



## Welcome to Northwich

A very warm welcome to all the players, officials and spectators of Northwich. Some years ago, we met on a regular basis but then we went our separate ways. Northwich were promoted from South Lancs/Cheshire 1 this year and we renewed our acquaintance back in September, in a feisty match at Northwich.

This game ended with just five points separating the sides but Northwich claimed bragging rights with a try in the closing seconds. This was very much a game of sin-binnings and the home side scored first when they took advantage of an early enforced breather for Danny Fleming to score a snappy try. Warrington then took the lead with a Nathan Beesley try and a Ben Hockenhull conversion and penalty. The sides then exchanged tries before Northwich notched up a try and a penalty to take a 22-15 half time lead.

Northwich raced into a 36-15 lead in the second period but then saw three players sin-binned in quick succession. Warrington used their significant numerical advantage to level the scores, by virtue of converted tries from Josh Riley, Danny Fleming and a penalty try but Northwich sealed the game with a last minute five pointer.

So let's look forward to a great return match and may the better side win.

### Granty

Apart from being close to Northwich geographically, we could now be even closer following the serious injury to Paul Grant two weeks ago. You will no doubt remember that John Blower suffered a similar injury whilst playing for Northwich against Warrington at Walton Lea Road some years ago. The support given to John by his club has been nothing short of magnificent. We are still not aware of the full extent of Granty's injury nor of the medical prognosis but latest reports tell us that he has been moved back to the ICU as he was having trouble breathing. However, if he does not make a complete recovery, and we are all fervently hoping that he will, I am sure we can rely on Northwich for practical and valuable advice.

## Appearances

<b>Name</b>		Games Played This Year	<b>Total</b>	Tries this Season	<b>Total</b>
Arnold	Tom	13	22	3	?
Beesley	Nathan	11	42	10	27
Bennett	Jon	0+ 3	7		
Bennett	Sam	0+ 1	9		
Brazendale	James	4+2	9		1
Byrne	Craig	1+ 5	?	1	?
Caldwell	Max	10+3	28	4	6
Callander	Sean	13	65	1	2
Dixon	Ben	0+2	2		0
Downes	Josh	10+1	12		0
Evans	Jonny	1	1		
Fleming	Dan	10+1	130	1	8
Fraser	Hayden	1	49		26
Giles	Oli	3	3		
Green	Tom	5+3	12	2	2
Gregory	Matt	0+1	1		
Griffiths	Dan	3+2	26	1	5
Hannon	Jack	1	5		
Hockenhull	Ben	13	39	2	3
Hughes	Sean	12+1	106		4
Hughes	Kieran		82		87
Johnstone	Elliot	10	87	6	12
Johnstone	Luke	10+1	121		27
Jones	Kevin		247		72
Lewis	Cam	4+2	12	3	5
Little	Josh	3+2	5		
Lynch	Phil		43		2
McGregor	James	3+1	12		0
Nicholls	Sam		13		5
O'Rourke	Clement	12	60		0
Pennington	Nick	3	4	2	2
Preston	Ryan	2+2	27	1	1
Riley	Josh	12+1	93	1	4
Roberts	Andy	8	87	2	20
Roberts	Pat	1+1	30		
Rockey	Matt	1+2	160		52
Thompaon	Paul	6+4	238	1	21
Walker	Max	1	32		7
Ward	Jon	0 + 1	34		1
Wardley	Keith	8	8		0
Wilson	Joe		16		0
Wood	Tom	14	125	2	46
Wright	Andy		5		1
Yoxhall	Shaun	2	65		3
				Penalty	2

### North 1 West - 17th December

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale	13	13	0	0	442	65	13
2.	Birkenhead Park	12	12	0	0	286	58	10
3.	Wilmslow	14	11	0	3	137	51	7
4.	Northwich	14	10	0	4	167	49	9
5.	Blackburn	14	9	0	5	60	40	4
6.	Burnage	14	7	0	7	-41	36	8
7.	Warrington	14	6	0	8	-92	33	9
8.	Vale of Lune	13	7	0	6	-77	32	4
9.	St Benedicts	13	6	0	7	-28	31	7
10.	Altrincham Kersal	14	4	0	10	-108	23	7
11.	West Park SH	14	4	0	10	-160	22	6
12.	Leigh	13	2	0	11	-220	12	4
13.	Rochdale	12	2	0	10	-183	11	3
14.	Eccles	14	1	0	13	-183	9	5

### Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 17th December

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Rossendale 2	12	12	0	0	339	48	0
2.	Wirral 2	14	11	1	2	269	48	0
3.	Sandbach 2	14	11	0	3	136	47	0
4.	Macclesfield 3	14	10	0	4	114	44	0
5.	Blackburn 2	14	8	0	6	129	38	0
6.	Warrington 2	13	7	0	6	-49	33	0
7.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	14	5	1	8	-172	30	0
8.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	13	5	1	7	-51	29	0
9.	Burnage 2	14	5	0	9	-134	29	0
10.	Broughton Park 2	13	5	0	8	27	28	0
11.	Fylde 3	14	4	0	10	-138	26	0
12.	Whitchurch 2	14	4	0	10	-103	25	0
13.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	14	3	1	10	-207	24	0
14.	Birkenhead Park 2	13	3	0	10	-160	22	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)	W 37-28	
26 Nov	Vale of Lune (Away)	L 29-24	
3 Dec	Rochdale (Home)	W 28-23	
10 Dec	Burnage (Home)	W 17-10	
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)		Paul O'Toole



# Warrington RUFC vs. Northwich RUFC

## WARRINGTON RUFC

**Colours:** Green, Scarlet & White

## Northwich RUFC

**Colours:** Black and Yellow

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

### TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	<b>1</b>	Hulbert
Sean Hughes	<b>2</b>	Thompson
Elliot Johnston	<b>3</b>	Bradshaw M
Shaun Yoxhall	<b>4</b>	Dudley
James Brazendale	<b>5</b>	Smith
Josh Riley	<b>6</b>	Heywood
Sean Callendar	<b>7</b>	English
Joe Wilson	<b>8</b>	Dale
Tom Wood	<b>9</b>	Poste
Pat Roberts	<b>10</b>	Baldwin
Luke Gilooly	<b>11</b>	Houghton
Keith Wardley	<b>12</b>	Underhill
Tom Arnold	<b>13</b>	Barber
Max Caldwell	<b>14</b>	Skinkis
Ben Hockenhull	<b>15</b>	Du Rant
	<b><i>Bench</i></b>	
Jon Bennet	<b>16</b>	Farley
Luke Johnston	<b>17</b>	Lyndsay
Andy Roberts	<b>18</b>	Bradshaw C
<b><i>Coach: Andy Roberts</i></b>		<b><i>Coach: Dave Cole</i></b>

**Referee:** Jack Lefevre, Manchester Society

## THIS WEEK'S SPONSORS

This week's sponsors are The Friends of Warrington. Basically, The Friends of Warrington are people who come to watch games, friends of those people, parents of players and others who just have an interest in Warrington RUFC. They have been gathered here today by the organisational abilities of Paul Broadbent, who still occasionally masquerades as a referee for third team games. Thanks to Paul and thanks to all the attendees at the lunch. We trust you will enjoy the excellent pie and chips and the game and hope that your sponsorship can become a regular event.

### The Club Christmas Party

It's going to be a busy day at the Sports Club today. As well as the Sponsors' lunch, Pual White will be celebrating his birthday **and** we shall be holding the Rugby Club Christmas party! Everyone is invited. There will be music, food and, probably, booze. So come along for a night to remember. It's a 6 p.m. kick-off.

### *You Never Lose It*

*A few of the oldies had their own Christmas celebration last week at the Fuzzy Duck Christmas Do. This annual event was started some years ago by Dave Harthill, ex-player and now minis coach. At that time Dave was setting up his company in a room above the barber's in Stockton Heath. Although he didn't have any employees, he thought it would be a good idea to have an office party. So he rounded up a few mates and the legend began. This year we had a couple of very-oldies in me and Pottsy and some fast-bacommg-oldies in R8CKE, Steve Riley, Savo, Matt Drinkwater and young Parky, to mention a few. Drink was taken but nobody died. That's the thing about rugby, it's for life!!*



## **Warrington 17 Burnage 10**

There is an old saying in rugby that “defence wins games” and the truth of this epigram was comprehensively demonstrated at the Fortress on Saturday where Warrington’s sterling defence restricted Burnage to a single try and gained them revenge for a narrow defeat earlier in the season. Even so, this was yet another nail-biter, with the result in the balance right up to the final whistle.

