

**WARRINGTON**



**R.U.F.C.**

## **Welcome to Penrith**

A very warm welcome to the players, officials and spectators of Penrith. This is only our second season of fixtures with this illustrious Cumbrian club, as they only joined North 1 West in 2014, when they were demoted from the dizzy heights of National League Three North. To date, our record is: played 2, won 1 lost 1. Last season we beat them at home, 21-14, with tries coming from Sean Hughes, Zak Lythgoe and Steve Pilkington. However, they gave us a 43-3 battering in the return match, when they ran up five tries in the second half against a depleted Warrington outfit. Hopefully, we can defend Fortress Warrington today and maintain our heady position in the league.

Penrith is an old rugby club, having been founded in 1882. At the start of the 20th Century it had a brief foray in Northern League Rugby, the forerunner of Rugby League, but returned to the Union fold following the Great War. Since then, they have enjoyed a somewhat chequered existence, having played in both the East and West leagues, like many Cumbrian clubs, and they had their best season in 2009/2010, when they finished third in National League 3 North, competing at that level until their demotion two years ago.. So they are evidently a club with some provenance!

Our own season at Warrington seems to go from good to better. We are currently third in the league, separated only by bonus points difference from the top two. (Both Cumbrian clubs). We had our first away trip to Cumbria last week and did well to come away with a win against Carlisle, as they had two clear chances to snatch victory in the closing minutes of the game. Last week's team showed quite a few changes but the win once again demonstrated the strength in depth of our squad, as well as showing how our inclusive coaching has meant that new players can quickly adapt to our style of play. The next programme will include a spectator's view of the season so far, provided by our very own ex-referee and, alleged, rugby connoisseur, Dave Broadbent. Unfortunately, it was too late for the current programme, because, as Dave is an ex-teacher, he still uses a quill pen and I didn't have time to transcribe his manuscript.

Naturally, I can't conclude these ramblings without mentioning the Rugby World Cup. England are out without even reaching the quarter final stage. There will be post-mortems and the media is awash with cries to sack the coaching team and start again. Obviously, the coaching team must bear a lot of the blame, both in terms of the way they prepared the squad and in their selection of the squad and the match teams. However, much of the blame must rest with the payers themselves. When it came to it, they simply weren't good enough. But is there an enormous divide between the two hemispheres? Probably not. All the games went to the wire, especially the Scotland game and the results could easily have been reversed on another day. However, I think there is still a great divide between the North and South of our own country. The majority of games were played in the South or in Wales. There was just the one game in Manchester. This was a dead rubber against Uruguay and it was played on the same day as Rugby League's Grand Final, which took place across the city. And still, the Etihad stadium was almost at capacity. What is even more strange is that during the World Cup more than 2000 people have signed up at fanzones to become referees or coaches. A quarter of those (504) made that commitment at the Manchester game! Surely that must send a message to Twickers.

Dave Jervis  
President



“What’s an Argentinian front row?” asks Wardy



“Is there no-one left to tackle me?” wonders Max



“Whose side is this ref on?” thinks Jonno



“Jeez! It’s forty yards to the try line.” wheezes Elliot

**And Let’s Here It For the Mighty Under Twelves!**

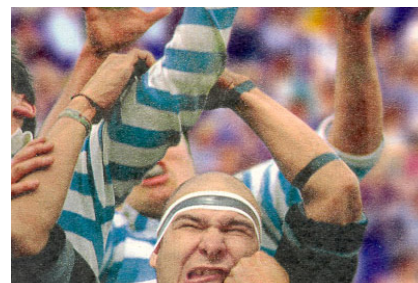
**On Their Way To Twickers**



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## Punch Lines



### Members Only

As many of you already know, the rugby club has produced a calendar for 2016. In the fashion set by the Women's Institute, this will reveal various members of the club in all their glory. Well, not quite the members, as these will be covered by a strategically placed rugby ball. However, there will be subtle indications and purchasers of this ideal Christmas present will be able to draw their own conclusions, as some players are holding it in one hand, while others need two!

### Now That's What I Call An Away Game

The travelling supporters of Warrington were amazed to learn last week that the football match being played nearby was between Carlisle United and Exeter City. And lots of the Exeter fans had driven up that morning. But that's nothing compared to our very own Nigel Bradford! To get to Carlisle, our scrum coach had flown 3,000 miles across the Atlantic from the Dominican Republic. On landing at Gatwick, he had taken the tube into central London and then caught the train to Glasgow at Euston. He got off at Carlisle and then travelled by taxi to the Carlisle ground. Now that's commitment! (He travelled back on the Fun Bus but slept most of the way.)

