



SEDGLEY TIGERS

2023 - 2024





WELCOME TO PARK LANE BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY



SEDGLEY PARK 2022/23 PLAYING SQUAD. A MAGNIFICENT EFFORT BY ALL ON AN OUTSTANDING SEASON LAST TIME OUT.

On behalf of all the committee and all the playing and support staff, it is a privilege to welcome everyone, including our old friends from South East Birmingham, Birmingham Moseley. This is their first visit to Park Lane for some years, so we hope you enjoy your day with us today.





FIXTURES 2023-2024

NATIONAL 1



H

Round 1 - 02.09.23
Richmond

A

Round 2 - 09.09.23
Birmingham Moseley

H

Round 3 - 16.09.23
RAMS

H

Round 4 - 23.09.23
Chinnor

A

Round 5 - 30.09.23
Rosslyn Park

H

Round 6 - 07.10.23
Taunton

A

Round 7 - 14.10.23
Bishop Stortford

H

Round 8 - 04.11.23
Leicester Lions

A

Round 9 - 11.11.23
Darlington MP

H

Round 10 - 18.11.23
Sale FC

A

Round 11 - 25.11.23
Cinderford

H

Round 12 - 02.12.23
Blackheath

A

Round 13 - 9.12.23
Plymouth Albion

H

Round 14 - 16.12.23
Birmingham Moseley

A

Round 15 - 13.01.24
RAMS

A

Round 16 - 20.01.24
Chinnor

H

Round 17 - 27.01.24
Rosslyn Park

A

Round 18 - 10.02.24
Taunton

H

Round 19 - 17.02.24
Bishop Stortford

A

Round 20 - 24.02.24
Leicester Lions

H

Round 21 - 09.03.24
Darlington. MP

A

Round 22 - 16.03.24
Sale FC

H

Round 23 - 23.03.24
Cinderford

A

Round 24 - 06.04.24
Blackheath

H

Round 25 - 13.04.24
Plymouth Albion

A

Round 26 - 27.04.24
Richmond

***Dates are subject to change**



TEAM SHEET

SEDGLEY PARK

POS	NAME	SPONSORED By
15	Oli GLASSE	Picow Engineering
14	Andy RILEY	Castle Clothing
13	Nathan POPE	Business Lodge
12	Matt RILEY ©	GBC Communications
11	Rhys HENDERSON	Brendan Henderson
10	Warren SEALS	Begbies Trainer LLP
9	Jacon TANSEY	Made for More
1	John BLANCHARD	Urmston Scaffolding
2	Danny MAHER	Direct Construction Recruitment
3	Danny RYLANCE	Greenday UPVC
4	Bob BIRTWELL	Fieldings Porter Solicitors
5	Oscar CROWE	Brendan Henderson
6	Mark GOODMAN	Business Lodge
7	Lewis BRADLEY	Sterling Solutions
8	George BORDILL	Decipher Consulting

SUBSTITUTES

16	Austin DOWNHAM	Kenmac Associates
17	Adam MALLINSON	Mallofix Sports Therapy
18	Alex BENBATTOUCHE	HH Smith
19	Matt STURGESS	Limitless Public Relations
20	Tom AILES	Finely Tuned

BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY

POS	NAME
15	Henry JOULE
14	Aquile SMITH
13	Elliot CREED
12	Ollie ALLSOPP
11	Andy BULUMAKUA
10	Tighe MAXWELL-WHITELEY
9	Jack JOLLY
1	Ethan PRIEST
2	Sam McNULTY
3	David LANGLEY
4	Callum ALLEN
5	Morgan FRENCH
6	Ben MORRIS
7	Will SAFE
8	Oli STEADMAN

SUBSTITUTES

16	Joe FOREMAN
17	Ban BETTS
18	Lewis HOLSEY
19	Isaac McNULTY
20	Freddie PAINTER

Referee: Owen Taylor | Assist Ref 1: Paul Hill | Assist Ref 2: Mike Winnell



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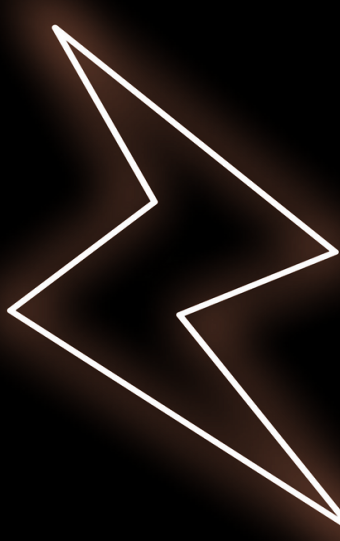
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WELCOME TO PARK LANE BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY



On behalf of all the committee and all the playing and support staff it is a privilege to welcome everyone, especially our very old friends from southeast Birmingham, Birmingham Moseley. If I could also add to everyone attending our Christmas game today, or looking on from afar, may I extend a very happy Christmas wishes to you all.

We welcome all from Birmingham Moseley and we expect a very large, noisy contingent of their supporters who have braved the M6 and the journey north to support their team today. You are all most welcome indeed and we hope you enjoy your stay with us.

We first met Birmingham Moseley on the 15th of November 2003, at National League One Level 3 when both clubs were on different trajectories. Moseley, as they were then known, had tried to maintain their rightful elite status as league rugby came to the fore in the late eighties, with, in retrospect, some

re-positioning of the club that had a negative effect. We on the other hand would go on to win the league that season and reach level two, what is now called the Championship.

Since that first game, we have met Birmingham Moseley nine times, three times in National One, Level 3, (Including the game earlier this season) and six times in the Championship, level two. The games and fixtures have remained close games with Birmingham Moseley winning four games Sedgley winning four and one drawn game. However, all the games have been roller coaster affairs so expect the same today.

It seems like yesterday when back in September, on that gloriously hot day, we travelled down to take on Birmingham Moseley for our first away day fixture of the season. We won on the day setting Sedgley up for an exciting start but for Birmingham



WELCOME TO PARK LANE BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY

Moseley it was a continuation of a slow start.



Dogs of War: Oscar Crowe and Mark Goodman taking the game to Sale FC in our derby game victory

They have since made up the ground in the league and up to recently they were the form side in the league, beating all comers. If you look at their last six games alone you will see they have won four from six, but a closer look will show it could have quite easily been six from six as the defeats were so narrow. If you then look at the two teams they were playing, form wise, (Chinnor/Plymouth Albion) then Birmingham Moseley look a very good side indeed.

Moseley, or as they are now correctly known as Birmingham Moseley, are one of the finest and oldest clubs in the country. Their history is steeped with honours and glory with exploits on the field for many years spawning legendary players and internationals through the decades.

When rugby went to league structures with promotion and relegation in 1987/88 season, they were rightly placed at the

very top of the pile in the top league. They stayed at that level for four seasons until relation to level two in 1990/91 season.

Moseley stayed at level two for another ten seasons but in 2016/17 were relegated to National One. At that same time the new name change was launched, and Birmingham Moseley has been used ever since.



Its That Man Again. Who can stop him. Lewis Bradley on the front foot against Sale FC recently

In that time of the professional era, the club has fought lost and won. They have built a new ground, they established a fantastic stand, they have drawn in from far and wide around the Birmingham area a wealth of youngsters. In the process, developing a very strong mini and junior section and a pathway to all levels from high standard rugby to social aspirational rugby for all. A beacon of rugby and true success.



WELCOME TO PARK LANE

BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY

Moseley can quite proudly boast and regale its lists of great fixtures, lots of silverware won, great players and world-renowned internationals who wore the club colours with pride. They can also look back at an unbelievable effort made by all to keep this very proud club right at the very centre of the community and still at the top of the pile.

Congratulations to Birmingham Moseley on 150 incredible years. Long may they continue.

That's it for our welcome to our guests today, however, you can catch up with all things Birmingham Moseley, later in this online programme in the article **'Spotlight on Birmingham Moseley'** as we take an in depth look into their season so far, playing statistics, players to watch, previous games and the history of the club. So, with that said, let's catch up with all things Sedgley Park.

On the road with Sedge

It has been a while since we last played Plymouth Albion, in fact 2008/09 season back in the Championship. In that time we had met Plymouth Albion twelve times with the first game being our very first game ever at level 3 back in 2000/02 season, when we lost 34-13 at Brickfields. Then ten games in the Championship. In that time we have unfortunately never won a game. To say they hold hex on us is a understatement. Was this going to be thirteenth time lucky!!!

This was another crucial clash in the league, as third placed Plymouth Albion took on 4th placed Sedgley Park, so lots at stake. Sedge started briskly in what was an extremely tight game in extreme conditions. Sedge were running their usual lines but the ball in hand today wouldn't stick at vital movements and great positions were not maximized and all efforts into their 22 came away pointless.

