

# Castleford RUFC



Match Report Archive

28 January 2012

Leodiensians 3 XV 14 Castleford 3XV 19.

After two defeats Cas thirds bounced back with a gutsy win over a confident Leo's team who were looking to do the double over Cas after their 22-5 win earlier in the season at Willowbridge lane.

For the first 20 minutes Cas took a pounding as the big Leos' pack took the game to them, but outstanding defence led by hooker Jody Griffiths and flanker Jake Fisher thwarted everything that was thrown at them. Just when they thought they had weathered the storm Cas were hit with a try out of the blue as stand in centre Simon Pye broke clear in his own 22 but his attempted pass was intercepted by the Leo's winger and he sped away to score under the posts the conversion was added and Leo's led 7-0.

This just spurred Cas on and they hit back immediately when full back Mark Poppleton collected a loose ball and fed winger Alistair O'Gara he skipped past his opposite number and slipped the ball inside to centre Stefan Longfellow and he powered over to score under the posts. Simon Greenhalgh added the conversion and Cas were all square at half time 7-7.

The second half started with a bang as young flanker Josh Rolfe put in a crunching tackle on his opposite number and the resulting field position gave Cas a chance to score but prop Howard Stephenson was held up over the line. Cas kept the pressure on but the Leo's centre picked the ball up and ran the length of the field to make the score 14-7.

Cas could have let their heads fall but with second row forwards Mark and Gary Fisher and loose forward Chris Synnet taking the game to Leos the game was wide open and after Synnet had made one of his trademark bursts up field standoff Craig Dudley sent out a beautifully timed pass to Alistair O'Gara who had run a perfect line and he scooted in from 25 metres to score. The conversion was missed but Cas were right back in the game at 14-12.

Leos cranked up the pressure but the Cas line held firm and just when it looked like they would crack young winger Farai Mugwagwa picked up a loose ball and went on a mazy 70 metre run and was bundled into touch just short of the Leos' line. The home side secured the ball from the line out but from the resulting pressure from the Cas forwards they lost possession this allowed Cas to switch the ball to the blind side where Dudley took the ball ten metres out and threw an outrageous dummy to score out wide. Greenhalgh added the conversion and Cas led for the first time in the game 19-14. Leos threw everything they had at Cas for the last five minutes but once again their defence stood firm for a well deserved victory which owed a lot to heart and a desire to win.

Best for Cas were

3points Chris Synnet

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2 points Jody Griffiths

1 point Craig Dudley and Jake Fisher

**7 January 2012**

**Castleford 1XV 20 v Dinnington 10**

**Castleford started off the New Year with a home game against Dinnington.**

The first ten minutes were dominated by the visitors although the strong Castleford defence ensured little progress was made. From the first Castleford attack Martin Dye raced through a gap and was unfortunate to be tackled inches short after a 50 metre run. Following a scrum against the head Mattison failed narrowly with a penalty attempt. Full back Dale Turner returning from injury made a stirring run and after being tackled just short the ball was swiftly moved to captain Craig Jeffels who dived over in the corner. Ian Mattison was unable to convert in gale like conditions.

Following a clean take by lock Paul Connell the ball came quickly to Dye who raced half the length of the field to score a great solo try, converted by Mattison to give the home side a 10-0 lead. However this was soon negated as a Castleford dropped ball led to the Dinnington winger racing in unopposed for a converted try against the run of play.

Just before half time hooker Brad Christian scored a hallmark try scattering the visitor's defence to race 30 metres to score a converted try to give the hosts a deserved 17-7 lead.

10 minutes into the second half a Dinnington penalty reduced the arrears to 7 points. Playing into the teeth of the strong wind Castleford showed great resolution in defence with the back row of Simon Davies, Paul Philpott, and Chris Redfearn thwarting any attack. At times Castleford were hanging on but they had chances to extend their lead although the conditions were against them.

Nevertheless the home side finished the stronger and after going close earned a penalty to celebrate their first win for 3 months.

The front row of Ash Plant, Steve Clough, and Brad Christian deserve a special mention for winning the battle of the front rows taking 5 heels against the head.

**7 January 2012**

**Castleford Cougars 39 v Sandal 0**

**Castleford started the New Year with their best performance of the season so far; hosting Sandal at home and starting impressively with some excellent attacking moves.**

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From a lineout Castleford won the ball and fed the backs. Some good interplay led to Shaun Clough bursting through a gap in the defence and sprinting for the try line. Chris Gill converted the extras to give Castleford an early 7 nil lead.

Cas maintained the pressure when Mark Small made a break and offloaded to Andy Bird outside the 22 yard line who set off in field and, after smashing through several would be tacklers, was unlucky to be held up over the line. Castleford carried on the impressive start with some excellent breaks and good link up play from Adam Wrigglesworth and Gareth Grant Mills, leading to Clough again taking advantage of the impressive back plays scoring two more well worked tries to complete his first half hat trick. The halftime score saw Castleford up 17 - 0.

The second half started the same with Castleford on the front foot. Castleford kept the ball in the forwards which was to their benefit, as they were dominant in the scrums with Dave Clark and Mick Huby showing their supremacy over their opponents. Skipper Chris Reavley took advantage of this and scrummed whenever possible. The fourth try came from a scrum with Reavley picking up and running at the Sandal defence, Man of the Match Alfie Knapp popped the ball to Luke Kenyon who burst through several defenders to score a well-earned try.

More forward dominance from Mike Watts and Dave Gittens led to a ruck 20 yards from the Sandal line. Knapp fed Cloughy who popped to Reavley who beat his defender to score from 10 yards out; Chris Gill converted the extras.

The last two tries came from the backs, with Castleford running the show. John Senior, playing his first game since returning from injury, joined the attacking line from full back, received the ball from Wrigglesworth and cut back inside to find the gap in the defence and drove for the line taking the defender with him to score, proving what how much his absence has cost the team.

The last try came from a neat move from the backs that saw Rob Arthers crash through for another well worked try to complete the Castleford rout.

Skipper Chris Reavley would like to thank all the lads for this impressive performance as everyone played exceptionally well, it is hard to pick out individual performances but Alfie Knapp getting a rare start due to injury played really well and took his opportunity with a Man of the Match performance, also Shaun Clough, Gaz Grant Mills, Adam Wrigglesworth and Luke Kenyon were the pick of the bunch. A special mention must go to Matt Wrigglesworth who didn't make a mistake all match.