### Is It Me?

Evidently, the first question out of Tom Wood's mouth in the changing room after the game is, "Who was man-of-the-match?" Now everyone (and especially Tom) knows that he is a brilliant player. He has taken over the stand-off role superbly and the way he varies his game, with passes, strategic kicks, dummies and pace has kept every defence guessing. Yet, we have now played seven games and he has not once been nominated as MoM. He has been very close every time but has always missed out. Never mind Tom, always the bridesmaid, eh?

### A Changed Man

Our illustrious chairman, Richard Woodward, is a much travelled man and frequently pops over the Atlantic to the States. It seems that he was sitting in a bar in New York the other week having a quiet beer when he was approached by an attractive young lady. She sat down next to him, ordered a beer and then said, "It's OK, you don't need to worry. This isn't a pick-up because I'm a lesbian. When I wake up in a morning, the first thing I think about is women. When I am having breakfast I think of women. When I travel into work I can't stop looking at beautiful women and the last thing in my head before I go to sleep is women. So you're OK because you're obviously straight." "Well," said Richard. "I thought I was but after listening to you, I think I'm turning lesbian"

### News From The Dark Side

Bad news about our deep cover Dark Side mole (code name Z). Intelligence reports suggest that he has been seduced by the charms of life over the wall. He seems to have abandoned his dead letter box in favour of promotion. We'll keep you informed.

## North One West Fixtures 2015-16

DATE	OPPOSITION	RESULT	SPONSOR
<b>2015</b>		<b>Home Team 1st</b>	
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)	W 38-3	Emma & Richard Woodward
17 Oct	Carlisle (Away)	W 19-21	
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)		
<b>2016</b>			
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

### Match Sponsors Wanted

We still have quite a few match sponsorships available. If you feel you can support the club by sponsoring a match, contact Sean Hughes or Richard Woodward. Sponsorships start at £200 plus VAT and guarantee an excellent afternoon at the Rugby Club.

## Warrington RUFC vs. Penrith RUFC

### WARRINGTON RUFC

**Colours:** Green, Scarlet & White

### Penrith RUFC

**Colours:** Green and White

**Kick Off 3:00 p.m.**

### TEAMS

Alex Marland	<b>1</b>	Arran Sullivan
Mike Haddon	<b>2</b>	Dan Morgan
Elliot Johnstone	<b>3</b>	Will Morgan
Danny Fleming	<b>4</b>	James Hogg
Josh Riley	<b>5</b>	Ryan Banks
Sean Callendar	<b>6</b>	Mike Stephens
Matt Connelly	<b>7</b>	Tama Toomata (captain)
Max Walker	<b>8</b>	JJ Key
Ben Hockenhull	<b>9</b>	Ed Swale
Tom Wood (captain)	<b>10</b>	Matt Allinson
Nathan Beesley	<b>11</b>	Steven Cherry
Steve Pilkington	<b>12</b>	Mike Fearon
Jonno Smith	<b>13</b>	James Boustead
Darren Norman	<b>14</b>	Ryan Edgerton
Jmie Thompson	<b>15</b>	Jamie McNaughton
	<b>Bench</b>	
Ewan Macgregor	<b>16</b>	Craig Price
Pete Edwards	<b>17</b>	Josh Dowson
Luke Johnstone	<b>18</b>	David Preston
<b>Coach: Andy Roberts</b>		<b>Coach: David Preston</b>

**Referee:** John Pemberton, Manchester Society

### Advertising Opportunities at Warrington RUFC

There are currently quite a few ways to advertise your company and its services at Warrington RUFC. These include:

1. Advertising in the programme. Costs are: £50 for one full page ad. £25 for a half page ad. Alternatively, you can book a run of ads for the season for £400 for a full page or £200 for a half page. If you are interested speak to Dave Jervis.
2. Advertising on the pitch-side hoardings. This is a new venture and sites are available at the introductory discount rate of £200 for one year, £500 for three years and £750 for five years. If you are interested, speak to Sean Hughes, Richard Woodward or Kevin Jones

## **Warrington 38 Widnes 3**

With almost total forward dominance throughout, Warrington ran in six tries to defeat neighbours Widnes and go back on top of North 1 West. However, harder times are ahead, as Warrington face Cumbrian sides in their next four games, kicking off with an away trip to Carlisle on Saturday.