Sedgley looked in the first quarter the team most likely to break the deadlock with plenty of ball and plenty of attempted line breaks, but Albion are not riding high in third place on just name alone. They are a top side and their defence was superb all game and especially in this critical period was exceptional as their line held firm.

As the first quarter moved into the second quarter Sedge did manage this early slugfest with a kicked penalty by Warren Seals on 25 minutes. However, from a poor fumbled re-start by Sedge, Albion took full advantage as they managed to execute an excellent catch and drive for hooker Gabe Meade on 27 minutes to power over for the first try of the game converted by Tom Putt.

The west country men made the better fist of things especially exploiting Sedgley Park mistakes. Albion were certainly in the ascendancy in a very tight game, but it was their set piece that became the



WELCOME TO PARK LANE

BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY

most impressive tool. Once more as the game moved towards the interval pressure mounted in the Tigers 22. Once again, from another line out, Plymouth's hooker Gabe Meade bundled over for Albion's and his second try of the game on 39 minutes converted by Tom Putt.

Halftime:

Plymouth Albion 14 – 3 Sedgley Park

The weather certainly put paid to any free-flowing rugby from either side and as the second half began the wind and conditions picked up. Sensing the slight advantage, the home side now had and sensing that this was not going to be a high scoring game, Albion fly half, Tom Putt wisely pinned Sedge firmly into defensive areas deep not their 22 and anything loose in disciplinary terms was punished immediately. This was the case in the 46th minute of the game when indiscipline gifted another 3 points to make it a two score reply from Sedge to get back in the game.

This was certainly not a one-way game, the point highlighted by Plymouth's head coach Ryan Lamb after the game, establishing the narrowness of the game the commitment by both sides to contain each other. However, the next break-through would be the most important, and the script could only write that it would inspired by the actions of a former Tigers number 8 Hallam Chapman, who excelled for

Sedgley Park in 2018/19 season but this time he excelled in the colours of Plymouth Albion.

Both sides continued to grapple with each other but as the game went into the last quarter another foray into Sedges 22 and another line out set piece saw in its conclusion from it a third and all conquering try for the home side by replacement hooker Callum Davies. The try was unconverted.

Albion played the conditions and saw the game out to take all the spoils from the encounter. Thirteenth time lucky for Sedge! Not quite, but there is always next time. Would you believe the 13th of April 2024. Is someone trying to tell us something? Lucky 14 me thinks.

Full time:

**Plymouth Albion 22 (4) – 3 (0)
Sedgley Park**





WELCOME TO PARK LANE

BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY

Let the train take the strain

It must be generational thing but in years gone by, if your game was called off early in the day, then this was the signal and the greatest excuse of all for an early door's session at the club bar. Not these days. Amazingly, the first and overriding thought of our second team captain, Alex Benbattouche, on finding out the second XV game was called off against Lymm, was to head to Piccadilly station Manchester and to catch the next train to Plymouth.

Boarding the train at around 10-30 (ish) he eventually got to Brickfields the home of Plymouth Albion for the second half of the game. Now that is class, commitment to the cause or madness. Take your pick. I think it was a mixture of all three plus the fact tha trips back on the coach on away days is an event not to miss. Either way, outstanding stuff Alex.



From all the back-room team at Sedgley Park may we wish you all a very happy Christmas and highly prosperous new year. All the best. ST

Alan Taylor, in memory and appreciation

Recently we brought you the very sad news of the passing away of club member and all round top bloke, Alan Taylor.

In addition to all the articles of remembrance from the club and sincere condolences expressed by the club members, supporters, and players, we will be holding a minute silence before the game today to remember and honour Alan. Once again, we send our sincere condolences to his daughters, family and friends. He we will be missed.

... and finally

Il would like to thank the MC for the day today at Sedge, Eddie Aldred and all the Yorkshire mafia for the wonderful get well present I received from them this week. I think the present will come in very handy indeed. (See Image below). There are words that come to mind for an appropriate response but not for publication here.

So finally, finally, once again welcome to Park Lane one and all. I hope you really enjoy the game today and don't forget whatever the result and whatever the colours you wear why not join us in the club house for the traditional pint and good craic after the game.



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SPOTLIGHT ON BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY



Power on: Birmingham Moseley's pack power through Clubs defence recently.

wise, this Birmingham Moseley look a very good side indeed.

This game today, no doubt, will be tough encounter. Both sides wanting to put the last game played out of their system. For Moseley, who will no doubt be spurred on by a large noisy following from the midlands, will also want revenge from that first meet up on that hot, late summer afternoon at Billesey Common. This is going to be one hell of game today.

The Story so far

It seems like yesterday, when back in September, on that gloriously hot day, we travelled down to take on Birmingham Moseley for our first away day fixture. We won on the day setting Sedge up for an exciting start, but for Birmingham Mosley it was a continuation of a slow start.

They have since made up the ground in the league and up to recently they were the form side beating all commers. If you look at their last six games alone (See below) You will see they have won 4 from six, but a closer look will show it could have quite easily been six from six was the defeat so narrow. If you then look at the two teams, they were playing form

LEAGUE STATISTICS

League Position:	6 th
Total Points:	34
Played:	12
Games Won:	7
Drawn Games:	0
Games Lost:	5
Home Wins:	4
Home Draws:	0
Home Defeats:	1
Away Wins:	3
Away Draws:	0
Away defeats:	4
Points for:	308
Points against:	300
Points aggregate:	8
4-point bonus points:	3
Losing bonus points:	3



SPOTLIGHT ON BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY



Last 6 Results

Darlington Mowden Park	27 - 28	Birmingham Moseley	(WON)
Birmingham Moseley	22 - 14	Sale FC	(WON)
Cinderford	14 - 34	Birmingham Moseley	(WON)
Birmingham Moseley	19 - 17	Blackheath	(WON)
Plymouth Albion	19 - 18	Birmingham Moseley	(LOST)
Chinnor	27 - 24	Birmingham Moseley	(LOST)

Next 6 Games

Sedgley Park	14:30	Birmingham Moseley
Birmingham Moseley	15:00	Richmond
Moseley	15:00	Rosslyn Park
Taunton Titans	15:00	Birmingham Moseley
Birmingham Moseley	15:00	Bishop's Stortford
Leicester Lions	14:00	Birmingham Moseley

Top Try Scorers

Aquile Smith, Wing	9 Tries, 45 Points
Sam Pointon, Full Back	5 Tries, 25 Points
Oliver Steadman, Number 8	4 Tries, 20 Points

Top Points Scorer

Tighe Maxwell-Whiteley, Fly Half 102 Points



Tighe Maxwell-Whiteley



Aquile Smith



Sam Pointon



Oliver Steadman



SPOTLIGHT ON BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY



Creating Havoc: Rhys Henderson causing Birmingham Moseley problems this season

Previous games against Birmingham Moseley

We first met Birmingham Moseley on the 15th of November 2003, at National League One Level 3, when both clubs were on different trajectories. Moseley, as they were then, had tried to maintain their rightful elite status as league rugby came to the fore in the late eighties, with, in retrospect, some re-positioning of the club that had a negative effect. We, on the other hand, would go onto to win the league that season and reach level 2. What is now called the Championship.

It was honours even that season with Sedgley winning the very first game but with Moseley winning the last. It was two seasons later when

Moseley, now Birmingham Moseley powered back to the Championship that we next met. We then had three seasons of fixtures with each other at this Championship level with Birmingham Moseley just edging the results in this period.

With a complete reversal of fortunes, Sedgley were demoted due to league re-structure from the Championship at the end of 2008/09 season and so ended our fixtures with Birmingham Moseley until this season, when on Birmingham Moseley's first home game of their 150th anniversary, Sedgley visited and won the game.

Previous results against Birmingham Moseley

2003 / 04 NL1:

Birmingham Moseley 16-24 Sedgley Park **(WON)**
Sedgley Park 07-39 Birmingham Moseley **(LOST)**

2006 / 07 Championship:

Birmingham Moseley 32-25 Sedgley Park **(LOST)**
Sedgley Park 40- 24 Birmingham Moseley **(WON)**

2007 / 08 Championship:

Birmingham Moseley 13-13 Sedgley Park **(DRAWN)**
Sedgley Park 16- 6 Birmingham Moseley **(WON)**

2008 / 09 Championship:

Sedgley Park 17-44 Birmingham Moseley **(LOST)**
Birmingham Moseley 51-17 Sedgley Park **(LOST)**

2023 / 24 NL1:

Birmingham Moseley 21-44 Sedgley Park **(WON)**

Aggregate Score

Sedgley Park 23
Birmingham Moseley 27



SPOTLIGHT ON BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY

History of Birmingham Moseley

Birmingham Moseley is a relatively new branding for Moseley, but it will never detract from the long illustrious pedigree and stance of this famous old much-loved club. In fact, the new club came out from a difficult false dawn of league rugby through to the professional game, to now symbolise a very proud banner that has allowed the club to re-establish itself once more amongst the rugby elite.

