



Warrington Welcomes Birkenhead Park

A very warm welcome to the players, officials and spectators of Birkenhead Park. Park is one of the oldest clubs in the country, having been founded in 1871. It moved to its present location in 1885 and the black and white pavillion which still stands was built in 1892. Over the years, Park have nurtured 42 International players and 37 County players and its famous ground has hosted home countries internationals as well as seeing visits from the All Blacks in 1905 and 1978.

Our recent playing history against Park goes back to 2013, when we were newly promoted to North 1 West and they had just been demoted from National League 3 North. Our first encounter proved something of a thriller and we just lost to a converted try in the last minute. Our try scorers that day were Tom Wood, Jamie Thompson, Luke Johnston and Matt Rockey.

Park had it slightly easier in the return fixture that season, winning by 37-26 at Walton Lea Road, which was particularly galling for Warrington as a bonus point resulting from a fourth try would have lifted them above Broughton Park in the final League placings.

Season 2014-2015 again saw Warrington unable to triumph over Park. Although we went down by 31-24 in the October 2014 encounter, we showed great resilience by refusing to submit to a 21 point half time losing margin and scored 14 unanswered second half points to salvage an important bonus point. And we did this with an 18-man squad, featuring Rokeby Turner and Matt Connolly at prop. The return fixture told very much the same story, with Warrington recovering from a 19-0 half time deficit to outscore their visitors 12-10 in the second half, with four penalties from the boot of Luke Wood, but eventually losing 12-29.

Earlier this season, we were totally outclassed by an on-form Park, who racked up 55 points to our 17. Our tries came from Natahn Beesley, Tom Wood and Cam Lewis, with a conversion added by Tom Hockenhill.

So there you go. Played five, lost five. However, Park have lost their last three games, while we have won three of our last four. So hopefully, we are due for a win. Enjoy the game.

Dave Jervis

Arnold	Tom	18	27	7	?
Beesley	Nathan	11	42	10	27
Bennett	Jon	3+ 3	10		
Bennett	Sam	0+ 1	9		
Brazendale	James	5+3	11		1
Byrne	Craig	1+ 9	?	2	?
Caldwell	Max	14+3	32	8	10
Callander	Sean	17	69	2	3
Dixon	Ben	0+2	2		0
Downes	Josh	11+1	13		0
Evans	Jonny	1	1		
Fleming	Dan	14+1	134	2	9
Fraser	Hayden	1	49		26
Gilooly	Luke	5	5		
Giles	Oli	3	3		
Green	Tom	7+3	14	2	2
Gregory	Matt	0+2	2		
Griffiths	Dan	3+2	26	1	5
Hannon	Jack	4	8		
Hockenhull	Ben	15	41	2	3
Hughes	Sean	15+2	110		4
Johnstone	Elliot	11	88	6	12
Johnstone	Luke	13+3	126		27
Lewis	Cam	5+2	13	3	5
Little	Josh	3+2	5		
Lynch	Phil	1	44		2
Maudsley	Will	2	2		
McGregor	James	3+1	12		0
Nicholls	Sam		13		5
O'Rourke	Clement	16	64	1	1
Pennington	Nick	4	5	2	2
Preston	Ryan	3+2	28	1	1
Riley	Josh	17+1	98	2	5
Roberts	Andy	9	88	2	20
Roberts	Pat	6+1	35	1	6
Roberts	Nick	0+3	3		
Rockey	Matt	1+2	160		52
Thompaon	Paul	9+4	241	1	21
Walker	Max	1	32		7
Wardley	Keith	10	10		0
White	Chris	0 + 1	44		14
Wilson	Joe	1	17		0
Wood	Tom	19	130	3	47
Yoxhall	Shaun	4	67		3

North 1 West - 18th February 2017

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale	19	19	0	0	617	93	17
2.	Birkenhead Park	19	15	1	3	319	77	15
3.	Wilmslow	19	14	0	5	164	67	11
4.	Northwich	19	13	0	6	203	64	12
5.	Burnage	19	11	0	8	7	54	10
6.	Blackburn	19	11	1	7	123	52	6
7.	Warrington	19	9	0	10	-126	47	11
8.	Vale of Lune	19	9	1	9	-101	43	5
9.	St Benedicts	18	7	0	11	-74	37	9
10.	Rochdale	18	6	0	12	-177	31	7
11.	Leigh	19	6	0	13	-287	28	4
12.	West Park SH	19	5	0	14	-265	28	8
13.	Altrincham Kersal	19	4	1	14	-138	27	9
14.	Eccles	19	1	0	18	-265	12	8

Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 18th February 2017

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Rossendale 2	19	17	0	2	399	70	0
2.	Wirral 2	19	16	1	2	386	68	0
3.	Macclesfield 3	19	14	0	5	233	61	0
4.	Sandbach 2	19	12	0	7	111	55	0
5.	Blackburn 2	19	11	0	8	154	52	0
6.	Warrington 2	19	10	0	9	1	48	0
7.	Burnage 2	19	9	0	10	-100	46	0
8.	Broughton Park 2	19	8	0	11	-82	43	0
9.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	19	7	1	11	-153	41	0
10.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	19	6	1	12	-165	38	0
11.	Fylde 3	19	6	0	13	-182	37	0
12.	Whitchurch 2	19	6	0	13	-115	36	0
13.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	19	5	1	13	-278	35	0
14.	Birkenhead Park 2	19	4	0	15	-209	31	0

North One West Fixtures 2016-2017

DATE	OPPOSITION	RESULT	Sponsor
2016		Home Team 1st	
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)	L 26-27	Friends of Warrington
2017			
7 Jan	St Benedicts (Home)	W 28-26	Chris Gray
14 Jan	Kirkby Lonsdale (Away)	L 48-0	
28 Jan	Eccles (Home)	W 34-22	Dave Jervis
11 Feb	Altrincham Kersal (Away)	W 19-20	
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. Birkenhead Park RUFC

Warrington RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

Birkenhead Park RUFC

Colours: Red, White and Blue

Kick Off 2:15 p.m.

TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	1	Gareth Jones
Paul Thompson	2	Daniel Atherton
Jon Bennett	3	Peter Doolan
Josh Riley	4	Paul Hellier
Phil Lynch	5	Jack Ashcroft (C)
Sean Hughes (C)	6	Laurence Thomas
Sean Callendar	7	Sean Mooney
Danny Fleming	8	David Ibbotson
B Hockenhull	9	Samuel Chidley
Tom Wood	10	Si Mason
Max Caldwell	11	Sam Tyrer
Luke Johnstone	12	Gareth Coy
Luke Gilooly	13	Danny Rich
Tom Arnold	14	Adam Wellington
Pat Roberts	15	Dave Hall
	Bench	
Craig Byrne	16	Jack Mason
Matt Gregory	17	Olie Mabbott
Nick Roberts	18	Tom Dempsey
Coach: Andy Roberts		Coach: Martin O'Keefe

Referee: Martin Hiney, Manchester Society

Forthcoming Events

Saturday April 1st - The Granty Fund Raiser

This promises to be a great day out! There will be three games to watch, starting with the Crosfields Masters vs Warrington Vets cross code match at 1.00pm.

This will be followed by the Warrington RUFC league game against Vale of Lune, kick off 3.0;pm and the Warrington third team game against Aldwinians, also kicking off at 3pm.

There will be a pitch-side bar and BBQ as well as post-match entertainment, with an auction and a raffle. Prizes include a signed Everton shirt, tickets to a Man City game a 4-ball golf round at Sale and a hotel spa stay. So make a note in your diary!!!

Saturday 11th March

Once again it's time for our infamous Past Players' Lunch. Tickets are going fast so see Fred Winstanley if you don't want to miss out.



Altrincham-Kersal 19 Warrington 20

This season Warrington seem to be making a habit of playing games where the result is in doubt right up to the final whistle. And Saturday's thriller against Altrincham Kersal was no exception, as they sneaked a win in the closing seconds!

The opening exchanges saw Warrington under continuous pressure from a hard-running Altrincham outfit but their gritty defence held firm. They eventually enjoyed a rare excursion into Altrincham territory when Pat Roberts made a forty yard break and tis was followed up by a couple of excellent runs from winger, Max Caldwell. The Warrington forwards then started to provide good ball and eventually Stand-off Tom Wood put in a searching kick to the right and found Josh Riley, who forced his way over, Luke Gillooly converted from wide.

