



Welcome to Carlisle

A very warm welcome to all players, officials and spectators from Carlisle. And a big welcome to today's referee, Michael Ince.

The Carlisle club is right next to Carlisle United's football ground and whenever I go there I am always reminded of a great Morecambe and Wise sketch. That's the one where Eric and Ernie are both dressed in costumes of the Wars of the Roses in a "play what Ernie wrote". and Ernie turns to Eric and says, "What news of Carlisle?" To which Eric replies, "They won 2-1 and some say it was the finest game ever seen on that ground."

Well, back to the real game. Matches between our two clubs are always close. We didn't meet last season, as they were demoted (and bounced right back) but in the 2015-16 season we won both games but only by two points at Carlisle and then by five points at Warrington, although they could have snatched a draw here, as they were denied a try in the last act of the game.

In October, we once again made the long trek up to Carlisle, where we even managed to cross the line five times, only to be beaten in extra time by a penalty try. So, once again expect a close game. Hopefully we have recovered from our torpor of last week and can return to our early season form. May the better side win.

Dave Jervis

Player Stats 2017/2018

Name		Games Played This Year	Total	Tries this Season	Total
Arnold	Tom	15+1	51	5	?
Beesley	Nathan	12+1	59	10	45
Brazendale	James	0+1	12		1
Byrne	Craig	0+1	?		?
Caldwell	Max	8 + 2	49	3	18
Callander	Sean	17	91	2	5
Downes	Josh	12+1	31		1
Evans	Jonny	12+4	17	2	2
Fleming	Dan	13+3	158		9
Griffiths	Dan	2+1	30		5
Hockenhull	Ben	16	65		5
Hughes	Sean	15	133		4
Hughes	Kieran	17	99	14	101
Johnstone	Luke	0+1	132		28
Jones	James	12+5	18		
Kellett	Harry	1+3	4		
Lynch	Phil	17	69	1	3
Lythgoe	Zak	0+1	135	1	23
Marland	Alex	0+1	8		0
Morgan	Jack	8+8	18	3	?
Norman	Darren	2+5	26		5
O'Rourke	Clement	15	85		2
Pilkington	Steve	15	87	5	38
Riley	Jake	1+1	2		
Roberts	Andy	3	92		20
Roberts	Pat	0+1	42		6
Sinclair	Fraser	0+1	1		
Smith	Mark	3+1	4		
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	12+4	60	1	15
Wood	Tom	18	155	2	52
Yoxhall	Shaun	0+3	70		3
					2

North 1 West - 275h January 2018

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Vale of Lune	13	12	0	1	403	61	13
2.	Northwich	15	11	0	4	78	53	9
3.	Firwood Waterloo	16	9	0	7	134	52	16
4.	Blackburn	16	11	0	5	120	50	6
5.	Douglas (I.O.M.)	17	10	0	7	79	49	9
6.	Wilmslow	15	9	0	6	148	47	11
7.	Stockport	16	9	1	6	10	47	9
8.	Warrington	16	9	0	7	38	46	10
9.	Burnage	16	7	0	9	-5	40	12
10.	Carlisle	16	6	0	10	-63	32	8
11.	Manchester	15	6	0	9	-142	26	2
12.	Altrincham Kersal	16	4	1	11	-155	23	5
13.	Rochdale	14	3	0	11	-152	18	6
14.	St Benedicts	15	1	0	14	-493	5	1

Raging Bull North West Division 1 - 20th January 2018

	Team	Pl	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Blackburn 2	16	12	1	3	188	53	0
2.	Kirkby Lonsdale 2	16	12	0	4	349	52	0
3.	Sandbach 2	16	11	1	4	187	50	0
4.	Kendal 2	15	10	0	5	270	45	0
5.	Birkenhead Park 2	15	10	0	5	89	45	0
6.	Fylde 3	17	7	1	9	22	39	0
7.	Broughton Park 2	15	8	1	6	73	38	-2
8.	Warrington 2	16	7	1	8	-83	37	0
9.	Burnage 2	16	5	2	9	-72	33	0
10.	Sedgley Park 3	15	5	2	8	-137	32	0
11.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	15	5	0	10	-49	30	0
12.	Liverpool Uni Vet Sch 1	14	6	0	8	-193	30	0
13.	Northwich 2	15	3	1	11	-257	25	0
14.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	17	3	0	14	-387	25	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)	10=23 (L)	
20 Jan	Manchester (A)	10-7 (L)	
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)		Sponsors and Volunteers

We Still Need Match Sponsors!!!

Warrington RUFC vs. Carlisle RUFC

WARRINGTON RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

CARLISLE RUFC

Colours: Black and Red

Kick Off 2:15 p.m.

