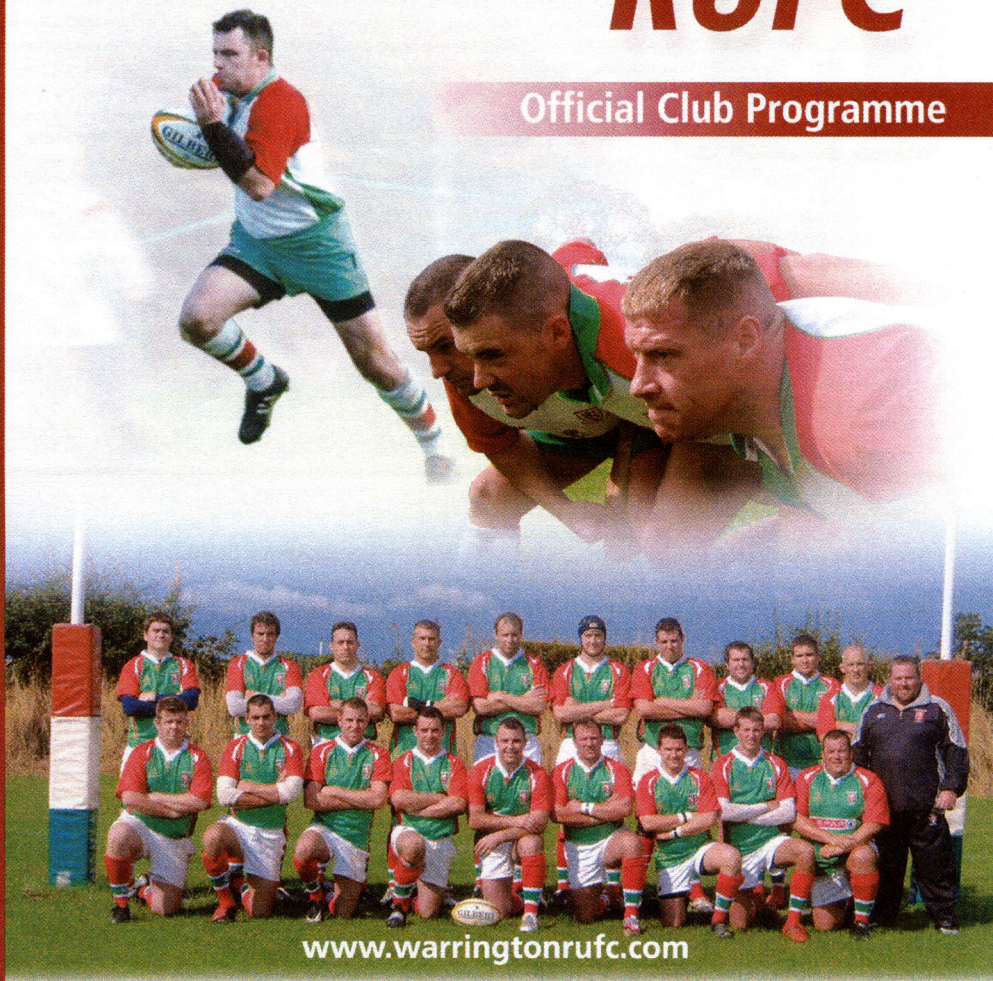


Warrington RUFC

Official Club Programme



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Can I warmly welcome you to our "new" ground as part of Warrington Sports Club. The destruction of the old Clubhouse at Bridge Lane was traumatic but, as often in life, adversity can bring ultimate benefits. That is proving to be the case for us. The facilities we now enjoy are excellent and in the long term we are keen to play our part in improving them still further.

What is clear is that the ability to move forward is heavily dependent on increasing our resource base. That is no easy task but we must not be put off by the apparent size of it. We can all contribute in so many ways as those who have gone before us as Members of WRUFC have done. Players need to remember that it is not just about playing. Fund raising and making sure everything runs smoothly on match days and all the other small but essential tasks is not just the province of those of us who are at the age where sadly playing is no longer possible. The more people who volunteer and get stuck in, the stronger our Club will become.

