NRU Cup Competitions Season 2023-24

Following the helpful Chair of Rugby meeting held before the presentations evening on the 31st May, a sense of what the clubs would like for this coming season was understood. Below is the finalised cup structure for this season (with some cup structures amended following discussion on the 31st). We have also received some mails on the subject and content of those mails have also been taken into account when looking at the cup offering.

Cup Tied Players – last season we had a number of breaches of the rules due to flexibility in the rules and wanting to help clubs get teams onto a pitch. The flexibility afforded in the last two seasons is now being removed as clubs have had two seasons back post covid.

Clubs are encouraged to communicate with each other (Club Chairs of Rugby) and if an agreement is reached around cup tied players, the county office MUST be informed in writing on what the agreement is and the players must be clearly identified. If subsequently a complaint is received around that particular match, the matter investigated and the complaint upheld, the offending team will be removed from the competition.

It should also be stated that if a complaint is received and investigated or if match card scrutiny identifies a breach of integrity around the rules, and it is found that players have been played who are cup tied, the offending team will be removed from the competition.

If in doubt contact the Claire at the County Office who can advise.

If Claire is not available, contact Ken Fraser or Paul Walker.

There are a number of match cards missing – please get these sent in to the office asap.

Key	Match Card Received

Status of Cups as at 22.04.24

Cup	**Date**	**Teams**	**Venue**	**Pres Cover**
Senior Cup - **Alnwick**	13.04.24	Northern 8 Alnwick 31	Morpeth	Croz and Craig
Senior Plate	Tbc – was scheduled as 13.04.24 then moved to 20.04.24	Novos V ~~Border Park or~~ Ponteland	~~Northern~~ Tbc – new date and venue need sorting once Semi Final is played	
Senior Plate Shield - **Morpeth Reivers**	17.04.24 (re arranged after canc 09.04.24 – weather)	Ashington 17 v Morpeth Reivers 21	Ashington	Craig (is ref)
Senior Shield – **Gosforth**	~~20.04.24 – one match to be played~~	Based on new Round Robin Format - Winners are Gosforth		(format changed to round robin due to number of teams withdrawing)
No2 Cup	27.04.24	Medicals 2 V Novos 2	Seghill	Tbc
No3 Cup **Novos 3**	20.04.24	North Shields 26 V Novos 3 29	Northern	tbc

Senior Cup

(Berwick have withdrawn due to a change in the Scottish league structure and they don't want to mess anyone around)

Teams - Alnwick, Morpeth, Northern, Percy Park, Tynedale Raiders

Key	Match Card Received

Prelim Round – 7th October

Game 1	Percy Park		v	WIN	Alnwick

Match being played 25.11.23
22.11.23 – Percy Park have conceded match to Alnwick

Semi Finals – 28th October or 25th November

Game 2	Northern	29	v	12	Morpeth
Game 3	Tynedale Raiders	12	v	29	Winner Game 1 – Alnwick

Game 2 played at Morpeth as league and cup double header 04.11.23

Final – Saturday 13th April, 1pm at Morpeth

Winner Game 2 Northern	8	v	31	Winner Game 3 Alnwick

Senior Plate

Teams - Alnwick 2, Ashington, Medicals, Morpeth Reivers, Northern Wanderers, North Shields, Novos, Percy Park Lions, Ponteland, Whitley Bay Rockcliff

Key	Match Card Received

Prelim Round – On or before 7th October

Game 1	Percy Park Lions	22	v	45	Ponteland
Game 2	Northern Wanderers	15	v	61	Novos

Quarter Finals – Saturday 28th October

Game 3	Morpeth Reivers	0	v	31	Border Park
Game 4	Ashington	12	v	29	Alnwick 2
Game 5	Winner Game 2 – Novos	HWO	v		Whitley Bay Rockcliff
Game 6	North Shields	21	v	32	Winner Game 1 – Ponteland

~~*(Game 3 being played Friday 27th, 7pm)*~~ *Morpeth v Medicals now 25.11.23 – 2pm ko*
21.11.23 – Medicals have withdrawn from the competition and have been replaced by Border Park
Morpeth v Border Park is Friday 8th March at 7pm

Plate Round – Semi Final

Ashington, Morpeth Reivers, Northern Wanderers, Percy Park Lions

Two pool winners in the final on (prov) 13th April.

