



Competition:	Candy League 3 Central	
Teams:	Peterlee & Horden 3rds	Washington 1sts
Date:	25 th April 2026, KO 3:00 PM	
Venue:	Peterlee & Horden RFC, Eden Park, Eden Lane, Peterlee, United Kingdom, SR8 5DJ	
Match Official:	Richie Morrison, Durham Association.	
Result:	8	70

No.	NAME & SURNAME	SCORERS				JUDICIARY	
		Tries	Conv.	Penalty	Drops	Yellow	Red
1	OLLIE O'CONNOR	1					
2	DAVID FISHER	1					
3	JACK ASBERY						
4	STEVEN TALBOT						
5	MICHAEL REILLY						
6	CALLUM SAMMONS						
7	JAMES ENGLAND	1					
8	DEAN RYAN	1					
9	LIAM NICHOLSON						
10	MATT CLARK CAPT	3	6	1			
11	JOHNNY NIPPER	2					
12	LIAM REAY						
13	JAY CUNNINGHAM	1					
14	JOSHUA CARTER						
15	PETER HARDY						
Penalty Tries							

RESERVES

16	ANDY YOUNG						
17	RICHARD VARLE						
18	OLLIE BARKER	1					
19	JOHN COCKER						
20	KEVIN LAMB						
21	MICHAEL BISHOP						
22	MATTY WARNER						

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

OPPOSITION	1		1			
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Scoring Sequence			
Minute	Player [Name, Number or opposition]	[T, C, P, PT, DG.]	Score
2	Peterlee & Horden	P	3 – 0
5	Matt Clark	P	3 – 3
13	Matt Clark	T	3 – 8
17	Johnny Nipper	T	3 – 13
17	Matt Clark	C	3 – 15
32	James England	T	3 – 20
33	Peterlee & Horden	T	8 – 20
40	Jay Cunningham	T	8 – 25
First Half Score			8 - 25
47	Dean Ryan	T	8 – 30
55	Matt Clark	T	8 – 35
55	Matt Clark	C	8 – 37
67	David Fisher	T	8 – 42
68	Ollie Barker	T	8 – 47
68	Matt Clark	C	8 – 49
75	Matt Clark	T	8 – 54
75	Matt Clark	C	8 – 56
78	Ollie O'Connor	T	8 – 61
78	Matt Clark	C	8 – 63
82	Johnny Nipper	T	8 – 68
82	Matt Clark	C	8 – 70
Full Time Score			8 - 70

Weather Conditions:

Dry, shady, breeze off the sea cold @ 4°C.

Noteworthy Information:

Game Summary:

First Half;

Peterlee & Horden kick off the game with the Washington catcher spilling the ball forwards and a Washington player in-front gathering the ball. Referee blows for an off-side penalty to Peterlee & Horden. ³ Peterlee & Horden decide to go for three points and the kick is good. Score 3 – 0.

2m. Washington restart is taken cleanly by Peterlee & Horden and is taken into tackle and ruck is formed. Peterlee & Horden take the ball from the ruck and drive over the gain-line, Washington defence holds firm and the ball carrier is taken to ground. Penalty to Washington for Peterlee & Horden lying over the ball. Matt Clark finds touch just short of the Peterlee & Horden 22-yard line, for a Washington line-out. Good clean catch by the Washington forwards allows a quick pass from Liam Nicholson to release the ball to the backs. Liam Reay carries the ball over the gain-line, but good tackling / defence by Peterlee & Horden drives Liam backwards. From the ruck the ball is passed to Matt Clark who kicks the ball forward to gain ground. Unfortunately, the kick is too long and goes out over the dead ball line. The referee calls play back for a penalty to Washington deep in Peterlee & Horden 22 area.

5 mins. ³ Kick for goal by Matt Clark is good for three points. Score 3 – 3.


Peterlee & Horden restart kick is caught by Steven Talbot who drives the ball into tackle, from the ruck the ball is taken by Ollie O'Conner down the narrow side who makes ground over the gain-line. Good

ruck work sees the ball into the hands of Matt Clark who kicks the ball high into the Peterlee & Horden 22. A good chase down by the Washington players puts the Peterlee & Horden defence under pressure, who touch down the ball in the in-goal area. Scrum to Washington on the Peterlee & Horden 5-yard line. good drive by the Washington scrum allows Liam Nicholson to get a quick ball to Matt Clark, who passes the ball to Liam Reay who crashes through the Peterlee & Horden defence. Referee calls play back for a Peterlee & Horden penalty (crossing offence by Washington).

