On Saturday the 20th of August Featherstone Weightlifting club and Wakefield College weightlifting club ran the fifth edition of their inter club match between the two most established members clubs in the Wakefield and five towns region.

The team event is held in competition for the D'Arcy Garbutt Cup named after two late legends, former world champions, and key members in the development of both clubs Jack Garbutt of Featherstone W.L.C and Les D'Arcy of Wakefield W.L.C and previously Featherstone.

Wakefield had one the inaugural event and Featherstone the three events since where the three best lifters on day from each club have their combined totals matched against the opposition total with old school bodyweight allowances of of 1.5kg per kg bodyweight used.

For the first time ever Featherstone W.L.C hosted the event due to be ran outside in the supposed sun until British weather intervened in this! Also beforehand a exhibition group ran where Featherstone's successful kids club put on a brilliant exhibition.

Debutante Coben Kidger who has had numerous operations on his clump foot and Phoebe Burnett, younger sister of Sydney, both at 9 years old and in their first competitions achieved 6 out of 6 lifts and both show great early promise for the future!

The other 6 development lifters were all current Northern Schools championships/ events winners, infact they have had 19first places between them, and had 6 British championship places between them 5 of which were first! Kobain Riley, Bradlee Bugg, Olivia Walker, Sydney Burnett and brother and sister Jacob and Olivia Richardson put on a excellent display of lifting! They lifted so well with great focus and amplitude as the event had to move inside listening to the coaches, respecting the Officials and entertaining the spectators as they all achieved either personal, competition or both bests on the day!

In recent running of the event the clubs have entered as many lifters as each wanted and counted the best three scores but due to terrible weather and time restraints that were unexpected each club had three lifters only to make up their team.

In team Featherstone Martyn Riley who spends the Majority of his time coaching the clubs school lifters, lifted the best score on the day with body-weight co-efficent with a 161k total the highlight been a competition best 91kg clean and jerk. James Smith, grandson of club founder and secretary Allan Whitworth, has returned from schools success how as a master lifter and came second overall in only his second match back with personal best in both disciplines. Si Walker also in only his second match since is debut as a master the week before at Lougthborough came a creditable fourth overall to follow on from daughter Olivia's success earlier in the day with a personal best 73kg snatch achieved on the day.

For Wakefield Ewan Burkinshaw despite carrying a back niggle showed strength in abundance to post the third best score on the day with a powerful 100k clean n jerk to finish the day! True legend of the sport and multiple time British champion across the age groups Mick Butterworth got all his 6 lifts to earn the adulation of the spectators as did Paul Sheen who also lifted despite a few niggles to complete all his lifts and represent is club with pride gaining all 6 lifts successfully.

The cup was won by Featherstone, but the day was a success for both clubs from the brilliant school lifters to the awesome Masters in every sense of the word! The spectators loved a great advertisement for the sport and the event will definitely run again! Thanks Allan Whitworth for refereeing all day, loaders Thomas Smith, Mark Bugg and Bob Jackson. Thanks to Nick Hall and Mark Wager for coaching and support on the day as to with Justine Davis Hirst and Iona Taylor. Thanks to everyone involved in a great day for lifting and good respect shown to the fallen legends the cup represents. Good match.

*Report by Martyn Riley, Featherstone*