# Castleford RUFC



7 January 2012

Ripon 3XV 19 v Castleford 3XV 14

**Cas Thirds lost to top of the table Ripon in a hard fought encounter but with a little better execution late on they could have snatched an unlikely win.**

Cas started strongly and second row forward Gary Fisher made several drives into the Ripon defence but poor decision making from the supporting players meant Cas came away from their opponents' 22 metre with nothing to show. After weathering the early storm Ripon scored against the run of play as centre Craig Dudley slipped whilst trying to clear his own line and from the resulting scrum a back row move from Ripon saw them score at the side of the posts and they led 7-0.

Cas once again tore into their opponents and strong work from Danny Adamson and stand-off Daz Coulson again went without reward as the last pass went to ground or was lost when the Ripon line was at their mercy. Cas were made to pay for this as Ripon scored again just before half time on the back of two penalties which saw them 5 metres away from the Cas line and their inside centre slipped through two tackles to score under the posts and they led 14-0 at half time.

Cas were slow to start and Ripon took advantage of this to score a try in the corner which went unconverted but Ripon led 19-0.

If the home side thought that was done and dusted they were in for a shock as Cas took the game to them and after good work from forwards Josh Rolfe and Jake Fisher, stand-off Coulson split the Ripon defence and his perfectly timed pass saw substitute Tony Baker crash over under the posts, Simon Greenhalgh converted and Cas were back in the game at 19-7.

More strong work from the pack was rewarded as scrum half Greenhalgh, who had started to be more influential in the game broke from the base of a scrum and scored at the side of the posts and added the conversion to make the score 19-14 with 10 minutes left.

Cas once again pressed forward and good work from Mark Poppleton and winger Alistair O'Gara looked to have opened up the Ripon defence but they were thwarted by last ditch tackles. As the clock wound down Cas won a line out 10 metres from the Ripon line but a lack of concentration allowed Ripon to win the ball and clear to touch, the referee blew the final whistle straight after and Ripon were a mighty relieved team as they had led for most of the game but were left hanging on at the end.

Best for Cas were;

3 points                  Simon Greenhalgh

# Castleford RUFC



2 points

Darren Coulson

1 point

Mark Poppleton

17 December 2011

North Ribblesdale 30 v Castleford 1XV 7

**Castleford 1XV's bad run of form continued with another loss away at fellow strugglers, North Ribblesdale.**

Castleford turned up in Settle to find a field that having been cleared of snow was heavy underfoot. On a very chilly day captain Craig Jeffels decided to play with the blinding sun in the Castleford team faces but they were quickly rewarded on their first attack. Following excellent second phase ball produced by the pack the Castleford backs handled well and a break by Craig Fawcett on the home 22 metres resulted in a pass to full back Craig Jeffels who went over to score taking a couple of Ribblesdale defenders with him. Ian Mattison tagged on the conversion and Castleford found themselves 0- 7 up in the first five minutes.

However, the home side soon hit back and made the score 7 -3 after Castleford conceded a penalty for offside under their own posts. The game was evenly contested for the next 15 minutes with both sides cancelling each other out. However, a quick bit of thinking by the Ribblesdale stand off caught the Castleford side napping when he put in an astute cross kick which the Ribblesdale winger fielded. He quickly sped down the line and fed inside to a supporting player who touched down for a try. The conversion was missed but Castleford infringed again on another Ribblesdale attack and the score became 13-7 at half time.

In the second half the home side started to exert more and more pressure as the heavy conditions caused the Castleford side to tire. Handling was difficult and half backs Ian Mattison and Martin Dye continued to try and get the Castleford backs moving forward. In defence, centres Chris Redfern and Craig Fawcett worked tirelessly whilst back rower Stuart Morley and second row Steve Barnes made tackle after tackle against a hard running Ribblesdale back row. Hooker Brad Christian made some powerful runs in mid field to challenge the home defence which proved more than once that they were well up to the task.

However, the home side were fast gaining territorial ascendancy as the second half progressed and Castleford's fate was sealed when hard working prop Gareth Paul dislocated his shoulder and had to leave the field. The home side quickly took advantage by dominating the scrum and lineout adding a penalty and two converted tries in the last quarter to leave the final score 30-7 to North Ribblesdale.

Castleford worked hard throughout the game against well drilled opposition and once again the game was lost in the final quarter despite heroic tackling and committed performances by all the Castleford team.

# Castleford RUFC



**10 December 2011**

**Castleford 1XV 21 v Scarborough 28**

**Castleford entertained Scarborough at Whitwood looking for their first double of the season.**

The home side started brightly and after some smart handling in the backs full back Jake Crossland linked superbly to cross over in the corner. Ian Mattison just failed with the attempted conversion. Unfortunately from the restart a mistake gave the visitors good position and after sustained pressure a kick into the corner eluded the defence to give Scarborough a soft try to draw level.

The next 10 minutes belonged to Scarborough and they made possession tell to score a converted try. However Castleford hit back to do likewise, again from sparkling back play for Craig Jeffels to score and Mattison to convert.

The rest of the half was evenly matched with the home side creating chances but failing to take full advantage. The sides exchanged penalties to go in at half time level at 15-15.

Castleford had the better of the third quarter and aggressive forward play with the back row of Paul Philpott, Chris Redfearn and Simon Davies prominent led to two penalties for which Mattison obliged to give the home team a 21-15 lead. Castleford looked to seal the win with breaks from Martin Dye and Fawcett but again were unable to finish with any score.

Scarborough managed to get into the Castleford half and were clinical in their finishing as they scored wide out to reduce the deficit to one point with 10 minutes to go. Although Castleford responded well it was the Scarborough forwards, following a penalty into the corner drove over from a line-out close to the Castleford line. The conversion gave the visitors a 6 points cushion but Castleford hit back to pound the Scarborough line. Unfortunately time ran out and Castleford had to satisfy themselves with a bonus point.

This was an improved performance from Castleford and the front row of Matty Fisher, Ash Plant and Gareth Paul stuck to their task well. Young fullback Crossland also had an excellent game with his try and some astute field kicking constantly pushing the visitors back.

Next Saturday Cas visit North Ribblesdale and similar commitment to the game could bring that elusive victory.

**10 December 2011**

**Bramley Phoenix 2nd XV 0 v Castleford 3XV 38**

# Castleford RUFC



Cas thirds travelled to Bramley without their first choice prop forwards, but need not have worried as veteran Jeff Hollingshead and Howard Stephenson filled their boots with superb performances which enabled the rest of the team to record their best win of the season.