Peterlee & Horden #10 fails to reach touch and the ball is caught by Liam Nicholson who returns the kick. Peterlee & Horden #15 makes a clean catch and kicks cross-field for the Peterlee & Horden backs to run onto. The ball bounces into touch for a line-out to Peterlee & Horden (50-22 kick).


10 mins. Washington win ball from the Peterlee & Horden line-out, and the Washington forwards drive the ball over the gain-line. Good tackling by Peterlee & Horden drives the ball carrier backwards. From the ruck Washington passes the ball to the backs, who take the ball through the Peterlee & Horden defence and into the oppositions 22. But poor passing sees the ball go loose. Referee stops play for a Peterlee & Horden player down and injured.


Referee restarts the game with a Peterlee & Horden scrum in the Peterlee & Horden 22. Peterlee & Horden push early and the referee awards a free-kick to Washington. A quick Tap & Go is taken, and the Washington forwards drive the ball towards the Peterlee & Horden try line. Ollie O'Conner crosses the line but the ball is held up by the Peterlee & Horden defence. Goal-line drop-out for Peterlee & Horden.


13 mins. Callum Simmonds takes a clean catch and passes the ball to the backs, resulting in Matt Clark going over and touching down for a try . Conversion missed. Score 3 – 8.

Peterlee & Horden restart kick is gathered up off the floor and taken into tackle. Washington works the ball through a number of ruck phases making progress towards the Washington 10-yard line. Joshua Carter runs through the Peterlee & Horden defence and takes the ball to and over the ½ half way line. Jack Asbery and Steven Talbot combine to take the ball over the Peterlee & Horden 10-yard line. From the ruck Liam Nicholson kicks into the Peterlee & Horden 22 area. The kick is long and goes out of play over the dead ball line, giving Peterlee & Horden a scrum on their 22-yard line.


At the scrum the referee blows for a free-kick to Washington, and the referee has cause to speak to the Peterlee & Horden captain regarding repeated infringement at the scrum. Washington takes a Tap & Go and drive the ball into the Peterlee & Horden defence and set up ruck.


The ball is released to the backs,  and Johnny Nipper goes over the line to score. Conversion by Matt Clark is good. Score 3 – 15.


Peterlee & Horden restart kick goes directly into touch, giving a scrum to Washington on the centre spot. Another good scrum  by the Washington pack sees the ball quickly delivered to the backs. Matt Clark and Liam Reay combine well and Liam takes the ball into the Peterlee & Horden 22 area. Penalty to Washington for a high tackle. Matt Clark finds touch for a Washington line-out.


Dean Ryan catches the ball well  despite Peterlee & Horden pressure, but the referee blows for a Peterlee & Horden scrum (ball not straight in the line-out).


21 mins. Peterlee & Horden scrum is driven backwards by the Washington pack, but the Peterlee & Horden #9 manages to get the ball from the middle of the scrum and kick the ball down field. Peter Hardy takes a clean catch and runs the ball back into the Peterlee & Horden defence. Washington work through ruck phases and take the ball to the ½ way line. Penalty to Peterlee & Horden for Washington hanging onto the ball and not releasing. Peterlee & Horden #10 finds touch with a good kick for a


Peterlee & Horden line-out just short of the Washington 22-yard line. The ball slips out of the hands of the Peterlee & Horden #2 and heads towards the Peterlee & Horden #9, who knocks the ball forward. Referee awards a scrum to Washington. Another very strong drive  from the Washington pack means a quick ball delivered from Liam Nicholson to Matt Clark, who kicks high into the Peterlee & Horden 22 area. The Peterlee & Horden #15 fails to catch the ball cleanly and the ball goes forward for a Knock-On.


25 mins. Washington continues to dominate in the scrum  with a push that drives the Peterlee & Horden pack backwards. Pick-up and drive by Dean Ryan takes the ball over the gain-line and towards the Peterlee & Horden 5-yard line. The ball is loose from a tackle, but goes backwards and Washington manages to regather and keep the drive going. Referee stops play for a Peterlee & Horden player down and injured. Referee restarts play with a penalty to Washington directly in-front of the posts. Washington chooses to have a scrum. Referee again awards a free-kick to Washington for an infringement by Peterlee & Horden pack. The free-kick is quickly changed to a penalty by the referee. Washington again decides to have a scrum. From the scrum the ball is delivered to the backs who look to score wide with an overlap, but poor passing sees the ball go into touch on the Peterlee & Horden 5-yard line.

