

Date: 6th August, 2017

Lancashire U20s start their National U20 Shield campaign on Sunday 25th February when they face Staffordshire away. The final Pool 1 North Group game will see Lancashire host Northumberland U20 on Sunday 18th March at a venue to be confirmed.

Lead U20s Coach Martin Scott is looking forward to the challenge, "We lost in the Semi-Final last season to eventual winners Cheshire, so we hope we go one better this season."

Nominations to trial for the squad have been open for a while and U20 County Manager Howard Hughes added. "The nominations are going well for our trial on the 3rd September and it looks like we may have some difficult decisions ahead." He continued "We have at least 75% of last season's squad back to Trial along with a very strong looking U18 squad side from last season, we would still like Clubs & Universities/College's to forward any potential trialists names asap. We'll be having a late entrant trial in October for those players unavailable on the 3rd September or not yet at University in the County."

Lancashire U20s reached the Semi-Finals of the Shield last season and provided four squad members to the England North U20 Squad and three to the full England U20 Counties Squad.

In addition to Lead Coach Martin Scott and Backs Coach Neil Ryan the U20s are delighted to announce that Niall Crosley will be joining the coaching team for 2017/18 season. Niall has a strong rugby pedigree having coming thru the county age grades sides before attending Hartpury College where he played 1st XV rugby in the BUCS 1st Division and some "A" XV games for Gloucester Rugby. More recently Niall can be seen turning out for Preston Grasshoppers where he is a Community Rugby Coach.

U20 Nominations (Last season's County U18 & U20 Squads who are eligible are automatically invited to the trial) **need to sent to the county U20s Manager at howard.3.hughes@bt.com**

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