Like most clubs from that early period of the game at the definition of the laws and rules that saw the spawning and birth of association football and rugby football, Moseley had decided to go to the rugby variant of the rules and as started, like a great deal of other clubs, found themselves as the winter addition to a cricket club.

So, in October 1873 Havelock Football Club was formed which was the offshoot of Havelock Cricket club. It was sometime between the formation in 1873 and 1874 the Moseley qualification of the club from the cricket club happened and they continued to grow in a period of the game where fixtures were hard to find so they wisely played both codes until fixtures of the rugby variant become regular. By 1878 the club moved to a new home on the Oxford Road, Moseley, its colours well now well established in the rugby camp the club grew in stature.



Moseley FC, 1893

When league rugby commenced in 1987/88 season Moseley correctly were placed in the top league, Courage League Division One and stayed at this level for another four seasons but in 1990/91 they were relegated to Courage League Division Two. Moseley stayed at this level for a number of seasons and by the time rugby went open in 1996 season the appetite for Moseley to establish itself as the beacon for Birmingham area rugby at a time when there was a dash for clubs to grab a new growth in the game was high.

Moseley correctly had the ambition, the standing, and the aim to take the very next step back to the top league. The feeling in national rugby at the time was high on new horizons when in fact it was flawed on false dawns (A slow continual trend to the present day). In 1996 a new set of backers was formed to take Moseley into this new dawn but sadly by season 1997/98 the club was forced into administration and members and supporters rallied Allied Dunbar Premiership Two level.



SPOTLIGHT ON BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY

to stabilise this great club and did an amazing job to keep it at the now Allied Dunbar Premiership Two level.

This fight continued for the club, but sadly their famous old ground 'The Redding's was sold for housing to allow the fight to continue and boy it, through a period of great strain. Lesser clubs would have thrown the towel in, but this is Moseley, and they did keep fighting against the odds, keeping Moseley at level two until season 2002/03 when unfortunately they were relegated to level 3. This is when Sedge first met this great club.

They stayed at level 3 until 2006-07 season when they were promoted back to the Championship new name maybe same spirit inside the club, you bet. We at Sedge once again met them and continued to do so for another three seasons.

Moseley stayed at level two for another ten seasons but in 2016/17 were relegated to National One. At that same time the new name change was launched Birmingham Moseley and has been used ever since.

In that time of the professional era the club has fought lost and won. They have built a new ground, they established a fantastic stand, they have drawn in from the Birmingham area a wealth of youngsters developing a very strong mini and junior section and a pathway to all levels of high-level standard rugby to social aspirational rugby for all. A beacon

of rugby and true success.

Moseley can quite proudly boast and regale its lists of great fixtures, lots of silverware won, great players and world renowned internationals who wore the club colours with pride. They can also look back at an unbelievable effort made by all to keep this very proud club right at the very centre of the community and still at the top of the pile.

Congratulations to Birmingham Moseley on 150 incredible years.

For the full in-depth History of Moseley please follow the link www.moseleyrugby.co.uk/the-club/history/

That's it for putting Birmingham Moseley under the Spotlight. What the statistics clearly show this will be a classic matchup today.

Whatever your colours and whatever the result. Enjoy the game. It's going to be a cracker. I hope you all have a great day. You lucky devils

All the best

ST

Chairman's Note:

ST is recuperating at home from his knee operation so will not be with us today. We wish him a speedy recovery and compliments of the season.



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MATT RILEY

'ONE CLUB' WONDER

At the home game against Leicester Lions, Matt Riley became the player with the most appearances for a single Club in the Pro era. This extends to both sides of the English Channel. He has just passed Exeter's 'One Club Man', Richard Baxter. He is leaving behind some very exalted company, as can be seen from the list.

Today is Matt Riley's 429th game for the club. 400 games these days is unheard of, and with one club, bearing in mind the high intensity and the level of physicality in the modern game. This puts Matt in a group of only 4 who have made it past 400. In our club, and in modern terms, he is unique, as he is in a group of one.



Anglo-French 'One Club Men'

Top Appearances (350+)

Pos.	Apps.	Player	Club
1	429*	Matt Riley	Sedgley Park
2	423	Richard Baxter	Exeter
3	416	Rodrigo Capo Ortaga	Castres
4	410	Aurelien Rougerie	Clermont
5=	380	Julian Peyrelongue	Biarritz
5=	380	Jean Bouilhou	Toulouse
7=	379	Florien Fritz	Toulouse
7=	379	Gregory Lamboley	Toulouse
9	377	Aretz Iguiniz	Bayonne
10	372*	Henry Chavancy	Racing
11	371	Clement Poitrenaud	Toulouse
12	368	Maxine Medard	Toulouse
13	364*	Alex Goode	Saracens
14	362*	Alex Waller	Northampton
15	358*	Danny Care	Harlequins
16	351	Mike Brown	Harlequins

* Still playing for same club

ST tells me he can vividly remember back on the 9th December 2006, our Championship home game against Bedford Blues, at Park Lane. There had been some rumbling and whispers earlier in week, before the game, of something or someone special coming to the club via our links with Sale Sharks at the time.

And here he was, a young Matt Riley. Sale Sharks, England Under 20s representation, running out on a dark dismal day pouring with rain to make his debut at Fullback. It must have been a culture shock to him, and if it was, he never let on, as he soon got into swing of things. On that day we lost 8-10, but little did we know we actually had struck gold and we are still mining that rich steam to this day, 17 years later.



MATT RILEY

'ONE CLUB' WONDER



Stages of the 'Mighty Truck' running hard and coming through. For the opposition 17 years of hurt

While the other celebrated players on the list have reached the top of the game, Matt has been happy to stay loyal to Sedgley Park, a club that boasts numerous players with over 200 Appearances for the Club, including his brother, Andy Riley. Matt came to Sedge after a frustrating spell in pro-Rugby with Sale Sharks and found his home.

Matt told The Rugby Paper *"I loved the fact that at Sedgley there were some really good players and it was still a really good level. It was serious, but still not full on. You could still have a couple of beers after the game. You trained Tuesday and Thursday for a couple of hours and I loved that escape from the 'Rugby Bubble' and just going back to the old-school type of ways. Also the people there were great."*

ST says that in those early days he was known for not only his on-field ability but also for, as we would say back then 'Matt Riley's howitzer kick'. Personally, he remembers Matt in a very good and successful centre pairing of Matt and Chris Hall. They were an exceptional pairing. Those two against Launceston .

away, were unplayable on that day. Great Memories.

Instead of playing Leicester Lions in the wind and rain at Park Lane, he could have been enjoying the sun, sea and sand in Bermuda. Former teammate Paul Arnold had invited him to join the Lions squad that plays in the annual Bermuda Rugby Classic Tournament. Matt was in no doubt where his loyalties lie.

In his time here, he has represented England Counties on many occasions, and I know all at Sedge felt immense pride as he is one of ours representing England, even though Widnes RUFC may try to claim that honour. Not a chance!!! Sedge through and through. He was always a constant selection for the county too, taking it seriously, as you should. That is Matt, someone who does take things seriously on the field, his preparation and commitment to the cause second to none. Off the field a great bloke, great Captain and noisy laugh booming down the coach on away days.

Matt has stuck with Sedgley through thick and thin. From the glory days of playing the likes of Northampton and Harlequins in the Championship, to getting relegated to National 2.

"I could probably have left plenty of times earlier on and won titles with other clubs, but in all honesty, it wouldn't have meant as much to me as staying with my club" he revealed.



MATT RILEY

'ONE CLUB' WONDER

"I think what we did last year, in winning promotion from National 2 North, with a group of five or six of us who've been there a long time and the new breed coming through, means far more to me than winning something with a new club that I don't have feelings for."

So, how long can Matt keep going? *"I'll Play as long as my body allows me to."* he said.

In time, his brother Andy joined Matt at Sedge and the both of them have blossomed and are like an expensive wine, maturing with time and what a vintage they are becoming. Note they are becoming, still more to come yet.



That's my boy. Next generation Matt and son Jackson



SA Family Affair. Matt, with Dad Graham (Crack) and brother Andy.

The whole Club like to thank Matt, for his effort, passion, commitment and most importantly the memories he has given us all here at Park Lane. Well done Matt enjoy your 429th game and here's to the next 100.



Tot a chance. Not in my channel

A massive thanks to Sedgley Tiger and the Rugby Paper for providing the information for this article.



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THE CHAIRMAN



Welcome

On behalf of everyone at the club, can I extend a warm welcome to everyone, for today's Christmas game at Park Lane. I would especially like to extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of our opponents today, Birmingham Moseley, who are making their first visit to Park Lane for a few years. May you enjoy our hospitality and friendship and have a quiet drink with us in the bar afterwards, irrespective of the result.