Warrington’s defensive mettle was severely tested during the opening ten minutes, as Burnage showed they had come to win and exerted relentless pressure on the Warrington line. Fortunately committed tackling, particularly from Sean Yoxall and Nick Pennington kept the visitors at bay.

Eventually, Warrington managed to go onto the attack, when they forced a line-out in only their second visit to Burnage territory. Possession was claimed by the dynamic duo of Sean Callendar and Josh Riley and the forwards set up a maul before releasing the ball to the backs. Tom Arnold drew the defence before passing to Max Caldwell, who finished off in style. Ben Hockenhull converted from near the touchline.

The young winger was unlucky not to increase Warrington’s lead ten minutes later, when he was tackled just short but a Ben Hockenhull penalty took Warrington into a 10-0 lead. Burnage then missed a penalty kick but the visitors eventually engineered a good try when their busy inside centre scored after a clever over-the-head pass. The conversion meant that the sides turned round with Warrington 10-7 ahead.

Five minutes into the second period, the home side were unlucky not to increase their lead when an ambitious 40 yard penalty attempt from Ben Hockenhull hit the upright. However, it was Max Caldwell again who sparked Warrington’s second try when he was stopped twenty yards out after a signature mazy run. The forwards were quickly in support and Nick Pennington spotted a hint of a gap, broke through and sidestepped the full back to touch down under the posts. Hockenhull converted.

Burnage closed the gap to just seven points with a dubious penalty but Warrington’s defence again stepped up to the plate to deny the visitors any further score.

“We were aware that we have the second worst defensive record in the league, so we have worked on improving our tackling during training,” said coach Andy Roberts. “Today it paid dividends and I am very proud at the way that all the lads have responded. Hopefully, we can continue our defensive strategy next week, when we welcome Northwich in what should be a close-fought local derby.”

## **Warrington 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 19 Birkenhead Park 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 17**

It seems that nail-biting games at Walton Lea Road are infectious, as Warrington’s second team sneaked a win against a very strong Birkenhead Park outfit with the last kick of the match.

After a first quarter where both sides arm-wrestled for dominance, it was Warrington who first troubled the scoreboard when Dan Griffiths, who was prominent throughout, took advantage of a well-worked backs move to score under the posts and allow Darren Norman an easy conversion. This lead was soon increased to 12 points when the ever-alert Will Maudsley intercepted on halfway and showed his sprinting prowess to touch down in the corner. Park left their response to the last minute of the first half when they managed a converted try through their burly pack.

Ten minutes into the second period, the visitors reduced Warrington’s lead to just two points with a penalty. Both sides then relied heavily on their defences and it seemed that the match would peter out into a narrow Warrington win. However, with just two minutes on the clock Park went into a five point lead when they scored a converted try through a copy-book catch and drive from a line-out. It seemed that the game was over until Warrington were awarded a five-yard scrum in the last seconds of the game. The pack held the ball until number 8 Ben Hart picked up and powered his way over to tie the scores. Cometh the hour and cometh the man, in the guise of player coach, Shaun McDermott, who coolly stroked the ball between the uprights before the final whistle signaled the end of a superb match.

“Obviously, this was a very close run thing,” said Shaun, “But it was a just result for a great team effort”

### **Warrington 3<sup>rd</sup> XV 17 Altrincham Kersal 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 28**

Warrington's third string were only four points adrift in this game against Altrincham's second team until a break-away Altrincham try in the last minute somewhat distorted the final score. In fact, tighter defence in the first half could well have seen Warrington win.

