



## Welcome to Leigh

A very warm welcome to all the players, officials and spectators of Leigh. This season looks totally different to last year, when we were sitting pretty in third place in the league table and Leigh were supporting everybody else at the bottom. Today, we are separated by just three places and nine points. But you can ignore all that because games between our two clubs are always damn close run things.

Back in 2013, we gave the first performance of our Lazarus act, when an Elliot Johnston try in the last minute was converted by Pat Roberts, to see us snatch a 32-30 win. The return match in January 2014 was just as close. After leading 10-3 at half time, courtesy of a Jack Reid try and a conversion and a penalty from Pat Roberts, Warrington set the pace early in the second period, with a second try from Jack Reid and a 30-yard lung-bursting effort from Andy Roberts supported by a second Pat Roberts' penalty. Leigh then scored two tries of their own and crept to within three points of the Warrington total when their left winger touched down in the corner. But the Warrington defence stood firm to claim the win by a three point margin.

We didn't meet in the 2014/2015 season and our next encounter was in September 2015, when we were enjoying our excellent opening run. However, all form was thrown to the winds when we found ourselves 17-6 down at half time, our only scores coming from two Darren Norman penalties. The full back then kicked two early penalties in the second half before Warrington managed their first try through Tom Wood. Nathan Besley then steamed over and Darren Norman's conversion gave Warrington a nine point lead. Yet once again, Leigh came back with a forwards try and yet again the last ten minutes of a Warrington-Leigh game saw Warrington having to pull out all the defensive stops to defend a four point winning margin. In our last fixture, we were once again up against it right to the closing stages, as Leigh were just two points behind with 10 minutes to go. Fortunately, a signature individual try from Kieron Hughes gave us our best-ever winning margin of just seven points

So there you have it. Let's look forward to another close game between opponents who have the greatest respect for each other.

Dave Jervis

# Appearances

<b>Name</b>		Games Played This Year	<b>Total</b>	Tries this Season	<b>Total</b>
Arnold	Tom	9	18	3	?
Beesley	Nathan	7	39	5	22
Bennett	Jon	0+ 1	5		
Bennett	Sam	0+ 1	9		
Brazendale	James	1+1	5		1
Byrne	Craig	1+ 5	?	1	?
Caldwell	Max	7+2	24	2	4
Callander	Sean	9	62	1	2
Dixon	Ben	0+1	1		0
Downes	Josh	7+1	8		0
Edwards	Pete		22		0
Evans	Jonny	1	1		
Fleming	Dan	9+1	129	1	8
Fraser	Hayden	1	49		26
Giles	Oli	3	3		
Green	Tom	5+1	10	1	1
Griffiths	Dan	3+2	26	1	5
Haddon	Mike		150		5
Hannon	Jack		4		
Hockenhull	Ben	9	35	1	2
Hughes	Sean	9	102		4
Hughes	Kieran		82		87
Johnstone	Elliot	6	83	3	9
Johnstone	Luke	7	117		27
Jones	Kevin		247		72
Lewis	Cam	4+2	12	3	5
Little	Josh	3+1	4		
Lyon	Phil		3		
Marland	Alex		7		0
McGregor	James	3+1	12		0
Nicholls	Sam		13		5
O'Rourke	Clement	8	56		0
Pennington	Nick	2	3	1	1
Preston	Ryan	2+2	27	1	1
Riley	Josh	8+1	89		3
Roberts	Andy	5	84	2	20
Rockey	Matt	1+2	160		52
Smith	Jono		19		12
Thompaon	Paul	4+4	236		20
Thompson	Jamie		13		5
Walker	Max	1	32		7
Ward	Jon	0 + 1	34		1
Wardley	Keith	6	6		0
Wilson	Joe		16		0
Wood	Tom	10	121	2	46
Wright	Andy		5		1
Yoxhall	Shaun		63		3
				Penalty	2

## North 1 West - 19th November

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale	10	10	0	0	329	50	10
2.	Birkenhead Park	10	10	0	0	196	48	8
3.	Northwich	10	8	0	2	164	40	8
4.	Wilmslow	10	8	0	2	80	37	5
5.	Burnage	10	6	0	4	-16	30	6
6.	Blackburn	10	6	0	4	26	27	3
7.	St Benedicts	10	5	0	5	4	26	6
8.	Vale of Lune	10	4	0	6	-102	19	3
9.	Warrington	10	3	0	7	-108	18	6
10.	Altrincham Kersal	10	2	0	8	-74	14	6
11.	West Park SH	10	2	0	8	-114	14	6
12.	Leigh	9	2	0	7	-151	9	1
13.	Rochdale	9	2	0	7	-151	9	1
14.	Eccles	10	1	0	9	-83	8	4

## Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 19th December

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Wirral 2	10	9	1	0	240	38	0
2.	Rossendale 2	9	9	0	0	273	36	0
3.	Sandbach 2	10	7	0	3	77	31	0
4.	Macclesfield 3	10	7	0	3	64	31	0
5.	Blackburn 2	10	6	0	4	108	28	0
6.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	10	5	1	4	16	26	0
7.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	10	5	1	4	-72	26	0
8.	Broughton Park 2	10	4	0	6	-1	22	0
9.	Warrington 2	9	4	0	5	-76	20	0
10.	Burnage 2	10	3	0	7	-81	19	0
11.	Fylde 3	10	3	0	7	-83	19	0
12.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	10	2	1	7	-143	17	0
13.	Whitchurch 2	10	2	0	8	-132	15	0
14.	Birkenhead Park 2	10	1	0	9	-190	13	0

## North One West Fixtures 2016-17

DATE	OPPOSITION	RESULT	Sponsor
<b>2016</b>		<b>Home Team 1st</b>	
3 Sept	West Park (Away)	W 12-15	
10 Sept	Burnage (Away)	L 20-16	
17 Sept	Northwich (Away)	L 41-36	
24 Sept	St Benedicts (Away)	L 25-7	
1 Oct	Kirkby Lonsdale (Home)	L 14-52	
8 Oct	Eccles (Away)	W 28-33	
15 Oct			
22 Oct	Altrincham Kersal (Home)	W 41-27	
29 Oct	Birkenhead Park (Away)	L 55-17	
5 Nov	Wilmslow (Home)	L 36-46	
12 Nov	Blackburn (Away)	L 17-0	
19 Nov	Leigh (Home)		
26 Nov	Vale of Lune (Away)		
3 Dec	Rochdale (Home)		
10 Dec	Burnage (Home)		
17 Dec	Northwich (Home)		Friends of Warrington
<b>2017</b>			
7 Jan	St Benedicts (Home)		Chris Gray
14 Jan	Kirkby Lonsdale (Away)		
28 Jan	Eccles (Home)		Dave Jervis
11 Feb	Altrincham Kersal (Away)		
18 Feb	Birkenhead Park (Home)		
4 March	Wilmslow (Away)		
11 Mar	Blackburn (Home)		Past Players
25 Mar	Leigh (Away)		
1 April	Vale of Lune (Home)		Dave Broadbent
8 April	Rochdale (Away)		
22 April	West Park (Home)		

## Respect

Warrington is a friendly Rugby Club, where everyone is welcome, regardless of race, creed, gender or nationality. This liberal attitude extends to all members of the club and all visitors to the club - **and above all to referees**. Don't forget that without referees there would be no matches and remember that referees are all volunteers. They are not paid (apart from small travel expenses) and they give up their leisure time on a Saturday so that games can be played fairly, within the laws of Rugby. Sometimes, they get it wrong. They are human. But please never fail to show them respect and **never** abuse them, especially as they are leaving the field or in the clubhouse afterwards. Let's build on our reputation for fair-mindedness!

# Warrington RUFC vs. Leigh RUFC

## WARRINGTON RUFC

*Colours:* Green, Scarlet & White

## LEIGH RUFC

*Colours:* Black and Yellow

**Kick Off 2:15 p.m.**

### TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	1	Wayne McCabe
Paul Thompson	2	Iain Wood (C)
Elliot Johnston	3	Matt Newton
Josh Downes	4	Dan Hunter
James Brazendale	5	Paul Hampson
Josh Riley	6	Chris Cowley
Sean Callendar	7	Ross Shepherd
Danny Fleming	8	Marcus Morris-Williams
Tom Wood	9	Alex Leadbetter
Andy Roberts	10	Rob Drake
Nathan Beesley	11	Kieran Duffy
Luke Johnston	12	Olli Farley
Keith Wardley	13	Elliott Ryan
Tom Arnold	14	Olli Shepherd
Ben Hockehull	15	Jimmy Wilkinson
	<b>Bench</b>	
Tom Green	16	Jack Burdon
Sean Hughes	17	Cameron Rigg
Max Caldwell	18	Kieran Seddon
<b>Coach: Andy Roberts</b>		<b>Coach: Karl Lawrinson</b>

**Referee: Richard Smith, Manchester Society**

### Calling All Friends of Warrington

Who are "The Friends of Warrington"? Well basically, they are the people who watch the games every week, their friends and all others who have an interest in Warrington RUFC. And we are still looking!!