Charity Day

The home game against Leicester Lions, was our Charity Day for SickKids, a charity very close to the heart of our Doctor, Jimmy Stewart. SickKids are a children's health charity currently working in North West England and Cambodia. The 1st XV were all wearing special shirts and all these shirts had been sponsored. We have raised in excess of £1500. A great effort by all those involved.

Our next Charity Day is the 27th January on behalf of Andy Mans Club, who are a men's suicide prevention charity, offering free-to-attend peer-to-peer support groups across the United Kingdom and online. They want to end the stigma surrounding men's mental health and help men through the power of conversation.



ANDYS MAN CLUB



CHARITY DAY

Our second charity game of the season is in aid of Andys Man Club and is to be on the 27th January 2024, our fixture against Rosslyn Park. If anyone fancies sponsoring a jersey for £150 please contact me, which includes two match tickets including pre-match hospitality.



The jersey design is shown here together with where the sponsors name is inserted.



Please contact Geoff Roberts on **07793184818**

WHAT IS ANDYS MAN CLUB?

Andys Man Club is a free peer-to-peer group that provides a place for men to come together in a safe and open environment to talk about the issues or problems that they have faced or are currently facing

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The process is about bringing men together who have been in similar situations, to each help each other on a peer-to-peer basis, sharing advice on how they have dealt with difficult situations. The 5 questions that are asked each week are designed not only to encourage men to talk, but to start to focus on the positives and on strategies to keep moving forward. There is no pressure to answer any of the questions and it is not uncommon for men to just listen for the first few sessions.

The clubs all run on the same format and adhere to the same guidelines. A key principle of Andys Man Club is anything that is said in the club, stays within the club.



#ITSOKEYTOTALK



Looking forward

It has been a good start to the season for the First Team, with 8 wins out of 12, leaving us in 5th place in the league. We are all really enjoying this season with the 1st XV, going to many new grounds., including the long trip to Plymouth last week.

It has also been a good start to the Season for the 2s. The 2nd XV sit 2nd in the Nowirul Premiership, having won 8 and drawn 1 of their games, playing the exciting brand of rugby we have come to expect from the 1st XV.



THE CHAIRMAN



It has been a little harder for the 3rd XV, with 3 wins out of 9 games, leaving them in 7th place in the table..

The new Player Pathway we introduced last year, detailing a route through the Youth Section, Colts and into Senior Rugby is now starting to work, with 10 of last year's Colts playing Senior Rugby this year, including 1 at 1st XV level.

We also have a great opportunity to shape young children with the work the Youth Section and Rugby College are doing in getting school children introduced to Rugby, with the support of our Director of Rugby development, Scott Barrow and Tryit Rugby (more of them later in the programme).



Although some areas of the Youth Section are thriving, others are struggling.

We do have a very strong Senior Colts this year and we are looking forward to them moving into open age to bolster the Senior Teams. Unfortunately, we have no Junior Colts this year and we are continuing our recruitment drive for players in year 8 (U13s) and above. It would be great if everyone could promote their club in the local community / schools.

The contact details for individual Coaches and Managers can be found at the back of the online Programme. We are also looking at getting more families watching the 1st XV games and being involved with the Club. We have some "Free" Tickets which will be distributed to schools before Christmas, with a view to getting families down.

Sedgley Park Youth Rugby



New players always welcome (Years 2 – 11)
No previous rugby experience is necessary
Boys and Girls are most welcome
Come and join us

Focus is on having fun and creating friendships



Please contact the Manager or Coach of your age group (on the back) for more details on training and matches.

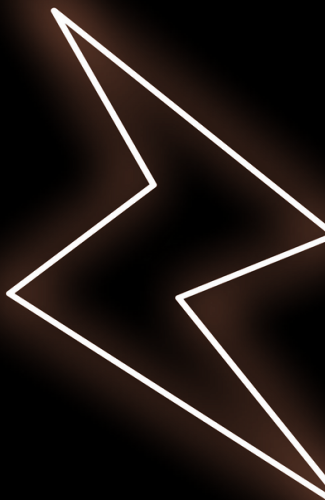
Training:
Wednesday Evening
Matches:
Sunday Morning



Sedgley Park RUFC
Park Lane
Whitefield
Manchester
M45 7DZ



THE CHAIRMAN



Social Calendar

This year, we have tried to put together a Calendar of Events, to allow people to plan their Calendar, well in advance. We have focused on a few major events to try and maximise these instead of organising many poorly attended events.

On 20th December, we have our Annual Carol Concert



Our Annual Legends v Club game will be held on Saturday 30th December, starting about 2pm.

Fun, games and Karaoke in the bar afterwards.

Come and run off your Christmas excesses or indulge in some more.



It only leaves me to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, on behalf of your Management Team.

Steve Ward
Chairman



THE CHAIRMAN



app2tap

App2Tap

As part of our look at bringing Sedgley Park into the modern era, we are reviewing how we dispense and pay for Beer, especially at events and on Matchday. As part of this process, we are going to trial a system where you can pay for and dispense your own beer, hopefully speeding up this process and reducing the need for Staff to 'man the Pumps'.

At today's game we are trialling a system called "App2Tap". The intention here is that you install an App on your phone and this will allow you to order, pay for and dispense your own Pint.

Initially, we will offer this outside for Lager only. We will then gauge the success of this trial and your management Team will decide whether it is worth moving forward with this. Why not give it a try at the next home game.



app2tap



Beat the queue Beer yourself.



Free Pint!






See reverse for details



Unleash the quick pouring tiger in you

How to get your free pint



-  1. Download the app
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app2tap



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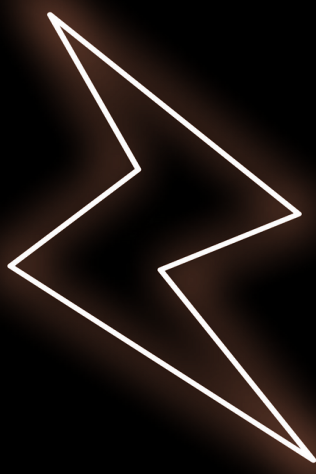
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DAVE'S DIARY



I cannot hear of Moseley RFC without thinking of two greats from the now distant past. As a kid, I first played rugby at Bradford GS, but I lived near Odsal Stadium, and was also a supporter of Bradford Northern RL.

Aged 12, I had to leave Yorkshire and the North, but ten years later I got a job in Manchester, where I played my club rugby with Broughton Park, and resumed my connection with rugby league by watching Salford who, conveniently, played Friday nights. It just happened that Salford were newly bankrolled by a millionaire, and they went for star rugby union names in their (successful) quest for publicity, status and silverware.

Two of these were Welsh, Dai Watkins and Maurice Richards, and two were English, both from Moseley.



Mike Coulman was a very big prop, who could run like rhino; Keith Fielding was a winger, who must have been one of the fastest men ever to play rugby.

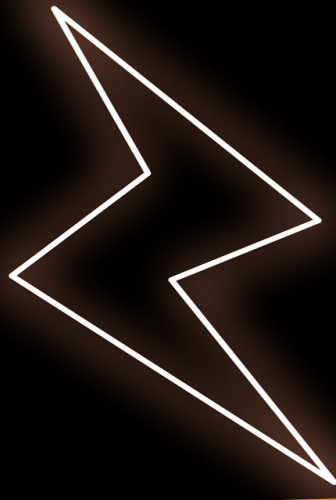


Even International players were part-time, in those days. Coulman had been a policeman during his RU days, but Salford RL found him a job in their office. Geoff Roberts tells me he had dealings with him, because Geoff's firm used to print the Salford match programme. Fielding gained a teaching post at Marple Hall GS, and it was there, one Saturday morning, that our paths crossed. I was running the U12 side at North Manchester HS, and Keith was in charge of theirs. We were there on time, but Keith was late.

He had been playing for Salford up at Workington the previous night, it was explained. He would turn up. He did, around the time the game should have been kicking off. No problem. These little kids played only 25 minutes each way, so their game would end around the same time as the older age groups. Keith was insistent he badly needed a coffee before refereeing, so we chatted as he got changed. Nice bloke.



DAVE'S DIARY



I was surprised how small he was in the flesh, not quite up to my towering 5'9". Eventually, we got out there, to find the game had already started! You don't need a referee when you're eleven.

"We're winning, sir," they told me. "One try."

Keith laughed, and started the game properly. The North Manchester lads won again. Of course we did. Keith later achieved a degree of fame and fortune by taking part in – and winning – a televised multi-sporting challenge called 'Superstars'.

Sad footnote: both Dai Watkins and Mike Coulman died in 2023. I trust Moseley today have no one as frighteningly big and fast as Coulman, nor as awesomely quick as Keith Fielding.

...

A quick look at the six Regional 1 leagues, which feed into the three at level four.