Former players making a perhaps infrequent visit to the Club should not feel excluded from what I have just said. We can always find something for you to do! You will have taken a lot out of the game. Please think seriously about what you can put back in, just as there were the "old farts" in your day who made sure that the baths were run, the tea made, the pitch marked, the game refereed, the raffle run and so on.

Enjoy the game irrespective of the result and make use of our excellent Clubhouse facilities after the game.

Mark Winstanley
Warrington RUFC President

Committee Members & Officials - Season 2008 - 2009

President	Mark Winstanley	01925 268 519
Senior Vice President	Vacant	
Immediate Past President	Roy Potts	01925 263 799
Chairman	Vacant	
Secretary	Peter Riley	01925 604 896 / 07825 705 573
Chairman of Mini & Juniors	Dave Nicholls	01925 601 570
Club Coach	Stewart Coleman	07818 854 134
Finance	Mark Winstanley	01925 268 519
Grounds & House	Brian Mcloughlin	01925 264 807
Fixtures	Joe White	01925 486 470
General Committee	Richard Turner	07710 759 561
General Committee	Andy Morse	07960 496 418

Past Players Reunion 29th November

About 100 past players are expected at the Club today, many of them rounded up by Steve Hennessey. The last one, a year or so ago, was a resounding success. I can't attend as I am at a niece's wedding. Enjoy yourselves and make new friends.

Terry Critchley, Past President

WARRINGTON RUFC 1ST XV APPEARANCES 2008/2009 SEASON

(UP TO AND INCLUDING CREWE & NANTWICH - SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2008)

NAME	THIS SEASON GAMES+SUB	TRIES	CONS	PENS	POINTS
A ALMOND	8	3			15
J CALLANDER	3 + 3				
P CANNON	9	5			25
E FIELDS	8	2			10
P GILL	8	1			5
L GRAHAM	5 + 2	1			5
P GRANT	5 + 1				
P GRIFFITHS	5 + 1				
M HADDON	2 + 1				
P HENNESSEY	4 + 1				
A HUGHES	7				
B JONES	0 + 2				
K JONES	6 + 2	2			10
J KERAJ	0 + 1				
R MACNAIR	8		5	2	16
S MCDERMOTT	1				
D RICKARD	5	1			5
M ROCKEY	8		7	15	59
J SHAW	8	4			20
M STEVENSON	4 + 1				
P THOMPSON	9				
M TOBIN	0 + 1				
M TICKLE	5 + 1	3			15
S TICKLE	2 + 1				
M TIERNEY	2 + 1				
R TURNER	4	1			5
J WELSH	0 + 1				
G WHEATLEY	4 + 1	1			5
S WILLIAMS	5 + 3				
P YEADON	0 + 2				
	30 USED	24	12	17	195

Table maintained by Peter Riley, our loyal secretary.

Saturday, 15 November 2008

Anselmians	20 - 3	Trentham
Ashton-on-Mersey	32 - 5	Wallasey
Crewe and Nantwich	19 - 21	Warrington
Douglas (I.O.M.)	8 - 39	Orrell Anvils
Ruskin Park	13 - 5	Southport
Sefton	15 - 13	Oswestry

Saturday, 08 November 2008

Orrell Anvils	22 - 13	Sefton
Oswestry	20 - 23	Ruskin Park
Southport	12 - 23	Anselmians
Trentham	27 - 27	Ashton-on-Mersey
Wallasey	28 - 14	Crewe and Nantwich
Warrington	25 - 16	Douglas (I.O.M.)

Saturday, 22 November 2008

Southport	20 - 15	Orrell Anvils
Wallasey	17 - 23	Sefton

South Lancs/Cheshire 2**Table at 22nd November 2008**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adjus st
Warrington	9	9	0	0	188	110	78	18	0
Sefton	9	6	0	3	141	163	-22	12	0
Anselmians	9	5	1	3	211	132	79	11	0
Oswestry	9	5	1	3	182	146	36	11	0
Ruskin Park	9	5	0	4	135	157	-22	10	0
Orrell Anvils	8	4	0	4	165	117	48	8	0
Trentham	9	3	2	4	109	131	-22	8	0
Ashton-on-Mersey	9	3	1	5	177	186	-9	7	0
Douglas (I.O.M.)	9	3	1	5	156	170	-14	7	0
Southport	9	3	0	6	91	110	-19	6	0
Crewe and Nantwich	9	2	0	7	139	187	-48	4	0
Wallasey	8	2	0	6	108	193	-85	4	0

Notes About Ashton on Mersey

Ashton on Mersey RUFC was founded in 1931. The first President was Councillor M. Newton and their first fixture was against Dukinfield. Their current President (with no hope of a reprieve) is Mike Murray. They run three senior teams and have a thriving junior section. I'm told their main aims are drinking beer and going on tour, as their web site testifies. They've been all over the place.