CUP Semi Finals – Saturday 25th November

Game 7	Winner Game 6 – Ponteland	25	v	15	Winner Game 3 – Border Park
Game 8	Winner Game 5 – Novos	29	v	20	Winner Game 4 - Alnwick 2

Plate Final – date tbc

Winner Game 7 – Ponteland		v		Winner Game 8 – Novos

Plate Shield Final – Weds 17th April

Ashington	17	v	21	Morpeth Reivers

Notes 12.04.24

Plate Final

Needs to be played asap – referee pressure on weekend of 27th so need to look at 20th as potential date and spread load across refs and pres team.

Semi Final – Ponteland v Border Park – re arranged to Tues 16th April.

Final – Sat 20th April – asking Northern to host (Paul ringing Ron to check avail of pitch/facility).

Dave contacting Novos to update.

Dave contacting Border Park to update.

Paul contacting colleagues at Ponteland to update.

Plate Shield Final

Agreed new trophy to be purchased.

Morpeth have a trophy that can be used for photos for Weds night.

Request ~~Ian Storey~~ takes squad photos. Iain Douglas.

Request ~~that someone~~ at club purchased the changing room slabs of beer for post match. Tom Moore purchasing the beer.

(Claire sending Shield final notes to host club)

Update 15.04.24 – Cup Final – Border Park can't play 20th.

Needs to be discussion between finalists after SF match is played – two clubs need to agree a date. Can be played midweek. Can do toss of coin. If needs be, if suitable date can't be found, discuss holding over final to start of next season.

Update 17.04.24

Good Morning All

Following the completion of the semi final round of the Senior Plate last night the other finalist for this competition has now been confirmed as Ponteland.

Both Novos and Ponteland have asked Dave Challenger to set a date for the match to be played as you cannot agree on a date for the final to be played.

Note, Saturday 20th April is no longer an option due to referee shortage.

Taking into account conversations and information re player availability in the numerous calls and mails that have been received over the last week, Dave has made a decision and the date is now set – Tuesday 23rd April. 7pm kick off.

Now a date has been set the two clubs now need to agree to play.

If this date does not work then you have two options:

Option One – find a date that works for both clubs

Option Two – share the cup.

Please confirm by noon on Friday (at the latest) what you have agreed.

The match will be played at a neutral venue.

Thanks

Claire (on behalf of the comps working group)

Senior Shield

Teams - Blyth, Gosforth, Prudhoe & Stocksfield, Seghill, Wallsend

Teams play each other in a league

(please note dates have been tweaked as original dates had cup games in on what are now league weekends)

Key	Match Card Received

Match One – August as pre season (no change to dates)

Gosforth	58	v	15	Wallsend
Blyth	PP	v	PP	Prudhoe & Stocksfield
Bye – Seghill				

Seghill have withdrawn from the competition

Match Two – Saturday 21st October (changed from 2nd or 9th September)

Seghill	XX	v	XX	Gosforth
Wallsend	43	v	41	Blyth
Bye – Prudhoe & Stocksfield				

Match Three – Saturday 28th October (changed from 7th October)

Prudhoe & Stocksfield	Pitches	v	AWO	Gosforth
Wallsend	XX	v	XX	Seghill
Bye – Blyth				

Prudhoe & Stocksfield v Gosforth is now being played as league and cup double header on 6th January

08.01.24 - Prudhoe conceded cup tie to Gosforth

Match Four – either Saturday 6th January or Saturday 3rd February (changed from 25th November)

Seghill	XX	v	XX	Prudhoe & Stocksfield
Gosforth		v		Blyth
Bye – Wallsend				

Has the Gosforth v Blyth match taken place – question posted in Whatsapp 22.02.24

Match Five – Saturday 13th April (no change)

Prudhoe & Stocksfield		v		Wallsend
Blyth	XX	v	XX	Seghill
Bye – Gosforth				

~~Final – Saturday 20th April at a venue tbc~~

		v		

Notes 12.04.24

As Seghill and Prudhoe & Stocksfield have withdrawn – now becomes round robin format with the three remaining teams.