North East: York lead, ahead of Harrogate.

North West: Rossendale, Blackburn and Macclesfield all have 10 wins from 11.

Midlands: Oxford Harlequins lead Stourbridge.

South East: Colchester look out of sight already.

South Central: Camberley and Havant lead the way.

South West: Chew Valley, Barnstaple and Devonport Services are up front.

Some familiar names, and some that are new, to me. I assume that one club will be promoted, in each case.

...

Finally, Chris Paine (aka Sedge Tiger) has had his knee replacement done, and we should see him when we play the postponed Blackheath game in January. I understand he has been filling his days reading past Dave's Diaries, of which he has a thirty-year collection.

Best wishes to ST, and to everyone else, as another year closes.

Dave



Dai Watkins playing for the Lions in New Zealand in 1966

Look at Dave's Photo Albums online at www.flickr.com/photos/forwarddefensive/albums/



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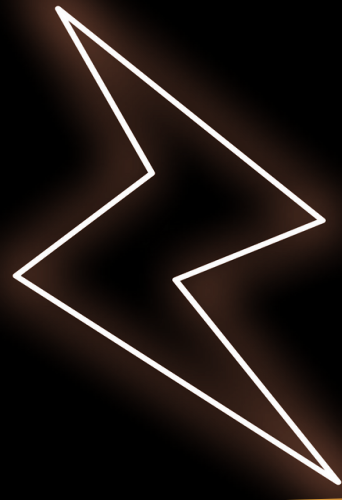
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COACH TALK



Last Saturday we were on the road away to old rivals Plymouth a team we had played eight times previously but unfortunately had not won.

A long five and a half hour trip down to Devon on a day when the conditions were extremely difficult to play open rugby with a strong wind blowing down the heavy pitch and driving rain.

Plymouth are a big physical team who had not been beaten at home this season and were lying in third place one ahead of us in fourth. This was always going to be a difficult challenge after the long journey but we were confident that we could put in a solid performance and come away with points.

We started the game playing with the elements looking to build a score in this first half before facing the wind and rain in the second half.



Early exchanges were pretty even with both teams building phases and keeping possession and it was not until the 26th minute that we got a score on the board with a penalty from fly half Warren Seales putting us three points in the lead. However a penalty awarded to the home side saw them kick to the corner from which their big forwards drove over for their first converted try taking the lead 3-7 going into the last ten minutes of the half.

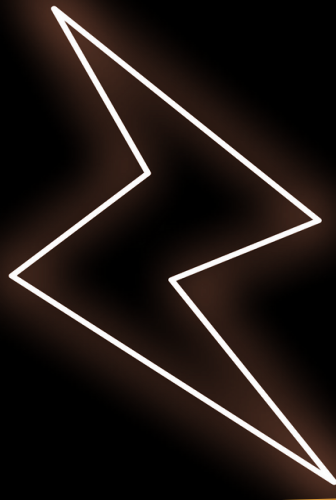
We had the chance to hit back with another penalty but missed the kick and a great line break by captain Matt Riley saw the ball spilled in the tackle which gave Plymouth the chance to relieve the pressure.

We had a number of chances and opportunities in this first half to put points on the board but did not capitalize on them. Plymouth got another penalty catch and drive try just before the break and they went into half time 3-14 up.

This was a disappointing half for us as we had plenty of possession and opportunities to build a lead but we gave away too many penalties which allowed the home side to get out of their half. To add to this we lost No 8 Tom Ailes to a yellow card which meant that we would be down to 14 men for the first ten minutes of the second half.



COACH TALK



What was telling, was that each time they got into our twenty two they came away with points.

The second half saw us play into driving rain and a strong wind which made it extremely difficult to get out of our half. Another penalty for the home side on 46 minutes saw them extend the lead to 3-17. Every opportunity we had we tried to move the ball and put pressure on their defences but the conditions made it almost impossible. To be fair to the home side they played the conditions well and another penalty saw them go for the corner resulting in another catch and drive for their forwards.

The game ended 3-22 to Plymouth and a well deserved four point win and their unbeaten home record intact. This was a disappointing performance from the Tigers as we had chances in the first half to build a score but did not take them. On a positive our set piece play was excellent with a strong scrum and accurate lineouts and our defence sets were powerful especially on our own try line denying Plymouth the bonus point.

The overall effort from the whole squad was immense and cannot be questioned but we need to take our chances when they occur especially in difficult conditions.

This Saturday we are at home to Birmingham Mosley a team we had beaten at the start of the season so we are looking for a big reaction and a solid performance. It is the last game before the Xmas break so please come down to Park Lane and support the Tigers.

Cheers,

Hazz"





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NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 13

WEEK THIRTEEN, ROUND UP:

Blackheath	0 (0) -- 15 (4)	Rosslyn Park
Chinnor	27 (5) -- 24 (1)	Birmingham Moseley
Cinderford	40 (5) -- 31 (1)	Taunton Titans
Darlington Mowden Park	29 (5) -- 3 (0)	Leicester Lions
Plymouth Albion	22 (4) -- 3 (0)	Sedgley Park
Richmond	40 (2) -- 47 (5)	Rams
Sale FC	8 (4) -- 7 (1)	Bishop's Stortford



No Pressure Kick. Chinnor's George Warboys kicks a remarkable penalty to complete a brilliant comeback in a remarkable game against Birmingham Moseley last weekend.

TEAM OF THE WEEK

Chinnor



National League One is turning into a great advert for the game and last weekend's astonishing late turnaround at the Rectory Pavilion which saw **Chinnor** take a 27-24 victory over our

guests today **Birmingham Moseley** in what was another chapter in the incredible story of progress in National League One season 2023/24.

Birmingham Moseley can say with heavy hearts that they have been done twice in recent games both at the fag end of the game and both against two heavy weights of the league. Last weekend saw the 'Brummies' once again burst into a first half lead with tries from Elliot Creed on 11 minutes then, scrum half Jack Jolly on 39 minutes both converted by the reliable boot of Tighe Maxwell-Whiteley. Second placed **Chinnor** managed to get something on the scoreboard first half with an unconverted try from hooker Alun Walker.

Halftime Chinnor 5 -14 Birmingham Moseley

The halftime team talk from the Chinnor head coach did not have the initial desired effect as Birmingham Moseley went straight onto the front foot and in the 45th minute extended their lead when second row Callum Allen went over for a converted third try. With messages from the touch and changes in the pack, Chinnor started show why they are one of the form



NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 13

sides in the league and it was their talisman top try scorer, hooker Alun Walker who was at the heart and finish of things with an unconverted try on 50 minutes. He completed his hat-trick on the day, with a try on 65 minutes converted by George Warboys. More pressure was applied back on Chinnor as the game went nip and tuck. The pressure tightened when Tighe Maxwell-Whiteley kicked a penalty on 71 minutes to keep a score between the two sides.

With score at 17-24 in the visitors favour and the game well into the final phase Chinnor upped the ante again and this time it would be conclusive. Tighe Maxwell-Whiteley celebrations were cut short though when he dropped the restart and from the ensuing scrum inside centre James Bourton carried hard into the midfield traffic. Chinnor's number 8 Will Ryan came round the corner and the talismanic Captain was unstoppable as he carried half the Moseley team over the line for try number 4 on 74 minutes. George Worboys converted to take the game to 24-24.

This titanic clash reached its denouement when outside centre Morgan Passman got a crucial turnover on 76 minutes and George Worboys stepped up with a dagger to Moseley's heart.

Full Time

Chinnor 5

Birmingham Moseley 14

It is first verses second in the league this weekend as **Rams** travel to **Chinnor** and 6th placed **Birmingham Moseley** travel to 5th placed **Sedgley Park**.

Elsewhere in the league last weekend saw top of the league **Rams** make the short journey east across London to last season's former championship team **Richmond**, who are now in seventh place. This was another humdinger of a game showing the competitiveness of the league. An avalanche of first half tries from both sides came thick and fast with Richmond's scrum half Luc Jones getting things started on 2 minutes with an unconverted try quickly followed by tight head prop Luke Spring extending 'Monds' lead with converted try on 18 minutes. Rams responded through outside centre Ellis Jones on 21 minutes and winger Charles Robson on 29 minutes. Fraser Honey converted both tries.

With the game entering the second half and very tightly poised, the next try was always going to be all important and it was, when Rams prop forward Anthony Marris went over for a third converted try on 45 minutes. Richmond hit back straight away on 49 minutes when scrum half Luc Jones got his second converted try of the day. Rams came back immediately in the 52nd and the 63rd minutes with two more converted tries from fullback Henry Bird and winger Charles Robson to surely put paid to Richmond. Not a chance.



NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 13

Two more tries followed for Richmond in quick succession on the 58th and 72nd minute by tight head prop Natinga Mpiko and inside centre Tom Hitchcock both converted by Alex Burrage.

