Colts Report

Date – 16.10.2025

Report compiled by (complied) Alan Gardiner

Key events, issues, and achievements since the last report.

17th Sept – 7's County Cup held at Alnwick RFC. An excellent evening which say 9 teams compete for the Cup, Tynedale took the cup in an exciting final v Alnwick 1, which saw enthusiastic crowd support.

Teams entered:
Alnwick x2
Berwickshire (Berwick & Duns)
Blyton (Blyth & Ashington)
Gosforth
Novos
Whitley Bay Rockcliff
Tynedale
Barbarians team (Volunteer players on the night)

Northern and Morpeth had to withdraw before the event due to a lack of players.

Good level of enthusiasm to continue with this cup event next season. I wonder if there is some scope to develop a 7's league?

County Cup (15's) 10 teams entered. First round fixtures are near completion:

Whitley Bay Rockcliff 53 – Blyton 12
Novos 29 – Morpeth 21
Parcy Park win – Berwickshire conceded due to player numbers.
Tynedale 49 – Gosforth 14
Northern v Alnwick (29th Oct

Club Colts Autumn Festivals – these have not proceeded as clubs feel that there have been sufficient playing opportunities so far in consideration of varied player availability.

National Cup – 4 Northumberland Teams entered, Alnwick, Tynedale, Percy Park & Novos. – Good representation as have to be accepted.

Alnwick have now decided to withdraw from the event. Round 1:

- Consett v **Alnwick** – Alnwick win
- Carlisle v **Tynedale** – Carlisle withdrew
- Percy Park v **Darlington** RFC (Park Withdrawn)

- Stockton RFC v **Novos** – Novos win

After a good showing from the Northumberland clubs with 3 out of 4 wins, Alnwick and Novos have decided to withdraw. Tynedale get a second bye through to the next round.

Whilst Tynedale have big player numbers and are enthusiastic about the event, others have found that poor player numbers and the additional travel have been an issue. It's a shame as a good cup run is an opportunity for the players to face different teams and represent Northumberland and North East rugby.

ACE Player management - A positive development following a meeting between Steve Turnbull and Lawrence Patton has been Lawrence joining our Northumberland Colts Committee and providing a weekly update on minutes played by each player in the ACE scheme. This allows for clubs to know when these players are available and for how long and so maintaining that crucial club relationship whilst not risking over playing.

Colts Futures Festival (U16's / U17's) – Still being prevented from holding this by RFU despite overwhelming positive responses from everyone that I speak to about this. Aim to ease transition to colts, to be held around Easter before players head off to study for GCSE's. Player retention initiative. I need help with this! How can we get this across the line and make it happen?

I know that Penny Stewart and others are pushing this forward. I look forward to an update on progress and timescales. Penny has advised that she is hoping that this will be accepted as an RFU national trial event.

Current and impending issues, events, and work streams

As above. All in hand except Colts Futures Festival which I need help with! A safeguarding risk assessment proposal needs to be written to deliver to RFU to obtain consent. This could be a great test event for RFU with over 200 players taking part.

Budget for all events has been submitted.

Issues requiring Decision, Discussion or Dissemination

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