One match needs to be played – Blyth v Gosforth. Match needs to be at Blyth as they have not had a home game. Paul ringing Jimmy. Andy sorting out a ref.

Mail sent to clubs 15.04.24

Yes - I can help you with this one!

And just so everyone is aware of what was discussed and agreed on Friday I am also copying in Blyth and Wallsend.

Members of the Comps working group met on Friday afternoon to go through the cups and review where things are with teams, teams withdrawing, schedules, venues for finals etc. Weather has created mayhem and the cups need to be completed by the end of this month.

Two teams have withdrawn from the Senior Shield (Prudhoe & Stocksfield and Seghill) so all of their matches have been removed from the comp. That then leaves Gosforth, Wallsend and Blyth.
With the results recorded:
Gosforth 58 Wallsend 15
Wallsend 43 Blyth 41
The final match needs to be Blyth v Gosforth (so Blyth get a home game) and that game, it is being suggested, is played this Saturday - 20th April. Andy (copied in) has been asked to provide a referee so we have done that for you.
The Blyth v Gosforth match result will determine who wins the Shield.

Paul Walker may have already been in touch with Jimmy (it was one of the many actions we had from Friday!) as Paul will be asking Jimmy to get some slabs of beer into the changing rooms for both teams post match, while Andy sorts a slab for the Wallsend players (they can have theirs after the Papa Johns). (Please send receipts through and I will make sure that you are reimbursed asap). Jimmy will also be asked if someone from Blyth can take some squad photos of the Blyth and Gosforth teams which we can then use for the presentations evening on 29th May (members of all three teams will be invited to attend).

So hope that answers the question - one game to be played and that match result will determine who wins the Shield.

16.04.24 – update

Blyth v Gosforth confirmed as being played on Sat 20th April – 2pm kick off.

Gosforth	58	v	15	Wallsend
Wallsend	43	v	41	Blyth
Blyth	31	v	27	Gosforth

Based on the above results, Gosforth are declared winners of the Shield Competition

22.04.24 – Appeal from Blyth received. Information being reviewed by Working Group.

No2 Cup

As this year – with two pools of x4 teams. (Pools to be determined via a draw)

Teams - Ashington 2, Alnwick Lions, Berwick Bears, Medicals 2, Morpeth Edwardians, Novos 2, Tynedale Centurions, Whitley Bay Rockcliff Vikings

(Pools listed below – pools listed as teams came out of the hat and given a number 1-4 which then allowed the draws to take place)

Key	Match Card Received

Pool One	**Pool Two**
Medicals 2	Novos 2
Whitley Bay Rockcliff Vikings	Alnwick Lions
~~Berwick Bears~~	Tynedale Centurions
Ashington 2	Morpeth Edwardians

Match One – Saturday 7th October

Pool One	Medicals 2	53	v	0	Whitley Bay Rockcliff Vikings
Pool One	Berwick Bears				Ashington 2
Pool Two	Novos 2	45	v	31	Alnwick Lions
Pool Two	Tynedale Centurions	Win	V	Lose	Morpeth Edwardians

Match Two – Saturday 13th April

Pool One	Ashington 2	40	v	53	Medicals 2
Pool One	Whitley Bay Rockcliff Vikings		v		Berwick Bears
Pool Two	Morpeth Edwardians	22	v	42	Novos 2
Pool Two	Alnwick Lions	57	v	22	Tynedale Centurions

Match Three – Saturday 20th April

Pool One	Medicals 2		v		Berwick Bears
Pool One	Whitley Bay Rockcliff Vikings	36	v	24	Ashington 2
Pool Two	Novos 2	36	v	19	Tynedale Centurions
Pool Two	Alnwick Lions	80	v	17	Morpeth Edwardians

Finals – Saturday 27th April at Seghill RFC

Medicals 2		v		Novos 2

Notes 12.04.24

Agreed to approach Seghill to see if they would like to host final.

