



Welcome to Altrincham Kersal

A very warm welcome to players, officials and spectators of Altrincham Kersal.

Altrincham Kersal was born on a cold and wet March evening in 1897 in the Deansgate Hotel in Manchester. That was just 24 years after the founding of the RFU. The meeting in the Deansgate hotel also decided that the annual subscription should be ten shillings and sixpence and that they would seek the use of land in Myrtle Grove, Prestwich as their playing field. It was agreed that they call the club - The Kersal Rugby Football Club.

After playing at various grounds around Manchester, the club finally settled at Stelfox Avenue in 1968 and in the years since has enjoyed some spectacular success, especially in Cup competitions. It has also produced some excellent players, notably Mark (that was a try) Cueto and our own coach, Andy Roberts was a stalwart for some time.

But what of the present? We have won all of our last four contests against Kersal, some easier than others., racking up winning scores of 38-15, 49-25, 41-27 and, earlier this year, 20-19, in a game of Lazarene proportions, where we came back from the dead to sneak the win in the last seconds of the game. However, don't be fooled by all this. In the current season they may lie five places below us in the league table but their playing record includes wins over Firswood Waterloo and St Benedicts and a draw with Stockport. They have lost to Vale of Lune, Wilmslow and, strangely, Rochdale, so they have performed well above their lowly league position. So beware, this could be the game where they reverse the trend. Let battle begin.

Dave Jervis

Player Appearances

<u>Name</u>		Games Played This Year	<u>Total</u>	Tries this Season	<u>Total</u>
Arnold	Tom	5+1	41	3	?
Beesley	Nathan	3+1	50	3	38
Brazendale	James	0+1	12		1
Byrne	Craig	0+1	?		?
Caldwell	Max	5 + unused sub	44	3	18
Callander	Sean	7	81		3
Downes	Josh	4+1	23		1
Evans	Jonny	7+1	9	1	1
Fleming	Dan	5+1	148		9
Griffiths	Dan	2+1	30		5
Hockenhull	Ben	6	55		5
Hughes	Sean	7	125		4
Hughes	Kieran	8	90	8	95
Johnstone	Luke	0+1	132		28
Jones	James	5+3	9		
Lynch	Phil	8	60	1	3
Lythgoe	Zak	0+1	135	1	23
Morgan	Jack	4+3	9	2	?
Norman	Darren	1+1	21		5
O'Rourke	Clement	6	76		2
Pilkington	Steve	7	79	2	35
Roberts	Andy	3	92		20
Sinclair	Fraser	0+1	1		
Tickle	Steve	0+1	49		1
Thompson	Alex	1	?		
Thompson	Paul	7	255	1	22
Thompson	Jamie	6	19	3	8
Ward	Jon	0+1	35		1
White	Chris	5+2	51		14
Wood	Tom	8	145	2	52
Yoxhall	Shaun	0+2	69		3
					2

North 1 West - 21st October 2017

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Vale of Lune	6	6	0	0	189	29	5
2.	Wilmslow	6	4	0	2	58	22	6
3.	Stockport	6	4	1	1	34	22	4
4.	Northwich	6	4	0	2	21	20	4
5.	Firwood Waterloo	6	3	0	3	99	20	8
6.	Warrington	6	3	0	3	21	17	5
7.	Carlisle	6	3	0	3	17	15	3
8.	Burnage	6	2	0	4	-10	14	6
9.	Douglas (I.O.M.)	6	3	0	3	-22	13	1
10.	Manchester	6	3	0	3	-31	13	1
11.	Altrincham Kersal	6	2	1	3	-61	12	2
12.	Blackburn	6	2	0	4	-41	9	1
13.	Rochdale	6	1	0	5	-85	5	1
14.	St Benedicts	6	1	0	5	-189	5	1

Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 21st October 2017

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	6	5	0	1	174	21	0
2.	Blackburn 2	6	5	0	1	26	21	0
3.	Broughton Park 2	6	3	1	2	84	16	0
4.	Sedgley Park 3	6	3	1	2	33	16	0
5.	Sandbach 2	5	3	1	1	37	15	0
6.	Birkenhead Park 2	6	3	0	3	-23	15	0
7.	Fylde 3	6	2	1	3	48	13	0
8.	Liverpool Uni Vet Sch 1	5	3	0	2	20	13	0
9.	Burnage 2	6	2	1	3	-55	13	0
10.	Warrington 2	6	2	1	3	-89	13	0
11.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	6	2	0	4	-164	12	0
12.	Kendal 2	5	2	0	3	9	11	0
13.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	6	1	0	5	-39	9	0
14.	Northwich 2	5	1	0	4	-61	8	0

