington forwards and the loose ball gathered by Washington but the ball is knocked-on for a Keelmen scrum. The ball goes loose from the scrum and is touched down in the in-goal area by Keelmen for a Washington scrum on the 5-yard line.

73 min. Good scrum from Washington pack sees the ball passed out to the Washington backs. resulting in Scott Oliver going over for his hat-trick of tries. Conversion missed. Score 5 – 58.

Restart by Keelmen is cleanly caught by Jack Asbery (great job by Jack at the restarts). Ball gets to Matt Clark who kicks for territory. Keelmen run the ball back at the chasing defensive line. The ball goes loose and is gathered by Washington, who release the backs. Unfortunately, a forward pass gives a scrum to Keelmen.

35 min. from the scrum Keelmen pass the ball to their backs who drive at the Washington defence. Keelmen retain the ball over a number of phases. Keelmen knock-on giving Washington a scrum. From the scrum the ball is delivered to Matt Clark who clears with a kick into touch for a Keelmen line-out.

37 min. Keelmen win good ball from the line-out and run the ball over the half-way line. Keelmen awarded a penalty. The ball is kicked long from the penalty and ends up in the Washington in-goal area, where it is touched down by Peter Hardy for a 22 drop-out.

39 min. 22 drop-out caught cleanly by Keelmen and ran back into Washington defensive line. Keelmen drive forward and break through the Washington defence, a great tackle by Max Brown halts the charge. Keelmen ruck driven back by Washington and Keelmen lose ground. Powerful tackling by Washington sees Keelmen driven back, losing more ground.

41 min. Penalty to Washington for a Keelmen hand in the ruck. A Tap & Go quickly taken sees the ball lost, but it is picked up by Peter Hardy who kicks the ball to gain territory. Ball collected by Keelmen who take the ball into the tackle. Referee blows for an infringement and calls for no-side with the final whistle.

Final Score Sunderland Keelmen 5 V 58 Washington 1sts.

Statler's comments;

“What a great game to watch. The effort and energy were outstanding. The pack played well against a very heavy front row\pack. Tackling was really good driving Sunderland back on many occasions, making sure that they lost ground while in possession. 10 tries against 1, is evidence of a good defence. The link between the forwards and backs paid dividends in ground gained and creating space. Line-out work reaped benefits, securing safe ball and disrupting opposition ball. Restarts much improved (not letting the ball bounce), good catches and layoffs. A well-rounded performance that the whole squad can be proud of. Well done guys ‘ONWARDS-AND-UPWARDS.”

Notes;

Comment from Dave Addison [Director of Rugby].

“Well, what can I say, what a performance from the boys! First of all, I think we need to recognise Sunderland who played well and didn't deserve the scoreline as they certainly caused us some problems with their direct running game. Was impressed by their number 8 and 12 who both carried strongly throughout the game. I thought the red cards killed them but I was impressed that they kept going till the end and refused to lie down. For us that was our best most controlled display of the season, great to see the plans from training getting on to the field and loved our transitions on turnover. The only minuses would be the injuries we have piling up at the moment, losing popey at half time and now for a few weeks will hurt us... but it gives lads a chance to step forward and grab the shirt. As we head toward Xmas we need lads to put their hands up and get available with three more tough games before we head into the new year. Great to progress to a semi-final against either Peterlee & Horden or my old club sedge saxons....no offence horden but would be lovely to see some old friends at sedge. We will be training on Thursday but are unique offer of touch and walking rugby on Tuesday is still on... why not come get involved with us... something for everyone”

Comment from Andy Stephenson [Head Coach].

“What a result and team performance from Sat County Cup away quarter finals. Well done to all that supported and played, as a squad we delivered a really solid performance, linking set piece scrums and line outs with back line attacking flair and creativity moves. Credit to the lads that took to the field as our Washington bomb squad impact players, the standard never dropped as everyone added value. The defence shape looked much improved with tackle height also far better (collectively our line speed can improve and will improve). Impressively our restarts under the ball have improved 10-fold (well done) let's keep that standard there and that's my challenge for our remaining games of the year. Moment of the game was the team try from set piece line out to score out wide.

Let's agree to not let our standards drop below that game yesterday and continue in this manner

Outstanding Washy, absolutely outstanding ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Finally, Let's look forward to our remaining games of 2025, a huge request from your coaching team to maximise your availability so we can keep this amazing season going. Well done Washy”



THE TWO OLD FOGIES