

WARRINGTON



R.U.F.C.

Welcome to Widnes

A very warm welcome to the players, officials and spectators of Widnes. Widnes has enjoyed a lot of success since it was founded in 1924 (a year after Warrington had its rebirth), and in the late '60s and early '70s it was turning out seven senior sides as well as a Schools and a Colts XV. This led them to try to achieve senior club status, as it then was. However, the so-called "senior clubs" in Lancashire and Yorkshire (remember Orrell, Liverpool, New Brighton etc) refused to play them, so Widnes took to the road and, specifically, to the harsh rugby environment of South Wales. This earned them a "tribute" from the Welsh rugby bard, Max Boyce, who watched them play Glamorgan Wanderers and was quoted in the Western Mail as saying, "The only good thing to come out of Widnes was the team bus." But what did Max Boyce know about Rugby??

Today, like Warrington, Widnes play in North 1 West and this fixture is very much a local derby. Like all derby games, the result is difficult to predict. Last year we won 27-14 in the opening weeks of the season but Widnes turned the tables when they visited Fortress Warrington before Christmas and had a resounding 43-13 victory. So no advantage in playing at home then.

Having mentioned Wales, I feel that I must, at least, mention the Rugby World Cup. England are out and Wales are still in! There are possibly many reasons for our failure. The draw taking place so long ago, resulting in the "pool of death". The unavailability of Tuilagi, Dylan Hartley and Stefan Armitage. The fast-tracking of Sam Burgess. Having no settled centre pairing. Giving away too many penalties. An inability to rule the breakdown. And a number of poor on- and off-field decisions. But we are out and the main reason is that we were not good enough! Also, we were unable to find that "inner man" which the Welsh showed when they were cruelly hit by so many injuries. The 'inner man' displayed by Japan, when they overcame the might of South Africa. And the spirit showed by so many of the so-called tier-two nations, like Georgia and Romania.

And just consider this fact. There are 2.5 million registered rugby players in England. The number of registered players in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, France, Italy, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, added together, amounts to just 1.7 million!

Hopefully the 36 registered players on view today will show us how Rugby is played in the North. Good luck to both teams.

Dave Jervis

A Big Thankyou to All of You

A very big thankyou to all the organisers and helpers, who helped to make the Ruck'n'Roll event so successful. There are too many names to mention and I am sure that you didn't give your time and energy just to get into the programme, but especial thanks to Andy Kellett, Paddy O'Toole and Helen Unsworth - and to Chris Stirling for the booze. Beautiful!!!



Two ways to break through a defence: The Max Walker way and the Tom Wood way



“When I said , let’s show them some moves, I didn’t mean your dance moves,” screamed coach Andy Roberts from the touchline

Punchlines



Spooky or What?

This is the transcript of a conversation between Andy Robert's dad and our illustrious president, after the match at Rochdale last week:

Arob's Dad: "Well, I for one am cheering because Wales beat England last week. But I am Welsh."

Pres: Well, I am half Welsh as both my paternal grandparents were Welsh. My grandfather from Bangor and my grandmother from Holyhead."

Arob's Dad: "Holyhead?? I was born and grew up in Holyhead!"

Pres: "Hang on a bit. My grandmother's maiden name was Roberts. Could that mean...?"

DNA samples are being sought and the investigation continues.

Respect!

I would have thought that being president of the club (and possibly a distant relative of the club coach) I would have deserved a little respect. Imagine my amazement when I was greeted by Matt Rockey outside the club at Rochdale with the welcome "Eh oop! Jervo." Now, how did he know my Apple password??

What A Turnover

Confusion spread through the ranks of the first team in the bar after the game at Rochdale, as Elliot Johnstone asked everyone if they had seen his turnover. As no-one could remember seeing Elliot anywhere near a ruck never mind winning the ball at one, there was a deafening silence until the heavy-set prop explained he meant the apple turnover he had bought in Waterfields to eat after the match.

News From The Dark Side

Our mole (code name Z), who is still in deep cover in the Dark Side (aka Lymm), reports further rumblings from the other side of the Grappenhall Wall. This has already resulted in the defection of two highly-placed agents. A careful watch is in place at Check-Point Charlie and the Glienicke Bridge.