The home side soon returned to the attack and looked especially dangerous when they executed a powerful 20 metre driving maul and forced a set scrum five yards out. Once again, Warrington demonstrated their defensive strengths and the threat was snuffed out. They quickly returned to the attack with the best try of the match when they moved the ball beautifully from left to right across the field before winger Tom Arnold finished off in the corner. They could conceivably have further increased their lead on the stroke of half time when Max Caldwell was forced into touch inches from the line. Even so, they tuned around with a comfortably 12-0 ahead and seemed set for a five-point victory.

However, Altrincham disagreed and they then started to dominate all aspects of the game, especially up front, where the strong running of their forwards proved a constant threat. They eventually forced a set scrum, after being held up over the line and used this as a platform to drive over for a try which was converted. The home side pack continued their hard running assaults and were soon rewarded with a second converted try to take the lead, which they eventually increased to seven points with a second driving score.

Ten minutes from the final whistle, Altrincham saw their lively scrum half sin-binned and Luke Gillooly compounded their woes by slotting the resultant penalty. Exploiting their one-man advantage, Warrington now started to apply relentless pressure on the Altrincham line but the Altrincham defence held out until the last minute of the match. And cometh the minute, cometh the man, in this case in the rotund shape of prop/centre/wing forward/hooker Craig Byrne, who barreled over the line from three yards, after Josh Riley had been stopped inches short. The conversion attempt was wide but it didn't matter as the referee blew his whistle immediately and Warrington had used up yet another "get out of jail" card.

"To be fair, Altrincham were much the better side in the second half," conceded coach Andy Roberts. "However, once again we showed our great self-belief, which refuses to accept defeat until the final whistle blows.

Warrington 34 Eccles 22

Warrington again contrived to give their supporters some nervous second-half moments by allowing their opponents to approach within 7 points after taking a seemingly untouchable 29-10 lead. Fortunately, Tom Arnold sealed the game with Warrington's sixth try in the closing minutes and Warrington maintain their mid table position in North 1 West.

The home side were quickly onto the score board against bottom of the table Eccles after a deep-probing kick from stand-off Pat Roberts pinned the visitors in their 22. Warrington regained possession from the ensuing ruck and a long pass from an aware Tom Wood at scrum half gave winger Max Caldwell the space to scramble over in the corner for the first of his three tries. Unfortunately, Warrington failed to secure the restart and Eccles barrelled up-field through their forwards gaining a penalty under the posts to cut the deficit almost immediately to 2 points.

The visitors then took the lead when their stand-off made a clean break from line-out ball and slipped a pass to his supporting centre for an excellent try between the posts.

Warrington now began to get the better of the exchanges but scoring chances slipped away, first when a penalty was conceded for off side at a maul just 10 metres out and second when a last pass went astray after slick back play had left the try line open for winger Will Maudesley. Fortunately, at this stage, Warrington's defence was exemplary. The speed off the line from second rower Phil Lynch, flanker Jack Hannon and centre Luke Gillooly in

particular put real pressure on the visitors, denying them any momentum in attack.

Twenty five minutes in, Warrington regained the lead through Tom Arnold, again from a quick wide pass which gave the speedy full back room to move. Gilooly added the extras from wide out. It was now the forwards turn with Number 8 Danny Fleming claiming the touch down for a try from a driving maul by the Warrington pack. On the stroke of half time, Caldwell added his second try by taking advantage of quick recycle ball from sustained phases of possession.

Caldwell's third try was a superlative individual effort, which came two minutes into the second half. Fielding a high would-be clearance kick on the half way, the mercurial winger rounded the first two chasers with ease then jinked through almost half of the rest of the opposition to score by the posts. The Gilooly conversion gave Warrington a comfortable 29-10 lead but thereafter the game became a very scrappy affair with neither side able to sustain much continuity. Some loose kicking from Warrington did not relieve pressure, allowing the visitors to attack from deep, and handling errors handed the initiative to the visitors at the set piece. Accordingly, Eccles rumbled back into the game through their driving forwards scoring tries in the 52nd and 65th minutes to take the score to 29-22.