The game was turning into a try fest as each side came at each other looking for all important breakthrough and even if came would it be enough? Rams moved once again further into the lead on 75 minutes with a penalty try, but no white flag from Richmond as they came back again with a converted try by winger Will Kaye. Not to be outdone Rams top try scorer hooker Max Hayman went over in the last play to secure all the points. Rams stay top but Richmond lick their wounds this weekend and have a brisk morning walk over to fifth placed **Rosslyn Park**.



Staying Number 1. Rams round off a brilliant performance away to Richmond last weekend to stay number 1 in the league.

In another crucial clash in the league third place **Plymouth Albion** took on 4th placed **Sedgley Park** at Brickfields. In what was an extremely tight game in extreme conditions the west country men made the better fist of things with a well-deserved win, with two converted tries coming from hooker Gabe Meade on 27 and 39 minutes and a third unconverted try coming from

replacement hooker Callum Davies on 68 minutes. A penalty from Plymouths Tom Putt on 46 minutes and one from Sedgley Parks Warren Seals on 25 minutes were the other points. Third place Plymouth travel north up the M5 to take on rivals **Taunton Titans** who are in thirteenth place.

Rosslyn Park moved above Sedgley Park in the league with an exceptionally good three try win at Well Hall the home of **Blackheath** with the unconverted tries coming from winger Ben Marfo on 12 and 22 minutes and back row Arthur Ellis on 52 minutes. Rosslyn Park are at home to **Richmond** this week whilst Blackheath in ninth place travel to **Bishop's Stortford**.

Darlington Mowden Park entertained bottom placed **Leicester Lions** at the Darlington Arena. Things deteriorated quickly for Lions as a four try bonus point winning haul for the home team pushed them up to eighth in the league whilst the result kept Lions at the bottom. The tries for the home team came from outside centre Harry Yates on 21 and 46 minutes followed by prop forward Max Fraine and scrum half Callum Pascoe on 64 and 75 minutes. All were converted by Garry Law who also opened the scoring with a penalty on 3 minutes. Leicester Lions only points came from a single penalty in the 57th minute for Dan Lewis.

Darlington Mowden Park are at home to **Sale FC** this weekend whilst Lions are at home to **Cinderford**.



NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 13

THIS WEEKS GAMES, WEEK 14:

Chinnor	19:45 Rams
Leicester Lions	14:00 Cinderford
Sedgley Park	14:30 Birmingham Moseley
Bishop's Stortford	15:00 Blackheath
Darlington Mowden Park	15:00 Sale FC
Rosslyn Park	15:00 Richmond
Taunton Titans	15:00 Plymouth Albion

The Cider derby was played last weekend when Cinderford took on Taunton Titans in scorching of a game that brought eleven tries, six for Cinderford and five for Taunton. The game swung one way then the other as both teams tried to get the ascendancy. At one stage it looked like Taunton had done enough as the game entered into the final quarter, however Cinderford had other ideas with a last ten-minute power play with a unconverted try from Will Baldwin and a penalty try to take the game and cider! Cinderford in eleventh place travel to bottom placed Leicester Lions whilst Taunton Titans in thirteenth place are at home and take on Plymouth Albion this weekend.

It was Christmas day celebrations at Heywood Road last Saturday with the spirit of Christmas of giving firmly in the NOT giving position as twelfth placed Sale FC took on tenth placed Bishop's Stortford. In a game of high winds and torrential rain but not much else this was a brutal game to play in atrocious conditions. The game remained 3-0 to Sale as it moved into the last 10-minute period when Sale added to their three-point lead with an

unconverted try on 70 minutes from winger Mark Dixon. One minute later Bishop's Stortford reply came as they came up with a Christmas cracker of their own with a converted try from outside centre James Ayrton converted by Matt Riddington. That was that as they say as the final whistle came as both sides made a mad dash for the warmth of the changing room and hot showers for all was the call. Sounds like a great call.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Chinnor v Rams, 19:30



Not sure in any league on any ground this week you will find a bigger game. This is the National One match of the day winner takes all fixture as the two big pace setters go head-to-head for the second time of the season this Friday night kick off 19-45. What a game in store. It will be a nice early Christmas present for the team who wins this.



NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW - WEEK 13

NATIONAL LEAGUE 1 'HOTSHOTS'

Top Try Scorers

Charles Walker, Rosslyn Park, Wing	17 Tries: 85 Points
Max Hayman, Rams Rugby, Hooker	13 Tries: 65 Points
Alun Walker, Chinnor, Hooker	13 Tries 65 Points
Alexander Post, Richmond, Hooker	10 Tries: 50 Points
Sam Daly, Plymouth Albion, No.8	10 Tries: 50 Points
Charlie Wright, Taunton Titans, Back Row	10 Tries: 50 Points
Aquile Smith, Birmingham Moseley, Wing	9 Tries 45 Points
Danny Maher, Sedgley Park, Hooker	8 Tries: 40 Points
Morgan Passman, Chinnor, Centre	8 Tries: 40 Points



Noah Fenton
Rosslyn Park
Wing
17 Tries, 85 Points

Top Points Scorers

Tighe Maxwell-Whiteley, Birmingham, Fly Half	102 Points
Joe Winfield, Cinderford, Fly Half	99 Points
Daniel Lewis, Leicester Lions, Fly Half	97 Points
Fraser Honey, Rams, Fly Half	92 Points
James Bourton, Chinnor, Fly Half	84 Points
Joshua Ree, Darlington Mowden Park, Fly Half	82 Points
Thomas Putt, Plymouth Albion, Full Back	77 Points
Tom Ffitch, Blackheath, Full Back	65 Points



Warren Seales
Sedgley Park
Fly Half
124 Points

All the very Best,

ST



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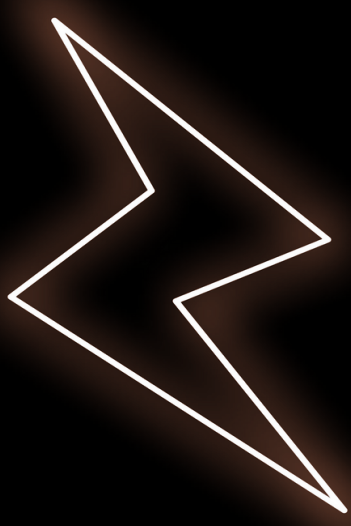
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SEDGLEY PARK LADIES TEAM



Lucy // Acting Captain // Ladies Team

Amidst the rolling hills of Sedgley Park, a team of strong and spirited women are preparing for a remarkable journey. With the upcoming season in the Inner Warrior League on the horizon, the Sedgley Park Ladies Team is extending an open invitation to Women of all ages and abilities to join them. In the heart of this picturesque setting, a unique opportunity awaits. The ladies of Sedgley Park gather to chase their passion on the rugby field. The call to unleash their inner warriors echoes through the air, a rallying cry to those who seek to forge their destiny on the green battleground. With September approaching, The Sedgley Park Ladies Team is poised for a season that promises thrilling battles, unwavering camaraderie, and unforgettable memories. This is not just a team; it's a sisterhood united by a shared love for the sport and an unyielding determination to conquer challenges together



No matter your background—whether you're a seasoned rugby pro or taking your first steps onto the field—there's a place for you here. Every Sunday, training starts at 11am until 12pm, and every Monday at 7pm until 8pm the field at Park Lane comes alive with the energy of dedicated women honing their skills, pushing their limits, and building lasting friendships. The journey ahead is not just about rugby—it's about empowerment, growth, and writing a chapter of life's story that will be cherished forever. Sedgley Park Ladies beckons, inviting you to become part of their narrative, to seize the opportunity, and to embrace the thrill of the game. Will you answer the call? Join the Sedgley Park Ladies Team.





SEDFGE MEDIA TEAM

Few words from Vinny Morley



Welcome to Park Lane. Whether you are new to a Tigers game, a returning fan, or a Sale FC supporter, I hope you enjoy the experience at Sedgley Park this afternoon.

For returning fans, especially from last season, you may notice a bit more hustle and bustle in regard to our matchday social media team. This campaign I have been joined by Joe Barnes-Taylor and Tom Markham, two Manchester Metropolitan University graduates with a keen interest in sports broadcasting. Joe and Tom will be the faces of Sedge's match day output over the coming months.

The Sedge Media Team's mission is to increase the profile of rugby in our area as well as promote the Tigers and Sedgley Park RUFC with what we have to offer on and off the pitch on a game day, and more.

Over the past couple of seasons post-match interviews have been with Sedge players and officials. We will now be looking to get both teams points of view and giving the viewer/listener balanced thoughts on what happened during the match.