As It Were

By Warrington Secretary and Archivist Peter J Riley

Welcome to Ashton on Mersey RUFC

A warm welcome to the players, officials and spectators from Ashton on Mersey for today's Cheshire Lancashire South League Division 1 game here at Walton Lea Road. Ashton have got off to a "so-so" start this season and lie in and around the mid table position. They have, however, remained unbeaten in their last 3 games and will, no doubt, go into today's game buoyed by this recent improvement in form.

We still head up the table, unbeaten after 9 games, but in all but one of these games (a 40pts-11 home win over Oswestry) they have been closely contested matches. Fortunately, we keep coming out on top, but only just, with last gasp wins against Orrell and Ruskin Park at home and grimly hanging on two weeks ago at Crewe & Nantwich to eke out another tight win.

Whilst we clearly acknowledge the efforts of all our coaching staff under the guidance of Stewart Coleman we have also benefited from having a far more consistent side this season with changes in personnel being down to 2 or 3 each week rather than the 6 or 7 changes we seemed to make last season week in week out. This more settled team has aided us enormously on the pitch when the going has got tough and players are having to fight hard to get back into the side should they have to miss a game the week previous.

The 2nd XV are still battling to find their form after the success of last year. However, having registered a draw at Rossendale 3 weeks ago they got their first win of the season a week later with a narrow 27pts-24 win over Didsbury. What a shame it was then when they got smashed 65pts-7 at Sale by their 2's in the Halbro Trophy the week after. This has no doubt knocked confidence but the lads should remember that the Sale 1st XV had no game that day (Aspull having withdrawn from the Leagues) so the Sale team was boosted by the inclusion of several senior players to help the cause of the 2's!

The RFU announced plans a fortnight ago to reshape the League structure for the 2009/2010 with their being an overall increase in teams in each of the Leagues up to and including Level 6. Below that it is up to the Divisional Organising Committee to satisfy the needs of the majority of clubs in determining how many teams should be included in each League structure. Hopefully, and especially as the National Cup Competition is being withdrawn, this will result in increased League numbers so more games can be guaranteed across the 37 weeks that each season runs!

Finally, and to put a rather large blot on our landscape, we have managed to have 7 players sent off already this season and had two more cases brought to the Lancashire Disciplinary Committee for off field misdemeanours that the Committee need to deal with. It is hard to believe as we are not using any players different to what we have used in the last few seasons but some how we are 'losing our heads' on the field and actions seem to have taken place on a regular basis that are totally out of character with our normal behaviour. Interestingly, no players have been sent off at 1st XV level and perhaps that is because the players are under the spotlight a little more and are on their best 9 (or better) behaviour.

The Committee has reluctantly agreed that in the interim all players redcarded or report to the Disciplinary Committee will not be allowed to play for the Club until their case has been dealt with. Meetings have been held with the teams and individuals within the Club to drive home the message that our recent disciplinary record must improve or the Club will suffer the most severe consequences.

The answer to the last programme quiz question was: ANTON FIELDS SCORED WARRINGTON'S FIRST EVER 5 POINT TRY AGAINST NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS IN A 15PTS-12 HOME WIN ON 14 SEPTEMBER 1992.

This weeks question:

WHICH OF WARRINGTON RUFC'S GREATEST EVER AND BEST LOVED PLAYERS (HIS VERY OWN WORDS) PLAYED HIS LAST EVER 1ST XV GAME AGAINST ASHTON ON MERSEY ON 16TH NOVEMBER 1991 IN A 4PTS-15 HOME DEFEAT

Warrington RUFC v Ashton on Mersey

29th November 2008 at Walton Lea**WARRINGTON**

Colours: Red, White and Green

Almond	15
Jones	14
RockeY	13
Rickard	12
Shaw	11
MacNair	10
Cannon	9
Wheatley	8
Hennessey	7
FiledS	6
Hughes A	5
Gill	4
Grant	3
Thompson (C)	2
Haddon	1

Yeadom	16
Williams	17
Tickle	18

ASHTON on MERSEY (*)

Colours: Maroon and Black

Today's Referee: Welcome Mr Tim Isherwood. We hope you enjoy your day with us.

