



Warrington Welcomes Blackburn

A very warm welcome to the players, officials and spectators of Blackburn. We have played each other three times over the past two seasons - and the tally so far is one win each and one draw.

Our first meeting in recent times took place at Moore, as it was September 2015 and we had the usual conflict with cricket. However, we soon adapted to our strange environment and ran out eventual 49-13 winners, a victory which took us to the top of North 1 West. Tries that day came from Elliot Johnstone (2), Matt Connolly, Steve Pilkington, Danny Fleming, Tom Wood (accompanied by a signature outrageous dummy). Sean Callendar and Sean Hughes. It is interesting to note that only Danny, Tom and Sean are playing today.

The return match last season took place just three months later in December and ended up an honourable draw. Even so, we were very lucky to claim the two points, as Blackburn had controlled the game through their rampaging number 8 and some astute kicking from stand-off and full back. Fortunately, we were able to add to a Steve Pilkington first half try with two magnificent efforts from the little magician Kieran Hughes, the second one being converted from the touchline by Ben Hockenhull with just four minutes left on the clock.

Our last meeting was on a wet, October day in Blackburn and this proved a fitting backdrop to a miserable, and at times boring, game, which saw us well beaten without even contributing any movement to the scoreboard. Hopefully, today will provide better fare.

How Will It End?

Here we are with just four games to play after today. It would seem that we will survive the drop, as it will take a spectacular last minute run from five of the six teams below us and a totally pointless series of games from us for relegation to beckon. As three of our four remaining games are against opposition below us in the table and the other is against Vale of Lune who have the same number of points as us, albeit with one game in hand., then it would take something akin to a tsunami for us to go down. It's been a strange old season and hopefully better days are in store.

<u>Name</u>		Games Played This Year	<u>Total</u>	Tries this Season	<u>Total</u>
Arnold	Tom	21	30	9	?
Beesley	Nathan	11	42	10	27
Bennett	Jon	5+ 3	12		
Bennett	Sam	0+ 1	9		
Brazendale	James	5+3	11		1
Byrne	Craig	2+ 11	?	2	?
Caldwell	Max	17+3	34	9	11
Callander	Sean	19	71	2	3
Dixon	Ben	1+2	3		0
Downes	Josh	11+1	13		0
Evans	Jonny	1	1		
Fleming	Dan	17+1	137	2	9
Fraser	Hayden	1	49		26
Gilooly	Luke	8	8		
Giles	Oli	3	3		
Green	Tom	8+4	16	2	2
Gregory	Matt	0+3	3		
Griffiths	Dan	3+3	27	1	5
Hannon	Jack	5+1	10	1	1
Hockenhull	Ben	18	44	2	3
Hughes	Sean	18+2	113		4
Johnstone	Elliot	11	88	6	12
Johnstone	Luke	14+4	128		27
Lewis	Cam	5+2	13	3	5
Little	Josh	3+2	5		
Lynch	Phil	4	47		2
Maudsley	Will	2	2		
McGregor	James	4+1	13		0
O'Rourke	Clement	18	66	1	1
O'Toole	Keenan	0+2	2		
Pennington	Nick	4	5	2	2
Preston	Ryan	3+2	28	1	1
Riley	Josh	20+1	101	2	5
Roberts	Andy	9+1	89	2	20
Roberts	Pat	9+1	38	1	6
Roberts	Nick	1+4	5		
Rockey	Matt	1+2	160		52
Thompaaon	Paul	12+4	244	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	21	132	3	47
Yoxhall	Shaun	4	67		3
				Penalty	2

North 1 West - 11th March 2017

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale	21	21	0	0	718	103	19
2.	Birkenhead Park	21	17	1	3	328	87	17
3.	Wilmslow	21	16	0	5	169	75	11
4.	Northwich	21	15	0	6	271	73	13
5.	Burnage	21	11	0	10	3	57	13
6.	Blackburn	21	12	1	8	104	56	6
7.	Vale of Lune	20	10	1	9	-80	48	6
8.	Warrington	21	9	0	12	-136	48	12
9.	St Benedicts	20	8	0	12	-90	42	10
10.	Rochdale	20	6	0	14	-182	33	9
11.	West Park SH	21	6	0	15	-328	33	9
12.	Altrincham Kersal	21	5	1	15	-142	33	11
13.	Leigh	20	6	0	14	-296	28	4
14.	Eccles	21	1	0	20	-339	12	8

Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 11th March

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Wirral 2	21	18	1	2	406	76	0
2.	Rossendale 2	20	18	0	2	403	74	0
3.	Macclesfield 3	21	16	0	5	280	69	0
4.	Sandbach 2	21	13	1	7	113	61	0
5.	Blackburn 2	21	12	0	9	230	57	0
6.	Burnage 2	21	11	0	10	-93	54	0
7.	Warrington 2	21	10	1	10	-20	51	0
8.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	21	8	1	12	-152	46	0
9.	Broughton Park 2	20	8	0	12	-127	44	0
10.	Fylde 3	21	7	0	14	-169	41	0
11.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	21	6	1	14	-180	40	0
12.	Whitchurch 2	21	6	0	15	-121	38	0
13.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	20	5	1	14	-357	36	0
14.	Birkenhead Park 2	20	4	0	16	-213	32	0

North One West Fixtures 2016-17

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)	L 23-31	
4 March	Wilmslow (Away)	L 10-8	
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. Blackburn RUFC

Warrington RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

Blackburn RUFC

Colours: Blue, Red and White

Kick Off 3:00 p.m.

TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	1	Ben Corless
Paul Thompson	2	Danny Maher
Tom Greene	3	Joe Shorrock
Phil Lynch	4	Nathan Sewell
Josh Downes	5	Lawson Whittaker
Sean Hughes (C)	6	Ed Sinclair
Josh Riley	7	Bradley Morrow
Danny Fleming	8	Luke Cunningham
Ben Hockenhull	9	Joe Rowntree
Tom Wood	10	Nico Havenga
Tom Arnold	11	Jake Maher
Luke Johnstpn	12	Phil Baines (C)
Luke Gilooly	13	Falemaka El Vave
Max Caldwell	14	Gregor MacKenzie
Pat Roberts	15	Leon Fifield
	Bench	
Craig Byrne	16	Paul Gregson
Nick Roberts	17	Josh Reilly
Matt Gregory	18	Jordan Annakie
Coach: Andy Roberts		Coach: Dino Radice

Referee: Andy Taylorson, Manchester Society

Today's Sponsor

Today we are holding the annual Past Players' Lunch. This is an occasion for players from yesteryear (and not so yesteryear) to get together, have something to eat, down a few pints and bore each other with tales of past glories. No doubt Dave Roughley will swear how he easily caught Mike Gibson at Twickers and Brian Mc:oughlin will continue to deny that he did not deserve to be sent off. But it's all in good fun and in the true spirit of Rugby. Friendships forged in the heat of battle last for a lifetime!! Enjoy.

Andy Higginson

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Andy Higginson, at the tragically early age of 37. Andy passed away on 17th of February and keaves a wife and two sons, aged 3 and 5. He was a regular first teamer at the club from 1997 to 2000,, scoring 31 tries in 61 games for a total of 155 points. He will be remembered for running in four tries from the wing in January 2000 against St Benedicts and donned a Warrington shirt for the last time in September 2000, when he badly injured his knee. Some older players may also remember Andy's dad who was a former 1st XV captain. He died in 2014. RIP Andy.

Wilmslow 10 Warrington 8

Just three weeks ago Warrington carried out a blatant act of daylight robbery when they mugged Altrincham Kersal to sneak a last minute win. On Saturday, they were themselves the subjects of a mugging when Wilmslow kicked a penalty with just two minutes left on the clock to deny them a deserved four point win.

Warrington began well, eventually obtaining dominance in the opening arm-wrestle, with particularly good running from Tom Arnold and Jack Hannon, reveling in his first senior game in the centre. The sturdy Wilmslow defence stood firm until they were forced into a misdemeanor and Luke Gilooly made no mistake with the penalty kick to give Warrington the lead.

Within minutes Warrington went further ahead when Pat Roberts found touch in the Wilmslow 22 with a judicious kick. Wilmslow gained possession and put in a long clearance kick which was caught by Tom Arnold in his own half. The winger showed his broken play running skills to take the ball deep into Wilmslow territory before passing to fellow winger Max Caldwell, who danced over from fifteen yards. Significantly, the try was not converted.