Stop Press

Our Junior Rugby Section has just been notified that 11 players from Warrington have been selected for the U13s Cheshire development squad. We also have nine players in the U14s squad, as well one lad in the Lancashire U13s. Well done boys!

North One West Fixtures 2015-16

DATE	OPPOSITION	RESULT	SPONSOR
2015		Home Team 1st	
5 Sept	Wilmslow (Away)	W 30-45	
12 Sept	Blackburn (Home)	W 49-13	
19 Sept	Leigh (Away)	W 22-26	
26 Sept	Vale of Lune (Home)	W 45-23	
3 Oct	Rochdale (Away)	W 17-23	
10 Oct	Widnes (Home)		Richard and Emma Woodward
17 Oct	Carlisle (Away)		
24 Oct	Penrith (Home)		
31 Oct	Free weekend		
7 Nov	Kendal (Away)		
14 Nov	Kirkby Lonsdale (Home)		
21 Nov	Broughton Park (Away)		
28 Nov	Free Weekend		
5 Dec	Eccles (Away)		
12 Dec	Altrincham Kersal (Home)		Steve Riley
19 Dec	Blackburn (Home)		
2016			
9 Jan	Leigh (Home)		
16 Jan	Vale of Lune (Away)		
23 Jan	Rochdale (Home)		Dave Cunningham
30 Jan	Widnes (Away)		
6 Feb	Blackburn (Away)		
13 Feb	Carlisle (Home)		
20 Feb	Penrith (Away)		
5 Mar	Kendal (Home)		Dave Jervis
19 Mar	Kirkby Lonsdale (Away)		
2 April	Broughton Park (Home)		
9 April	Eccles (Home)		Dave Broadbent
16 April	Altrincham Kersal (Away)		
23 Apr	Wilmslow (Home)		Ross Thompson

As you can see, we are still looking for sponsors for many home games. If you are nterested, contact Sean Hughes or Richard Woodward.

Alternatively, you might consider sponsoring a player.

Warrington RUFC vs. Widnes RUFC

WARRINGTON RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

Wdnes RUFC

Colours: Black and Red

Kick off: 3.00pm.

Clem O'Rourke	1	K Leadbetter
Jon Ward	2	P O'Connor (captain)
Elliot Johnstone	3	D Welsh
Josh Riley	4	M Gill
Danny Fleming	5	T Spencer
Sean Callendar	6	J Kenyon
Matt Connelly	7	G Hatton
Max Walker	8	A Haydock
Ben Hockenhull	9	J Winstanley
Tom Wood (captain)	10	S Whitty
Nathan Beesley	11	T Hewlett
Jonno Smith	12	T Farmer
Jamie Thompson	13	C McLoughlin
Max Caldwell	14	L Whitty
Steve Pilkington	15	M Jones
	<i>Bench</i>	
Alex McGregor	16	C Hall
Alex Brazendale	17	T O'Neill
Kieran Hughes	18	D Price
<i>Coach: Andy Roberts</i>		<i>Coach: Dave Westhead</i>

Referee: Karl Kirkpatrick, Manchester Society

This Week's Sponsors

This week's match sponsors are Emma and Richard Woodward. Emma is very active in all things to do with the club. She is Child Welfare Officer, is very much involved with the Mini and Junior section, she played a big part in the success of the recent Ruck'n'Roll event and is currently carrying out many of the club treasurer's tasks.

Richard is our club chairman and takes the lead in many of the discussions with fund-raising bodies, local councils and potential large sponsors. He also coaches the Warrington U 13s and the Cheshire U13s and U14s as well as the University of Chester Padgate Campus. In his spare time, Richard is a vice-president of Bank of America. Thanks to both of you!!

Rochdale 17 Warrington 23

Once again, Warrington found themselves playing catch-up rugby and once again they came from behind to seal their fifth win in five games. Unfortunately, the fourth try bonus point just eluded them and they now lie second in North 1 West behind Kendal, although they enjoy better points difference.