North One West Fixtures 2007-18

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)	32-0 (W)	Lewis Nunn
7 Oct	Carlisle (A)	29-27 (L)	
14 Oct	Broughton Park (H) LT	22-35 (L)	
21 Oct	Altrincham Kersal (H)		Dave Jervis
28 Oct	Firwood Waterloo (H)		
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)		Friends of Warrington
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)		

This Week's Sponsor

As you can see, this week's sponsor is yours truly and Quantum Technical PR Ltd. I have been paying for match sponsorship for the last four years but Fate has always conspired to intervene, in the form of Fred's Past Players' Do one year, an end of season event another year and a plague of frogs before that. Hopefully, I can now enjoy a couple of pints with friends.

Warrington RUFC vs. Altrincham Kersal RUFC

WARRINGTON RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

Altrincham Kersal RUFC

Colours: Red, Black and White

Kick Off 3:00 p.m.

TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	1	Alistair Slezzaman
Paul Thompson	2	Paul Mallamole
Chris White	3	Nathan Bailey
Jonny Evans	4	William Faupel
Josh Downes	5	Jonathan Waffle
Sean Hughes (C)	6	Micah Dyos
Phil Lynch	7	Thomas Lindsay
Sean Callendar	8	Jack Frost
Ben Hockenhull	9	Carl Yates
Tom Wood	10	Dave Slowman
Nathan Beesley	11	Joe Kelly
Steve Pilkington	12	Kashley Watkins
Kieron Hughes	13	Doug Whyley
Tom Arnlod	14	Matt Moss
Jamie Thompson	15	John Paul Singleman
	<i>Bench</i>	
Danny Fleming	16	Niall Coogan
Jack Morgan	17	Chris Whale
Darren Norman	18	Jon Coulson
<i>Coach: Andy Roberts</i>		<i>Coach: John Bishop</i>

Referee: Mark Hiney, Manchester Society

Friends of Warrington Sponsored Match

Once again, Paul Broadbent is organising a Friends of Warrington pre-match lunch. This is open to any spectator, parent or passing Rumanian who wishes to support the club financially - and enjoy a convivial pre-match lunch and a pint. The cost is just £25 and for that attendees will also be offered unlimited access to Paul Broadbent, who will no doubt amuse them with his views on refereeing (his style), rugby today, steam railways and Brexit. He will be ably supported by his brother, who will continue the boredom on all these topics (apart from steam railways).

This not-to-be-missed event will take place on **16th December**. See Paul for more details.

And don't forget, we are still looking for sponsors for the other free days we have.

The Road To The Final - Missed

Warrington seemed well set to play their first cup final for some time when they easily despatched Eccles in the semi final of the Lancashire Trophy back in August and then drew Broughton Park in the semis. On the face of it, this looked like the easier of the two semi finals, as Broughton Park are now in South Lancs/Cheshire 1 while the other two semifinalist were fellow North 1 West sides, Manchester and Burnage,

However, it was not to be, as Park proved a very tough nut to crack and eventually won the tie 35-22. Burnage beat Manchester, so if we had beaten Park we would have had a replay of the match we won earlier in the season.

It was not to be and now we must look towards performing consistently in the league.

Warrington 22 Broughton Park 35 - 14 October 2017

Warrington's dream of playing in a cup final came to an end at the final hurdle, when they were beaten by a talented Broughton Park in the semi-final of the Lancashire Trophy at Walton Lea Road. In a match which kept spectators on their toes right up to the final minute, Park eventually ran out worthy winners and will now meet Burnage.

Having lost the previous week by a penalty try in extra time, it was ironic that Warrington should open their account through such a try. It was awarded after ten minutes, during Warrington's first excursion into Park territory, when the visitors were penalized under their posts to give Warrington a 7 point lead.

It didn't take Park long to reply when they counter attacked from their own 22 and their powerful right winger did well to touch down in the corner, and although the touch judge had signaled that he had put a foot in touch, the try was awarded.

Without the electric pace of Tom Arnold, Max Caldwell and Nathan Beesley and the aggression of Sean Callendar, Warrington looked almost pedestrian during the first half. Park took full advantage of this, first when they went ahead with a push over try from a set scrum and then, after Warrington had kicked a penalty to level the cores, when they scored two converted tries within two minutes on the stroke of half time. First they too were awarded a penalty try following a Warrington high tackle and then, when they regained possession from the kick off, they stormed over to make the half time score 22-10.