Warrington defended magnificently for the remainder of the half and were unlucky not to increase their lead in the 38th minute when another scintillating run from Tom Arnold was halted five yards out.

The second half saw Wilmslow step up a gear and it Warrington were forced to increase their defensive efforts. Persistent pressure from the home side's forwards saw them camped in Warrington territory and eventually they forced their way over when their aggressive back row crashed into the upright to claim the touch down. The conversion attempt was successful.

Both sides continued to showcase their strong defences and Wilmslow were unlucky not to score a breakaway try but were foiled by superb back-tracking from Max Caldwell. It seemed that Warrington were just going to hang on to a narrow lead even though they had to face the final ten minutes with just ten men, Tom Arnold having been sin-binned for tackling a player in the air. Unfortunately, a minor offence in the Warrington 22 gave Wilmslow a chance to steal the game, which they duly did with the penalty kick two minutes from time.

"Disappointed," was the after-match comment of coach Andy Roberts. "Our defence was superb today and I think we did enough in attack to justify a win. But that's Rugby! We now have to concentrate on our remaining fixtures, beginning with Blackburn, at home, next week."

Warrington 16 Burnage 36

In the two earlier encounters between the teams this season, honours were even with victory going to the home side. Unfortunately, this Lancashire Trophy semi-final did not follow that pattern and Warrington were dismissed, in the end quite emphatically, from the competition by a muscular, forward-dominated performance by Burnage. The visitors, with few exceptions were some two stone per man heavier than Warrington, and proceeded to play to this advantage immediately. Their forwards drove up the centre of the match, making a few yards at a time despite some ferocious tackling by Phil Lynch and captain Sean Hughes in particular. Within 10 metres of Warrington's line they spun the ball wide and a try was only avoided when the last pass was knocked on.

Respite was short, however, for a driving maul from a line-out 2 minutes later brought Burnage to Warrington's door and this time the move wide earned a try in the corner. Warrington bounced back immediately from the restart with a Gilooly penalty to make it 3-5. Although Warrington had their share of possession, their most potent attacking tool, the speed of wingers Arnold and Caldwell, was not brought into the game. Half breaks in the centre were not supported quickly enough and aggressive counter rucking by Burnage snuffed out potential danger. Burnage retook the lead in the twentieth minute with a repeat of their earlier success but Gilooly again kept Warrington in touch with a penalty.

Five minutes later fullback Dixon was held up in a clamp tackle just 5 metres from the Burnage line and again

a Warrington attack was resisted. With half time looming an individual piece of brilliance from flanker Jack Hannon gave Warrington the lead. Beating the guard close to a ruck on half-way line, the elusive Hannon outpaced and outjinked the cover to touch down under the posts. Although the ball appeared to be dropped just before grounding, the referee had no such doubts and Warrington took the lead for the first time. Gillooly converted and added a further penalty on the stroke of half time to give Warrington a 16-10 lead.

From the restart, however, Warrington were on the back foot. Within 5 minutes Burnage regained the lead with a try from another rolling maul from a line-out and within 10 minutes scored their fourth try under the posts with some hard running and debateable passing from their centres.

Burnage continued to make ground through their forwards and ground out another close quarter try from their forwards. With 5 minutes to go and Warrington on the attack, a robust counter ruck secured possession for Burnage who cleared down field and with a long kick and won the race for the touch down. The last frantic 5 minutes saw Warrington camped on the Burnage line but to no avail.

Warrington 23 Birkenhead Park 31

Warrington have played Birkenhead Park six times in recent seasons and Saturday's loss brought their total losses against the side from the other side of the Mersey to six. Ironically, this latest encounter was one they might easily have won, as they ruled the set scrums and line-outs but were unable to close out the game when victory was in reach.

Uncharacteristically, Warrington were in top gear from the kick-off and unrelenting attack eventually earned them a penalty when Tom Wood was tackled high and Luke Gillooly added the points. Warrington continued on the front foot but it was Park who scored next when they kicked a penalty on their first incursion into Warrington territory.

