UNDER 17S:

We put together a new coaching team of Myself, Scott Thompson and Matt Currie to support Steve for this season with Billy also continuing. From the beginning we decided to make the players feel that U17s was important and not a selection process for U18s. Dan Swift was appointed captain and has been a superb choice.

The 2 assessment centres drew over 50 players which we trimmed down to a squad of 34.

Attendance and attitude at training has been superb with hardly any players missing sessions and a real enthusiasm and great attitude was displayed by a talented bunch of players.

Matches:

We approached the matches trying to give the players a real 1st team professional experience.

v Durham we had the game all sewn up then conceded a questionable try. This seemed to transform the match and we ended up losing by 1 point in a very close fought contest.

v Cumbria the team were really up for the match after the Durham result. A few changes were made and we won the game very comfortably dominating in most areas of the match.

v Yorkshire a really tough trip to Driffield to play Yorkshire. They took an early lead before we kicked into gear. The players showed some superb skills playing edge to edge rugby and also dominated in the set piece. Yorkshire, with a good home crowd, battled back and 2 quick tries levelled the scores. Northumberland showed great resilience to register the 1st win away in Yorkshire at u17s anyone can remember.

Overall a superb campaign with a really dialled in group of players.

Andrew Neal, Under 17s Team Manager