You will catch Joe's Interviews with Players and Coaches on our Social Media platforms

The team will continue to provide Tigers match updates throughout the season to our local radio station Roch Valley Radio, an affiliation that now enters a third season. With our main local football team Bury FC returning to Gigg Lane and all the publicity that has been generated around that, match updates from Sedge's games to RVR during Shakers matches should reach a larger audience than in the previous two seasons and generate extra interest in rugby.

We will also focus on building our output to engage Tigers fans whether they live around the corner or around the world by looking at ways to innovate using the technology we have available. The team hope to be in a position to provide full audio match commentary from Park Lane within a couple of months with the ultimate target of video streaming a live match by the end of the season.

Social media may not be for all but it's a good cost-effective way of connecting with rugby supporters and encouraging new fans or players, mums and dads, boys and girls, to maybe head along and see what's on offer. The team posts to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter on the main Sedgley Tigers pages and we have our own Sedge Media Team page on TikTok for some background videos @sedgemediateam If you have not already done so, why not give us a follow. Remember a 'like' or a 'share' of one of our posts may be just enough to encourage someone to take up the sport!



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NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW

AND SO, IT BEGINS

Well, it has been just over 10 years since I wrote my last National League One Review and although the majority of the clubs we will meet this season are returning old friends or fleeting 'ships in the night' in the case of Chinnor RFC. We met in that incredible National Two North / South Play-off game at their place which we narrowly lost. They were incredible hosts that day and it will be great to have them here at Park Lane this season.

That just leaves just three clubs that we have not met and that is Rams RFC (although we did have a brief pre-season games against them some years ago), Bishops Stortford and Taunton Titans RFC. We look forward, with great anticipation, to meeting them both over the course of the season.

In fact it goes without saying, the whole club are really excited about the new season ahead, not just re-acquainting ourselves with old friends, but as a club seeing how we measure up playing our brand of rugby at the higher level. I just cannot wait.

Normally here we look at the league 'who's in form', and who wins the team of the week, the results and fixtures of the previous week and the fixtures that week with a highlight feature of the game of the week.

That would be difficult to undertake this week, considering not a ball has been thrown or been tactically kicked. So below is a quick look at the opposition ahead this season and to re-acquaint ourselves with some familiar foes.



BLACKHEATH FC

Ground: Well Hall, Kidbrooke Lane, London SE38BU

Colours: Black and Red Hoops

Previous Games: Sincere old friends.

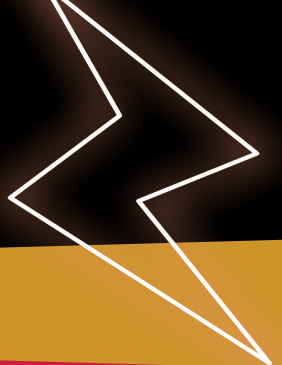
We at Sedge remember well the first encounter with them back in 1998/99 season when we met them in the National Cup. This game put Sedge on the National map and shone a light on our 'rise up' the structures after a great 21-22 victory at 'The Rec'. As hosts they were very warm and welcoming pre-game and incredible in defeat post-game. The memory lives long with all at Sedge, and we had 8 more wonderful fixtures at National Level 1. Last season: National League Two East Champions PLD26: PTS 114: WIN 23: LOSS 3:

Pre-season Games: Bury St Edmunds 36 – 33 Blackheath: Blackheath 31 – 12 Barnes: Canterbury 54 – 21 Blackheath:





NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW



BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY RUGBY

Ground: Billesley Common, Yardley Wood Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B130HN

Colours: Black and Red Hoops

Previous Games: We have met Moseley 6 times when they were just that club title, and this was back in the Championship. Always tough even games and no doubt they will be huge tussles again.

Last season: National League 1: 9th:
PLD26: PTS 62: WIN 10: DRAWN 2: LOST 14:

Pre-season Games:

Birmingham Moseley 43 – 7 Luctonians:
Birmingham Moseley 28 – 24 Darlington Mowden Park.

Birmingham Moseley 24–68 Coventry Rugby:



BISHOPS STORTFORD RFC

Ground: Silver Leys, Hadham Road, Bishops Stortford, CM232QE

Colours: Blue and White Hoops

Previous Games: We have never met Bishops Stortford at any level although I have vague memory of a fixture against them. However, this cannot be verified. I blame the G&Ts.

Last season: National League 1: 6th:
PLD26: PTS 77: WIN 13: DRAWN 1: LOST 12:

Pre-season Games:

Worthing Raiders 10 – 52 Bishops Stortford: Old Albanians – Bishops Stortford: Bishop Stortford – Shelford



CHINNOR RFC

Ground: Rectory Pavilion, Kingsey Road, Thame. OX93JL

Colours: Black and White Hoops

Previous Games: Our only game against Chinnor was in the National League Two play-off game in 2018/29 Season. Unfortunately, we lost the game that day. However, they were brilliant hosts pre- and post-match, and we sincerely look forward to the traditional home and away fixture.

Last season: National League 1: 8th:
PLD26: PTS 71: WIN 12: DRAWN:1 LOST 13:

Pre-season Games:

Chinnor 67 – 12 Wimbledon:
Cambridge 19 – 33 Chinnor:





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NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW



TAUNTON TITANS RFC

Ground: Veritas Park, Hyde Lane,
Bathpool, Taunton: TA2 8BU
Colours: Black with Red and Blue Trim
Previous Games: This is another club
we have never met as a league fixture.
We are very much looking forward
heading to the south west this autumn.
Last season: National League 1: 11th:
PLD26: PTS 57: WIN 9: LOST 17:
Pre-season Games:
Taunton Titans – Cardiff Met University



DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK RFC

Ground: The Darlington Arena,
Neasham Road, Darlington. DL21DL
Colours: Blue and White Hoops and
Black Trim
Previous Games: We first met DMP in a
National cup game at Park Lane which
was more like a battle on the day
which DMP won. In League fixtures we
have met them twice in National
League Two North. That season DMP
were promoted but were without
doubt the most outstanding team in
the league. I would go further to say
that they gave one of the best
performances I have seen at Park Lane,
including the likes of Wasps,
Harlequins, Northampton Saints, Bristol,
and Exeter Chief's games whilst in the

Championship. It was an absolutely
breathtaking fast, hard running, tight
game of rugby. Very much looking
forward to renewing this fixture. If it
was anything like the first at Park Lane.
Get your tickets now for the game.
Last season: National League 1: 9th:
PLD26: PTS 114: WIN 23: LOST 3:
Pre-season Games: Birmingham
Moseley 28 – 24 Darlington Mowden
Park: Darlington



LEICESTER LIONS RFC

Ground: Westleigh Park, Lutterworth
Road, Blaby LE8 4DY
Colours: Purple and White Hoops, Black
Trim
Previous Games: We have met the
Lions in 10 fixtures all in National Two
North with the majority games
favouring Sedgley in the outcome. The
timing of the re-structuring at National
Level Two was perfect for Lions as
Leicester Lions were without doubt the
outstanding team last season in
National League Two West. A bit of a
dark horse this season. Watch this
space.
Last season: National League Two
West Champions PLD26: PTS 122: WIN
25: LOSS 1:
Pre-season Games: Coventry 33-21
Leicester Lions: Leicester Lions 45 v 12
Hinkley:



NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW



PLYMOUTH ALBION RFC

Ground: Brickfields Recreation Ground, Damerel Close, Plymouth. PL14NE

Colours: White Green and Red Hoops

Previous Games: We first met Albion back in 2001-02 season at level 3. It

was blip for Albion that season to be at that level and they bounced back to

Level 2 as Champions. These first two

encounters were tough indeed. We

then met them on a regular basis for 10

fixtures from 2005 to 2009 at level 2,

The Championship. The encounters

were still tough but we had our

moments. Bizarrely one season in this

period this fixture was our New Years

game. We had to travel. The FDR were

not the brightest organisation at the

time for the promotion of rugby!!!!

Last season: National League 1: 5th:

PLD26: PTS 78: WIN 14: LOST 12:

Pre-season Games: Cornish Pirates

45-5 Plymouth Albion: Plymouth

Albion 7 - 31 Cornish Pirates:



RAMS RFC

Ground: Old Bath Road, Sonning, Reading. RG46TQ

Colours: Dark Blue and Light Blue

Previous Games: We have never met

Rams in any form of league Rugby. We

did however meet them in a pre-

season tournament at Priory Park,

Macclesfield in a 4 x 20-minute match which also included Caldry.

Last season: National League 1: 2nd:

PLD26: PTS 114: WIN 22: LOST 4:

Pre-season Games: Rams 33 - 12

Bracknell: Rams 33 - 19 Aberavon:

Lansdowne 17 - 7 Rams: Cork

Constitution 24 - 12 Rams:



RICHMOND RUGBY

Ground: Richmond Athletic Ground, Twickenham Road, Richmond, London.