Once venue is confirmed will then sort out the changing room beers, squad photos etc and confirm catering arrangements.

Claire to action

Mail sent to club on 15.04.24.

16.04.24 – Seghill confirmed as venue for final on Saturday 27th April

No3 Cup

Blyth 2, North Shields Crusaders, Novos 3, Ponteland 2

Four teams Everyone plays each other

We have looked at the programme – there is no way to incorporate a cup now due to the backlog of fixtures, the state of pitches due to recent weather etc

If this cup was to run, three matches need to be played. Fixture Secretaries can work out the schedule of matches around current fixture list (trying to make this as easy as possible to get the games in).

All the teams noted above are in the Aln League – so you could double up and play a joint cup/league match as well as scheduling in stand alone matches – is this workable, do you want this?

Update 21.02.24 (Whatsapp from Paul to teams in the Cup)

Hi everyone the draw for the no3 northumberland cup was drawn by ken fraser in county office at lunchtime claire sharpe and pw in attendance and was as foĺlows

Ponteland 2s v Novos 3rds

N Shields Crusaders v Blyth 2s. – 30.03.24

Mutually agreed dates if possible.

County Cup games takes precedent over county league fixtures

Hopefully we can arrange so a final in early to mid April can be arranged. End of April seems quite congested for higher cup finals etc. Any probs or queries dont hesitate to get in touch. PW

North Shields	26	v	19	Blyth
Ponteland 2	36	v	19	Novos 3

Final (at Northern) – 20.04.24 –
Novos 3 29 North Shields Crusaders 26

Notes 12.04.24

Date of final agreed – Saturday 20th April – Paul Walker approaching Ron Borley to see if Northern can host. (would be two matches at Northern as can do the Plate final too)

Once venue confirmed we can then sort out other arrangements.

Semi Final Complaint.

Complaint received from Novos. Complaint notes that Ponteland played 6 members of Seghill in the match against them. Screenshot of Seghill social media naming the players.

Debate around "Game On" principles – good the match has been played and has given players from another club the opportunity to play (and Seghill players are not cup tied).

However, there was no pre match discussion with Novos re the inclusion of the players guesting from Seghill.

Guidance has always been speak to opposition before you play to discuss any potential issues and to reach any agreements that need to be made re players. This guidance was not followed.

Ponteland have therefore broken the rules of the competition as they have not played bona fide members of their club and did not approach opposition to discuss this before the match was played.

Decision – Novos through to the final.

Andy agreed to inform Novos.

Paul agreed to inform Ponteland.

Final is North Shields v Novos – Saturday 20th April

Confirmed venue of Northern (one match at 3pm - Plate Final to be played on another date)

Chris Brown to be approached to take squad photos for presentations evening.

Other arrangements being sorted between Paul and Ron.

<u>16.04.24 – notification re Final and dispensation for players</u>

Hi Claire

Novos 3's have asked for a dispensation for the following lads ahead of their cup game v NSRFC 2's this coming weekend.

Any McQuillan
Rich Zabrocki
Ian Wood
Christian Selkirk
Rhys Spowart
Ethan Morton

NSRFC are happy for this dispensation to be approved.

Many thanks

Simon Forster
NSRFC
Chairman of Rugby

<u>16.04.24 – notification re Final and dispensation for players</u>

Hi,

Thanks Simon, all good from our end.

We agree to dispensation for Andrew Maxwell for you boys too.

Thanks for the timely response and nice to get this confirmed early doors. Good luck with your prep this week, we look forward to the game on Saturday.

Regards, Jack

Vets Rugby

(incorporating Cups 4 and 5 – cup format to be agreed with participating teams over summer)

Prov Dates are:

Fri 15th Sept 2023 @ Blyth

Fri 17th Nov 2023 @ Ashington

Fri 19th Jan 2024 @ WB Rockliff (AGP) - please book

Fri 15th Mar 2024 @ Novos

Fri 3rd May 2024 @ Morpeth Beer Festival