



## GATESHEAD R.F.C.



The Club is one of the youngest in the region and was formed on 21st August 1998 by a merger of North Durham Rugby Football Club (founded 1876) and Gateshead Fell Rugby Football Club (founded 1907 as Bensham R.F.C.).

The Headquarters and Ground are at Hedley Lawson Park, Eastwood Gardens, Low Fell. In 1925, the Gateshead Fell club negotiated the purchase of 5 acres of land from the Estate of Lord Northbourne for the sum of £4,000 and a limited company was floated on 9th December 1925 with a nominal capital of £5,000 in the form of 10,000 ten shilling shares. The company purchased the land and in turn leased it back to the club. Later it was agreed by the shareholders, most of whom were club members, to liquidate the company and give the land to the club, when only a few shareholders asked for repayment. Today, the two pitches and facilities compare very favourably with any in the North East.

Gateshead Rugby Club is not only proud that it fields four senior sides,

with players to spare, each and every Saturday but also that it is very much part of the community.

Our clubhouse and grounds are used for many activities by local schools and for various money raising events. In recent years we have helped raise funds for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Maternity Ward, the Great North Air Ambulance, Help The Heroes and for Macmillan Cancer Care.



Whilst our main aim is to provide rugby for all ages in Gateshead, you do not have to be a rugby player or fan to join our club and take part in the varied social activities. This helps us to fund what is an expensive sport and raise money for various local worthy causes such as those mentioned above.



So if you fancy a game of rugby at any level, junior or senior, come along and enjoy the sport, the friendship and the camaraderie at our Club. We run teams from Under 7 years, through juniors to our four senior sides and as such are able to cater for all levels of ability and physical prowess. We are an amateur club and do not pay anyone for playing but you can be assured of a professional approach to all we do

and experience many years of great fun and enjoyment whether playing, supporting, organising or just being part of our social scene.

Our Club relies heavily on producing its own players and our Youth Section is the vital ingredient for success. We currently have 185 youth members from U6 to U17, and run teams from U7 to U13 and U15s and U17s. We have 28 coaches across these age

groups and the ethos of the mini/junior section of our Club is to develop and foster young players of all skills and abilities in the game of rugby union, encompassing its traditions, and ensuring a progressive development of skills in accordance with the RFU continuum. Social events have recently included a Twickenham away day with 70 kids and a 3 day team building trip to Dukeshouse Wood, and future trips

to Melrose 7s, Falcons games and an International are planned.

Our region needs a Premiership side and we are strong supporters of Newcastle Falcons. We are delighted that the Falcons also support our Club in many ways by helping coach our youngsters and attending various social functions.

### YOUTH TRAINING:

U6 – U12: Sunday 10.00am – 12.00 noon

U13 – U17: Wednesday 6.30pm & Sunday 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Contact: Paul Cooper (Chairman of Youth Rugby) 0794 130 6235

Visit us at: [www.gatesheadrfc.co.uk](http://www.gatesheadrfc.co.uk)