TEAMS

James Jones	1	Alexander Neil
Sean Hughes (C)	2	Tom Graham (C)
Alex Marland	3	Henry Furbank
Danny Fleming	4	Matt Davis
Josh Downes	5	Jack Freshwater
Phil Lynch	6	James Bocket
Harry Kellett	7	Henry Wainwright
Sean Callender	8	Lee Brumpton
Ben Hockemhull	9	James Telford
Tom Wood	10	Max Connon
Tom Arnold	11	Ben Purdham
Mike Smith	12	Dan Holmes
Steve Pilkington	13	Gregory Baines
Nathan Beesley	14	Andy Glendinning
Jacob Riley	15	James Rocke
	Bench	
Matt Bayliss	16	Cameron Steel
Josh Riley	17	Angus Fulton
Max Caldwell	18	Robbie James
Coach: Andy Roberts		Coach: David Stout

Referee: Michael Ince, Manchester Society

More Player Sponsorships

Max Caldwell, age 20, winger. Sponsored by Paul Hockenhull. With the ability to perform five sidesteps within the space of one second, it is almost impossible for the opposing defence to know where Max is going - and even he doesn't know most of the time



Paul Thompson, age 38, hooker. Sponsored by Dave Broadbent. Thommo is an icon and epitomises all the best qualities that make a front row player. He has never backed down from any challenge and is an inspiration to his team when he plays - injuries permitting.



Manchester 10 Warrington 7 - 29th January 2018

In near freezing conditions, two lack-lustre sides struggled to provide a large crowd with anything approaching exciting fare and eventually had to settle for a dish of thin gruel to complement the greyness of the Manchester day. Although they salvaged a losing bonus point, the loss sees Warrington drop down to eighth in the league table, although they are just one point behind sixth placed Wilmslow.

The game soon developed into a dour arm-wrestle, with the only rays of light coming from the occasional sparkling run from Nathan Beasley. Manchester were denied an early try when the final pass was adjudged forward but it was Warrington who drew first blood. A break down the right saw Tom Wood hand onto Jacob Riley and the young tyro, making his first start for the first team, put in a beautifully judged kick, which was picked up by Steve Pilkington, who touched down in the corner. Ben Hockenhull showed that he has recovered his kicking boots with a superb conversion from the touchline.

Ten minutes later, Warrington could have moved into an unassailable lead when Nathan Beasley chased a Tom Wood kick and showed great footballing skills only to see the ball bounce unkindly into touch inches short of the try line.

Manchester then showed a rare glimpse of their rugby ability when they switched the ball from right to left and then back but the stalwart Warrington defence held out and the sides turned round with the visitors leading 7-0.

The opening ten minutes of the second period saw the Warrington line under prolonged pressure from the big Manchester pack. Eventually, this pressure yielded its reward and Manchester leveled the scores with a converted try.

This ended the try scoring, although Warrington came close again when Harry Kellett, another tyro making his first start for the 1st team, was hauled down inches short. However, Manchester closed out the game when they kicked a penalty, after breaking out from their own 22.

“We were a couple of players short for this match,” commented coach Andy Roberts. “But we have no excuses. It was a drab game and we just couldn’t find our usual spark. Hopefully, we can return to winning ways on Saturday, when we entertain Carlisle.”

Warrington 10 Blackburn 23 - 13th January 2018

In a game of missed opportunities, Warrington eventually succumbed to the power of the Blackburn pack. They now find themselves down to 7th in the table but the competitiveness of this league is shown by the fact that a mere two points separates them from third-placed Firwood Waterloo.

Warrington had to wait five minutes for their first touch of the ball but when it came it was exploited. A scintillating break from Kieran Hughes took play deep inside Blackburn territory and a penalty was forced. Warrington elected to kick for touch and from the line-out the ball fizzed across the field and Tom Arnold appeared to have finished off but unfortunately, he dropped the ball over the line.

Minutes later, Warrington’s other winger, Nathan Beasley, touched down in the corner but the referee disallowed the try much to the disbelief of the spectators on the spot. Ominously, the heavyweight Blackburn pack now started to achieve dominance, especially in the set scrums and strong driving eventually earned them a penalty, which they kicked to take the lead. Warrington had a chance to equalize but Ben Hockenhull’s trusty boot was for once off target. An exciting run from Nathan Beasley should have brought a try but Kieran Hughes was held up over the line.

A tackle-busting run from prop Christian White, featuring an outrageous dummy, once again took Warrington within striking distance but again Ben Hockenhull was unable to convert a penalty into points. The Blackburn pack then regained control and after ten phases on the Warrington line they hustled over for a try. Ben Hockenhull

eventually recovered his kicking prowess and slotted over a penalty but Blackburn replied with a penalty of their own on the stroke of half time.

Blackburn's pack maintained their dominance in the second period and eventually won good ball which they released to their backs and their left winger scored in the corner. It was again the pack which provided the visitors' third try with a push-over effort, which was converted.

