



Welcome To Stockport

A very warm welcome to Stockport players, officials and spectators, on this, their first visit to Walton Lea Road. Stockport were formerly known as Davenport and began life back in 1923 when a group of like-minded businessmen met in the Davenport Club. The hard core of the players were, in fact, a breakaway from Heaton Moor Rugby Club, which was then already 25 years old.

In 1964, the club moved to its present location on Headlands Road and only changed its name to Stockport in 1992 but even today, there are still people who think of the club as Davenport. I must confess that I am one of those. This is because my best friend at University was a guy named James Dunbar Bowden. Jim joined Davenport in 1965, mainly because he thought it was the best social side he had ever played against. And Jim was a social guy, to the extent that he became something of a legend at the club until his early death at the age of 44.

Stockport enjoyed a great deal of success in the early league days. In 2005-06, they were crowned Champions of the old North 2 West and went on to beat Morley in the final of the Powergen Intermediate Cup at Twickenham. Although they were demoted from National League 3 North last year, along with Firwood Waterloo, they have now obviously got their eyes set on a quick return, especially with the appointment of Dean Scholfield (England, Sale, Toulon, Worcester etc), as player/coach.

As it stands, Stockport are second in our league and we are third, just two points behind. So it's all to play for!! May the better side win.

Dave Jervis

Player Appearances

<u>Name</u>		Games Played This Year	<u>Total</u>	Tries this Season	<u>Total</u>
Arnold	Tom	9+1	45	5	?
Beesley	Nathan	7+1	54	7	42
Brazendale	James	0+1	12		1
Byrne	Craig	0+1	?		?
Caldwell	Max	5 + unused sub	44	3	18
Callander	Sean	11	85	1	4
Downes	Josh	7+1	26		1
Evans	Jonny	8+3	12	1	1
Fleming	Dan	7+3	152		9
Griffiths	Dan	2+1	30		5
Hockenhull	Ben	10	59		5
Hughes	Sean	11	129		4
Hughes	Kieran	12	94	12	99
Johnstone	Luke	0+1	132		28
Jones	James	7+4	12		
Kellett	Harry	0+1	1		
Lynch	Phil	11	63	1	3
Lythgoe	Zak	0+1	135	1	23
Morgan	Jack	7+4	13	3	?
Norman	Darren	2+3	24		5
O'Rourke	Clement	10	80		2
Pilkington	Steve	11	83	3	36
Roberts	Andy	3	92		20
Sinclair	Fraser	0+1	1		
Smith	Mark	0+1	1		
Tickle	Steve	0+1	49		1
Thompson	Alex	1	?		
Thompson	Paul	11	259	2	23
Thompson	Jamie	9	22	4	9
Ward	Jon	0+1	35		1
White	Chris	7+3	54		14
Wood	Tom	12	149	2	52
Yoxhall	Shaun	0+3	70		3
					2

North 1 West - 25th November

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Vale of Lune	9	8	0	1	242	41	9
2.	Stockport	10	7	1	2	51	37	7
3.	Warrington	10	7	0	3	88	35	7
4.	Northwich	10	7	0	3	46	34	6
5.	Wilmslow	10	6	0	4	73	31	7
6.	Blackburn	10	6	0	4	41	28	4
7.	Burnage	10	5	0	5	-4	27	7
8.	Firwood Waterloo	10	4	0	6	85	27	11
9.	Douglas (I.O.M.)	10	5	0	5	38	25	5
10.	Carlisle	10	4	0	6	-14	22	6
11.	Manchester	10	4	0	6	-111	18	2
12.	Altrincham Kersal	10	2	1	7	-150	12	2
13.	Rochdale	10	2	0	8	-121	11	3
14.	St Benedicts	9	1	0	8	-264	5	1

Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 25th November

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	10	7	0	3	219	31
2.	Sandbach 2	9	7	1	1	102	31
3.	Blackburn 2	10	7	0	3	40	31
4.	Birkenhead Park 2	10	6	0	4	48	28
5.	Broughton Park 2	10	6	1	3	106	27
6.	Warrington 2	10	5	1	4	-49	26
7.	Kendal 2	9	5	0	4	161	24
8.	Fylde 3	10	4	1	5	19	23
9.	Sedgley Park 3	10	4	1	5	-55	23
10.	Burnage 2	10	3	2	5	-63	21
11.	Liverpool Uni Vet Sch 1	9	4	0	5	-98	20
12.	Northwich 2	9	3	1	5	-60	19
13.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	10	2	0	8	-258	16
14.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	10	1	0	9	-112	13

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)	38-3 (W)	Dave Jervis
28 Oct	Firwood Waterloo (A)	21-10 (W)	
4 Nov	Wilmslow (H)	29-17 (W)	
11 Nov	St Benedicts (A)	8-17(W)	
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)		

Where Are The Match Sponsors?

We are still looking for match sponsors. We are now nearly half way through the season and so far we have had just two sponsored games. We have one sponsored match booked for December but **nothing** for next year.

So if you are employed by a company who could sponsor, if you think you can persuade a company you know to sponsor or if you just fancy entertaining friends and relations on a match day, please get in touch with Nick Stafford, Andy Kellett or Lewis Nunn. It's good value for just £200!!

