



Welcome to Manchester

A very warm welcome to players, official and spectators of Manchester. We look forward to an enjoyable game and a convivial time in the bar.

Manchester was founded as Manchester Football Club in 1860 and that was eleven years before the formation of the RFU. As such, it is one of the oldest open rugby clubs in the world, along with Blackheath, Richmond and Liverpool. However, the first ever **club** game took place in December 1857 between the gentlemen of Manchester and Liverpool. The ball was provided by the founder of Manchester, Richard Sykes, a former Captain of Football at Rugby School and the game was advertised as "Rugby versus the World."

Not surprisingly, with so few clubs playing the game, Manchester provided several players for the earliest international matches. However, Manchester continued to be a supplier of internationals for many years and their Board of International Players contains more names than we currently have players at Warrington. Many of these are now lost in the mist of time but one two are still worth mentioning. Bev Risman played for Manchester in the late fifties and sixties and more recently we have the O'Driscoll brothers John and Barry, who palyed for Ireland in the 70s and 80s. (They are also uncles to the most famous O'Driscoll of them all, Brian.) You may also remember that our very own Matt Rockey had a brief spell with the club.

At the start of league rugby, Manchester played in the North West 2 league but then rose to compete in the National One league for five seasons. Last year they were champions of South Lancs & Cheshire One and are now enjoying something of a revival. They have won two and lost two so far this season, having thrashed St Benedicts in their first game and putting Rochdale to the sword last week. Their losses were to Vale of Lune and Stockport, currently 1st and 3rd respectively in the league.

So it all points to a hard game. May the best side win.

Dave Jervis

Player Appearances

<u>Name</u>		Games Played This Year	<u>Total</u>	Tries this Season	<u>Total</u>
Arnold	Tom	3+1	39	2	?
Beesley	Nathan	2	48	1	36
Byrne	Craig	0+1	?		?
Caldwell	Max	4 + unused sub	43	3	18
Callander	Sean	5	79		3
Downes	Josh	1+1	20		1
Evans	Jonny	5	6	1	1
Fleming	Dan	3	145		9
Griffiths	Dan	0+1	28		5
Hockenhull	Ben	4	53		5
Hughes	Sean	4	122		4
Hughes	Kieran	5	87	6	93
Johnstone	Luke	0+1	132		28
Jones	James	3+2	6		
Lynch	Phil	5	57		2
Lythgoe	Zak	0+1	135	1	23
Morgan	Jack	3+2	7		
Norman	Darren	1	20		5
O'Rourke	Clement	3	73		2
Pilkington	Steve	4	76	1	34
Roberts	Andy	2	91		20
Sinclair	Fraser	0+1	1		
Tickle	Steve	0+1	49		1
Thompson	Alex	1	?		
Thompson	Paul	4	252	1	22
Thompson	Jamie	4	17	2	7
Ward	Jon	0+1	35		1
White	Chris	4	48		14
Wood	Tom	5	142	1	51
Yoxhall	Shaun	0+1	68		3
					2

So Far, So So!

So far this season, we have played five competitive matches. We have lost two league games, won two and beat Eccles in the quarter final of the Lancashire Trophy. We meet our old sparring partners Broughton Park in the semi-final of the Trophy, with the winners pitted against probably Burnage in the Final. It should be an interesting October.

North 1 West - 30th September 2017

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Vale of Lune	4	4	0	0	139	20	4
2.	Wilmslow	4	4	0	0	66	20	4
3.	Stockport	4	3	1	0	40	18	4
4.	Northwich	4	3	0	1	15	16	4
5.	Firwood Waterloo	4	2	0	2	88	13	5
6.	Altrincham Kersal	4	2	1	1	7	12	2
7.	Warrington	4	2	0	2	-9	10	2
8.	Manchester	4	2	0	2	-8	9	1
9.	Burnage	4	1	0	3	-10	9	5
10.	Douglas (I.O.M.)	4	2	0	2	-13	9	1
11.	Carlisle	4	1	0	3	6	5	1
12.	Blackburn	4	1	0	3	-37	5	1
13.	Rochdale	4	0	0	4	-96	1	1
14.	St Benedicts	4	0	0	4	-188	0	0

Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 30th September 2017

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	4	4	0	0	146	16	0
2.	Blackburn 2	4	3	0	1	-6	13	0
3.	Fylde 3	4	2	1	1	57	11	0
4.	Sedgley Park 3	4	2	1	1	47	11	0
5.	Sandbach 2	3	2	1	0	20	10	0
6.	Birkenhead Park 2	4	2	0	2	-11	10	0
7.	Kendal 2	3	2	0	1	18	9	0
8.	Broughton Park 2	4	1	1	2	-3	8	0
9.	Burnage 2	4	1	1	2	-28	8	0
10.	Warrington 2	4	1	1	2	-65	8	0
11.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	4	1	0	3	-24	7	0
12.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	4	1	0	3	-98	7	0
13.	Liverpool Uni Vet Sch 1	3	1	0	2	-10	5	0
14.	Northwich 2	3	0	0	3	-43	3	0

North One West Fixtures 2017-2018

DATE	OPPOSITION	RESULT	Sponsor
2017		Home Team 1st	
2 Sept	Douglas (A)	22-10 (L)	
9 Sept	Northwich (A)	33-23 (L)	
16 Sept	Burnage (A)	31-34 (W)	
23 Sept	Blackburn (A)	18-28 (W)	
30 Sept	Manchester (H)		Lewis Nunn
7 Oct	Carlisle (A)		
14 Oct	Broughton Park (H) LT		
21 Oct	Altrincham Kersal (H)		Dave Jervis
28 Oct	Firwood Waterloo (A)		
4 Nov	Wilmslow (H)		
11 Nov	St Benedicts (A)		
25 Nov	Stockport (H)		
2 Dec	Vale of Lune (A)		
9 Dec	Rochdale (H)		
16 Dec	Northwich (H)		
2018			
6 Jan	Burnage (H)		
13 Jan	Blackburn (H)		
20 Jan	Manchester (A)		
27 Jan	Carlisle (H)		
3 Feb	Altrincham Kersal (A)		
17 Feb	Firwood Waterloo (H)		
3 Mar	Wilmslow (A)		
10 Mar	St Benedicts (H)		
24 Mar	Stockport (A)		
7 April	Vale of Lune (H)		
14 April	Rochdale (A)		
21 April	Douglas (H)		

Warrington RUFC vs. Manchester RUFC

WARRINGTON RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

Manchester RUFC

Colours: Red and White

Kick Off 3:00 p.m.

TEAMS

James Jones	1	Calum Barnes
Paul Thompson	2	Karl Higginson
Clem O'Rourke	3	Daniel Matthews
Josh Downes	4	Sam Davis
Jonny Evans	5	Jake Stewart
Phil Lynch	6	Mikey Williams
Sean Hughes	7	Tom Fantom
Sean Callendar	8	Brian Ndlovu
Ben Hockenhull	9	Charlie Ding
Tom Wood	10	Doug Day
Max Caldwell	11	Noah Miles
Steve Pilkington	12	Zak Round
Kieran Hughes	13	Matthew Barker
Tom Arnold	14	Richard Gosling
Jamie Thompson	15	Joe Houghton
	<i>Bench</i>	
Chris White	16	Kealin Smith
Danny Fleming	17	Cargo McCabe
Nathan Beesley	18	Matthew Beasley
Coach: Andy Roberts		Coach: Simon Ogden

Referee: Robert Sheard, Manchester Society

This Week's Sponsor



This week's sponsor is Lewis Nunn and his company Ground Level Services Ltd, which provides building maintenance and facilities management services for a wide variety of commercial, residential and educational customers. It offers a comprehensive service from bespoke new builds to cleaning windows. Lewis is club chair-

Match Reports

Blackburn 18 Warrington - 28 September 23

Playing their fourth away game in succession, Warrington once again managed a bonus point win, which takes them to seventh place in the league. Although Blackburn had a late rally, there was really only one side on the park.

The opening quarter saw both teams, struggling for dominance. Warrington were starved for possession as, once again, they were unable to guarantee their own ball at the line-outs. However, a rock solid scrum and aggressive defence ensured that the home side were kept at bay. Ironically, Warrington's first try came from a line out, as good possession following by good rucking eventually saw the ball flash across the field and Jamie Thompson joined the line from full back before dummying his way over. Ben Hockenhull converted from the touch line.

Blackburn came back through their strong pack and forced a penalty to cut Warrington's lead. The visitors were then unlucky not to increase their lead when Tom Arnold was forced into touch just short of the line and their bad luck continued when iconic hooker Paul Thompson had to leave the field with a broken nose.

