RUGBY AT SEDBERGH SCHOOL

When people think of Sedbergh School they often think rugby. SSFC has long been at the forefront of schoolboy rugby and we are very proud of that. The Club has espoused the values of teamwork, friendship, resilience, humility and endeavour which are as relevant today, as they were back in 1879.

Dan Harrison, Headmaster, Sedbergh School

- 1800's
- 1900-20
- 1920-30
- 1930-50
- 1950-60
- 1960-70
- 1970-90
- 1990-2000
- 2000-2010
- 2010-present

1871
The Rugby Football Union came into existence with its laws based on those of Rugby School.

1879
First inter House match

1879
1879 Sedbergh School Football Club was founded by Henry Heppenstall however he died in the summer and it was acting Headmaster Rev. J.W. Burrow that first saw the Club take to the field in the Brown jerseys which bore the Club's monogram in thread of gold.

1879
R.A. Shepherd was the Club's first captain and his secretary was F. Thompson.

1879
First "foreign" match was against Kendal Town but with 20 minutes left to play it became too dark and " the ball could not be distinguished against the players jerseys" It was decided to stop the game leaving the match drawn.

1879
First inter-school fixture against Windermere College.

1881
First match against Giggleswick.

1882
First School match against the Old Sedberghians.

1897
Sedbergh produced its first international player for Scotland: R.G. Stevenson (S 83-91).

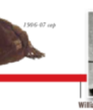
1889
Football Song composed/performed.

1889
First match against Loretto.

John Menzies Baillie Scott
Sedgwick House 1901-1903
Scott was one of Sedbergh's greatest forwards. He was a member of the XV in 1903 and 1904 and captained the side in 1903. He wrote early definitive book *Rugby Football & How to Play It* based on Sedbergh's strong forward play and effective dribbling of the ball which Scotland teams subsequently adopted.

Sedbergh v Leeds 1903

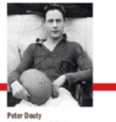
Frederick Turner
Sedgwick House 1902-07
Played 1st XV in 1905 and 1906 and captained Sedbergh in 1906. Turner was one of many Liverpool Scottish at Sedbergh. He captained Scotland for the last pre-war Calcutta Cup game at Murrayfield in March 1913 before the outbreak of war. At the post-match dinner he invited the English Captain, R.W. Poulton-Palmer, to stop off at Sedbergh on the return journey to run the Ten Mile. Outstanding athletics and friends they were both killed in Flanders.



1906-07 cap

William Wavell Wakefield, 1st Baron Wakefield of Kendal
School House 1912-16
After playing for Sedbergh and serving in the Royal Flying Corps during the war, Wakefield went on to captain England and later became President of the Rugby Union. He rated T.A. Herdman (SH 1913-1915) who was killed in 1918 as one of Sedbergh's greatest forwards and W.F.T. Le Touche (S 1909-1914), disabled in the war as one of Sedbergh's greatest fly halves.

1913
R.W. Poulton-Palmer
Reckoned to be the finest ever centre to play for England in the early years. Poulton-Palmer asked if he could play at Sedbergh as one of the 'cradles of the game'. He guested for Liverpool at Sedbergh in March 1913, playing on Back Lane pitches. W.W. Wakefield was the touch judge in that game.



Peter Dooty
School House 1917-22
Peter was a Scotland international rugby union player. He played for Headingley, Cambridge University and London Scottish. He played three times for Scotland in the 1927–28 season. He also went on the 1927 British Lions tour to Argentina and played for the Barbarians seven times between 1925 and 1927.

Roger Wakefield OBE
School House 1919-23
Roger played for Cambridge University, Harlequins and for the British Lions in 1927.

1929's
The game at Sedbergh breaks new ground, with various positional experiments including 2 scrumhalves, New Zealand style 1st 3/8 in place of fly half and back row permutations which anticipated todays 3-4-1 in place of the prevailing 3-2-3 scrum formation.

1929
1st XV matches move to Powell House pitch on Cricket Field.

1923
Buckholme hosts first matches.

1926 and 1927
England achieved first ever back to back Grand Slam under captaincy of WW. Wakefield.