On 17th December, which is the home game against Northwich, there will be a special lunch at the club to which everybody is invited. This will allow you to have a sit-down meal, with a pint, before the game, with a match programme thrown in. The cost is just £25 a head and all proceeds will go to Warrington Rugby Club. So this is your chance to support the club financially, while having a pleasant before-match experience with like-minded people.

If you wish to join this pre-Christmas gathering, please phone Paul Broadbent on 07770 553231 or e-mail him at [broadbentpa@outlook.com](mailto:broadbentpa@outlook.com), See you there!

*And don't forget, that we still have a lot of free dates for individual sponsors. These are priced at £25 per head and include a meal, drink and match programme. So if you want to entertain your employees, colleagues or even family, please have a word with any committee member*

## **Blackburn 17 Warrington 0**

A miserable, wet day in Blackburn proved a fitting backdrop to a miserable, and at times boring, game, which saw Warrington come off second best to a very ordinary Blackburn outfit. The fact that they lost without even once troubling the scoreboard perhaps best sums up a generally lacklustre display.

Warrington knew that it was going to be a hard afternoon from the kick-off, as their pack ceded at least a stone a man to their opponents. Blackburn soon took advantage of their superiority up front when they forced their way into Warrington territory and eventually scored through a driving maul, which was converted.

The game then degenerated into a prolonged arm wrestle with a strangely switched-off Warrington continually trying to make ground by driving the ball into contact and then expecting gaps to open. Unfortunately, the Blackburn blitz defence, which played right to the very edge of the offside line, proved up to the challenge and they soon reverted to plan A with a second try from a driving maul, which was converted.

Warrington tried to vary their game with some astute kicking from Andy Roberts but Blackburn's excellent full back snuffed out every danger. However, one well-judged kick put Warrington in the Blackburn 22 and Tom Arnold seemed to have scored an opportunist try but this was disallowed because of an earlier knock-on.

The second half saw Warrington reduced to 14 men when Tom Green was sin-binned and Blackburn exploited their numerical advantage with a well-taken try in the corner. The game then reverted to the standard of the first half, the only Warrington highlight being a twenty yard break from Paul Thomson, standing in at prop, and the match eventually fizzled out to its drab conclusion without any further score.

"You can expect a game like this once a season," philosophized coach Andy Roberts. "We were obviously totally out of sorts today and hopefully we can get back on track when we face Leigh on Saturday."

## **Warrington 36 Wilmslow 46**

In an exciting game which saw a total of 12 tries, an injury-hit Warrington eventually ran out losers to fourth-placed Wilmslow, even though they scored 29 points in a gutsy second half come-back.

Warrington lost no time in getting on the scoreboard when Cam Lewis put in a speculative clearance kick, which was followed up by Tom Wood, who handed onto Ben Hockenhull. The full back fed Tom Arnold who showed a great turn of speed to sprint over. Ben Hockenhull converted.

The early momentum was continued, especially up-front, where Warrington's front row soon established superiority over their opponents and they could soon have extended their lead but, unfortunately, a simple penalty was missed. The visitors then forced themselves back into the game with two penalties but the turning point of the match came when Warrington were reduced to fourteen men five minutes before half. Wilmslow mercilessly exploited their temporary numerical superiority by scoring three tries in the sin-binning period. First, their forwards drove over and then they bagged a second try with a neat miss move on the stroke of half time.

Warrington replied with a penalty just after the restart but Wilmslow increased their lead with a third try against the stretched Warrington defence and then crossed again to take the score to 26-10.

Finally restored to their full complement, Warrington replied with a try out of the top drawer. Nick Pennington picked up a loose ball and made twenty yards before passing to Tom Wood. The scrum half made a further twenty yards before handing on to Tom Arnold and the centre drew his man before releasing Nathan Beasley who swerved around his opposing winger at speed to touch down. Ben Hockenhull converted.

However, Wilmslow soon replied with two quick tries, first from a quick tap penalty and then from a forward drive, to give them a 36-17 lead. Warrington cut the deficit when Wilmslow had a man sent to the bin and Tom Green powered over from a tap penalty. Ben Hockenhull again added the extras.



From the restart, the Wilmslow second row claimed the ball and ran to the line virtually unopposed to take his side's lead to a seemingly untouchable 17 points. But Warrington soon cut this to a reachable 5 points with two quick tries. The first came from a mid-field turnover which gave Max Caldwell the space to squeeze over. Ben Hockenhull converted from the touchline. Minutes later Andy Roberts broke the Wilmslow defensive line and Tom Wood continued the momentum and drew two defenders before freeing Nathan Beesley who scooted over for his second try.

