



THE BATTLE FOR GRANTICUS



Vs



In December 2016, former Warrington Rugby Union & Crosfields Rugby League player, Paul Grant suffered a severe neck injury. In Rugby of any code we look after our own, and both clubs are coming together on Saturday 1st April to raise money and help Granty to get back on his feet.

Kick off 1pm for the Masters vs WRUFC over 35s

Kick off 3pm for WRUFC 1sts vs Vale of Lune

Kick off 3pm for WRUFC 3rds vs Aldwinians

Pitchside bar & BBQ

Post match auction and raffle plus post match entertainment

Prizes include :

**Signed Everton shirt • Signed Martin Murray glove • Ticket to Man City game
4 ball golf round at sale golf club • Hotel stay with spa and meal.**

Plus many, more to come...

**Saturday 1st April at Warrington Rugby Union
Walton Lea Road • Walton • Warrington • WA4 6SJ**

Warrington Oldies



Warrington has a long tradition of Vets rugby and many famous Rugby League legends have turned out for the old Vikings XV. (Three of these have been tacked onto the squad list but they must be considered doubtful..)

Unfortunately, many of the old Vikngs are now in their late sixties and seventies and artificial joints and Pacemakers prevent them from making a guest appearance today. There is of course one notable exception to that - Pete McGunness, the Judge.

Pete has played many games for Warrington RUFC but we always knew that his great love was Rugby League. He is now captain of the Crosfield Masters and, yes, we have all seen the photo of him with his old mate Bob Jackson.

Some of the notable players in the Warrington side today are Andy Bennett, the old Wire scrum half, Tony Fretwell, who spent time with Bradford Northern, John Done, who surprisingly features on both squad sheets, the incomparable Rocky Turner, a legend in his own lunchtime and Lee Briers, if he turns up.

Colours

Green, Scarlet and White

Alwyn Hughes
Andy Bennett
Andy Leigh
Chris Barnes
Dave Harthill
Jeff Millington
John Done
John Morley
John Welsh
Lee Rushton
Andy Kellett
Gareth Wheatley
Lewis Nunn
Mike Harthill
Neil Sullivan
Nigel Bradford
Peter Cannon
Randy Pepper
Richard Park
Richard Turner
Ross Garvey
Steve West
Stephen Higham
Stew Coleman
Tony Fretwell
Lee Briers
Mike Nicholas
Graeme West
Kevin Tamati (By video link)
<i>Coach: Kevin Jones</i>

Crosfields Masters

Colours
Primrose and Blue



John Bannon
Phil Bannon
Kevin Best
Graham Clarke
Milo Cooke
Ste Corfield
John Done
Stephen Giblin
Paul Green
Mark Harris
John Heritage
Andrew Hewitt
Mark Hickey
Jeff Jelves
Stephen Johnson
Peter (Judge) McGuinness
Chris Morris
Lloyd Neary
Brian Perry
Kevin Redmond
Dave Reid
Darren Reynolds
Gaz Smith
Roger Steel
Abdrew Stokes
Gary Teeling
Neil Vernon
Toa Koe Love
Russ Parkman

The Crosfields Masters team was formed back in 2008/9, when a motley crew of old players thought it would be a good idea to get back together again, to try to revive their youth and have the occasional pint together. From little acorns...

Today, the Masters is a thriving team in its own right. It has played games all over the country, from Kent to Newcastle and Cumbria and throughout the North West.

Six of the Masters have represented their country in Test matches against Australia and several players have turned out for Lancashire in County games.

Crosfields also had the honour of hosting a New Zealand side during their tour of Europe.

The Masters are still recruiting and many of their members had never played competitive Rugby before, while some were even footballers in their youth.

But all of them believe in the Crosfields Master Motto, which is: "You don't stop playing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop playing!!"

Granty

Paul Grant is one of the world's most enthusiastic rugby players. He began his career at school, aged 12 and then went on to play Colts Rugby for Hoylake. Aged 17 he started playing for Vauxhall motors.

The team disbanded and he didn't start playing rugby again until he moved to Runcorn, where he played for Whitehouse Park, where he first met up with Thommo. He played for Whitehouse Park, or Runcorn as it became, until 2004, when he joined Warrington. He was with Warrington until 2014, achieving 200 1st team appearances in the process and being elected club man of the year in consecutive seasons.

Granty also had the occasional game for Crosfields but he officially retired in 2015.

However, last December, he was asked to help out at Ellesmere Port and, Granty being Granty, had no hesitation in donning the colours of yet another club. Unfortunately this was the match when he suffered his serious spinal injury.

Luckily, Granty is a very strong character and continues to make progress. Thommo visits him regularly in the Southport Spinal centre and this is his latest report:

“Paul's rehab is going very well and he has been spending time walking short distances in the gym using a walking frame. It's obviously a very slow process, but he's doing incredibly well. However, he has very little function in his deltoids and this looks to be as a result of permanent nerve damage. He has a manual wheelchair so that he can try to strengthen his shoulders as much as possible by wheeling himself around. As ever, and despite his disabilities, Paul remains in such good spirits. He is a very determined and dedicated guy, which is helping him immensely in his recovery. He is a true inspiration and what he has achieved so far is something to be proud of.”

The cross-code rugby community should also be proud of itself with the way it has joined together today to raise funds to help Paul and Sharon through this very difficult time. This is just the beginning, as we shall continue to provide support where it is needed because rugby men, and women, always look after their own. So thank you for your support today. And thanks to the Crosfield Masters and to Warrington's past players. Let's have a great day!