30 mins. Peterlee & Horden line-out ball tapped back to the Peterlee & Horden #9, but the ball is not caught and goes into touch for a Washington line-out. A good catch by Dean Ryan  and a powerful drive by the Washington forwards sees the ball driven towards the Peterlee & Horden try line.


32 mins.  James England crosses the line and touches down for a try. Conversion is missed. Score 3 – 20.

33 mins.  Peterlee & Horden restart kick is cleanly caught but the pass to off-load the ball is intercepted and Peterlee & Horden run in for a try. Conversion is missed. Score 8 – 20.

Washington restart kick is cleanly caught, but the catcher is quickly tackled by Dean Ryan and the ball goes forward. Giving a scrum to Washington. Referee has cause to reset the scrum after a quick chat to the Peterlee & Horden pack. Another huge push / drive  by the Washington pack sees the Peterlee & Horden pack driven backwards. Ball is passed to the Washington backs. the ball goes loose from Washington hands and the referee stops play for a scrum to Peterlee & Horden. The Peterlee & Horden #9 picks the ball from the rear of the scrum and has his clearance kick charged down, the ball goes loose but is gathered by Peterlee & Horden. Peterlee & Horden #15 also has his clearance kick charged down (Washington defence up quick and putting Peterlee & Horden under great pressure). Penalty for Peterlee & Horden in their own 22-area. Referee stops play for another Peterlee & Horden player down and injured.

37 mins. Game is restarted with a Peterlee & Horden penalty. The kick finds touch just short of the ½ half line for a Peterlee & Horden line-out. Washington spoils the line-out  and turnover the ball. Ollie O'Conner takes the ball up the narrow side and over the gain-line. the ball is passed to the Washington backs from the ruck and is taken over the ½ half way line. The ball is spilled by Washington, but the referee calls play back for a Washington penalty on the ½ half way line. The kick from Matt Clark finds touch for a Washington line-out deep in Peterlee & Horden 22 area.

Peterlee & Horden win a scrum at the line-out. From the scrum the ball is passed to the Peterlee & Horden #10 who takes the ball into tackle and a ruck is formed. Referee blows for a penalty to Washington. A quick Tap & Go sees Ollie O'Conner, once again, driving the ball through the Peterlee & Horden defensive tackles. Washington forwards drive the ball towards the Peterlee & Horden try line.

40 mins. The ball is passed to the Washington backs from ruck and a good pass from Matt Clark, sees  Jay Cunningham going over the try line to touch down for a good team try. Conversion is missed. Score 8 – 25.

Referee blows for half time. Score 8 – 25.


NOTE:


At some point in the second half the referee orders *uncontested scrums*. World Rugby Law is explicit. If a team cannot form a legal, safe front row, the referee must remove the contest.


Second Half;



Washington kicks off the second half, and Peterlee & Horden catch the ball cleanly and run into tackle to form ruck. Peterlee & Horden work through a number of ruck phases and take the ball to the Peterlee & Horden 10-yard line. Penalty to Peterlee & Horden who take a Tap & Go and drive the ball over the Peterlee & Horden 10-yard line. Washington's defence holds firm and prevents Peterlee & Horden making any more ground, good tackling drives the ball carrier backwards. Penalty to Peterlee & Horden on the 10-yard line. Peterlee & Horden take a Tap & Go, but the referee stops play to instruct the Peterlee & Horden player in how to take a correct Tap & Go. Play resumes with the Tap & Go being re-taken. The ball is driven to the half-way line and into the Washington half of the field.

5 mins. Penalty to Washington. Matt Clark kicks long and finds touch deep inside the Peterlee & Horden 22 area for a Washington line-out. Penalty to Washington for Peterlee & Horden off-side at the line-out. Referee has a chat with the Peterlee & Horden captain. Washington takes a Tap & Go and drive the ball towards the Peterlee & Horden try line.


7 mins. Powerful drive and ruck work by Washington forwards results in  Dean Ryan going over and scoring a try. Conversion is missed. Score 8 – 30.