Will Greenwood OBE
Evans House 1985-91
Will played club rugby for Preston Grasshoppers, Waterloo, Harlequins and Leicester Tigers. In 1997 he made his England debut and was selected for the British & Irish Lions' tour. He was in the England team for the Six Nations and World Cup in 2003. He was made vice-captain for the 2004 Six Nations tournament. In 2005 he was selected for the British & Irish Lions tour to New Zealand. He retired at the end of the 2005/6 season. He has worked as an analyst for Sky Sports and appears on 'The Rugby Club' and live premiership matches. He also writes a column on the Daily Telegraph discussing the England rugby team

1989
Centenary match against Loretto. Sedbergh win 20-15.

Will Carling OBE
Winder House 1979-84
Will was made captain of the rugby 1st XV in his final year at school. He played for Rosslyn Park and Harlequins. He was England's youngest captain, aged 22, and won 72 caps from 1988 to 1996, captaining England 59 times. Under his captaincy, England won Five Nations Grand Slams in 1991, 1992 and 1995, and reached the 1991 World Cup final. Played for British Lions in 1993. In 2018 he joined the England coaching staff as a leadership mentor. After his rugby career, he became a TV pundit and worked as a motivational speaker and in 2001 founded Will Carling Management Ltd, a corporate hospitality company.

1979
SSFC celebrates its centenary. On 16 September an International England XV captained by J.S. Spencer (E) played an International Scotland XV captained by M.A. Biggar. England winning 28-6 followed on 30th October by a match between SSFC 1st XV v Yorkshire Schools XV on Bucklebotham.

John Spencer
Evans House 1961-66
John played for Cambridge in the Varsity Matches of 1967, 1968 and 1969. He played club rugby for Headingley and made his England debut in 1969. He played 14 times for England and captained England in four internationals. He played for the British Lions and Barbarians. Spencer was President of the RFU in 2017-18 and President of the Wharfedale R.U.F.C. in Grassington. He was tour manager for the British & Irish Lions on their 2017 tour to NZ. In 2019 he was named as President of the Barbarians.

Alastair Biggar
Sedgwick 1960-64
Alastair joined London Scottish in 1966. He was capped twelve times for Scotland, including the Five Nations seasons of 1970, 1971 and 1972. He toured New Zealand in 1971 with the British and Irish Lions. He played 7 matches for the Barbarians between 1968 and 1970.

Alan Barnes
Lupton 1933-61
Father of David Barnes (L 09-93) had an anonymous (and unapproved) leave of absence in his final year at Sedbergh for a rugby league trial with Hunslet and is offered professional terms.

1934
Sedbergh play Blackrock College again and T.G.A.H. Peart (W 1950-55) "played the game of this life". The result was 16-16 draw in front of an even larger crowd.

1933
Sedbergh travel to Dublin to play Blackrock College in front of a 6,000 crowd at Donnybrook. The result was a 5-5 draw. £250 was raised for charity from gate receipts.

T.G.A.H. Peart

1948
Also known as the 'Sedbergh Varsity Match' as 4 Sedberghians were selected for Oxford or Cambridge:

A.W. Scott (SH) for Cambridge

A.F. Dorward (SH) for Cambridge

P.W. Kinsmouth (L) for Oxford

G.M. Wilson (H) for Cambridge

Geoffrey Wilson was awarded his Blue but then injured before the game at Twickenham.

H.H. Mills also played in the Cambridge side of 1948, and A.F. Barter in the 1954 side. They both opted to teach at Sedbergh as their first post after graduation, and went on to distinguished academic and coaching success as Masters i/c SSFC.

A.F. Dorward

1938's
Two Scottish Sedberghian internationals share similar feats at Murrayfield in achieving wins over the much fancied Welsh teams of the 1950's by dropping spectacular goals from the touchline in the dying moments to close out or snatch the win – P.W. Kinsmouth in 1951, which Scotland won 19-0, and A.F. Dorward in 1957 when Scotland won 9-6 in a major upset.