(*) Ashton team names not available at programme print time.

Apartheid in Rugby Union

The Rugby movement in South Africa was initiated by Dutch and Anglo-Saxon people. The official beginning of rugby dated from 1906 when the Springboks were created, the national team which made a tour to Britain.

During the apartheid rugby was divided in two types of leagues: black leagues, where the black race people played; and white leagues. The best ones of the white leagues were those who played with the Springboks. For this reason, the Springboks were considered a symbol of Apartheid. One person who would like to play rugby, could only play in the league of his/her race. If you were black race person and you went to see a game of Springboks you were disqualified from your league. In 1981, the Springboks made a New Zealand tour where All Blacks played. The population of this country tries to prevent the celebration of these games. The government of New Zealand didn't do anything and they were allowed to play the games. South Africa during the Apartheid was disallowed to take part in the first two World Cups in 1987 and 1991. This country was readmitted in 1992 and they organized the 1995 World championship. In the first match Australia beat which was the defender of the championship. It was the first game in ages where people of both races could watch the game jointly. This game and the final, which the All Blacks won, marked a step forward in the history of South Africa. Moreover Nelson Mandela delivered the trophy to a white person.

From the Internet – pardon the English but it does tell a tale.

Warrington RUFC

1st XV Fixtures 2008-2009

Date	Team	Result
31 st August	Warrington v Bay Horse	
6 th September	Warrington v Birchfield	36-5 W
13 th September	Warrington v Ruskin Park	15-13 W
20 th September	Sefton v Warrington	19-28 W
27 th September	Warrington v Oswestry	40-11 W
4 th October	Southport v Warrington	3-10 W
11 th October	Warrington v Trentham	13-9 W
18 th October	Wigan v Warrington	25-17 L
25 th October	Wallasey v Warrington	12-27 W
1 st November	Warrington v Orrell Anvils	9-8 W
8 th November	Warrington v Douglas (IOM)	25-16 W
15 th November	Crewe & Nantwich v Warrington	19-21 W
29th November	Warrington v Ashton on Mersey	
6 th December	Anselmians v Warrington	
20 th December	Warrington v Sefton	
4 th January 2009	Warrington v Broughton	
10 th January	Oswestry v Warrington	
24 th January	Warrington v Southport	
31 st January	Trentham v Warrington	
14 th February	Warrington v Wallasey	
21 st February	Orrell Anvils v Warrington	
7 th March	Douglas (IOM) v Warrington	
14 th March	Warrington v Crewe & Nantwich	
28 th March	Ashton on Mersey v Warrington (*)	
4 th April	Warrington v Anselmians	
18 th April	Ruskin Park v Warrington	

(*) In the last programme, this fixture was stated as Home game. Apologies.

Not Many People Know This ...

The shoemaker at Rugby school around the William Webb Ellis era was William Gilbert, whose shop was next to the school. Gilbert made rugby balls for the school out of hand stitched leather casings and real pigs' bladders. The natural disposition of a pig bladder to form an oval shape is often cited as the reason a rugby ball is oval.

In 1851, Gilbert showed the Rugby football at the Great Exhibition. The oval ball became popular and in 1892 the Rugby Football Union standardised the size of the ball. The standard ball size was reduced again in 1931 to the size it is today.

Terry Critchley, Warrington RUFC.

Punchlines

Dates for Your Diary 2008 - 2009

Next 1st XV Home Games: 20th December v Sefton First XV v , 4th January v Broughton. There is a Past Players' Reunion Lunch today. Make time to talk to old friends.

Annual Dinner 2009: Date and venue t.b.d.

AGM 2009: Date tbd.

Coaches and Helpers' Lunch: Sunday in May, date tbd, 12:00 for 12:30. Main function room. Committee invite only.

