



Welcome to Blackburn

A very warm welcome to all players, officials and spectators of Blackburn. And a special welcome to today's referee, Calum Sharpe.

It's always a pleasure to play against Blackburn and I was particularly pleased last time we met when we were lucky enough to be there at one of coach Dino's famous lunches. It was the first time I have ever sat down to eat in a Rugby club while listening to some beautiful renditions of Leonard Cohen songs, performed by a superb entertainer. Surreal does not adequately describe the experience!

But back to the Rugby. In our last three meetings, we have won two and Blackburn one. Back in October 2016, we lost 17-0 on a wet and miserable day. The only Warrington highlight of a drab and dreary game was a 20 yard break from Thommo, standing in at prop. The return fixture saw us totally annihilate the opposition with a six-try performance, when we played some of our best rugby of season in a scintillating first half display.

We maintained our winning ways earlier this season with another 4-try bonus point win, although a late Blackburn rally saw them close the gap to just 10 points.

So, every game in this league can be difficult. Let us hope we have a good game today.

Player Appearances This Season

<u>Name</u>		Games Played This Year	<u>Total</u>	Tries this Season	<u>Total</u>
Arnold	Tom	13+1	49	5	?
Beesley	Nathan	10+1	57	9	44
Brazendale	James	0+1	12		1
Byrne	Craig	0+1	?		?
Caldwell	Max	7 + 1	47	3	18
Callander	Sean	15	89	2	5
Downes	Josh	10+1	29		1
Evans	Jonny	11+4	16	2	2
Fleming	Dan	11+3	156		9
Griffiths	Dan	2+1	30		5
Hockenhull	Ben	14	63		5
Hughes	Sean	13	131		4
Hughes	Kieran	16	98	14	101
Johnstone	Luke	0+1	132		28
Jones	James	10+5	16		
Kellett	Harry	0+3	3		
Lynch	Phil	15	67	1	3
Lythgoe	Zak	0+1	135	1	23
Morgan	Jack	8+6	16	3	?
Norman	Darren	2+5	26		5
O'Rourke	Clement	14	84		2
Pilkington	Steve	13	85	4	37
Roberts	Andy	3	92		20
Roberts	Pat	0+1	42		6
Sinclair	Fraser	0+1	1		
Smith	Mark	2+1	3		
Tickle	Steve	0+1	49		1
Thompson	Alex	1	?		
Thompson	Paul	11	259	2	23
Thompson	Jamie	12	25	5	10
Ward	Jon	0+1	35		1
White	Chris	11+3	58	1	15
Wood	Tom	16	153	2	52
Yoxhall	Shaun	0+3	70		3

North 1 West - 13th January 2018

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Vale of Lune	11	10	0	1	323	51	11
2.	Northwich	13	10	0	3	80	48	8
3.	Warrington	14	9	0	5	54	45	9
4.	Blackburn	14	9	0	5	91	42	6
5.	Stockport	14	8	1	5	16	42	8
6.	Firwood Waterloo	14	7	0	7	101	42	14
7.	Douglas (I.O.M.)	15	8	0	7	76	41	9
8.	Wilmslow	13	8	0	5	70	40	8
9.	Burnage	14	7	0	7	10	39	11
10.	Carlisle	14	5	0	9	-40	27	7
11.	Manchester	13	5	0	8	-136	22	2
12.	Altrincham Kersal	14	4	1	9	-116	22	4
13.	Rochdale	12	2	0	10	-142	13	5
14.	St Benedicts	13	1	0	12	-387	5	1

Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 13th January 2018

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Blackburn 2	14	11	1	2	174	48	0
2.	Sandbach 2	14	10	1	3	185	45	0
3.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	14	10	0	4	283	44	0
4.	Kendal 2	13	8	0	5	229	37	0
5.	Birkenhead Park 2	13	8	0	5	59	37	0
6.	Fylde 3	15	7	1	7	46	37	0
7.	Warrington 2	14	7	1	6	-36	35	0
8.	Broughton Park 2	13	7	1	5	71	33	-2
9.	Sedgley Park 3	14	5	2	7	-122	31	0
10.	Burnage 2	14	4	2	8	-59	28	0
11.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	14	4	0	10	-58	26	0
12.	Liverpool Uni Vet Sch 1	12	5	0	7	-154	25	0
13.	Northwich 2	13	3	1	9	-182	23	0
14.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	15	2	0	13	-436	20	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)	22-35 (L)	
21 Oct	Altrincham Kersal (H)	38-3 (W)	Dave Jervis
28 Oct	Firwood Waterloo (H)	21-10(W)	
4 Nov	Wilmslow (H)	29-17 (W)	
11 Nov	St Benedicts (A)	8-17 (W)	
25 Nov	Stockport (H)	31-15 (W)	
2 Dec	Vale of Lune (A)	87-20 (L)	
9 Dec	Rochdale (H)	Postponed	
16 Dec	Northwich (H)	11-13 (L)	Friends of Warrington
2018			
6 Jan	Burnage (H)	19-0 (W)	
13 Jan	Blackburn (H)		
20 Jan	Manchester (A)		
27 Jan	Carlisle (H)		
3 Feb	Altrincham Kersal (A)		
17 Feb	Firwood Waterloo (A)		
24 Feb	Rochdale (H)		
3 Mar	Wilmslow (A)		
10 Mar	St Benedicts (H)		Past Players' Lunch
24 Mar	Stockport (A)		
7 April	Vale of Lune (H)		
14 April	Rochdale (A)		
21 April	Douglas (H)		

Warrington RUFC vs. Blackburn RUFC

WARRINGTON RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

BLACKBURN RUFC

Colours: Blue, Red, and White

Kick Off 2:15 p.m.

TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	1	Thomas Lavelle
Sean Hughes (C)	2	Ed Sinclair
James Jones	3	Ben Corless
Danny Fleming	4	Gavin Harmer
Josh Downes	5	James Henderson
Jonny Evans	6	Rob Bramhall
Phil Lynch	7	Danny Booth
Sean Callender	8	Corey Logan
Ben Hockenhull	9	Harry Pilkington
Tom Wood	10	Ockert Erasmus
Nathan Beesley	11	Marc Maher
Steve Pilkington	12	Phil Baines
Kieran Hughes	13	Rhys Llewellyn
Tom Arnold	14	Sonny Bill Waddington
Max Caldwell	15	Sean Hall
	<i>Bench</i>	
Christian White	16	Sam Briggs
Jack Morgan	17	Alexander Panda Evans
Jake Riley	18	Steven Kent
<i>Coach: Andy Roberts</i>		<i>Coach: Dino Radici</i>

Referee: Calum Sharpe, Manchester Society

Looking Forward

In future editions of the programme, we hope to feature short articles by Andy Roberts and Dave Broadbent, giving their views of the current season. We will also be publishing photographs of sponsored players, together with brief bios and details of their sponsors. In addition, we will be providing a long overdue acknowledgement of the work of Alex Scott, our photographer.

Hopefully,, work-load permitting, these will start to appear in the next programme, which will be for the Carlisle game. Thanks for your patience.

Warrington 19 Burnage 0

In a dour but entertaining game, dominated by two resolute defences, Warrington started the New Year with a good win against Burnage, which sees them move to third in the league.

The first twenty minutes of this match saw both sides trying to crack the opposition defence without result. Burnage's heavyweight pack looked set to gain mastery in the set pieces, especially when they drove Warrington off their own ball at a set scrum, but the home side held firm. Warrington were unlucky not to open the scoring when they created good possession in the opposition 22 and the ball flashed across to winger Nathan Beesley who had a clear run to the line. Unfortunately, the referee ruled previous crossing and the score remained at 0-0.

Burnage then had a clear-cut chance to score but the final pass went astray. Warrington finally broke the deadlock when they were awarded a penalty 20 yards out and Ben Hockenhull's trusty boot provided three points.

Ten minutes later Hockenhull added to his personal points total with another well struck penalty and Warrington were six points ahead. The Burnage pack continued to apply pressure and took a second strike against the head but the Warrington eight were slowly getting on top in the loose, where Clem O'Rourke and Phil Lynch were outstanding. It was a rare twenty yard break from O'Rourke which allowed Warrington back into Burnage territory and when the visitors were once again penalized, Ben Hockenhull took full advantage to take Warrington into a 9-0 lead on the stroke of half time.

The second half followed much the same course, with Tom Wood putting in some excellent kicks to ensure that Burnage were kept on the back foot. Warrington eventually seemed to have crossed the try line when an electric run from Tom Arnold was just foiled when the ball was knocked out of his hands just inches short.