Warrington now seemed to be in a position to reprise their famous Lazarous act but it was not to be as Wilmslow had the last word with a well-taken try in the corner.

### **Warrington 2<sup>ND</sup> XV 29    Whitchurch 2<sup>ND</sup> XV 23**

In a highly entertaining game both sides gave early demonstrations of their strengths. First it was Warrington using their speed out wide in the form of right winger Will Maudsley who, with the benefit of a strong hand-off, crossed for a try in the third minute. Full back Ben Dixon added his first conversion. Left winger Nathan Beesley with his elusive speed and the benefit of early ball, touched down two minutes later after chasing his own nicely weighted kick ahead.

Whitchurch were by no means overawed by this early 12 point deficit and stormed back to equalise within ten minutes with two powerful forward drives, one from a sustained pick and drive from the pack, the second from a 5m line-out. With Whitchurch always threatening through their bigger pack, with their aggressive mauling plays, some astute kicking from stand-off Sean McDermott was necessary to keep the visitors away from the Warrington 22. One such kick took Warrington up to Whitchurch's 5m line and when the visitors were penalised, scrum half terrier Jack Hannon took a quick tap and scored in the corner. Dixon converted from the touchline. Whitchurch bounced back with a series of powerful forward drives to secure an easy penalty in front of the sticks which ensured they turned round only 4 points adrift at 19-15.

The teams traded penalties in the early minutes of the second half, but Warrington seemed to forget how they had scored their first half tries and tried to adopt the Whitchurch forwards-based tactics. Though there were some good breaks and some hard yards gained, notably from slimline prop John Bennett and the burly No 8 Craig Byrne, Warrington seemed unable to retain possession in these forward drives. With Whitchurch countering, it took impressive defensive work from man of the match and captain Shaun Yoxall, ably abetted by youngster Josh Little, to keep the visitors at bay.

Winger Will Maudsley stretched Warrington's lead in the 60<sup>th</sup> minute when he received the ball for the first time in the second half, and showed his speed to touch down under the posts. Another conversion from Dixon gave Warrington an 11-point cushion but a push-over try from the visitors 10 minutes later reduced this to 6 and led to a nail-biting finish. In the closing seconds, Whitchurch gained a scrum on the Warrington 5m line but a rare, but welcome, strike against the head allowed scrum half Hannon to kick into touch and welcome the referee's final whistle.

### **Northwich 2<sup>nd</sup> 35    Warrington 3<sup>rd</sup> XV 3**

Warrington's 3<sup>rd</sup> team was magnificent in defeat against a more experienced, heavier and stronger Northwich second string, which formed the basis of last season's first team squad.

Northwich scored first when they broke free from a disorganized maul and touched down under the posts to take a seven point lead. Warrington's young side struck back with a penalty from Pat Roberts and the score remained at 7-3 until just before half time, when Northwich broke through the tenacious Warrington defence to make the score 14-3 at the turnaround.

The second half saw Warrington in contention right up to the seventieth minute, when their young side finally deferred to the continuous Northwich pressure to concede three late converted tries.

"Words cannot convey how proud I am of this young side's performance today," said skipper Tony Fretwell. "The side we faced was probably Northwich's first team of last season and our side had an average age of around 20, if we remove the two vets playing. Even so, they stepped up to the plate superbly.

## Raging Bull North West - Division 2 South

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Glossop 2	9	8	0	1	338	33	0
2.	Northwich 2	9	8	0	1	137	33	0
3.	Bowdon 2	9	6	0	3	80	27	0
4.	Uni of Liverpool Vets 1	8	6	0	2	45	25	0
5.	Aldwinians 2	10	5	0	5	12	25	0
6.	Altrincham Kersal 2	8	4	0	4	12	20	0
7.	Didsbury Toc H 2	8	4	0	4	-20	20	0
8.	Chester 3	8	4	0	4	-68	20	0
9.	Winnington Park 2	9	3	0	6	-174	18	0
10.	Warrington 3	7	1	0	6	-126	8	0
11.	Sefton 2	8	0	0	8	-231	8	0
12.	Caldy 3	7	1	0	6	-5	7	0
13.	Stockport 3 OUT	0	0	0	0	0	-8	-8

### Photo Gallery



**Thommo thinks he has scored**



**Byrnsey knows he has**