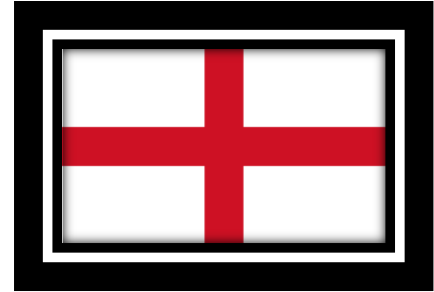




St George's Day 2016 saw the Burnley Tornados U12 and U17 flag teams take part in their inaugural games in the league. The teams travelled to Leyland where they would face the Chorley Buccaneers and Leeds Assassins teams.



The games both kicked off at 10.30 with the U12 playing Chorley Redbeards, whilst the U17 played Chorley Blades. The U12 drew first blood by scoring on their first drive with a great pass from QB Cameron Tulloch to Centre Harrison Clark, who also caught the conversion. Despite some valiant efforts by the Tornados small squad the Redbeards found their feet and scored on each drive. The team worked hard on both offense and defense, especially Grace Tulloch. The U17 were having much the same luck as the U12, but against the Blades. The QB and safety for the team Ben Parker was able to pick off the Blades when they failed to hold onto the ball and ran it back for a score. However in both their first games the Tornados had a loss. As this was the first time for the U12 in the league there were some great performances both individually and as a team, but still lots to work on. Some of the U17 players had worked together in the kitted team but were struggling to get to start with, however this would come in the next games.

The second game of the tournament for the U12 was against Leeds Assassins who were very quick on their feet and despite the efforts of Sullivan Williams, Felicity Raw and Nathaniel Clark the team were losing. Leah Tulloch found her feet and was able to twist and turn her way into the endzone for what would be one of her seven touchdowns on the day, but the team had a second loss 34-18. The U17 would fare better in their game against Chorley Broadswords with defensive pair Ethan Hollas and Tom Stephens making most of the tackles. Centre Rebecca Robins was able to get the ball safely in to the hands of Ben Parker who handed off to Oliver Norwood for countless running yards on their way to a 21-40 victory.

The final games of the tournament would prove very lucrative for both teams who came away with wins. The U12 were playing Chorley Blackbeards and Leah Tulloch was again on fire with her runs down field. Paul Brammer (HC) said "It is hard for the young team to understand that although it may be one person scoring it is due to the hard work of all the other players to make this happen. There was great effort from all the team and the Tornados U12 are now officially on the map!" The third game for the U17 was against Leeds Assassins and it was very much a blow for blow game. Ryan Parker was instrumental in running the blitz to put the QB off his stride and make errors in play. James Swift worked hard in defense and on offense made players follow him to distract from the ball carrier, namely Oliver Norwood. The play of the day however must go to QB Ben Parker and Receiver Tom Lockett for the "1 step 9" play which led to a TD. The ref even congratulated the guys on the accuracy of the pass and the positioning of the receiver to get the ball. The final score of the game was a victory for the Tornados 35-42. HC Cameron Stewart said of the day "Of all the plays today the defining moment was when we played the 1step9, I think that will go down as one of the greatest plays in memory. It was difficult to choose the MVP for today as everyone worked really hard in their first game as a team, but undoubtedly Oliver deserved it for the amount of yards he ran throughout the day. I was really impressed with the standard of play on both sides of the ball, given this was our first league tournament with this team. The players did their best which was reflected in the scorelines. It is too early to start talking about playoffs but if we keep this up it isn't beyond the realms of possibility"

MVPs for the day were Leah Tulloch, Ben Parker, Ethan Hollas and Oliver Norwood.

The teams now look forward to T2, facing the same teams in Leeds on 7th May.