The visitors then went further ahead when they showed excellent hands to cross in the corner but it didn't take Warrington long to respond when Luke Johnstone made good ground, following superb interplay between the backs and forwards. The ball was recycled and Tom Arnold managed to squeeze over in the corner. Luke Gillooly converted magnificently from the touchline and Warrington were ahead again.

Park replied from the restart when they camped in the Warrington 22 and eventually went ahead with a try from a driving maul, before taking their lead to 13-10 before kicking a second penalty on the stroke of half time.

The second half saw Warrington continue to dominate up front, with their powerful front row taking two strikes against the head, with Josh Riley and Sean Callendar ruling the lines and with Danny Fleming consistently making the hard yards from number 8. Another Josh Riley line-out steal saw the ball move to Tom Arnold and then to Max Caldwell. The left winger kicked ahead but a Park player knocked on and the ball was snaffled by the ever-alert Tom Arnold, who crossed in the corner. Once again Luke Gillooly converted from the touch line and Warrington led by one point.

Park came back strongly and Warrington defended well to clear their lines and hold out. Their defensive grit was rewarded when Luke Gillooly kicked a second penalty but the lead changed hands again when Park scored again from a driving maul.

When Park had a player sin-binned with just ten minutes left when they were leading by just the single point, the scales seemed to have shifted back to Warrington. Unfortunately a defensive lapse allowed the visitors to touch down under the posts for an easy conversion. Warrington soon cut the deficit with a penalty and had a chance to win the game when a scintillating Gillooly break was brought to a premature end when the final pass was knocked on with the path to the try line wide open. Even at this stage, Warrington could have claimed the losing bonus point but had to suffer the final indignity when Park kicked a third penalty two minutes from the end.

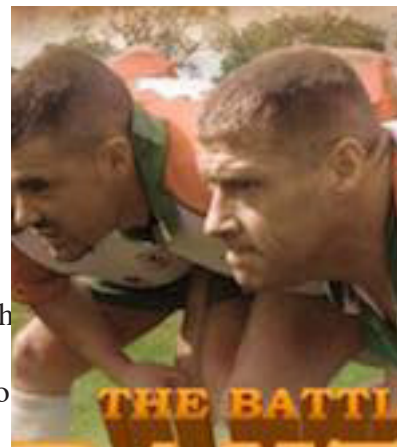
Raging Bull North West - Division 2 South 11th March

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Northwich 2	16	14	0	2	275	58	0
2.	Uni of Liverpool Vets 1	16	13	1	2	166	55	0
3.	Glossop 2	16	12	0	4	327	52	0
4.	Aldwinians 2	18	9	1	8	64	46	0
5.	Altrincham Kersal 2	15	8	0	7	83	39	0
6.	Chester 3	16	7	0	9	-139	34	-2
7.	Bowdon 2	15	6	0	9	-15	33	0
8.	Didsbury Toc H 2	13	5	0	8	-68	28	0
9.	Winnington Park 2	16	4	0	12	-168	28	0
10.	Sefton 2	15	4	0	11	-320	27	0
11.	Warrington 3	14	2	0	12	-205	16	-2
12.	Caldy 3 OUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Stockport 3 OUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Granty

Granty still continues to make progress and is looking forward to attending the Big Match on April 1st. Don't forget, this takes place between the Past Masters of Warrington RUFC and the Past Masters of Crosville ARLFC. Granty played for both clubs.

Kick Off is 1.00pm and the match will be followed by the Warrington 1st team match against Vale of Lune. There will be a pitch-side bar and Bar BQ as well as a post-match auction and raffle, with some excellent prizes. So Make a day of it and help to get an old mate back on his feet.



Thanks to Kirkby Lonsdale

Rugby is not just a game or a club. It's a community! Back in January, we made the long trek up to Kirkby Lonsdale, where we suffered our heaviest defeat of the season, against a side which is now certain to be promoted. However, although they didn't give us very much on the field, our Cumbrian friends proved extremely generous off the field. They had obviously heard about Granty and we were surprised when, at the pre-match lunch, their chairman gave us a cheque for £300 towards the Granty fund. What can you say??

Club Dinner

This year's dinner will take place on 19th May at the club. Tickets are £30 and further information will be supplied by Thommo. You have been warned!