What's in a Name?

BATH

For a while Bath didn't even bother to call themselves a rugby club - original teams were known as football clubs and Bath went by that title until the dawn of professionalism in 1996. They are now Bath Rugby Football Club but appear far too steeped in tradition to suddenly adopt a nickname. Should they decide to do so, what could it be? Bath Salts, Bath Time, Bath Water. Okay, you want serious suggestions, sorry. How about the Bath Royals given the city's majestic history.

BRISTOL

Bristol also don't boast a nickname at the moment but that doesn't mean they have always been known as Bristol Rugby. At the beginning of the 2001-2002 season, Bristol didn't just sell their soul to the proverbial advertising devil, they sold their entire name. To be fair, they did ink a massive £2 million sponsorship deal unlike any seen in the professional era to that point. So, after jumping into bed with car giants Mitsubishi, Bristol became known as the Bristol Shoguns, in honour of their sponsor's leading product. The deal ended in July, 2005 and the Shoguns became plain old Bristol again. We can only hope Bristol strike a similar deal with a leading cereal maker in the near future - the Premiership would certainly be a brighter place with the Bristol Crunchy Nuts in the mix.

GLOUCESTER

The first unofficial nickname for the club was 'the elver eaters', - those slithery little buggers that fisherman go out in the dead of night to catch. Why? We don't know, but there it is. Anyway, it didn't stick and to put it frankly, no one has bothered with an official nickname since. Today, the club's unofficial nickname is 'The Cherry and Whites' but that's not too easy to chant after 18 pints of West Country cider on matchday! How about the Gloucester Romans after the city's founders? No? Gloucester Rugby it is then.

LEICESTER TIGERS

Okay, we know Leicestershire is not rife with feline killers on the prowl, but hear us out. The Tigers nickname is thought to derive from two origins, both circa 1880's when the club was formed. The newly-formed team did not receive the Tigers nickname until five years later and it was thought to be due to the brown and yellow striped kit they wore, with the Leicester Daily Post reporting "the Tiger stripes were keeping well together." The other theory on the nickname is that the Royal Leicestershire Regiment serving in India at the time was known as the Tigers and could have influenced the rugby team. In their early years, Leicester were also known as 'The Death and Glory Boys' but using tremendous foresight and vision, the club preferred the Tigers, knowing it would fit much easier on replica shirts in the future.

Courtesy Independent Newspaper web site.

1st XV Match Report

Saturday 15th November 2008 **Crewe & Nantwich 19 – 21 Warrington**

Warrington defended their 100% record with a hard fought win at Crewe and Nantwich and are now 6 pts clear at the top of the Lancs 2 league. Both teams were willing to play open rugby but the poor conditions did not always allow this.

Warrington opened the score with a Matt Rockey penalty. Warrington then scored a break away try when winger Paul Yeadon was the first to react when the Crewe backs dropped the ball in their own half. Crewe then re-grouped and scored a fine try when their back row supported each other to score out wide. Warrington rallied round and scored two further tries from Rockey and Almond. Crewe then scored a late consolation try which narrowed the scores.

The Warrington forwards won plenty of clean lineout ball and their scrum was also rock solid. Fine performances were put in by Skipper Thompson, scrum half Cannon and number 8 Gareth Wheatley.

Coach Stew Coleman said " This was a tough game which did not reflect Crewe's position in the league. They gave us a really good game and I am sure that they will turn over a few teams this year. Our penalty count was much better this week, as we did not give away as many silly penalties"

Coaches Corner by Stew Coleman

Warrington 1st XV have a 100% league record with 10 out of 10 wins. This is down to the hard work and dedication of the playing and coaching team.

The players are being magnificently led by Paul Thompson, who has really found his feet in his second season of captaincy. He always leads from the front and has been one of the stand out players of the season so far. Mention must also go to Pete Cannon, who leads the try scoring table, not bad from scrum half.

We have celebrated John Callander's 400th game and also Eddie Fields 100th since the last coaches comments. Both remarkable achievements from remarkable players. Congratulations to both.

I must mention the great work that is being done by the coaching team of Dave Rockey, John Callander, Anton Fields, Andy Walker and Mike Mullen. Without their ideas, energy and thinking I know that the team would not be in the position that we are now. Each bring different strengths to the coaching team and I know that the players also appreciate their hard work.