Warrington took control from the kick-off and set out their stall at the first scrum when they drove the visitors powerfully off their own ball. They meted out the same medicine at the second scrum with their front row of Elliott Johnstone, Jom Ward and Clem O'Rourke very much resembling a powerhouse Argentinian outfit of the eighties. This pressure inevitably led to points and these came when the forwards released the ball to their backs and Jonno Smith gave fellow centre, Jamie Thompson the space to ghost over for the first of his three tries. Ben Hockenhull converted.

Widnes replied from the restart with a well-struck penalty but this was to be the last time they troubled the scoreboard. Warrington soon returned to the attack and Max Caldwell was denied in the corner after a scintillating break. But the next score was not long coming and it came in spectacular style when Tom Wood slipped through a gap and then fooled the defence with an outrageous over-the-top dummy to stroll over. Ben Hockenhull again converted.

Shortly before half time, Max Caldwell was again denied but the ball flashed across the back line from a ruck and an exquisite offload from Jonno Smith to Jamie Thompson saw the elusive centre coast over for his second score, converted by Ben Hockenhull.

Warrington began the second half with a try in the first minute. Following a great take from Josh Riley, the forwards applied pressure and eventually, Jonno Smith hustled over.

At this point, with the bonus point already won, Warrington looked capable of inflicting a humiliating cricket score on their opponents but a combination of excellent Widnes defence and Warrington over eagerness conspired to keep the score down. Max Walker continued to test the opposition with his bullocking runs, Elliot Johnstone proved once again that he is king of the turnover and the introduction of new recruits, Ewan MacGregor and James Brazendale added punch to the forwards, but Warrington temporarily lost their clinical finishing. Eventually, this returned when Warrington elected to take a quick tap penalty and an unmarked Jamie Thompson first shadow-boxed and danced like Mohamed Ali and then sliced through the bemused defence to score.

The game was finally closed off when excellent interplay between backs and forwards was finished off by James Brazendale with a try on his first team debut. Ben Hockenhull again converted.

“Our forwards were awesome today,” said coach Andy Roberts, “And our backs used the possession well to score some excellent tries. However, we have a big wake-up call next week at Carlisle, followed by games against Penrith, Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale. These will be the first real tests of our, so far, incredibly successful season.”

## **Bolton 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 23 Warrington 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 26**

After their thriller against Wirral the previous week, Warrington's second team had yet another game which was in doubt right up to the final whistle. And once again, they came out on top!

A much bigger Bolton side opened the scoring with a penalty after five minutes. Warrington were unlucky not to take the lead when a pass from Mike Haddon to Andy Almond was ruled forward after the winger had crossed in the corner but Bolton made no mistake with their first try, when the quick feet and pace of their stand-off gave them an 8-0 lead.

Warrington replied with a try straight from the Halliwell Jones stadium. Kevin Jones fielded a Bolton kick and

passed to Mark Tickle. The centre handed onto Shaun McDermott who assumed the identity of Lee Briers as he put in a beautiful kick to the corner, which was fielded by winger Almond, who touched down.

Ironically, Warrington took the lead by out-muscling their heavier opponents in a driving maul before Shaun McDermott slipped the ball to Kevin Jones, who crashed over to allow McDermott an easy conversion. On the stroke of half time, Warrington opened up an 11 point lead when scrum half Jack Hannon followed up his own chip ahead to touch down under the posts for a try which was converted.

Five minutes into the second half, Bolton reduced Warrington's lead with a penalty but with 13 minutes to go, the visitors seems to have sealed a victory when veteran Kevin Jones took a superb line from the wing to score. McDermott was successful with the conversion and Warrington were coasting in at 26-11. But Bolton disagreed and loose defence allowed Bolton's to cut the lead to 26-23 but Warrington hung on through. 8 minutes of stoppage time to gain a well-earned win.

### **Didsbury Toc H 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 26 Warrington 3<sup>rd</sup> XV 28**

After going into a seemingly unassailable 21-0 half time lead, Warrington found themselves hanging on by their fingertips in the second period but came from behind to edge the win.

The first half belonged totally to Warrington. and their first try came from Dan Griffiths, who crossed under the posts after a mazy 20 yard run.. The centre converted his own try. Warrington then thanked two new recruits for their next two tries. First Will Larbey took advantage of the smallest of openings in the opposition defence to touch down and then Jack Appleby managed to dance over, in spite of the handicap of his size sixteen boots. Both tries were converted by the trusty size ten boot of Dan Griffiths.