Fortunately, Ben Hockenhull got the Warrington scoring machine back on track with a second well-struck penalty and, on the stroke of half time, a floating pass from Tom Wood to Kieran Hughes saw the mercurial centre find a gap before passing onto the ever-present Jamie Thompson who handed on to Tom Arnold and the winger touched down to give Warrington a 15-3 lead at the turnaround.

Five points were soon added to the Warrington total when they forced a scrum ten yards out and quick ball found Max Caldwell unmarked on the right wing and he strolled over.

Warrington were back on the attack from the restart when Phil Lynch took a lovely catch and then made a forty yard break through the Blackburn defence. The territory gain was used wisely, when Ben Hockenhull kicked his second penalty to give his side a 23-3 lead.

Blackburn then enjoyed a lucky bounce of the ball to take them into the Warrington red zone and they drove over from the resultant scrum. The visitors quickly replied when Tom Arnold made thirty yards on the left wing before kicking ahead. Kieron Hughes followed up and won the race to the ball to touch down.

With seven minutes to go, Blackburn finally seemed to realize that they were in a game of Rugby and scored two tries in quick succession. Fortunately, it was all too late and Warrington had earned a good victory – and the four try bonus point.

“We have now played four away games and won two,” commented coach Andy Roberts. “We have our first home game of the season next week against Manchester and we are looking forward to it.”

Burnage 31 Warrington 34 - September 16

In an exciting match with a nail-biting finish, on the G3 Burnage pitch, Warrington demonstrated that pace, a gritty defence and accurate goalkicking can combine to beat heavier and bigger opposition. Even so, it was a close-run thing!

Warrington opened the scoring after just two minutes in their first visit to the Burnage 22. Three quick rucks gave the ball to Tom Wood and Warrington's quick-thinking stand-off threw out a beautiful floating pass to Max Caldwell. The winger made ground before passing inside to Kieron Hughes and the centre had no trouble touching down near the posts. Ben Hockenhull converted.

Two minutes later Warrington were awarded a penalty 40 yards out and a magnificent Ben Hockenhull kick placed this squarely between the posts for three points which was eventually to prove the difference between the sides at the final whistle.

Warrington returned to the attack immediately when Tom Wood delivered a short pass to Jamie Roberts who beat two tackles before handing onto Kieron Hughes and the centre once again demonstrated his lethal finishing to sprint over. Hockenhull converted.

Only 19 minutes had passed on the clock before Warrington coasted into a 22 point lead, courtesy of a 50 yard interception try from speedster Nathan Beesley, with a third conversion from Ben Hockenhull.

Burnage finally managed to trouble the scoreboard when they crossed in the corner for a try which was converted by a superb touchline kick. Warrington replied almost immediately with a third Hockenhull penalty and could have gone further ahead when Max Caldwell was narrowly denied a try in the corner. However, Burnage reduced the lead on the stroke of half time with a converted forwards' try.

The second half saw Burnage change gear and they scored a good try within two minutes of the restart, the conversion reducing Warrington's lead to just six points. Burnage's tactics had also changed as they now started to use their heavier pack to advantage. They ruled the line outs and put the Warrington defence under continuous pressure in the rucks and mauls. Fortunately, the gritty Warrington defence was up to the challenge and the set scrum was rock solid. Perseverance eventually paid dividends when the Burnage right winger was caught in possession by a three-man Warrington tackle and Tom Arnold ripped the ball free before outdistancing the cover over 60 yards to touch down under the posts and allow Max Caldwell an easy conversion.

But Burnage were not quite finished and when they stole the ball from a Warrington line out they shipped it across the field to score an unconverted try in the corner. Warrington were now well and truly under the cosh but a Thompson strike against the head at a five yard scrum relieved a little pressure only for Burnage to score again from a scrum and creep within three points. Fortunately, Warrington's gritty defence held firm and the final whistle saw them win their first league game of the season and claim a bonus point.

Northwich 2nd XV 10 Warrington 2nd XV 25 - September 16

Warrington's second team gained some revenge for the 1st team's loss at Northwich the previous week with a well-earned victory over strong opposition.

The first score came after ten minutes when winger Tom Sullivan squeezed over in the corner to score a typical winger's try. Northwich then started to exert strong pressure through their big pack and eventually Warrington's defensive line was breached with a converted try.