The coaches are conscious that the 1st XV are giving away too many technical penalties and this is something which has almost cost us games this season. It is something that we have been working hard on in training with the help of referee Bob McDonald-Smith. We must stop giving away so many cheap penalties.

I hope that our 100% winning streak continues today and above all , I hope that we have a safe and enjoyable game.

Ten Commandments of Rugby

This is part of our ongoing rugby education project – unique in the world. We have published this before but it bears repeating.

Courtesy of: <http://www.jacksonrugby.com/news1.html> via Ashton on Mersey web site

I

Thou shalt not hesitate at the breakdown, but be mighty in the seizing of your rightful ball; for though it is written that the meek shall inherit the earth, this is in truth but a poor translation. The meek shall be trampled into the dirt is more to the point.

II

Thou shalt not speak profanely of the Whistler, nor question the purity of his birth, even though he be blind to the transgressions of the evildoers among thine enemies at the ruck and the maul, and whistle them not.

III

Thou shalt not smite thine enemies with an clenched fist, yet, even in retaliation; for it is written that the Whistler and the Flag Waver shall assuredly be blinded to the coward which delivereth the first punch, only to see that which avengeth it second. Believeth thou then that what goeth round it shall surely come to pass again, and verily, in the fullness of time, the evil among men shall surely be found at the bottom of the ruck.

IV

Thou shalt not kiss thy teammate on the mouth, even when he hath scored; for such is an abomination unto the iRB, especially he that kisseth in tongues, unless it cometh to pass that thou shouldst play with the circular balls, for then it is truly expected of thee.

V

Thou shalt not take the Word of the Lord thy Coach in vain, for blessed is the Word of that Lord. Verily, thou shalt wonder at His mighty wisdom and sticketh thou then to His Game Plan lest He acquainteth thee with these of his disciples who labour in the lower grades.

VI

Thou shalt not chip nor kick for touch if thou be numbered amongst the props or if thou wear any jersey below that of the number 9; for this is an abomination unto the Word of the Lord thy Coach, and surely shalt thy soul and thy body be His at training, perhaps in everlasting pain.

VII

Thou shalt not run across the field with the ball in hand, but see that thou runneth straight ahead upfield; for it is written in the Word of the Lord thy Coach that the touchline is the best defender.

VIII

Thou shalt not kick the ball to the hands of thine enemies unless first thou maketh it to bounce; for then the Spirit of the Bounce of the Ball shall bring confusion among them, and if thy heart be pure, shall command that it bounceth back unto you.

IX

Thou shalt not pass the ball to a brother thy team-mate about to be smashed by thine enemies, unless it be known to all men that he oweth you money, or hath porked someone dear to your heart, in which case all shall be forgiven and then, verily, thou mayest pass to him right slowly and on high.

X

Thou shalt not vomit upon the brethren of thy team after the game, nay even though thou hast partaken right fully of the waters of Guinness or of the entrails of pigs in a pie or of the beans which baketh right slowly in an earthen crock, for this shall be deemed unmanly in the eyes of thy brethren, and they mayest do it unto you

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Warrington Rugby Union



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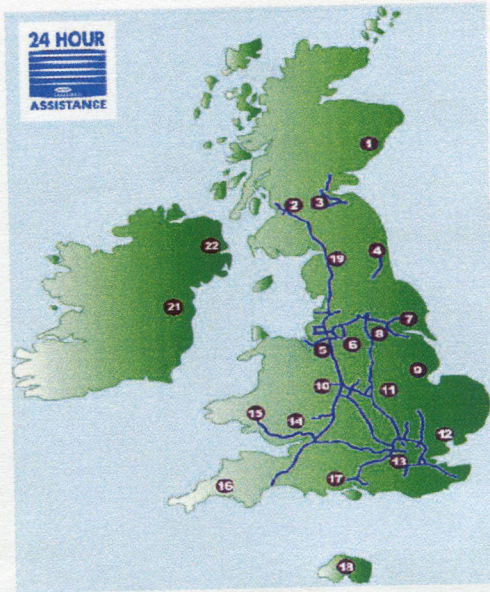
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