Cas withstood some early pressure and were camped in their own half for the first 10 minutes and only bone crunching defence from Danny Adamson, Simon Pye and Daz Coulson kept the home side out. Once again flanker Jake Fisher was a consistent irritation as he scrapped for every loose ball and spoiled any chance Bramley had to build and it was Jake Fisher who won the penalty which enabled Cas to clear their lines and when Bramley didn't retire 10 metres the second penalty enabled Simon Pye to bulldoze over from 20 metres out, Simon Greenhalgh converted and Cas led 7-0.

Cas were straight back into the Bramley half and a move from 30 metres out saw stand-off Daz Coulson take a return pass from winger Rich Casey and slide in for a try out wide; the conversion was missed but Cas led 12-0 at the break. The second half started just like the first with Bramley doing all the early pressing but resolute defence from Cas kept them out and once again Cas turned defence into attack as scrum half Greenhalgh scooted down the blind side from a scrum, linked up with centre Neil Collins who drew in the full back and his return pass saw Greenhalgh score at the side of the posts; the conversion was added and Cas led 19-0. This seemed to break the resolve of Bramley and Cas started to throw caution to the wind and after good handling from the backs second row forward Mark Fisher threw a dummy and sprinted through a gap and his perfectly timed pass found second row partner Gary Fisher who romped over for his first try of the season from 2 metres. Greenhalgh added the conversion to take the score to 26-0.

Cas were now in complete control and after good work from the pack, hooker Mick Adamson took a pass 30 metres out from the Bramley line and went on a mazy run past 4 or 5 defenders to score near the posts. Greenhalgh added the extras and Cas led 33-0. The best was left for last as substitute centre Lee Obridge took a pass on half way line and smashed his way through the Bramley defence to score in the corner leaving a trail of would-be tacklers reeling.

Best for Cas were:

3 points Daz Coulson

2 points (joint) Jeff Hollingshead and Howard Stephenson

1 point Jake Fisher

**3 December 2011**

**Pontefract 57 Castleford 1XV 12**

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Castleford started the stronger and after a period of sustained pressure were unlucky not to score with Chris Reavley held up over the line. However Pontefract hit back and in their first excursion into the Castleford half came away with a penalty to go three up. Shortly afterwards some poor Castleford defence let Pontefract in for a converted try. Castleford responded with good pressure earning a penalty and then a further penalty kicked by Ian Mattison to reduce the deficit to 4 points.

A scintillating break by Martin Dye looked as if it would lead to the first Castleford try but his chip to the line was just fielded by Pontefract to deny Craig Fawcett a try.

Although the scrums were evenly contested the only heel against the head led to another Pontefract converted try. Castleford came back to earn another Mattison penalty to reduce the arrears to 17-9. Up to this stage the game had been evenly balanced but Pontefract picked up the pace leading to half time with 2 converted tries giving them a flattering 31-9 lead.

Castleford reduced the deficit with another Mattison penalty and again the game was evenly matched. However the Castleford forwards started to tire and the speedy Pontefract backs took advantage with 4 tries in the last 15 minutes to hand a heavy defeat on their neighbours.

For Castleford Chris Redfearn was outstanding along with Craig Fawcett and Martin Dye

Next Saturday Castleford entertain fellow strugglers Scarborough at Whitwood and look to gain their first double of the season.

**3 December 2011**

**Castleford 3XV 38 v Pontefract 3XV 17**

**Cas 3XV bounced back following a narrow defeat by Leeds Medics last week with their second win this season against a much improved Pontefract side.**

For the first 15 minutes both sets of forwards wrestled for the upper hand and it was Castleford who made the first break when Dave Gittings broke through two tackles to run 20 metres and find winger Mark Poppleton who scorched in from 30 metres. The conversion was made and within 4 minutes Dave Gittings was the scorer himself; strong work from the Castleford pack drove the ball up field and swift hands allowed him to collect and score at the side of the posts.

Immediately from the restart Pontefract were on the back foot again and the Castleford pack lead by Danny Adamson and Simon Pye created a space for Darren Coulson to make a strong break from just inside their half. He went on to beat 3 men and cut through a

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number of tackles before scoring out wide. Simon Greenhalgh duly converted and Cas led 19-0.

Castleford piled on the pressure and a powerful run by Stu Grace who was held up short, but a quick release allowed fellow front rower Matt Hawksworth to cross close in. The conversion was kicked and Castleford led 26-0.

Pontefract dug deep and the tide seemed to have been stemmed for a while until an attempted penalty kick to touch was collected by Gary Fisher whose look of surprise when he caught it was only matched by the ease in which he drove the ball back deep into the Pontefract half. Fast hands allowed the ball to move wide and winger Adam Westwood scored in the corner from a position which they never should have been in.

Pontefract needed the half time whistle to regroup and take a breather and they came back out in the second half with a new spirit. For the first 15 minutes they hammered the Castleford defence and came up with a well worked try out wide to make it 31 -7. At this point Castleford made several changes to personnel and this was nearly their undoing as they lost cohesion and conceded two more tries to the improving Pontefract side.

With 10 minutes left Castleford controlled the ball in the middle of the park and using a mix of good hands and pace out wide they managed to squeeze Westwood in at the corner to secure a 36 - 17 victory.

Best for Cas were Simon Pye 3 points, Dave Gittings 2 points, Danny Adamson 1 point

**26 November 2011**

**Leeds Medics and Dentists 25 Castleford 3rd XV 7**

**Cas thirds lost their 4 match unbeaten run with a hard fought defeat to the Leeds University side who are unbeaten at home this season.**

The game began with Cas very much on the back foot as the referee penalized Cas heavily but for all their territorial advantage Leeds could not break down some dogged defence led by forwards Matt Pickles, Aiden Wood and Simon Pye.

In the centres Neil Collins and Paul Phillpot terrorized their opposite numbers with bone crunching tackles which thwarted every attempt by Leeds to throw the ball out wide.

Cas were doing very little on attack but Leeds looked unable to break down their defence and after 25 minutes took a penalty in front of the posts to go 3-0 after their 3 previous penalties had been run and had left them empty handed.

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Cas then had their best spell of the game and after breaks from stand-off Daz Coulson and flanker Jake Fisher, Leeds were penalized and instead of taking the 3 points on offer Cas ran the penalty and after strong surges from Pye and props Stu Grace and Matt Hawksworth, captain Mark Fisher picked up at the base of a ruck and shrugged off two tacklers to crash over for the game's opening try; Simon Greenhalgh converted and Cas led at the break 7-3.