TW92FS

Colours: Old Gold, Red and Black Hoops

Previous Games: We first met

Richmond Rugby at Park Lane on 22nd

September, 2012 and we won that first

encounter 37-17. This was the period of

Sedge's demise or realignment period

from its heady days in the

Championship back to ultimately

National League Two North.

Richmond on the other hand were on

an upward trajectory having had a bit

of demise and re-alignment

themselves, having been demoted to

the bottom of the pyramid by a once

tougher governing body.

You had to pinch yourself on that first

home game of 2012/13 season at Park

Lane. Here was this true bastion of

elite club rugby in England here at little

old Park Lane. Here was a not so long-

ago Premiership juggernaut. For all the

big hitters that had graced Park Lane

during our Championship days none

had the bigger impact on the

professional game than Richmond.



NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE REVIEW

To cap off that first game, we won! it was a very bright highlight in a season which turned out to be a relegation year for Sedge, whereas the 'Old Gold' would go on to get promoted back to the Championship.

I reflect then as I do today on the spirit and tenacity of the Richmond Club. In all the club's history and glory pre-leagues, and its impact as a winner in those formative years of professional rugby era. For me surely the club's finest hour was that march back to the top. Outstanding.

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That's quite a bit of legacy building. Impressive? You bet.

Last season: Championship: Relegated: PLD22: PTS 23: WIN 3: DRAWN 1: LOST 18:

Pre-season Games: Neath RFC 14 – 31
Richmond Rugby: Richmond Rugby 7–50
Jersey Reds



ROSSLYN PARK FC

Ground: The Rock, Roehampton, Upper Tooting, London. SW155JA

Colours: Red and White Hoops, Blue Trim

Previous Games: We have met Rosslyn Park on many occasions in fact 12 fixtures and all at level 3 National One status. The early games, when Sedge were in the ascendancy, favoured Tigers whilst the latter tended to go the opposite way.

I have two very fond memories of the 'The Rock' the home of Rosslyn Park. The first was when Sedgley Park Club stalwart, Alan 'Two Bob' Taylor acted as conductor in chief encouraging the whole main stand at the Rock to sing happy birthday to me on my 50th. Embarrassing but appreciated.

Secondly, our very own Bro! Geoff Roberts experiencing Rosslyn Park gourmet burgers for the first time and buying, himself and me one, handing over a £20.00 note. On receiving no change his face was a picture!!! My turn for the burgers this this season me thinks.

Last season: National League 1: 5th:
PLD25: PTS 83: WIN 16: LOST 9:

Pre-season Games: Rosslyn Park 69–14
Tonbridge Juddians



SALE FC

Ground: Heywood Road, Sale. M33 3WB

Colours: Blue and White Hoops

Previous Games: Since their welcome re-introduction back to the leagues, we have met Sale FC 6 times. Always a favourite ground to visit. Our Local derby has always lived up to the occasion with some great clashes and close fought games. Heywood Road a proper rugby ground. I can't wait for this game.

Last season: National League 1: 9th:
PLD26: PTS 114: WIN 23: LOST 3:

Pre-season Games: Sale 12–14 Caldy:
Fylde 14 – 10 Sale: Hawick 35 – 19 Sale



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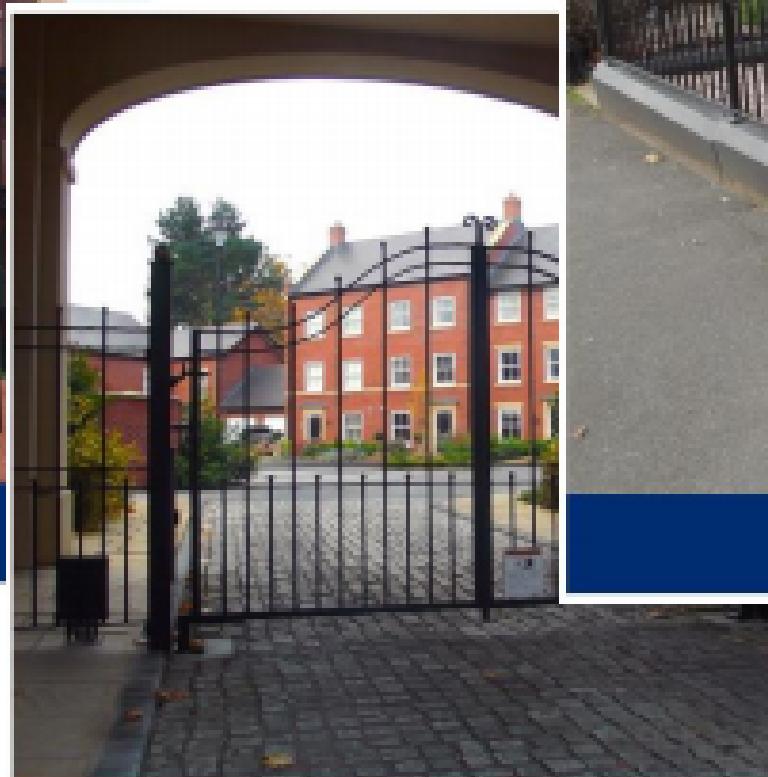
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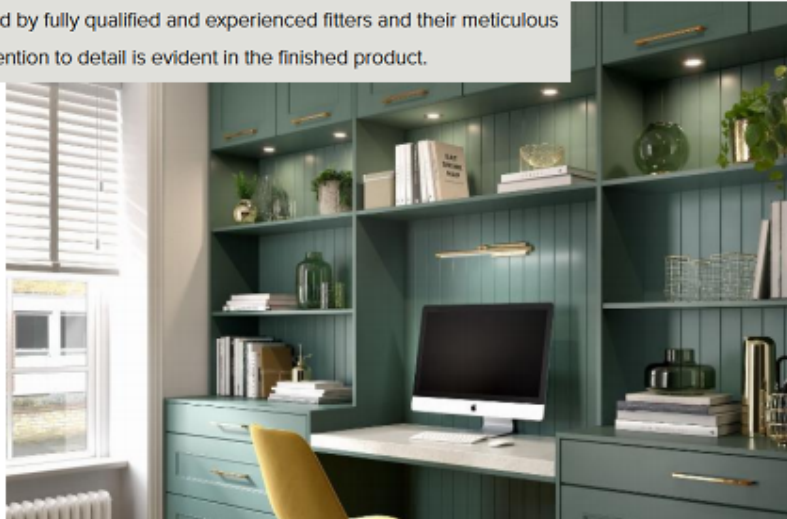
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TRYIT RUGBY



Tryit Rugby is a dynamic rugby business that has forged a successful partnership with Lancashire RFU, with the shared mission of promoting rugby among children and fostering the growth of mini and junior rugby sections. Operating from the premises of Sedgley RUFC, Tryit Rugby has taken on the essential role of aiding in the recruitment efforts for the club's mini and junior rugby section.

One of the cornerstones of Tryit Rugby's approach is its collaboration with the College of Rugby, a strategic partnership aimed at nurturing the development of young coaches. These aspiring coaches undergo specialized training through the College of Rugby, with the ultimate goal of funneling their expertise back into Tryit Rugby's initiatives. This interlinked network ensures a continuous cycle of growth, skill enhancement, and knowledge within the rugby community. Tryit Rugby's multifaceted approach to recruitment encompasses various avenues. The business uses school programs funded by the club or Lancashire RFU, which not only introduces children to rugby but also strengthens ties between local educational institutions and the sport. Moreover, Tryit Rugby's innovative rugby camps and coaching services provide an opportunity for kids to engage with the sport in a fun and instructive environment.

By focusing on both grassroots engagement and coach development, Tryit Rugby is contributing significantly to the expansion of mini and junior rugby sections. Its collaboration with Lancashire RFU and Sedgley RUFC, as well as its partnership with the College of Rugby, showcases the organization's commitment to building a robust rugby ecosystem that benefits young players, coaches, and the sport as a whole. Through its initiatives and dedicated efforts, Tryit Rugby is playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of rugby in Lancashire !






TRYIT RUGBY

Mixed ability rugby programme


Sedgley Park RUFC Mixed Ability Rugby Program

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TRYIT Rugby has collaborated with Bury Knights, a community charity, delivering impactful coaching sessions to individuals with disabilities. Discover the transformative power of rugby in promoting teamwork, confidence, and athletic prowess.

****Upcoming Endeavors: Jigsaw Charity Partnership****


 ***A New Chapter Unfolds!***

After Christmas, in January, TRYIT Rugby is set to embark on a new venture with Jigsaw Charity. Stay tuned for exciting developments as we extend the joy of rugby to even more participants.

****Save the Date: Mixed Ability Festival****

 ***May 26th, 2024 - TRYIT Sevens Weekend***


Mark your calendars for an extraordinary event! Sedgley Park RUFC, along with numerous clubs and teams, will converge for the Mixed Ability Festival. An exhilarating celebration of rugby, unity, and sportsmanship awaits.


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