The first score came within minutes of the start when Altrincham caught Warrington cold and strolled over for a converted try. The home side soon pulled themselves together when Ryan Preston benefited from good approach work from the pack to score. Mark Tickle assumed the unaccustomed role of kicker and converted. Unfortunately, this parity was to be short lived, as Altrincham notched up two more converted tries, although Warrington did manage a penalty from Luke Wood.

Eleven points separated the two sides at the start of the second half but after twenty minutes Warrington reduced this to four when Tyra Hamblett latched onto a pin-point kick to the corner from Dan Reid and touched down. Luke Wood converted. At this stage, Warrington were very much on top in the forwards, where Phil Lynch, in his come-back game, Sam Bennett and Jayesh Kerai were prominent. Unrelenting Warrington pressure was met with desperate Altrincham defence, to the extent that the visitors had two men sin-binned for illegal interference. Sam Bennett then seemed to have clinched the game but he was held up over the line and Altrincham finally put the game out of Warrington's reach with a break-away try which was converted.

“This just shows how we keep improving,” said skipper Tony Fretwell. “Altrincham beat us by 78 points earlier in the season. Today, with a little more luck, we could have won.”

### **Warrington 3<sup>rd</sup> XV 24 Bowdon 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 5 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

A strong Warrington third team ignored their position at the bottom of the league and destroyed a Bowdon outfit currently lying six places above them.

Warrington began well when a flowing movement led by Dan Johnston was finished off by the ubiquitous Mark Tickle. The same centre then crossed for a second try when he took a quick tap penalty and slalomed through the defence to touch down and give his side a 10-0 half time lead.

Bowdon got onto the scoreboard ten minutes into the second stanza with a driving try but Warrington soon hit back when Olly Giles picked up the ball in his own half and demolished three would-be tacklers to power over. Darren Norman converted. The game was closed out with ten minutes to go by an exquisite chip from talented Jamie Thompson, which found his half back partner Dan Reid and the scrum half scuttled over. Darren Norman added the extras to complete the scoring.

### **Warrington 3<sup>rd</sup> XV 7 Glossop 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 26 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Warrington's young third team came up against the might of Glossop 2<sup>nd</sup> and it says something for their grit and determination that the heavyweight league leaders could manage to enter the Warrington 22 only five times throughout the game. However, they used their formidable pack to trundle over for tries on four of these occasions. Three of these tries came in the first half so that the sides turned round with the home side enjoying a 19-0 lead.

The introduction of veteran Kev Jones at stand-off and the welcome return of flanker John McGill after a long absence ensured an even second half, with both sides notching up a try. Brothers Fred and Zak Nichols excelled in the line-outs and provided gritty resistance in the close encounters, while hooker Matt Bayliss led the pack ruthlessly. Eventually, this never-say-die attitude paid dividends when back row, and man-of-the-match Dan Reid took a pass from the ageless Kev Jones and rounded the full back with ease to score the try of the match, converted by Cameron McNeil. Glossop had the last word with another bulldozed try, but every Warrington player was rightly proud of a game which they both contested and enjoyed.

## Raging Bull North West, Division 2 South - 17th December

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Northwich 2	11	10	0	1	179	41	0
2.	Glossop 2	11	9	0	2	350	38	0
3.	Uni of Liverpool Vets 1	10	8	0	2	85	33	0
4.	Altrincham Kersal 2	11	6	0	5	45	29	0
5.	Aldwinians 2	10	5	0	5	59	25	0
6.	Bowdon 2	10	5	0	5	18	25	0
7.	Chester 3	11	4	0	7	-101	22	0
8.	Didsbury Toc H 2	9	4	0	5	-49	21	0
9.	Winnington Park 2	10	3	0	7	-149	19	0
10.	Sefton 2	11	1	0	10	-300	14	0
11.	Warrington 3	10	2	0	8	-137	12	-2
12.	Caldy 3 OUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Stockport 3 OUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Photo Gallery

#### The Many Roles (and Shapes) of a Modern Prop



A burly, scoring prop



A lithe scrummaging prop

(It seems that many of you have had difficulty in recognising the new, slimmed-down Gloucester John, alias Jon Bennett. Evidently, he attributes his startling weight loss to love. And you can see the results above, in black and white)