The first ten minutes saw both sides probing for weaknesses in the other's defence but each team quickly set out its stall out to play running, attacking rugby. Ironically, it was the Rochdale pack which drew first blood when they drove over after a five yard scrum. The conversion gave them a 7-0 lead.

At this stage, Warrington were being out-gunned up front and had to live on scraps of possession but their defence, as usual, was stalwart. Eventually, Tom Wood found the ball in his hands in his own half and put in a superb kick which found touch ten yards out. A scrum followed the line out and Max Walker, who was awesome throughout, made ground before handing on. The ball flashed to Nathan Beesley and the young speedster managed to cross in the corner.

Warrington then increased their lead with a penalty from Darren Norman and came back on the attack when Jamie Thompson charged down a kick, picked up and found Steve Pilkington in support. The full back made good ground before the ball was hacked on but Rochdale just won the foot race to the line. Warrington then came back with the try of the match, when flowing play from the backs saw a lovely, back-door offload from Josh Riley find Tom Wood, who handed onto Kieran Hughes and the little wizard skipped over to make the half time score 13-7.

An early penalty gave Warrington a nine point cushion and they were now taking more than their fair share of possession, especially though Sean Callendar in the lines. Unfortunately, Warrington were reduced to fourteen men when Callendar was sin-binned for ten minutes. Rochdale exploited their numerical advantage by attacking through their forwards and Warrington withstood a series of five yards scrums before submitting to the inevitable as Rochdale drove over. The conversion took the score to 16-14 and the game was now wide open.

However, Warrington regrouped to shut down every Rochdale attack and Tom Wood, who is reveling in his new role at stand-off, constantly mixed his game with passes, kicks and breaks to ensure that Warrington remained on the front foot. Eventually, the game was sealed by a moment of magic from Jamie Thompson, who picked up in the Rochdale 22 and spirited his way over the line. Darren Norman added the extras. Rochdale kicked a penalty to claim the losing bonus point in the last minute of the game, but the victory rightly belonged to Warrington.

"This was always going to be a hard test for us," said coach Andy Roberts. "Rochdale finished third in North 1 East last season and they are a difficult side to beat on their home ground. It's a pity we didn't manage the bonus point but the win alone was more than satisfactory."

Wirral 2nd XV 20 Warrington 2nd XV 23

After sacrificing a 17-0 lead, Warrington managed to hang on and win a flowing game against Wirral with a late penalty from Shaun McDermott.

Warrington were first on the scoreboard when veteran Kevin Jones used his power and guile to crash over in the corner. A superb touchline conversion from Shaun McDermott gave the home side a 7 point lead. Warrington then defended several Wirral attacks before going through the phases and providing the space for Craig Byrne to barrel over near the posts. McDermott's conversion saw Warrington go into a 14-0 lead. This was soon increased to 17-0 with a McDermott penalty but Wirral cut the deficit shortly before half time when their pacey backs scored in the corner and the try was converted.

Ten minutes into the second period, Warrington increased their lead with a second McDermott penalty but Wirral soon replied with a penalty of their own. The visitors then cut their deficit with an unconverted try from a driving maul and the scores were equalized when the Wirral backs took advantage of a knock-on by Kevin Jones on the Warrington try line to race 70 yards and score in the corner. Fortunately, the trusty boot of Shaun McDermott came to the rescue to break the deadlock with a well-struck penalty in the closing five minutes.

“This was a close run thing in a very tight match,” said coach Paul Thompson. “Fortunately, the lads never lost faith, spurred on by a man-of-the-match performance from scrum half Jack Hannon and our two new recruits from Lymm.”

Liverpool 2nd XV 28 Warrington 3rd XV 9

A young Warrington third team, containing six new recruits, found it heavy going against a more experienced, more cohesive Liverpool outfit but still managed to contain their opponents to just three tries.

Liverpool dominated the forward exchanges from the kick off and this dominance saw them soon run in two converted tries. Warrington replied with two penalties from Andy Almond and were still in the game at 14-6 at the turnaround.

The second half saw Warrington suffer a number of injuries, which resulted in versatile prop Christian White standing in admirably at scrum half. However, they could only manage a third Almond penalty in the second period, while Liverpool scored a third try and kicked three penalties.