Post 1945
Sedbergh benefits from 4 distinguished rugby masters:

- D.R. Vaughan (1948-51), England International, capped 8 times 45-51
- H.H. Mills MC PhD (1953-62), Cambridge Blue and final trialist in 1947
- A.F. Barter (1962-73), Welsh fly half and triple Cambridge Blue, Cardiff player and Final Welsh trialist in 1957
- Brooke Dosse (1963-2000) of Trinity College Dublin 1948 whose brother Peter Dosse (TCD, Lansdowne, Leinster and Final Irish Trialist) was School Medical Officer 1995-2004

A.F. Barter

B. Dosse

Peter Kinsmouth
Lupton House 1937-1942
Kinsmouth played 21 games for Scotland and captained them 8 times after the War and played for the Lions in the early 50's tour of New Zealand (though not as the appointed Tour Captain). He never played above Littleside at Sedbergh. His elder brother was very much the star. Peter joined the army from school and served throughout the war as a Ghurkha officer in some very tough combat zones, returning to the rugby field to become a distinguished player and international Captain.

1939
Sedbergh's National reputation is cemented – won 46; lost 5; drew 4 against school boy teams.

1939
1st XV matches move to Buckholme.

Early 1930's
The Sedberghian features fierce correspondence between Common Room, writing under 'noms de plume', C.H. "Bugg" Evans and J.M.B. Scott, voicing arguments for and against man to man marking and what today would be known as drift and blitz defences. This reflects the intensity of the game's development in the university and public schools.

The varsity match 1932

1932
The varsity match was known as the "Sedbergh Match" with H.M. Kelly and SL Waide (L) playing for Oxford and the Leather brothers, W.H. & W.J. (S), for Cambridge.

1928
Buckholme Pavilion completed. Now called the Wavell Wakefield Pavilion in honour of William Wavell Wakefield, Captain of England and OS.

Shaun Waide
Lupton House 1926-1931
Waide at Sedbergh. Waide trialled for Ireland and was capped while at Oxford University in 1932. He played against Wales in Cardiff , a match celebrated by being played throughout with an over inflated ball which the referee refused to replace.

Shaun Waide shaking hands with King George VI

Mike McCarthy
School House 1993-2000
Mike enjoyed a distinguished career with London Wasps, Connacht, Newcastle Falcons, and Leinster. Initially part of the England age-grade pathway, he later committed his international future to Ireland. He made his senior debut in a 2011 Rugby world Cup warm-up game and retained his spot in the 2011, 2012 & 2013 six nations squads and 2012 November Internationals.

1993
First Sedbergh School rugby ball to orbit the Earth aboard STS-56 Discovery.

James Simpson-Daniel
School House 1994-2000
James spent his entire professional career with Gloucester Rugby. He made his England debut in 2002, played in the 2003 Six Nations, and later toured with England in 2006 to Australia and 2007 to South Africa, as well as featuring for the England Saxons in 2008. After retiring in 2014, James transitioned into business and is now Marketing Director of *The Lane Kingdom*, an ostrich meat importer.

Ewan Dowes
Winder House 1997-99
In 2000, Ewan represented England at the Junior World Cup Championship before making history as the first player to sign a dual-code contract with Leeds Tykes (union) and Leeds Rhinos (league). He went on to build a successful rugby league career, playing for Hull from 2003 to 2011 before spells in Australia, Workington Town, and Dewsbury Rams. He also represented England between 2004 and 2006. Since retiring, he has established a career as a financial adviser.

Carl Fearns
Powell House 2004-07
Carl played for Sale Sharks, Bath, Lyon, Rouen, and Newcastle Falcons across a decorated club career. He captained England U18 and was a standout for England U20 at the 2005 Junior World Championship, helping his side reach the final. His performances earned him a nomination for the IRB Junior Player of the Year award, highlighting his status as one of the most promising young forwards.

December 2004 - December 2007
School record of 38 consecutive wins – containing unbeaten seasons in 2005 and 2006.

1999
First time Sedbergh wins the National 7s Open at Rosslyn Park

2003
First unbeaten 1st XV since 1983.

2003
SJS U13's and Cobs U16's win National 7's at Rosslyn Park

2004
SSFC celebrates 125th anniversary. All Ampleforth fixtures are played at Sedbergh culminating with 1st XV on Bucklebotham.

2006
Rugby World School Team of the Year.

2008
U18's win National 7's for second time.

2009
Rugby World School Team of the Year – unbeaten.

Tomas Francis
Winder House 2005-08
Thomas has enjoyed a long professional career with Doncaster Knights, London Scottish, Exeter Chiefs, Ospreys, and, since 2023, Provence Rugby. He made his international debut for Wales in 2015 and went on to establish himself as a cornerstone of the national side's front row. In 2017, he was called up as cover for the British & Irish Lions tour to New Zealand.