It was Warrington's turn to storm early in the second period, when a kick ahead and follow-up catch from Keiron Hughes took play deep into Park territory. An efficient ruck was followed by a long pass from Tom Wood to Chris White and the mobile prop made ground before passing to Keiron Hughes, who finished off.

Warrington then found themselves again on the back foot until a Thompson strike against the head relieved the pressure. The home side quickly returned to the attack and good hands across the field allowed winger Jack Morgan to squeeze in in the corner. Ben Hockenhull converted magnificently from the touchline and the sides were level.

Just when spectators were discussing what should happen in the event of a draw, Park put an end to all speculation by scoring twice, first in the corner and then close to the posts, after Warrington's defence had eventually submitted to a series of relentless drives on their line. A Park penalty completed the scoring one minute before the end but the game was already beyond Warrington's reach by then.

"We were totally out of sorts today," confessed coach Andy Roberts. "But even so, Park played very well and deserved to win. We wish them the best of luck in the final."

Eccles 10 Warrington 60 - 26th August 2017

After a mixed start, Warrington eventually totally destroyed Eccles with an eight try performance to march confidently into the semi-finals of the Lancashire Trophy.

Warrington struck first within three minutes of the kick-off. After withstanding continuous Warrington pressure, Eccles tried to relieve the onslaught with a clearing kick. Unfortunately for them, the ball was fielded by Jamie Thompson just outside his own 22 and the talented full back beat three of the onrushing defence before handing onto Kieran Hughes. The little speedster showed he has lost none of his pace after a year's enforced lay-off and beat the cover to touch down under the posts. Darren Thomas converted.

The teams then exchanged penalties before the Thompson/Hughes combination sprang into action again and the centre picked up his second try, converted by Darren Norman.

The young Eccles side then came back into contention when a beautiful kick ahead and some slick passing saw them score an excellent try which was converted to cut Warrington's lead to just five points. However, this was to be the last time that they troubled the scoreboard. Shortly before half time, iconic hooker Paul Thompson took a defence-splitting line after receiving a short pass from Jamie Thompson and sprinted 30 yards to touch down. Darren Norman again added the extras.

The second half saw Warrington quickly strengthen their position with a penalty from Danny Griffiths who had taken over the kicking duties. They then fully unleashed their unstoppable attacking force by scoring five tries without reply. First, an exquisite floating pass from Tom Wood found Max Caldwell and the young winger combined pace and a sidestep to score and allow an easy conversion. The forwards then won a driving scrum 25 yards out and Jamie Thompson delivered a moment of magic as he dummied and stepped his way over for another converted try. Danny Griffiths then demonstrated his power and pace before off-loading to Max Caldwell and the winger sped over for his second score.

Kieran Hughes then claimed his hat trick by picking up and scoring after a confused period of play in the Eccles red zone and the forwards finally got in on the act when they demolished the Eccles pack at a five yard scrum and a slimmed-down Zak Lythgoe claimed the score.

"An excellent result," was the verdict of coach Andy Roberts, after playing a rare 80 minutes at scrum half. "However, when I add the performances in this game to those in our two pre-season trials, I can see that we may have selection problems, as there is real competition for every position. Mind you, those are good problems to have."

Mind you, those comments were made before our third team and, then, second team problems started. It can only get better!!!

My Mother Gave Me a Sick Note

The feeble excuses for crying off games continue to roll in. But there are some exceptions, which must be praised. Max Caldwell couldn't play last week or this week. His excuse, "I am climbing Mount Kilimanjaro!"

Now that you cannot beat.

In addition, other people who have continued playing even when a sick note would have been justified include Paul Thompson, playing with a broken nose and Tony Fretwell turning out just three weeks after an operation.

Sponsor a Player

Why don't you sponsor a player? You can do this as an individual or as a company., to show support for the club and to help promote your company if you are a corporate sponsor.

So what do you get out of it? Photographs of sponsored players, together with brief playing biographies, will be displayed on the website and in the match programmes. Alongside will be the relevant sponsor, with company details, including logo, if relevant. In addition, sponsors will be invited to a pre-match lunch towards the end of the season, to enjoy a pie and a pint and mix with other sponsors.

Sponsorship is for a year, at a low cost of £150 plus VAT.. We need to get as many sponsors as we can, as soon as we can so that we can put together the artwork for the programmes and organise printing.

If you are interested in player sponsorship (or any other sponsorship, match day, web site, programme advertising or pitch-side board) please have a word with Sean Hughes, Josh Riley or Nick Stafford. Let's get behind the club!!!

Photo Gallery



Chris White shows that props can run



Jack Morgan squeezes over in the corner