



# SCRUM DOWN

with  
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## BLYTH'S YOUTH SECTION IS CELEBRATING A RIGHT ROYAL ACCOLADE

BLYTH RFC's youth section have received a prestigious acknowledgement after being presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Blyth Youth Rugby is among 112 organisations around the country to receive the honour, which is classed as being the equivalent of the MBE for voluntary service.

At a presentation event at Alnwick Castle, representatives from the club received a certificate signed by the Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal.

Blyth Youth Rugby chairman Max Proud accepted the award on behalf of the club from the Duchess of Northumberland, saying: "It is a great privilege to be recognised for all the hard work the volunteers have put in over the years and my thanks go to everyone connected with the club.

"We hope this work continues for many more years and that we can build upon our reputation.

"We would also like to thank the Duchess for her fantastic hospitality and for making us so welcome."

A citation read by vice-Lord Lieutenant, captain Ian Moffat, said: "Blyth Youth Rugby is an outstanding example of an entirely volunteer group working with and for young people.

"The group has operated very



**WINNING RECOGNITION** Officials, coaches and volunteers from Blyth RFC with the Duchess of Northumberland after receiving the Queen's Award at Alnwick Castle  
**PICTURE: Steve Miller**

successfully for many years and is exceptional in the quality of what it does for young people."

Melanie Magee, Newcastle Falcons' Community Foundation manager, was

also in attendance at the reception, saying: "It is very pleasing to see Blyth being rewarded for their hard work over the years, and for the fantastic youth section that they have

developed." Meanwhile, Durham opened their Under-16s county campaign with a 29-17 win over Northumberland at Northern FC. Darlington Mowden Park provided

## FALCONS' DATE FOR DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

KINGSTON Park's West Stand was packed to the gunnels last week as Newcastle Falcons hosted their annual player sponsors' dinner.

Despite last season's relegation the attendance was well up on previous years, with every player in the professional squad being sponsored.

Director of rugby Dean Richards was among the speakers taking part in a question and answer session as part of the festivities, with owner Semore Kurdi and new executive director Paul Varley also taking their turns on the microphone.

seven of the Durham squad, with Jonny Teague, Tam Fuat, James Elston, Max Harrison, Tom Lawson, Joe Craggs and Sam Lorimer all featuring. Durham's next assignment comes on Sunday when they host Cumbria at Darlington RFC, while last weekend's programme saw Northumberland beating Cumbria 41-12 at Aspatria RFC.

## Northumbria take field for BUCS season with new coaching team

**N**ORTHUMBRIA University have kicked off this season with a new look, boasting a fresh coaching team and minus their Saturday side after last season's decision to pull out of the

# Culley's sights on