Peterlee & Horden restart kick goes long into the Washington 22, Johnny Nipper attempts to catch the ball but his foot lands in touch. line-out for Peterlee & Horden deep in the Washington 22. Washington does a good job in spoiling the line out  and the ball goes loose on the Peterlee & Horden side. The ball is Knocked-On by Peterlee & Horden giving a scrum to Washington.

A good strong scrum  sees the ball taken and grubber kicked downfield. The ball bounces towards and over the half-way line, the Peterlee & Horden backs gather it up and drive into the chasing Washington backs. Penalty to Peterlee & Horden on the half-way line. kick finds touch on the Washington 22-yard line. Referee stops play for a Peterlee & Horden player down and injured.

11 mins. Peterlee & Horden line-out. The throw is to the front of the line; however, the ball is stolen by Ollie O'Conner  and is driven out of the Washington 22. Ollie O'Conner kicks the ball downfield (great kick by a prop ) where it is gathered up by Peterlee & Horden who take the ball through the Washington defence and to the Washington 22-yard line. Penalty to Peterlee & Horden for a high-tackle.


Peterlee & Horden with a Tap & Go pass the ball to their backs, who kick the ball deeper into the Washington 22. Steven Talbot takes the catch and takes the ball into the Peterlee & Horden chasing defence. Washington retain possession and work the ball through phases into the Peterlee & Horden half of the field. Johnny Nipper and Peter Hardy combine to take the ball to the Peterlee & Horden 22-yard line, where Peter is tackled into touch.


13 mins. Peterlee & Horden line-out ball is turned over by Dean Ryan  and Washington work the ball through ruck phases driving the ball towards the Peterlee & Horden try line. The ball goes loose from a tackle, and the referee calls play back for a Washington penalty.



15 mins. A quick Tap & Go sees  Matt Clark running  through a gap in the Peterlee & Horden defence and putting down for a try. Conversion is good by Matt Clark. Score 8 – 37.



The restart kick goes directly into touch, giving Washington a scrum on the centre spot. Ollie Barker takes the ball from the scrum and passes to the backs, where Johnny Nipper runs it into the Peterlee & Horden 22 area. The ball goes loose in the tackle and the referee calls play back for a Peterlee & Horden penalty on their 22-yard line. Peterlee & Horden take a Tap & Go, but the referee calls play back for a Washington penalty (Peterlee & Horden offside at the Tap & Go). Washington takes a quick Tap & Go but the ball goes loose and is gathered by Peterlee & Horden deep in their 22. Peterlee & Horden retain possession through good ruck work and take the ball to their own 22-yard line. Referee stops play for a Peterlee & Horden player down and injured. The referee restarts the game with a Peterlee & Horden scrum on their 22-yard line.

Peterlee & Horden #9 takes the ball from the scrum and passes to the backs. the ball goes loose from a bad pass and Washington collect the ball and take it into the Peterlee & Horden 22. James England gets the ball and drives through the Peterlee & Horden defence.


22 mins. From the ruck  Dave Fisher gets the ball and goes over the try line to score. Conversion is missed. Score 8 – 42.

Peterlee & Horden restart kick goes loose from Washington hands, giving Peterlee & Horden a scrum on the Washington 10-yard line. Referee resets the scrum after having a word with both front rows. A great drive  by Washington sees the Peterlee & Horden #9 Knock-On at the rear of the scrum as he attempts to pick up the ball. Scrum to Washington.

24 mins. Washington scrum on their own 10-yard line. Ball delivered to Matt Clark who  makes a 50-22 kick deep into the Peterlee & Horden 22. Washington wins clean ball from the line-out  and the ball is kicked over the defence towards the try line for the Washington backs to chase. Unfortunately, the ball bounces over the dead-ball line. Play is called back to the point where the kick was taken for a Peterlee & Horden scrum.


28 mins. Again, Washington pack dominate the scrum  and drive the Peterlee & Horden pack backwards. Washington takes possession of the ball and drive towards the Peterlee & Horden try line, where  Ollie Barker scores a try. Conversion by Matt Barker is good. Score 8 – 49.

The restart kick goes long and into the in-goal area, where Matt Clark touches down, giving Washington a goal-line drop-out. The kick goes high and the Peterlee & Horden catcher fumbles the ball and it is knocked-on.