Warrington RUFC vs. Stockport RUFC

WARRINGTON RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

Stockport RUFC

Colours: Red, Green and White Hoops

Kick Off 2:15 p.m.

TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	1	Tom Gardner
Christian White	2	Andy Broadhurst
James Jones	3	Will Hirstwood
Jack Morgan	4	Marc Benson
Danny Fleming	5	Matt Larawitsch
Phil Lynch	6	Andy McFadden
Sean Highes (C)	7	Kieran Hibbs
Sean Callendar	8	Si Green
Ben Hockenhull	9	Tom Duffy
Tom Wood	10	Tom Eaton
Nathan Beesley	11	James Keane
Steve Pilkington	12	George Smith
Kieran Hughes	13	Rory Austin
Tom Arnold	14	Ben Turner
Jamie Thompson	15	Jo Wilson
	<i>Bench</i>	
Jonny Evans	16	Sam Brotherton
Harry Kellett	17	Jordan Pearson
Darren Norman	18	Andy Rimmer
Coach: Andy Roberts		Coach: Dean Schfield

Referee: James Brown, Manchester Society

Friends of Warrington Sponsored Match

It's still not too late to book your place for the Friends of Warrington pre-match lunch. This will take place on **16th December**. It 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). Just see Paul for details.

St Benedicts 8 Warrington 17

It was perhaps fitting that Warrington's visit to St Benedicts should take place on Armistice Day, as the playing surface was somewhat reminiscent of the Somme and the match itself evolved into a battle of attrition, which was physical and, sometimes, brutal. Fortunately, Warrington's two first half converted tries and a Ben Hockenhull penalty proved sufficient to allow a stalwart second half defence to earn a well-deserved victory.

The home side set out their uncompromising style from the kick-off but it was Warrington who exerted the early pressure. Persistent Benedict's offside at breakdowns were eventually penalized with a sin-binning of a player and shortly afterwards Ben Hockenhull exploited the pressure with a well-stuck penalty.

Warrington then forced a set scrum five yards out on the right and the ball was swiftly transferred to the backs. Nathan Beasley left his right wing to join the line in mid-field and took an exquisite line to score. Ben Hockenhull converted.

The visitors were denied a second try when Tom Arnold was given the ball thirty yards out with an open field in front of him but the pass was adjudged forward much to the disbelief of the Warrington supporters and the touch judge. However, the second try eventually came when Josh Downes broke through tackles like a raging bull and Jack Morgan was on his shoulder to take the pass and touch down. Again, Ben Hockenhull converted.

Benedicts then started to exert their own pressure and were unlucky not to score when they showed slick hands across the field, only for the final pass to be thrown directly into touch. At this point the game erupted into a couple of minor skirmishes but Warrington showed coolness under fire. Benedicts forced a set scrum after one such fracas and fed their powerful right winger, who showed both pace and strength to score in the corner and make the half time score 17-5.

Perhaps the highlight of the second half was the introduction of Colts skipper, Harry Kellet making an excellent first team debut, as the game developed into trench warfare as both side sides became bogged down in the morass. But once again, the Warrington defence, superbly led by captain Sean Hughes, deservedly voted man-of-the match by the opposition, was magnificent. They denied Benedicts any further tries, restricting them to a single penalty.

"Sometime you have to win ugly," said coach Jon Callendar. "And this was such a game. The lads showed great character in refusing to be intimidated or bullied, while showing clinical finishing in the first half."

Warrington 29 Wilmslow 17

Warrington maintained their unbeaten home record with yet another bonus point win and leapfrogged opponents Wilmslow to move up to fourth place in North 1 West. They are now just three points adrift of second placed Northwich, who travel to Wilmslow next week, while Warrington have the long away trip to St Benedicts, currently in bottom place.

The opening ten minutes saw both packs striving to achieve dominance, with the Warrington line suffering continuous battering. Fortunately, the defence stood firm and eventually forced a scrum on their own 22 line. Sean Callendar, who was awesome throughout, picked up from the base of the scrum and then scythed powerfully through attempted tackles to take play deep into Wimslow territory. He handed onto Kieran Hughes and the elusive centre made ground before handing onto Nathan Beasley, who sprinted over from twenty yards. Ben Hockenhull converted.

Kieran Hughes figured in the next try, after some excellent driving from Clem O'Rourke and Phil Lynch. Receiving the ball just inside the Wilmslow half, the talented centre showed that he has regained some of his old pace before handing onto Steve Pilkington, who squeezed over in the corner.

Wilmslow reminded everyone that they were still on the field when their back line showed slick hands, after determined driving from their forwards, and their pacy inside centre sliced through the defence to score.

It didn't take the home side long to reply when Tom Wood floated a signature long pass out to Phil Lynch and the flanker passed inside to Kieron Hughes, who broke the cover and then swerved inside to touch down under the posts and allow Ben Hockenhull an easy conversion.

Although they were down 14 points, Wilmslow were by no means finished and their hard-running pack forced Warrington to be at their defensive best. The effort soon brought its reward when their rangy second row exploited two missed tackles before feeding his backs who scored in the corner and make the half-time score 19-10.