Warrington now began to exert some continued pressure of the Eccles line but were frustrated by careless penalties or poor ball retention. Finally, however, from a scrum 15 metres out scrum half Wood fed full back Arnold who calmed supporters' nerves by scorching into the line on a nice angle scoring his second and Warrington's sixth try.

Warrington 2nd XV 13 Wirral 2nd XV 23

Warrington's second team could find no answer to the talented Wirral backs and although they matched the opposition pack in all phases, they eventually lost by three tries to one.

The visitors soon set their stall out when their three quarters combined to engineer a converted try under the posts. Warrington responded with a beautiful solo effort from winger Will Maudesly, who ran 40 yards after excellent interchanging among the Warrington backs. Danny Griffiths converted to level the scores.

Wirral returned to the attack and soon put another try on the board to go ahead by five points. They eventually increased their lead to eight points with a well struck penalty but just before half time Warrington cut the deficit with a penalty from Danny Griffiths.

The second half saw Warrington very much on the defensive, with outstanding contributions from Zak Nichols and James Oatway and some excellent tactical kicking from Shaun McDermott. They managed a further penalty from Dan Griffiths, but they could find no real answer to the Wirral flair although they restricted the visitors to just one more try and a penalty.

Sefton 2nd XV 30 Warrington 3rd XV 20

Warrington's makeshift third team matched Sefton point-for-point until midway through the second half when the tremendous effort finally took its toll and Sefton cruised to eventual victory.

Sefton revealed their game plan right from the kick off by using their heavyweight pack at all occasions. This gave them an early score but Warrington soon replied when Haydn Fraser finished off a well-executed backs' move and touched down in the corner. Sefton relied with a second try through their forwards and just before half time Warrington showed that they also had scoring forwards when prop Tom Green exploded through the defence from the Sefton 22 to score out wide and make the half time score 10-10.

Sefton scored first in the second period with an unconverted try but Warrington came back in similar vein when centre Luke Ferguson took a crash ball to force his way over. The two sides then traded tries again, with Warrington's effort coming from a sensational solo run from Matt Grimshaw. However, this was to be Warrington's last contribution to the score as Sefton then went on to score two further tries.

Raging Bull North West - Division 2 South

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Glossop 2	15	12	0	3	378	51	0
2.	Uni of Liverpool Vets 1	15	12	1	2	139	51	0
3.	Northwich 2	14	12	0	2	208	50	0
4.	Aldwinians 2	15	8	1	6	116	40	0
5.	Altrincham Kersal 2	14	8	0	6	98	38	0
6.	Chester 3	16	7	0	9	-139	34	-2
7.	Bowdon 2	14	5	0	9	-31	29	0
8.	Didsbury Toc H 2	13	5	0	8	-68	28	0
9.	Sefton 2	15	4	0	11	-320	27	0
10.	Winnington Park 2	14	3	0	11	-203	23	0
11.	Warrington 3	13	2	0	11	-178	15	-2
12.	Caldy 3 OUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Stockport 3 OUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Behind Every Strong Man.....

This is a special Granty up-date. It's a brief report from his wife, Sharon, who has been his rock. It was sent to Thommo, who speaks with Sharron every other day and it is published exactly how she wrote it.

"Hiya lovely, I'm back & have finished faffing now & most of what I'm about to say you already know, but basically Paul has been given a motorised wheel-chair to help him to get around better as because his deltoids don't currently work very well they don't want Paul to do anymore damage by trying to wheel himself around.

He has been in the swimming pool a few times now & as well as doing three lengths of a short pool, he has also stood up in the water with support (which is amazing). His collar is due to come off at the end of February.

He is moving his legs around even more, he has more function in his right arm & hand (that has always been the weaker of the two) & he's attempted to feed himself three times now (albeit very slowly). His spirit & determination are driving him on though & he really could not be trying any harder than he is to get himself well & home.

He's also finally had a hair cut today by one of my best friends so he no longer looks like a 70's porn star with extra long & bushy sideburns!! Glen, who cut his hair hasn't seen Paul since the 3rd January, which was the night before he left Walton & she was absolutely gobsmacked at his progress & Catherine hasn't seen him for two weeks & she can't get over the difference in him in these past couple of weeks"