“It was very much boys against men today,” said coach John Morris. “We had some excellent individual performances, especially from Nick Pennington and Andy Almond, and I am sure that as the team gets more games under its belt we are going to get much better.”

Leigh 22 Warrington 26

Warrington continued their excellent start to the season, and maintained their position on top of North 1 West, with this hard-earned win over local rivals Leigh. In fact, this was a game they could have lost, as they were trailing 6-17 at the interval but a superb second half display, including awesome defence for the final ten minutes when they were reduced to 14 men as a result of a spate of injuries, saw them claim the winning points.

The opening ten minutes saw both sides testing each other up front and Warrington seemed to be gaining the upper hand until Leigh, showing an exciting mix of electric speed and forward power, gained territorial advantage with a good kick to the corner. From the line out they went through the phases before a fine pass allowed their back row to find a gap and cross for the first Leigh try, which was converted.

Warrington replied with a penalty from Darren Norman but Leigh increased their lead when their full-back speedster took advantage of a turn-over to race in from forty yards.. Warrington replied with a second Norman penalty but Leigh eased into a deserved half time lead when they scored in the corner after the ball had flashed across the backs from a line-out.

The second half saw Warrington step up a gear and they quickly cut the deficit with a third Norman penalty. They then seemed to have scored an excellent try when Tom Wood touched down under the posts after great build-up work, but the referee was distracted by an off-the ball incident and the try was strangely not awarded. However, he awarded Warrington a penalty and Norman again added a further three points.

Ten minutes later Warrington took the lead when a superb break from a line out by Tom Wood saw the

stand-off inter-passing with scrum half Ben Hockenhull before touching down. Darren Norman added the extras to make the score 17-19 to Warrington,

Warrington then edged into a nine point lead when the industrious Matt Connelly made a twenty yard break and shipped onto Nathan Beasley. Warrington's own speedster broke inside and then backed his pace to steam over between the posts to allow Norman an easy conversion.

The last ten minutes of the game saw Warrington reduced to 14 men, as they ran out of substitutes through injuries. Still, even with uncontested scrums, they defended heroically, halting attack after attack on their line. Eventually, Leigh's numerical superiority proved too much and they forced their way over for a try. But it was too late and Warrington ran out worthy winners.

"Our defence in the last ten minutes was awesome," said coach Andy Roberts. "Fortunately, our better fitness proved decisive and we had already done enough against a side which is very much better than its current league position would indicate. However, we are still league leaders and are now looking forward to a tough game at home against Vale of Lune next week."

Warrington 2nd XV 29 Leigh 2nd XV 12

Warrington's second team beat a strong Leigh outfit, thanks to a blistering first half performance, which saw tries from Max Caldwell, Mark Tickle and a brilliant solo effort from Jack Hannon. Leigh came back strongly in the second half and managed an interception try to add to their first half effort but Mark Tickle crossed for his second to seal the game.

Northwich 2nd XV 6 Warrington 3rd XV 16

Warrington's third string combined clinical attack with sterling defence to gain an excellent win over neighbours Northwich, the scores coming from three penalties from Kev Jones and a penalty try.

North 1 West League Table

	Team	Pd	Wn	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kendal	5	5	0	0	82	24	4
2.	Warrington	5	5	0	0	84	23	3
3.	Kirkby Lonsdale	5	5	0	0	71	22	2
4.	Wilmslow	5	4	0	1	81	20	4
5.	Penrith	5	4	0	1	79	20	4
6.	Altrincham Kersal	5	4	0	1	71	19	3
7.	Vale of Lune	5	2	0	3	2	11	3
8.	Carlisle	5	2	0	3	-29	10	2
9.	Rochdale	5	1	0	4	-21	7	3
10.	Eccles	5	1	0	4	-88	6	2
11.	Leigh	5	0	0	5	-48	5	5
12.	Widnes	5	1	0	4	-97	4	0
13.	Blackburn	5	1	0	4	-106	4	0
14.	Broughton Park	5	0	0	5	-81	1	1