



## LANCASHIRE UNDER 20s

This was the second season under the coaching and management team of Messrs Livesey, Anglesea, Gough, Thompson and O'Toole. Once again the success rate from the previous season was maintained; unfortunately, Lancashire was denied a quarter-final appearance by a change in the competition rules which saw only one team from each region progressing directly to the semi-final phase of the competition.

The season started with an encouraging win against Durham (43 - 5), followed by an erratic performance against Yorkshire resulting in a defeat (7 - 22) in a game which could well have gone the other way in the early stages.

The remaining games saw mixed performances all resulting in wins for Lancashire: Cheshire (17-7); Northumberland (18 - 12) and Cumbria (20 - 12).

There was a marked increase in support from clubs willing to release players and rest, or partially rest, them prior to the Under 20 games. The Academy also assisted in making players available as part of a player development programme.

In all, 34 players were used from 15 clubs. Also drawn into the squad were players from Manchester University, Liverpool University, University of Central Lancashire, Lancaster University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Leicester University, and Leeds University; players from universities not previously known to Lancashire Clubs were introduced to clubs in their areas, as were many others who did not make the squad.

The policy of introducing younger players to the squad to develop them over a two season period appears to be paying dividends and has left us with a significant number of players who have gained experience and who will be available for selection next season.

It remains to thank those clubs which supported us by releasing players during a very busy and demanding season. Thanks are also due to our players, coaches and physios for their commitment and devotion over the past two seasons and to and those County Officials who attended games.

### **TOM FITZGERALD**

*Chairman, 19-24 Group*