30 mins. Washington wins quick ball from the scrum and it is delivered to the backs, where they make good ground beyond the gain-line. Liam Reay  makes a good run into the Peterlee & Horden 22 where he is tackled into touch for a Peterlee & Horden line-out. An infringement at the line-out by Peterlee & Horden gives Washington a scrum in a good attacking position.



35 mins. From the scrum the ball is passed to  Matt Clark who goes over to score. Conversion kick by Matt Clark is good. Score 8 – 56.

Restart kick goes deep into the Washington 22, where the Washington defender fails to catch the ball cleanly and it goes forward for a Knock-On. Peterlee & Horden have a scrum deep in the Washington

22. Peterlee & Horden get the ball from the rear of the scrum, despite a strong drive  from the Washington pack, and passes to the backs. A good tackle by Peter Hardy stops the Peterlee & Horden advance. Good ruck work gets a turnover ball for Washington. Matt Clark receives the ball and kicks long into the Peterlee & Horden 22. The ball is caught clean by the Peterlee & Horden #15, who runs the ball back into the Washington chasing players. Referee stops play and awards a penalty to Washington (crossing by the Peterlee & Horden backs). Good kick from Matt Clark finds touch for a Washington line-out.




37 mins. Washington with a catch and drive , take the ball to the Peterlee & Horden try line.

38 mins.  Ollie O'Conner crosses the line and touches down for a try. Conversion by Matt Clark is good. Score 8 – 63.

Restart kick is caught cleanly by Callum Sammons, who drives into the chasing Peterlee & Horden defensive line. An infringement at the ruck by Peterlee & Horden gives Washington a penalty and an opportunity to clear their defensive lines. A good kick by Matt Clark finds touch on the half-way line. Dean Ryan makes a clean catch  and Washington drive the ball through the Peterlee & Horden forwards and make good ground beyond the gain-line. Andy Young continues the drive forward from the rear of the maul. The ball is eventually released to the backs where Matt Clark grubber kicks the ball through the Peterlee & Horden defence.  Johnny Nipper collects the ball and goes over the try line to score. Conversion kick is good by Matt Clark. Score 8 – 70.

Referee blows his whistle for no side, ending the game.

Final Score 8 – 70.

“What a game, dominant in the scrum , strong in the line-out . good rucking and pod work, good tackling and awareness in defence, good running  and taking the ball forward. Yes, some errors and mishaps, but what a game of 100% commitment and work rate by the whole team.”

Notes;

Comment from Dave Addison [Director of Rugby].

“What a result... to hit 70 points and best a P&H pack the way we did at scrum time was something that filled me with pride. Once we played our game plan in the 2nd half and relaxed into it, we almost scored at will. All 21 lads got a decent run out and the improvement from the last time we played P & H in the semi-final was evident.

In every aspect our intent was right and our application especially in that second half was really strong. Aims for next season I would love to see the pirates out regularly, love to see us grow that youth rugby offering. Support the women's touch and continue that growth.

As I said yesterday its all about the group and the things you remember when like me your too old or can't play anymore it's not the trophies or the finals that matter, no one cares, it's the memories and the times in the group, the characters and the mates you make. Washington is a special club with great people involved and I hope I've handed it over ready for the next challenges at a higher level.

Have a great summer boy's, well-earned rest.”

Comment from Andy Stephenson [Head Coach].

“A big away fixture, a big result, and another outstanding performance to cap off a superb season. The lads showed exactly what they've built since pre-season—resilience, character, and real togetherness—handling every challenge thrown their way across league, cup, and Pirates fixtures. From start to finish, the effort and commitment were clear, with both collective strength and individual improvement on full display.

This was a performance that reflected how far the squad has come—driven, disciplined, and playing with a clear identity. A cup semi-final, consistent growth, and a style of play that continues to evolve all

point to a side that, on another day, could easily be league winners. There's a real sense that this is only the beginning.

A brilliant way to finish the season, and plenty more to come as the focus turns to summer work and building towards an exciting 26/27 campaign. COYW 🟡 🔵 🟠 ”

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“It has been a privilege and an honour for us to report on the games this season. The improvement through the season has been self-evident to anyone who reads the reports. Many thanks for including us in the family that is ‘Washington Rugby Football Club’. Enjoy the summer and we are looking forward to seeing you all again at the start of the 2026-2027 season.”



Yours Statler and Waldorf:
THE TWO OLD FOGIES



Photo courtesy of Colin Ebdale.