The second half continued with the home side enjoying the better of the referee's penalty count and with 10 minutes gone the key decision of the match went the home side's way as their flanker ran into his own player but was allowed to continue and score at the side of the posts. The conversion was added and Leeds led 10-7. After Coulson was sin binned and whilst down to 14 men Cas conceded 3 more tries out wide all of which went unconverted.

On a brighter note Cas travelled with a squad of 25 players which included 7 who have come through the junior ranks and new player Lee Obridge showed signs that he will be an asset in the future.

Best for Cas were,

3 points	Aiden Wood
2 points	Matt Pickles
1 point	Neil Collins

**19 November 2011**

**Castleford 1XV 12 v York 46**

**Castleford will look back on two bombed, gilt-edged, try- scoring opportunities at the end of a spirited first half performance that would have given them a healthy lead going into the second half. There were shades of vintage Castleford in the first half, but as of late ran out of steam and were made to pay dearly by a flurry of last-quarter opposition tries.**

Castleford made the best possible start after just two minutes when outside half, Martin Dye scythed his way through a non-existent visitors' defence to offload to centre, Craig Jeffels powered his way through under the posts. Scrum half, Ian Mattison added the easy conversion.

Their cause was not helped when winger, Chris Brown was yellow-carded for talking out, Dan Arkle after the winger had kicked through down the blind-side. Arkle soon capitalised the gap with a try wide out following a crisp handling move. Outside half, Jamie Everley was on target with the conversion to level the scores.

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York soon took the lead again exploiting the blindside weakness with neat hands between forwards Ben Hepworth and Chris Fox that ended with the latter scoring wide out.

Castleford then registered a purple patch up to half time, during which they dominated play. Firstly, prop, Gareth Paul intercepted on half-way before parting to flanker Chris Redfearn who sent winger Sean Clough haring up the touchline side before being halted by some last-ditch York defence.

Their pressure soon paid off when Jeffels powerfully broke through three tackles before putting Clough in space. This time the winger left the back-stepping defence standing to dive in at the corner.

Dye neatly side-stepped through a gap twenty metres out before sending a long pass out wide. Jeffels neatly flipped the ball to Clough who was unlucky to be tackled into touch with the line beckoning.

Just before the interval Mattison exploited the space behind the York threes with a pinpoint, cross-field kick only to see the ball take a cruel bounce into touch with Clough just falling to gather the bouncing ball as the sides went in all-square on the half-time whistle.

Castleford will want to forget a second half that soon saw winger Peter Martin finish off a crisp, cross-field move to regain the lead for visitors York. Five further tries followed as Castleford's fitness was tested throughout the remainder of the half and unfortunately found wanting.

This was a much better performance than in previous weeks but Castleford still have much to do to turn things around to lift themselves from the base of Yorkshire One. Hopefully, Castleford's man-of-the-match and new Team Manager, Simon Davies will be able to work on these in the coming weeks.

**19 November 2011**

**Castleford 3XV 22 v York 3XV 19**

**Cas thirds continued their unbeaten run with a superb win over a high flying York side who had only one defeat to their names this season.**

It was York who started the stronger and their big pack of forwards took the game to Cas and scored the first try after ten minutes with a rolling maul which enabled one of their flankers to break off and score out wide, the conversion was missed but York led 5-0.

Cas battled hard but were undone after a kick down field was fielded by the York full back and he raced through a gap to score under the posts this was converted and York led 12-0.

# Castleford RUFC



Cas then made a triple substitution bringing on Mark Small, Chris Synett and Dave Gittins who made an instant impact, Small counter rucked at the next breakdown to provide turn over ball and centre Gittins burst through two tacklers to feed Neil Collins who scored at the side of the posts, Simon Greenhalgh converted and Cas were back in the game at 12-7.

The next of the subs to make an impact was flanker Synett who took a short pass from the ever impressive Jodie Griffiths and left the York defence in tatters as he smashed his way up the blind side to feed the supporting full back Rob Stoner and his pace saw him score out wide; Greenhalgh landed a superb touchline conversion and Cas led for the first time 14-12.

It got better for Cas just before half time as open side flanker Jake Fisher bravely dropped on a loose ball and fed Synett who again bundled several defenders out of the way and fed Greenhalgh who scored from ten metres out, the conversion was missed but Cas led 19-12 at half time. With the second half dominated by both packs, opportunities were scarce but Cas did bomb chances with winger Paul Giller losing the ball with the line in sight and a rolling Cas maul fell short of the York try line when a score seemed certain.

This seemed to fire up the York side and they started to throw the ball around and on one of these occasions the left winger skipped around his opposite number and scored after a 60 metre run to the line beating the Cas fullback to score under the posts, the conversion was added and the game was all square at 19-19 with 10 minutes left. York looked the more likely winners as they had their tails up but Cas are made of stern stuff these days and after the Cas front five disrupted a York scrum with a powerful surge York were penalized as one of their players handled in desperation as they were being pushed off the ball, up stepped Simon Greenhalgh and from 30 metres out and kicked a penalty to win the game for Cas.

Best for Cas were: 3 points Dave Gittins, 2 points Chris Synett, 1 point Simon Greenhalgh

**12 November 2011**

**Bridlington 1XV 51 v Castleford 1XV 3**

**Castleford went to top of the table Bridlington with a much changed side due to player injuries and unavailabilities. The side was captained by Centre Craig Jeffels and at first glance the score does not reflect the effort and commitment shown by the Castleford side.**

From the kick off a confident Bridlington were quickly on the offensive and started to dominate possession. However, despite this pressure the Castleford team were heroic in defence with Centres Craig Jeffels and Sean Hesketh putting in some big tackles in mid

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field. The Castleford forwards were similarly trying their best to disrupt the flow of ball and in particular the front row of Matty Fisher, Steve Clough and Gareth Paul frequently squeezed the opposition pack backwards at scrum time and were successful in pinching a number of balls against the head. Because of frequent handling errors by the Bridlington backs Castleford were able to hold out for the first 20 minutes until Bridlington managed to string a series of passes together to create an overlap and scored wide out. The conversion was missed but a penalty goal by the Bridlington stand off left the score 8 - 0 mid way through the half.

On a brief foray into the Bridlington half Castleford were then awarded a penalty after the home side infringed at the breakdown and this was converted by Ian Mattison leaving the score 8-3. For the rest of the half Castleford defended manfully and great defensive tackling work by veterans Simon and Richard Davies and last ditch tackles by second Row Paul Connell and flanker Chris Redfern prevented the home side scoring when tries looked certain.