Warrington regained the lead when Andy Almond, showing some of his old pace, touched down in the corner and then converted his try with a superb touchline effort to make the half time score 7-12.

A prolonged arm wrestle over the third quarter saw both sides exchange penalties before Sam Bennet gave his side a ten point lead when he showed some of the Bennett guile by exploding over from five yards from the side of a driving maul.

The result was put beyond doubt when Warrington won a scum in their own half and Dan Johnston set off on a 40 yard run before running out of gas. Fortunately, Ty Hamblett was in close support and continued the run to score.

Odds and Sods

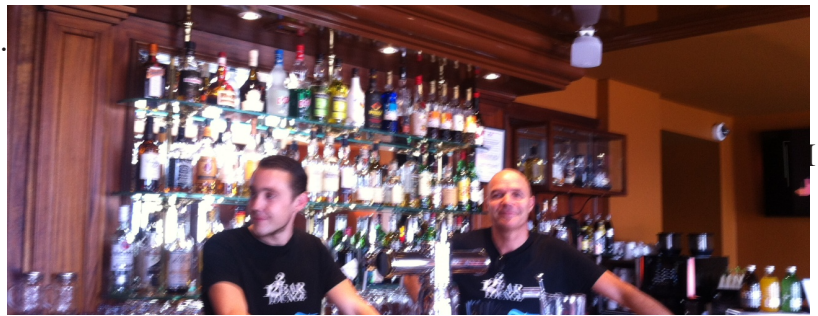
What Has Happened To The Threes?

The eagle-eyed ones among you will have noticed the non-appearance of the Third team league table. This because the threes have so far this season been unable to raise a side. Consequently, they lie at the bottom of the league table and are now in danger of being thrown out. The seconds too are having great difficulty in fielding a side every week and the fact that they have managed to win one game and draw another is testament to the hard work of Shaun Yoxhall and Tony Fretwell and a couple of others. The first match of the season saw them suffer a heavy defeat at the hands of Kirkby Lonsdale, where they were so short that my wife had to be enlisted as water carrier.

It's a very worrying situation because without a third team, the second team struggles and this then has a knock-on effect on the first team. Let's keep our fingers crossed that some of last year's players start to make an appearance now that the holiday season is past.

So That's Where Rugby Players Go In Summer!

In the summer I spent a lovely holiday in France. We stayed for a few days in Lyon (at the same hotel that Klaus Barbie used as Gestapo headquarters in WW 11). Imagine my surprise when walked into the bar and was confronted by Tom Arnold and John MacKay doing their summer jobs. What's more, they both spoke perfect French!!



Tony Fretwell's Beauties

Most of us have had a chance to have a look at Tony Fretwell's two beauties. He takes great delight in whipping out his mobile and showing them off in all their glory (or is that gory?). Unfortunately, the photographs are not suitable to be seen by anyone of a nervous disposition, young children or the squeamish, so are not published here. But no doubt he'll show them to you if you ask him. (Tony also has photographs of two other beauties on his mobile - his twin sons, born in May. Congratulations, Tony!

It Wouldn't Have Happened In My Day!

When I played, the Rugby season was sacrosanct. Nobody took holidays in the season and nobody got married between September and April. And people who took a Saturday off in December to go Christmas shopping with their wives or girlfriends suffered torrents of abuse. It's somewhat different today. Unavailability because of holidays is common. People now have stag weekends as well as weddings in the season. And some people also cry off because they have to go to their grandmother's birthday party. Now I know that there is a life outside Rugby but, come on, let's show a little more commitment. (PS. I shall not be travelling to Carlisle next week because I am in Winchester at a History event. But it is the first match I have missed this season and that includes all the trial games. And I am over 70!!)

Taxi Please!

The Isle of Man is a confusing place, as Paul Thompson found out during the first team's visit there. Thommo decided to go out for a meal on the Saturday night and then wandered back to the hotel. However, when he opened the door to his room, which he was sharing with three other front row forwards, he saw that their beds were still untouched. Not wishing to be thought a wimp for being the first in bed, he decided to go walkabout. After half an hour he had met up with nobody else from the trip, so he decided to go back. Unfortunately, he had no idea where he was. So naturally, he hailed a taxi. "Where to mate?" asked the taxi driver. "Marbury Street," answered Thommo. "Never heard of it, mate," said the taxi driver. Only then did Thommo realise he had given his home address in Warrington. Ah well! Boozer's dementia, eh?