

## Senior Rugby season summary 2025-26

Our 1<sup>st</sup> XV finished 9th in Regional 2 Midlands North winning 8 of the 22 league matches. Whilst this represents a disappointing return overall, it does hide a resurgence of form following an awful start to the season where we managed only 1 win from the first 6 games and only 3 from the first 12. In a very competitive league, turning over successful sides proved elusive, but our win over second placed West Bridgford in January kick-started a much more successful last 10 games, resulting in us moving clear of the newly introduced relegation play off places. Congratulations to Dan Stokes who scored 17 tries in his 17 games and to the 5 Academy players who played for the 1<sup>st</sup> team. In all 49 players represented in the 1<sup>st</sup> team throughout the season.

Huge thanks to Head Coach Phil Eggleshaw and Jonty Green for their unflagging efforts on the coaching side, thanks also to Steve Allen, Jonty and Theo Collier who announced their retirements from playing; and to everyone else who has helped the 1<sup>st</sup> team this season.

Having been placed in a demotivating only 8 team league, our 2<sup>nd</sup> XV finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, losing only to league winners East Leake with the home game an agonisingly close result. More consistent availability and a younger blend of youth and experience saw them complete the season with an unbeaten run of 9 games, including emphatically winning the NLD Junior Cup final against Kesteven 2nds.

Thanks go to Dan Mangham and Chris Wood for their work managing the side so effectively throughout the season.

Our Academy had a broadly successful season winning 12 of their 18 games. The season is made up of NLD organised pool games, friendlies and NLD Cup games, with opposition of widely differing strengths. This gave all players in this season's huge squad a chance to participate. In the Cup competition games we lost out narrowly to Newark, and, having won through to the Plate semi-final lost by a point at Derby. Nevertheless the season's outstanding success was that 18 Academy players played Senior rugby.

Many thanks to Head Coach Nathan Eggleshaw, Manager Andy Carey and all other coaches who have assisted in pulling this squad together.

Our HORNS XV had arguably their best season in recent years recording the most wins and reaching their first NLD Shield final, which we unfortunately lost.

Enthusiasm was maintained throughout the season despite various setbacks caused by opposition cry-offs, weather and opposition playing

standard mis-matches. Keen attendance at training and a willingness to see the lighter side of most situations has kept morale high whatever the outcome. Thanks go to Billy Bragg for managing the team and to Stuart Vickers for ably assisting.

In conclusion, my thanks go to everyone who works so hard throughout the club, and to all players, in all teams, who have committed their time, efforts and considerable talents to Paviers. Remember this is your time, your chance to make the difference. A new season brings new opportunities, let's all push forward together and make the 2026-27 season one to remember.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
1 <sup>st</sup> XV	22	8	0	14	590	677
2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	20	16	1	3	857	370
Academy	18	12	0	6	406	286
HORNS XV	18	8	9	1	566	511

Pat Billam  
Director of Rugby