However just before half time flanker Chris Redfern was penalised and yellow carded for killing the ball in a ruck and despite turning round at half time 8-3 this was to prove crucial early in the second half as Bridlington took advantage of gaps in the Castleford defence and scored a couple of tries wide out to extend their lead. The return of Redfern then sparked a Castleford revival and for fifteen minutes they took the game to Bridlington and camped in their 22m applying pressure to the Bridlington line. No 8 Richard Davies went close as did twin brother Simon but the Bridlington line was not to be breached and they eventually broke out and scored a long distance try following a great run by their centre. Castleford strove manfully to reply and a electrifying break by stand off Martin Dye nearly led to Castleford opening their try account but last ditch tackling from the Bridlington full back was enough to prevent the score.

Castleford were now starting to tire and the Bridlington backs were now starting to handle well and play with confidence. Castleford's fate was sealed when Stand off Martin Dye was sin binned for disputing a refereeing decision. Bridlington took full advantage against the 14 man Castleford side and scored frequently with most of their total of 7 tries coming through their young and pacey backs. The Castleford cause was not helped when hard working No 8 James Baldwin had to leave the field with a badly dislocated finger.

Castleford played with pride and passion and their team commitment on the day could not be faulted. If the side are to avoid relegation this needs to be continued for the rest of the season. Best for Castleford in a tough game were centres Sean Hesketh and skipper Craig Jeffels whilst the veteran Castleford pack collectively worked hard throughout the game against their considerably younger opposition.

**12 November 2011**

# Castleford RUFC



Castleford 3rd XV 34 Cleckheaton 3XV 13

Cas thirds continued their winning run with a comprehensive victory over a strong and determined Cleckheaton side. Both packs of forwards tested each other out in the early exchanges but it was once again the speedy back line from Cas who made the difference with five first half tries that took the game away from Cleckheaton .

The first try came from good line out ball from inside the Cas 22 and when stand-off Daz Coulson released centre Neil Collins his superb short pass sent fellow centre Jake Crossland scorching into a gap and although he was well tackled by the Cleckheaton full back, winger Mark Poppleton was on hand to score out wide. The conversion was missed but Cas led 5-0.

Once again Cas won quality ball at a scrum inside their own half and it was again Crossland who broke clear from a Collins pass to send winger Rich Casey on a mazy run in to their opponents 22 and scrum half Simon Greenhalgh backed up to score but once again failed with the conversion but Cas led 10-0. Cleckheaton then had their best spell in the first stanza but were only able to land a penalty to close the gap to 10-3 this was the spur Cas needed to lift themselves and after more sustained pressure from the forwards Greenhalgh chipped over the top of the Cleckheaton defence re gathered his kick and fed supporting flanker Jake Fisher who in turn slipped the ball out to Coulson who crashed over for a try which Greenhalgh converted to stretch the lead to 17-3.

Things got even better for Cas from the re start as once again the their speedy backs opened up their opponents defense and Crossland finished off a try in which everyone of the Cas backs handled the ball in a 70 metre try dash to the Cleckheaton try line Greenhalgh converted and Cas led 24-3 with 5 minutes to go before half time. That just gave them enough time to mount one last attack which resulted in winger Poppleton looping around to score out wide on the opposite wing to his with a jinking run to line; the conversion was missed but Cas led 29-3 at the break.

Cas started the second half in the ascendancy and scored the best try of the match as vice captain Danny Adamson crashed through 5 or 6 would be tacklers in a 30 metre charge to the line the conversion was missed but Cas led 34-3 .

This score line enabled Cas to make whole sale changes bringing on several young players to be blooded at open age level who acquitted themselves well, although Cleckheaton scored two late unconverted tries as they never gave up, it was still a fine performance from the Cas side.

Best for Cas were,

# Castleford RUFC



3pts Jake Crossland

2pts Neil Collins

1pt Darren Coulson

5 November 2011

## Castleford Cougars v Morley 2XV

**Castleford Cougars' excellent start to the season came to an abrupt end against a strong well drilled Morley team.**

Castleford were caught off guard from the kick off when a fumbled catch caused confusion in the defensive line, allowing Morley to capitalise early with a unconverted try in the corner.

The Castleford cause was not helped when skipper Chris Reavley was yellow carded for an alleged stamping, and had to sit out for ten minutes and watch his side concede another unconverted try.

Castleford managed to get a hold on the game and secure some ball to build up some attacks, excellent play from veteran front row Mick Huby turned the ball over to the Cas pack who in turn fed the backs for their first structured attack of the match, with good runs from Adam Wrigglesworth, Rob Arthers and Clough feeding winger Chris Gill who came back inside before offloading back to Clough to score Cas's first points of the match; half time score 7 - 10 to the visitors.

Cas were the stronger team in the second half but could not capitalise fully on their opportunities. Sean Clough scored an excellent individual try to give Cas a brief lead. Morley came back strong with a well worked try to regain the lead at 17 - 12.

Cas changed tactics and kept the ball in the forwards, excellent runs from Chris Rollinson, Jonty Aveyard and John Lloyd lead to driving maul with Steve Barnes securing the ball and driving forwards to touch down for his first try for the club. Cas were unable to secure the extra points leaving the game tied at 17 all. Once again bad decisions and Cas infringement lead to Morley being awarded a penalty just outside the Cas 22. Morley kicked this to secure all the points.

Castleford had opportunities to win the game, but were spoiled by indiscipline, decision making and wasted opportunities. Castleford need to learn how to keep their heads and focus on the game when decisions go against them. Hopefully the effects of this result will help develop this strong squad in to a more disciplined and effective unit. Man of the

# Castleford RUFC



Match goes to Chris Rollinson for his excellent defensive efforts and his effective attacking runs, closely followed by Mick Huby and Mike Watts.

5 November 2011

## Seasonal fireworks

**Pontefract 3XV 15 Castleford 3XV 64.**

**Cas thirds won this local derby with a superb 10 try display with all the tries coming from their exciting outside backs who tore Ponte apart.**

It started well for Ponte and in the third minute after good work from their pack Cas were penalized for holding on at a ruck and stand-off Dave Wright's penalty struck the upright but fell to Cas skipper Mark Fisher who returned the ball 20 metres up field before releasing stand-off Daz Coulson who in turn sent a short pass to centre Reece Hampshire who blasted through the Ponte defence and scorched in for a 50 metre score, Simon Greenhalgh converted and Cas led 7-0.