Abbie Ward (née Scott)
Robertson House 2009-11
Abbie is Sedbergh's first female rugby international, making her England debut in 2015. She went on to feature in the 2017, 2021, 2022, and 2025 Women's Rugby World Cups, playing a central role in England's all-winning campaign in 2025. A key leader, she has also captained and vice-captained England during the Women's Six Nations. At club level, Abbie has represented Mowden Park, Harlequins Women, and since 2021, Bristol Bears Women.

October 2010
Nearly 6 years of being unbeaten at home comes to an end with a loss to Durham 24-33. Previous home defeat was to Stonyhurst in 2004.

Bevan Rodd
Evans House 2011-18
Bevan has played for Sale Sharks since 2019. At age-grade level, he represented England U16 and U18 before playing in the 2019 Six Nations U20's Championship. He made his England debut in the 2021 Autumn Nations Series and was later selected for the 2023 Rugby World Cup squad.

James Botham
Evans House 2011-18
James has played for Cardiff since 2016. He represented Wales U18 and U20 before stepping into the Sevens programme in 2017, competing on the World Rugby Sevens Series. He made his senior debut for Wales in the 2020 Autumn Nations Cup and went on to be selected for the 2021 Six Nations and July Tests. He returned to the squad in 2024 for the Autumn Nations Series.

Alex Moon
Winder House 2012-16
Alex came through at Northampton Saints before joining French Top 14 side Bayonne in 2024. At age-grade level, he represented England U20 in the 2016 Six Nations. He received his first senior call-up in 2020 as part of England's Six Nations squad.

2012
Rugby World School Team of the year.

Josh Hodge
Powell House 2013-18
Josh began his professional career with Newcastle Falcons before joining Exeter Chiefs in 2022. A product of the England age-grade system, he represented the U18, U19, and U20 sides. In 2020, he was called into the senior England squad as an apprentice for the Six Nations, and in 2024 he featured for England A.

2013
Sedbergh win Rosslyn Park Open tournament.

2013
Sedbergh National Super Tens Winners.

Cameron Redpath
Sedgwick House 2016-18
Cameron began his professional career at Sale Sharks before moving to Bath in 2020. At youth level, he represented Scotland U16, both Scotland and England U18, and later England U20 at the Six Nations in 2018 and U20's World Cup Championship in 2019. In 2021, he made his senior breakthrough with Scotland in the Six Nations and was part of Scotland's squad for the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

2016
B1 win Natwest Schools Cup beating Wellington College in the final 24-17 at Twickenham

2017
Sedbergh National Super Tens Winners; 1st XV won the Daily mail Trophy

2018
Under 18s winners of Rosslyn Park 7s Tournament; Under 16s winners of Rosslyn Park 7s Tournament; Sedbergh National Super Tens Winners; 1st XV won the Daily mail Trophy.

2019
Under 18s winners of Rosslyn Park 7s Tournament; Sedbergh National Super Tens Winners.

2019
The new unbeaten record of 41 games ended in December 2019.

Phil Dowson
Phil represented Worcester Warriors, Newcastle Falcons, and Northampton Saints during a long and successful playing career. On the international stage, he played for England Sevens at the 2005 World Cup in Hong Kong and went on to earn multiple caps for the England Saxons. He made his full England debut in the 2012 Six Nations and, following retirement in 2017, moved into coaching. He is currently Director of Rugby at Northampton Saints, winning the Premiership title in the 23/24 campaign.

SSF Club Plate from the 1936 Fundraising Appeal

Masters I/C Football

FP LeMarchand 1885-1916	RWW Dosse 1962-1963
GH Todd 1916-19	AF Barter 1963-1969
FHB Champain 1919-1921	VHB Dosse 1969-1978
CH Evans 1921-1932	KP Wedd 1978-1987
LH Collison 1932-1940	MAF Raw 1987-1991
JCM Brooks 1940-1941	NA Rollings 1991-2000
JH Bruce-Lockhart 1941-1944	DJ Harrison 2000-2011
JV Begley 1944-1945	JD Tiffany 2011-2013
DM Vaughan 1945-1951	SL Mulholland 2013-2025
LH Collison 1951-1952	S Moore 2025-present
HH Mills 1953-1961	

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