With ten minutes to go, Warrington needed to score three times to win and they finally managed to crack the resolute Blackburn defence when Max Caldwell put in a well-judged kick which was picked up by Nathan Beesley, who scored in the corner. Ironically, Ben Hockenhull converted from the touchline. But it was too little, too late and Warrington could only rue their missed first half chances.

"We were out-muscled today," was the verdict of coach Andy Roberts. "However, we were probably our own worst enemy with our inability to finish. Hopefully, we can vent our frustration on Manchester next week."

Warrington 2nd XV 8 Blackburn 2nd XV 39 - 20th January

The visitors started the game at pace and on the attack. Aggressive running from the pack with quick recycle paid dividends in the 10th minute when the elusive Blackburn full back, who was to prove a thorn in Warrington's side for the rest of the match, went over under the posts. Warrington now had their chance to attack and gained a penalty on the Blackburn 22 which scrum half Ben Dixon slotted. However, Blackburn kept up the pressure with their big forwards gaining easy yards aided by some poor tackling from the Warrington defence.

Thankfully, Warrington's set piece tended to have the upper hand and excellent technique from an undiminished Sam Bennett at tight head more than neutralized his mountainous opponent. In the 30th minute Warrington resisted two scrums on their 5yard line but failed to find touch with their penalty clearance kick when Blackburn were penalized for boring. Blackburn won the line out and swept back for another try out wide which went unconverted.

Young centre Tom McEniff, in his debut at open age rugby showed great promise both in defence and attack but although he made ground on numerous occasions, support was too often slow to arrive, possession was lost and the visitors were again in control. Winger Cameron Roberts also making his debut in senior rugby made deep inroads into the Blackburn 22 but these forays were few and far between and well contained by the Blackburn defence.

Just before half time, the Blackburn full back strode over between the posts finishing off a patient build up from the visitors pack.

Any hopes of Warrington staging a second half comeback were quickly dashed, when Blackburn ran in a try in the 5th second half minute when Warrington failed to find touch with their clearance kick. 5 minutes later Warrington pulled one back when some rare quick ball got to centre McEniff in some space. He sped 25yards down the touchline and managed to get the ball down in the corner before being dumped into the corner flag. Unfortunately, this was the last time Warrington threatened the Blackburn line. Despite some exemplary tackling from captain Yoxall and Josh Riley, returning to the fray after a long lay off, the visitors added two more tries and a penalty to run out comfortable winners.

Captain Yoxall admitted " We were well beaten by a slicker, fitter side but our set piece was good and I was particularly impressed by the performance of McEniff and Roberts on their senior debuts."

The Coach's Perspective

In what was a difficult start to the season in trying to maintain 3 Senior Sides, we reluctantly had to accept that due to a number of factors we would be unable to fulfill 3 Senior teams this year and we would operate with just two senior teams. It is sad to see the 3rd team go but the game is changing and the days of players playing week in and week out and committing to a whole season is a distant memory; and with injuries being highlighted more and more in the media, people are making the decision to cut short their careers. It is a sad situation but we can take solace in the fact that it is affecting all clubs (in a range of sports) and we will do all we can to work towards turning three sides our in the near future.

At the half way point of the season, the 1st XV sat in second place in North 1 West, despite losing the first two games, which we played away. We played some excellent and entertaining rugby over the months leading up to Christmas and recorded excellent wins against some very well known and highly respected clubs in the North West who have spent previous seasons in the National Leagues. Our young team continues to impress week in and week out and are now starting to show the maturity to complement their genuine ability. There is excitement and a real belief in what this current crop of players can achieve. It would be hard to single any particular individual out at this stage as everybody has really stepped up this season and the challenge has been laid down to see how long we can continue to push ourselves and work towards our best ever finish in North West One. Although we have seen a dip in form since the Christmas break, having lost to two sides we beat earlier, I am still genuinely excited about what we could achieve and I look forward to seeing this young and talented group of players continuing to develop.

The 2nd XV under the guidance of Shaun McDermott and Shaun Yoxhall, have put together a string of excellent results and at the half way point were in 4th place. There are a number of players who are certainly knocking on the door and pushing for a 1st team shirt, which is exactly what we want and need. There is a real buzz around the second team at the moment and they too are playing some excellent entertaining Rugby and will be working towards their highest ever finish in Division 1.

I feel privileged to be working with such a talented group of Senior Players and I am hugely excited about what both teams can achieve in 2018.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those associated with Rugby at Warrington RUFC from the Groundsman, House Managers, Bar and Catering Staff, Paul (Scoreboard Operator) as well as our very trusted and loyal supporters who follow us everywhere. Your roles are hugely appreciated by all the Senior Players and Coaches.

Personally, I would also like to extend my thanks to Alex Scott (photographer), Dave Jervis (all his media and match day support) and to Fiona Kellett for everything she does (too many jobs to list) for the club. My thanks also go to all of the Senior Coaches, captains and support staff (linesman) who give so much time and effort to the club.

A Rob
Head Coach