Straight from the restart Cas shipped the ball wide and once again Hampshire sliced through to score his second, this was followed by two more quick tries from fellow centre Jake Crossland and fullback Rob Stoner all converted by Greenhalgh and Cas led 28-0 with just 20 minutes gone.

Ponte were looking shell shocked but dug deep and after more forward pressure saw them in the Cas 22 for a sustained period, second rower Dave Brown crashed over for a try Wright added the conversion and added a penalty to make the score 28-10.

It got better just after that for Ponte as Cas were reduced to 14 men after the sending off of their number eight and they made this tell as scrum half Oskar Gurtlar found space on the blind side to shoot in from 30 metres for a try, the conversion was missed and Cas went in at half time 28-15 up.

The second half followed in a very similar vein both packs of forwards canceling each other out with Cas flanker Jake Fisher tackling everything that moved and second row forward Simon Pye charging in the Ponte ranks with gusto every chance he got. If the Ponte pack could match their opposite numbers it was out wide where the game was taken away from them as Crossland and Hampshire ran riot with Crossland ending up with 5 tries and Hampshire 4 tries as Cas ran down the slope at every opportunity exposing weak Ponte defence on the flanks. Greenhalgh ended up with 7 conversions for a final score of 15-64.

# Castleford RUFC



Best for Cas were 3 points Reece Hampshire  
2 points Jake Crossland  
1 point Jake Fisher

**29 October 2011**

**So near yet so far**

**Castleford 1XV 22 v Driffield 29**

**In perfect conditions Castleford welcomed back captain Chris Willett for the clash with league leaders Driffield.**

From the kick off Castleford gathered the ball and after powerful surges by Daz Walker and Gareth Paul the ball was handled swiftly across the backs for winger John Bramham to cross in the corner for an excellent try. This was converted superbly by Ian Mattison to give Castleford the perfect start. Castleford continued in great style to upset the visitors and it came as no surprise when the Cas backs opened up the Driffield defence for full back Dale Turner to cross wide out.

Driffield hit back to reduce the arrears to 12-5 with an unconverted try. The Castleford pack were dominant at this stage and after concerted pressure Walker was denied a try by the unsighted referee. However from the ensuing scrum Willett scored an hallmark try as the Castleford scrum gained a pushover. Mattison converted to give the hosts a deserved 19-5 interval lead.

From the restart Driffield hit the post with a penalty but the clearing kick was gathered for them to score an unconverted try to reduce the arrears to 7 points. Driffield were now having their best spell and scored a further try to draw level. The game was now evenly poised but following a Castleford error the visitors picked up the loose ball and caught the Castleford defence out of position to score a converted try to take the lead for the first time in the match. Castleford responded in style and only last ditch defence kept out Steve Johnson and Dale Turner. Mattison kicked a penalty late on to gain a bonus point for Cas but a relieved Driffield managed to hold on to secure the win.

This was further improvement from Castleford who next entertain Pocklington on November 5th. For Castleford Johnson, Paul, Chris Refearn and James Baldwin were the pick of the forwards and Dale Turner was outstanding in both attack and defence.

# Castleford RUFC



29 October 2011

## Cougars turn back the clock

Roundhegians 13 v Castleford Cougars 29

**Castleford came out on top after a hard fought contest at Roundhegians.**

Roundhegians started the strongest, controlling the game from the start, with good play from their pack and strong runs from the backs. Cas struggled to get possession of the ball and were tested defensively for the first quarter of the game but Cas stood up and tackled well, the best of these were John Senior and Matt Wrigglesworth holding up the opposing winger over the line and forcing him into touch.

After several unsuccessful attacks the home team opted to kick for goal from a awarded penalty; 3 -0 to the home side. Cas evened up the score when Sean Clough converted a Penalty for Cas's first 3 points of the game. Cas started to find their feet and started to get some ball to attack. This led to a lineout on the opposition 22 yard line. Reavley secured the ball with the forwards driving forward, Rich Davies fed scrum half Mike Watts who popped the ball to Clough who in turn fed winger Wrigglesworth who barged his way through several tacklers from 15 yards out. Clough kicked the extra points; 10 - 3 to Cas. From the resulting kick off Cas were under pressure trying to clear their lines, this was until Wrigglesworth again burst through two would be tacklers and set off for the try line, with all his team mates hoping he had the legs; as he slowed towards the line and with defenders hot on his heels, he managed to find the strength to score a superb individual try and his second of the game. Half time score 15 - 3.

Cas started the second half stronger keeping the ball in the pack before unleashing the backs with good ball. Matt Wrigglesworth completed his hat trick and his man of the match performance with another good backs move in the corner. Clough converted the extras. The next score came from the pack with well secured ball and a driving maul, before Reavley burst down the wing holding off a couple of attempted tackles before scoring to earn Castleford their bonus point; Clough again converted the extras. The rest of the match was all Roundhegians, with attack upon attack in an attempt to breach the Cas line. Roundhegians did manage to score two unconverted tries in the last ten minutes, but it was not enough to spoil Castleford's day.

# Castleford RUFC



This was a good old fashioned hard fought contest which both teams enjoyed. Skipper Chris Reavley would like to thank all the lads for their effort and passion shown during the game.

**22 October 2011**

**Heath 25 v Castleford 1XV 10**

**Castleford faced a tough trip to high flying Heath.**

Castleford welcomed back influential player/coach Steve Johnson after a lengthy absence through injury. Teenagers Aiden Wood and Luke Kenyon combined with Chris Redfearn to form an inexperienced back row.

The early exchanges were evenly contested with Heath scoring a penalty. Against the run of the play Heath scored a converted try on their first visit into Castleford's 22. Cas hit back and after some sustained pressure Ian Mattison kicked a fine penalty only to be shortly negated by a similar effort from Heath. The last 5 minutes of the first half turned out to be crucial to the result when after fine back play involving Craig Jeffels, Craig Fawcett and Martin Dye the visitors were denied a try after the last pass was adjudged to be forward. From the resultant scrum Heath went the length of the field to score a converted try to give them a 20-3 lead into the interval when the score could easily have been only 13-10

However, Castleford came back strongly in the second half and rocked Heath with some powerful forward play with Gareth Paul, Chris Redfearn and Steve Johnson taking the play to them. Both Chris Brown and Dye came close to scoring but unfortunately could not quite finish the moves off.

Centres Craig Jeffels and Craig Fawcett were beginning to pick holes in the Heath defence and after a break by Fawcett he fed Brown who almost got away from the covering defence but was able to get an astute kick away for speed merchant Dye to win the race to score an excellent try converted by Mattison.