Within minutes of the restart, Wilmslow were very much back in contention. They forced a line-out five metres out and an aggressive drive saw them score, the conversion reducing Warrington's lead to just two points. However, the home side quickly tightened up their game and a heavily-bandaged Steve Pilkington picked up the ball from broken play, made 50 yards before passing to Tom Arnold and the winger crossed in the corner. Finally, the game was closed out when Ben Hockenhull picked up a loose ball and ran thirty yards before finding Kieran Hughes on his shoulder. The exciting centre finished off in style to register his ninety ninth try in Warrington colours.

"This wasn't quite as perfect a performance as last week's," commented coach Andy Roberts. "We were a little loose in our kicking and some of our tackling could have been better. Still, a bonus point win is not to be sneezed at and we now look forward to improving when we travel to Cumbria next week."

Warrington 2nd XV 54 Sedgley Park 3rd XV 10

The margin of victory, by eight tries to one, is testament to the individual ability that welded this much changed set of players into such an effective team. Positional changes, with captain Yoxall moving from second row to prop, stand-off Dixon moving to centre and back-rows Woodward and Whitely also taking turns at centre, and personnel changes too numerous to mention had little effect on Warrington's style and desire to win.

Only at the line-out where there was a certain lack of cohesion and the set scrum where the heavier Sedgley Park pack exerted a lot of pressure were Warrington not usually in control. Although all the tries were scored by the backs, the forwards laid the strong foundations. Captain Yoxall tested the opposition with his direct running and the rumbustuous prop Marland, with a squirming, wriggling, rolling technique, gained extra yards before he was stopped. No8 Howson was omnipresent in securing second phase ball providing scrum half Hockenhull with quick clean possession.

With 10 minutes gone a wide pass put winger Tickle outside his man and a neat inside return saw centre Riley over the line for Warrington's first try. Dixon added the extras. Sedgley Park pulled a penalty back 10 minutes later but clever interpassing between centres Riley and Dixon and winger Jones resulted in a Warrington scrum deep in Sedgley Park territory. A stretch for the line then rounded off a fine individual effort from Dixon to give the centre the first of his three tries. Dixon also converted. The score remained at 14-3 until the interval despite a 50 yd break by the rangy No6 Woodward which should have earned a try but for the last pass going astray.

Dixon started the second half as he had finished the first with another excellent effort finishing under the posts to stretch Warrington's lead to 21-3. Griffiths was next on the scoreboard dummying his way through the Sedgley Park defence. The visitors then pulled a try back rumbling over from 20yards out in one of their few forays into Warrington territory.

With 20 minutes remaining Dixon completed his hat-trick selling two outrageous dummies to go under the posts. Woodward, now at centre, added Warrington's sixth try finishing off a short penalty move and winger Tickle the seventh when he capitalised on a dropped pass from Sedgley Park and scooted down the line unchallenged. With 5 minutes to go, scrum half Hockenhull instigated Warrington's last try with a break from the base of a ruck, a 40 yard scamper and pass to No7 Whitely, now playing at centre, to finish. Captain Yoxall said "This was an excellent team effort, all the more gratifying as it was the first time many of the lads had played together."

Let's Hear It For The All-Conquering Under 16s



Well, I type this as rather contented soul, after some on-field 'fireworks' this morning, appropriately on the 5th November, and a 63-7 victory over arch-rivals Heaton Moor. To put this into context, we lost to the same opponents in the Lancashire Cup semi-final in April and the squad vowed never to let themselves down so abjectly ever again. What a response they've shown this season. After 8 games - all victories - we average 57 points per game for and a mere 7 against. The shackles are off and the boys are playing with fluidity and abandon that is a joy to behold. Oh, and they hit damn hard in defence too!

Every man jack of them is a credit to themselves and the club - true ambassadors for both WRUFC and our great sport itself - and I can't praise their endeavour, their enthusiasm, their camaraderie and even their banter enough; fine young men.

In my humble opinion, they are all capable of playing county level rugby but I've been asked to mention that 11 boys have been selected for the provisional county training squads (9 Lancashire and 2 Cheshire), 3 of whom are also currently in the Sale Sharks academy. Were it not for injuries, I have no doubt the representation would be higher. The secret of our success, however, is that we are indeed a TEAM, a band of brothers, who relish playing for and with each other, and any representative honours are borne out of a collective effort over many seasons. I have to say that this sense of togetherness, that positive vibe, seems to pervade the whole rugby club this season, doubtless helped by the 1st team's home league form, and their appearance at our game this morning certainly spurred the boys on. Thank you.

WRUFC is flying high at the moment, so let's get behind all our teams, support the off-field initiatives and watch the place flourish.

Stuart Beeley, Under 16s Coach

We Still Need Player Sponsors

We are still looking for player sponsors. We need just a few more before we can start including sponsorship details in every programme and including details on the website. Sponsorship is just £150 for the year and sponsors will have their details published alongside a brief pen picture of the player they are sponsoring. If you are interested, please contact Sean Hughes, Josh Riley or Nick Stafford..