Eventually, Warrington started to get on top as Burnage tired and another great run from the ever-present Phil Lynch was rewarded when Burnage infringed at a ruck and the Hockenhull boot added another three points to the Warrington total.

The game appeared to be already won with five minutes left on the clock and Burnage needing to score two converted tries to gain a victory. However, the result was put beyond contention in the closing seconds of the game when the little magician that is Kieran Hughes received possession thirty yards out and danced through the opposition defence to score one of the best tries of the season.

"Make no mistake, this was not an easy win and perhaps the score flattered us," conceded coach Andy Roberts. "Burnage are a good side and it took us 80 minutes to crack their defence. By the same token, our defence was magnificent today. We meet Blackburn next week and they are fourth in the league, just three points behind us. So it should be another close game."

Warrington 2nd XV 16 Northwich 2nd XV 7

Warrington's second team withstood a determined second half comeback by a strong Northwich outfit to clinch victory five minutes from time with a try from Pat Roberts.

The first half soon developed into a battle of attrition, with both packs trying to pound each other into submission. But the Warrington defence, led by Richard Turner, was heroic while their backs eventually forced the opposition to infringe, allowing Ben Dixon to kick three penalties to give Warrington a 9-0 half time lead.

Northwich came back strongly in the second period and eventually reduced the Warrington lead to just two points when they scored a converted try from a driving maul. Still Warrington hung on grimly, with Craig Byrne carrying robustly in his usual fashion and Jacques Riley providing a promising debut performance. However, the Warrington win was sealed when clever decoy running from Matt Rockey and Tony Fretwell created the space for full back Pat Roberts to ghost over in the corner. Ben Dixon converted from the touchline to complete the scoring.

Lymm Senior Colts 10 Warrington Senior Colts 0

Lymm kicked off on a very wet first team pitch and chased hard with the usual verbal chat. Wire managed to hold onto a very slippery ball and worked through number of phases, with plenty of aggression from both teams at the break down. In the early exchanges, a few Wire handling errors allowed Lymm field position but set piece was working well, even managing to take the first scrum against the head.

Unfortunately, quick ball from a ruck went through the Lymm hands and caught Wire cold to allow Lymm to score an unconverted try. Wire now settled down and started to play some good rugby. Solid drives from the forwards saw Wire in the Lymm red zone for over 10 mins and three back-to-back penalties ensured the pressure could be applied. However, the Lymm defence was excellent and held out.

The indifferent playing surface was catching players out, notably the area in front of Lymms posts and Wire struggled to get any reward for their territorial dominance as the Lymm scrambling defence worked extremely well. The conditions also claiming few injuries for both teams with players slipping and sliding and Wire lost four players just before half time. Wire had a chance to reduce the deficit but unfortunately Harry Kellett's penalty attempt drifted just wide so the teams turned round with Lymm leading 5-0.

The second half soon developed into an attritional battle and Lymm adapted better to the conditions, aided by a number of fresh players. The Wire defence was heroic but, eventually, two quick passes from the base of ruck saw Lymm replicate their first half effort and score an unconverted try to take their points total to 10.

Although Warrington came close again following a superb break from Harry Kellett, supported by Kieran O'Toole, there was no further score and Wire were beaten but unbowed.

Player	Sponsor
Clem O'Rourke	Nigel Bradford
Chris White	Fiona Kellett
Danny Fleming	Brian McLoughlin
Josh Riley	3M (Steve Riley)
Jonny Evans	Richard Buck
Sean Callendar	Lignum Recruitment
Phil Lynch	Blue Machinery Group
Sean Hughes	Graham Hughes
Ben Hockenhull	Howell & Company
Tom Wood	H G Wood
Tom Arnold	John Arnold
Steve Pilkington	H G Wood
Kieran Hughes	Graham Hughes
Nathan Beesley	Dave Broadbent
Jamie Thompson	Quantum (Dave Jervis)

Player Sponsorship

Although we have now had a couple of additions to the current list of sponsored players and their sponsors,, there are still quite a few names missing. For example, nobody, as yet, has sponsored Thommo or James Jones or Jack Morgan, to name just a few regular first teamers. So, why don't you step up to the plate and sponsor a player, either 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.

Sponsorship is for a year, at a low cost of £150 plus VAT.. When we have enough sponsors 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, 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.

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!!!