Soon after Castleford were denied another try when Dye was adjudged not to have grounded the ball again after excellent back play. Late on Heath managed a further try against the run of play to give them a flattering 25-10 victory. For Castleford, Redfearn, Jeffels, Dye, Johnson, Paul and Fawcett were the outstanding players although the whole team deserve credit for a performance much improved on recent weeks.

# Castleford RUFC



22 October 2011

**Cas have Mods rockin'**

**Castleford Cougars 71 v Old Modernians 25**

**Castleford Cougars kept their excellent start to the season going with a great attacking performance at home to Old Mod's.**

Skipper, Chris Reavley, had a squad of twenty players to choose from for this fixture, and the whole team started well, setting the pace and attacking early, leading to impressive Stand off Sean Clough scoring the first of his three tries of the day towards his impressive man of the match scoring tally of 27 points.

More tries soon followed from Clough, Centre Jonny Bramham, Matt Wrigglesworth and Reavley. Old Mods would not give up and eventually they scored a well worked try to get on the score board after being prevented from scoring by Centre, Rob Arthers' potential tackle of the season (ripping the ball from their hooker's hands even over the line).

Cas conceded one of many penalties Old Mods kicked the points to take the half time score to 38 - 8.

Coach, Sal Battersby, a forwards and backs lead to tries from John Senior who had his best game of the season so far, and Skipper Chris Reavley taking advantage of the poor defence. Cas seemed to switch off for twenty minutes in the second half allowing Old Mods to score 3 quick tries. However Cas showed good character to dig deep and stop the rot and take the game back to the away side. This started with Sean Clough completing his hat trick with an excellent individual effort after Gas Fish caught a tricky clearance kick in the middle of the park.

More tries were to follow with Andy Bird scoring his first try for the club, and showing how well he is progressing in his first season senior season. The same can be said for Alfie Knapp who had his best game of the season and capped his performance with a well earned try. Matt Wrigglesworth completed the scoring with a well worked try and capped another great performance.

22 October 2011

**All the threes**

**Castleford 3XV 31 v Burley 2nd XV 26**

**Cas thirds scored their third win on the trot with a dogged display against a much improved Burley side.**

For the first 20 minutes both sets of forwards wrestled for the upper hand and it was Cas who made the first break through when Chris Synett broke through two tackles ran 30 metres and found Stand off, Daz Coulson who took the ball on and fed centre, Rich Casey

# Castleford RUFC



who in turn slid a delightful kick for Full back Rob Stoner to collect and score at the side of the posts. Simon Greenhalgh converted and Cas led 7-0.

Immediately the restart Cas were on the front foot and from a short line out Mick Huby took the ball and headed for the line only to be held up short but release a superb pass to fellow Prop, Stu Grace who crossed out wide the conversion was missed but Cas led 12-0.

Burley then had their best spell of the first half and after sustained pressure scored a good try out wide to take the score to 12-5 which was the half time score.

Cas made a fantastic start to second half and after two minutes Scrum half, Greenhalgh nipped in from 3 metres after good work from the pack; he also converted to make the score 19-5. If Cas thought they had broken the Burley resolve they were mistaken and for the next fifteen minutes Burley took the game to Cas and scored two converted tries making the score 19-19 with twenty minutes to go.

The game then swung back in favour of Cas when good work by the forwards resulted in Synnett crashing over for a try which again was converted by Greenhalgh to make the score 26-19. Burley rallied and came down the field to score their fourth try after some good handling from their talented outside backs and at 26 - 26 they seemed to be in the driving seat and searching for the winning score. However, Cas defended wave after wave of attacks and on the one time they got out of their own half Second row forward Mark Fisher split the Burley defence and carried the ball thirty metres up field, drew the full back and sent Synnett in for the deciding try. The conversion was missed but Cas held on for a good win which was summed up by skipper Danny Adamson's non-stop effort and Neil Collins' resolute defence with the clock counting down.

Best for Cas were Chris Synnett 3 points, Mick Huby 2 points, Simon Greenhalgh 1 point

Next week the thirds travel to Thirsk looking for a fourth win in a row with confidence sky high.

**24 September 2011**

**Cas run out of steam**

**Dinnington 36 v Castleford 1XV 24**

**Castleford lost their 100% winning start the season with a disappointing loss to Dinnington.**

Castleford started the game playing down the slope with wind behind them and took an early lead when scrum half Ian Mattison stroked over a long distance penalty after the Dinnington pack had infringed at the breakdown. This was quickly cancelled out when the Dinnington stand off kicked a penalty after their first foray into Castleford territory. Then from a scrappy Castleford line out a Dinnington prop scooped up a loose ball to gallop 20 metres to score wide out. With the conversion missed the score was 8 - 3 to Dinnington. Another Mattison penalty made the scores 8-6 with 15 minutes gone.

# Castleford RUFC



The game then started to get ugly with some bad tempered skirmishes breaking out between the two packs. Following a warning from the referee another fight broke out which resulted in the Castleford and Dinnington open side flankers being red carded after 15 minutes leaving both sides with 14 men for the rest of the game.

On the half hour mark Castleford made the most of some good attacking rugby when stand off Martin Dye sprinted through a gap in the Dinnington back line to score an excellent try which Mattison easily converted leaving the score 13-8 to Castleford.

Dinnington soon got on the front foot again and were rewarded when their prop forward went over for his second try wide out. The difficult conversion was missed leaving the score 13 points apiece.

Prior to half time a string of kickable penalties were awarded to each side with Mattison again kicking two long distance penalties to the Dinnington stand off's one leaving the half time score 19-16 to Castleford

With the wind and slope in their favour in the second half Dinnington started to take control of the game and they quickly scored a try which they converted leaving the scores 23-19 to Dinnington. Castleford then made a couple of substitutions and good support work in the loose by replacement lock Phil Smith and line breaks from full back Dale Turner kept them camped in the Dinnington 22 metre line. Eventually hooker Brad Christian used his power to break a couple of tackles and crash over line to score a try and make the score 24-23 to Castleford with 20 minutes to go.

However the last quarter belonged to Dinnington as their pressure was rewarded with a string of penalties of which two were kicked making the score 29-24 to Dinnington. In the last minute a tiring Castleford side conceded a try to the hardworking Dinnington no.8 who galloped over to score close to the sticks which was duly converted to leave the final score 36-24 to Dinnington.