However, Warrington seemed to lose the plot in the second half and Toc H were quick to take advantage, scoring four tries, against a lackluster Warrington defence. Fortunately, they eventually regained some of their first half composure and when Dan Griffiths picked up his own chip ahead, crossed under the posts and then converted his try, and Warrington were back in the lead. This lead could easily have been squandered, when a missed kick to touch allowed Toc H to gain territory and force a scrum five yards out. Fortunately, the home side knocked on at the base of the scrum and Warrington's sigh of relief could probably be heard at Walton Lea Road.

### **Carlisle 19 Warrington 21**

Warrington enjoyed a well-earned win in their first trip to Cumbria this season. However, their inability to nail the fourth try against Carlisle means that they now drop to third place in the league, on bonus points difference, behind Kirkby Lonsdale and Kendal.

Away games in Cumbria are never easy, as the county seems to breed a special strain of nuggetty forwards, as well as fostering referees with a regional interpretation of the laws of the game. Although Warrington managed to contain the Carlisle pack, they continually fell foul of the referee, who awarded 24 penalties against them to just four against Carlisle.

Warrington took the field without three of their major playmakers but the in-depth strength of the squad was soon demonstrated when they scored in their first real attack, as Tom Wood slipped a delicate pass to man-of-the match Josh Riley, who galloped over. Darren Norman made no mistake with the conversion.

The next twenty minutes saw the visitors in total control but, ironically, it was Carlisle who scored next when they seized on a Warrington mistake to force a line out five yards from the Warrington line and then execute a well-worked driving maul score. The try was converted to make the sides level at the turnaround.

Warrington took ten minutes in the second period to re-establish their lead. After a series of attacking phases, they forced a line out in the Carlisle 22 and when the ball flashed to Tom Wood, the elusive stand-off dummied and ghosted over to give Darren Norman an easy conversion.

In a rare attack, Carlisle scored again through a second driving maul but the conversion was missed and Warrington led by two points. This lead was soon increased when the backs combined well and Max Walker, playing out of position in the centre, received the ball twenty yards out, ignored the two man overlap and took route 1 to smash his way over, in signature fashion, under the sticks. The Norman conversion made the score 21-12.

Warrington were now hunting the bonus point and nearly scored the fourth try in the corner but Nathan Beesley was just short. Carlisle then punched themselves back into contention when the referee awarded them a penalty try and the conversion brought them within two points. However, Warrington managed to survive, even though Carlisle were awarded two kickable penalties, both of which thankfully drifted wide.

“We always expect a tough game when we come to Cumbria and this was no exception,” said coach Andy Roberts. “However, the squad stepped up to the plate and toughed it out. Although Josh Riley was voted man-of-the-match by the Carlisle side, I thought our award should have gone to Clem O’Rourke up front, closely followed by Tom Wood. We now face the three hardest games of our season, as we play Penrith at home this week, followed by league leaders Kirkby Lonsdale and Kendal in consecutive matches.”

### Minis & Juniors

Our Minis and Juniors go from strength to strength. Three weeks ago we heard that eleven of our Under 13s and nine of our Under 14s been selected for their respective Cheshire Development Squads, with one boy going to the Lancashire Under 13s. Then on the 11th October, our Under 12s won the Manchester Land Rover Tournament, which means that they will be at Twickenham for next year’s Premiership Final.

**Well done boys and parents and coaches!!**

### North 1 West League - 23 October 2015

#	Team	Pd	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale	7	7	0	0	105	33	5
2.	Kendal	7	7	0	0	104	33	5
3.	Warrington	7	7	0	0	121	32	4
4.	Wilmslow	7	6	0	1	144	30	6
5.	Altrincham Kersal	7	5	0	2	75	24	4
6.	Penrith	7	4	0	3	64	21	5
7.	Rochdale	7	3	0	4	4	16	4
8.	Vale of Lune	7	2	0	5	-35	12	4
9.	Blackburn	7	3	0	4	-84	12	0
10.	Carlisle	7	2	0	5	-51	11	3
11.	Eccles	7	2	0	5	-95	11	3
12.	Leigh	7	0	0	7	-97	5	5
13.	Widnes	7	1	0	6	-140	4	0
14.	Broughton Park	7	0	0	7	-115	1	1