Castleford had little to show for their hard endeavours at the end of the game but excellent place kicking by scrum half Mattison and hard working performances by Darren Walker , Sean Hesketh, Brad Christian and Skipper Chris Willett were the positives to be drawn out of the game.

**17 September 2011**

**A win is a win**

**Castleford 23 V North Ribblesdale 17**

Castleford blushes were saved with two minutes of normal time remaining when prop, Gareth Paul scored the winning try to extend their unbeaten start in Yorkshire One. A series of poor finishes and the inability to take advantage of several kickable penalties prevented the visitors from chalking up their first win of the season.

# Castleford RUFC



The home side were without influential prop, Steve Johnson, and fullback, Dale Turner, both injured in the mid-week victory over West Leeds in the First Round of the Yorkshire Shield.

Craig Jeffels took over at fullback with Steve Hayward deputising at centre, Steve Clough joining the front row and youngster, Alistair O’Gara, the first player to come through to the first team from the first junior side eight seasons ago, making his debut on the wing.

Castleford scrum half, Ian Mattison, opened the scoring with a well-struck touchline penalty after ten minutes, and the home side soon extended their lead following a neat short pass from Martin Dye. The outside half put centre Haywood through the gap to feed Paul Philpott and a delayed pass from the flanker gave winger, Chris Brown the room to stretch over in the corner. Mattison added the difficult conversion.

Ribb hit back just before half time when a crisp cross-field move sent winger, Rob Hayes in at the corner.

Mattison added a further penalty on the stroke of half time to give Castleford a 13-5 interval lead.

The visitors started the second half strongly and their opening sustained pressure paid off when scrum half, David Fox dived in for the try.

Mattison added another penalty to restore a 6-point lead but the visitors continued to take the game to Castleford and only a series of bad finishes prevented them from taking the lead. Their pressure finally told after a series of scrums near the Castleford line when the London referee awarded them a penalty try. Outside half, Steve Moon added the conversion to edge the visitors in front for the first time.

Castleford needed great resolve to stem further Ribb pressure and their patience finally told when flanker, Sean Hesketh, appeared to score following a powerful run. Although the try was not awarded, Gareth Paul was on hand to squeeze over for the winner. Mattison’s conversion sealed the victory to deny the visitors, who came away with a well-earned bonus point.

Mattison was the stand out player and there were substitute debuts for two other juniors Aidan Wood and Billy Wright.

This was a poor performance following last week’s away win at Scarborough, but Castleford will hope to build on the fortunate win away at winless Dinnington next Saturday.

**10 September 2011**

**Jeffels just the trick**

**Scarborough 32 v Castleford 39**

# Castleford RUFC



Castleford maintained their unbeaten start to the season with an excellent away win at Scarborough. They amazed their East-Coast opponents with a five-try blitz either side of half time to move to joint second place in Yorkshire One. Castleford outside half, Martin Dye was the architect of the victory as he cut through the home side's defensive line with a series of searing breaks to set up ex-Barla centre, Craig Jeffels with a hat-trick of tries.

The visitors started strongly and were soon rewarded with a penalty for offside. Scrum half, Ian Mattison, obliged from wide out and added a further penalty two minutes later.

Scarborough soon hit back following concerted pressure five metres out when full back, Graeme Jeffreys squeezed in at the corner following a neat blind-side attack.

Castleford were reduced to fourteen men when second-rower, Paul Connell was yellow-carded for preventing quick release of the ball close to the try-line and the home side took full advantage of their extra man as outside half, Tom Harrison scored and converted his own try to edge them into a 12-6 lead.

When Jeffels was side-lined for a swinging arm things looked bleak for the visitors but to their credit their heads did not go down, instead they rallied to score the next try with thirteen men. Dye chased a kick through and was awarded a penalty. Mattison took a quick tap setting up a crisp cross-field move involving prop, Steve Johnson and Chris Brown. The full back drew the cover before passing to flanker, Paul Philpott who beat the fullback on the outside to score under the posts. Mattison added the easy conversion.

Castleford took the lead on the stroke of half time when Dye scythed through a non-existent defensive line to put Jeffels through and under the sticks for the first of his three tries.

The visitors resumed their dominance early in the start of the second half when Johnson powered over in the corner following a quickly taken penalty ten metres out. Mattison slotted an excellent touchline conversion against the swirling headwind.

Dye bamboozled the Scarborough backline with another searing break to gift Jeffels his second try and was on hand to provide the short pass that sent Jeffels bulldozing his way through and under the posts for his hat-trick score to complete Castleford's purple patch.

Although Scarborough hit back with three late tries and a penalty to salvage a bonus point, the visitors had built up enough of a buffer to come away with the victory.

Skipper, Chris Willett was influential throughout the afternoon providing Mattison with quick ball from the scrum base allowing him to get his backline moving early. Sean Hesketh, from Batley Bulldogs made a promising debut at flanker, but the stand-outs for Castleford were Dye and Jeffels.

Castleford entertain North Ribblesdale next week at Willowbridge Lane.

# Castleford RUFC



3 September 2011

## PROMISING START

### Castleford 1XV 16 v Huddersfield YMCA 13

In their first match of the new season Castleford entertained newly promoted Huddersfield YMCA. In ideal conditions Castleford had the better of the early exchanges with strong scrummaging disrupting the visitors. The home pack, superbly led by Steve Johnson, gained dominance and centre Craig Jeffels ran amock through the Huddersfield defence only for poor finishing to deny the home team of at least two tries.

However Castleford's pressure told when Ian Mattison kicked a penalty to give the home side a 3 point lead. The next quarter of the game was evenly matched with only a Huddersfield penalty to bring the scores to level. Following good work from the Castleford pack after going close the ball was passed out left for full back Dale Turner to appear on the wing to score an excellent try in the corner. Mattison made the difficult conversion to give the home side a well deserved lead at half time.

Huddersfield started the stronger in the second half and an unconverted try from their No 8 pulled them back to within two points. The rest of the half saw Castleford coming the closer to scoring but again the last pass let them down. Mattison kicked two magnificent penalties to give Castleford a comfortable 16-8 lead and it looked as if this would be the final score until the visitors secured a bonus point with a last minute try.

For Castleford Johnson and Jeffels were the outstanding players although the front five deserve credit for their scrummaging dominance. Paul Philpot and Stevie Hayward tackled nonstop in the back row and Martin Dye showed promise in his first game at stand off.

Against an enthusiastic and talented visiting team Castleford fully deserved their victory and with a little more care in finishing the margin would have been much greater. A good start to the season with the promise of much better to come.