

WARRINGTON



R.U.F.C.

Welcome to Carlisle

A very warm welcome to the players, officials and spectators of Carlisle. Games between the two sides are always close. Last season, honours were shared, with both sides winning at home, where the fixture at Warrington was a particularly tense, and enjoyable, affair. The game at Carlisle last October was another nail-biter, with Warrington just scraping home 21-19, after Carlisle had missed two kickable penalties in the closing minutes.

Carlisle RUFC was formed in 1873 and has enjoyed a long and successful history and has spent the past decade at Level 6. In the early years, a variety of pitches were “home” before the club moved to its present ground in 1895. However, it was the 1960’s which probably saw Carlisle in their pomp, when they were amongst the most feared sides in the Northern Counties and it seemed that they were on the verge of breaking into the upper echelons of English rugby. It nurtured many fine players at that time and perhaps the most notable was Chris Wardlow, who was in the victorious North West side, coached by John Burgess, that beat the touring All Blacks in 1972 at Workington, the first England provincial side ever to do so. Chris was selected for the sensational British Lions tour of New Zealand in 1971, but had to withdraw having broken his jaw in a pre-tour match.

But, as we all know, this season, one week in December has been Carlisle’s focal point. The week of the floods. Things are slowly returning to normal but the club is leading a nomadic existence, relying on the good will of other local clubs such as Creighton, with offers from Wigton and Penrith, for playing facilities. This is not new to them. In January 2005, the “Great Carlisle Flood” devastated the club premises, with the clubhouse being a minimum of six feet under water. Like today, the club had to play its home fixtures at other local clubs but the clubhouse was rebuilt and refurbished and re-opened in July 2005 with the grandstand being re-opened in 2007.

Currently, the club is in its new post-flood recovery phase and is talking with the RFU with the aim of restarting playing and training to the Warwick Road site as soon as possible. However, they still face massive costs if a long-term solution is to be achieved and fund-raising is now a top priority.

We wish Carlisle well in their efforts to restore their ground and facilities and we hope that they can relax a little today and enjoy a good open game of rugby.

Dave Jervis, President, Warrington Rugby

SPAR



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North 1 West League Table

#	Team	Pd	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale	17	15	1	1	234	71	9
2.	Wilmslow	18	14	0	4	287	70	14
3.	Kendal	16	15	0	1	222	69	9
4.	Warrington	17	11	2	4	141	57	9
5.	Penrith	16	9	0	7	59	45	9
6.	Vale of Lune	16	9	0	7	51	45	9
7.	Rochdale	16	9	0	7	-2	40	4
8.	Altrincham Kersal	17	7	1	9	-6	36	6
9.	Eccles	17	6	0	11	-143	32	8
10.	Blackburn	15	5	1	9	-132	23	1
11.	Broughton Park	17	4	1	12	-142	21	3
12.	Leigh	17	3	0	14	-165	19	7
13.	Carlisle	16	2	2	12	-163	19	7
14.	Widnes	17	3	0	14	-241	15	3

Standish Media Services Division 1

	Team	Pd	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Wilmslow 2	15	14	0	1	330	57	0
2.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	15	12	0	3	128	51	0
3.	Preston Grasshoppers 3	15	11	0	4	351	48	0
4.	Warrington 2	15	9	1	5	-21	43	0
5.	Wirral 2	15	9	0	6	195	42	0
6.	Rossendale 2	15	7	2	6	45	38	0
7.	Burnage 2	17	7	0	10	-142	38	0
8.	Broughton Park 2	16	7	0	9	-21	37	0
9.	Blackburn 2	13	6	0	7	-52	31	0
10.	Altrincham Kersal 2	16	5	0	11	-188	31	0
11.	Bolton 2	15	5	0	10	-243	30	0
12.	Macclesfield 3	16	4	1	10	-21	28	0
13.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	15	3	0	12	-128	27	3
14.	Leigh 2	14	5	0	8	-233	18	-10

Picture Post



Jonno defies the laws of gravity - almost



“Well, if that’s your attitude, I’m off”



“Where’s everybody gone?”



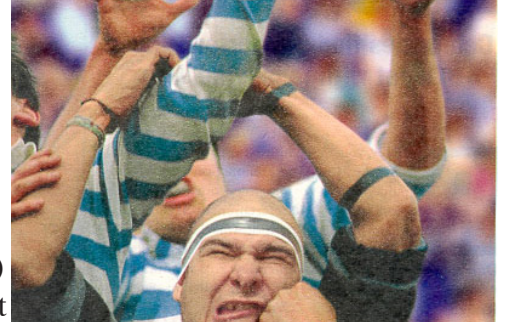
“Let’s see if I can drop the ball in between the hooker and the prop.”



Carlisle’s ground immediately after the flood

Warrington is not a rich club but we have decided to donate half of today’s gate money to Carlisle to help them in their current crisis. It’s not much, but it is a gesture to show that we are all in this together.

Punchlines



HowZak? Clean Bowled Over.

Now we all know that Zak Lythgo is a very versatile player (or so he tells us) but it was quite a surprise the other week to see him starting the game against Rochdale as open side prop. Well, he has played prop before in emergencies, but to start off the game in the front row was a first even for Zak. However, closer inspection revealed it wasn't our soft-handed second row forward wearing an unaccustomed scrum cap. It was actually, similarly hirsute Tom Green, making his first team debut. Naturally both Tom and Zak deny any genetic connection but....

Welcome to the 21st Century

As everyone probaly knows, our illustrious past president, ex-referee and referee judge, Dave Broadbent is very much a man of the 20th Century rather than the 21st. He still writes letters in long-hand and reads books rather than using a Kindle or iPad, cycles whenever he can and stands up when ladies enter or leave a room. However, Dave has become quite fascinated by Facebook and Twitter. So much so that he now uses his 20th Century version of social media. He has taken to stopping complete strangers in the street and showing them photographs of his children and grandchildren. He astounds them with snaps of the meals he has eaten for the past few nights and he walks around Warrington shouting "C'mon United", whenever his favourite football team is playing..He has even got four followers: two policemen, a social worker and a psychiatrist.

Fasten Your Sear Belts

Nigel Bradford is the club's scrummaging coach. He is also an airline pilot and regularly arrives at matches fresh from a flight across the Atlantic from sunnier climes such as the Dominican Republic. These are long flights and, naturally, Nigel must always have a co-pilot sitting in the right-hand seat. Recently, his co-pilot was a Chinese, who spoke excellent English, so Nigel handed him the microphone as they came into land at Gatwick. You can just imagine Nigel's surprise when his colleague announced, "Please fasten your seat belts in preparation for landing. I shall not be switching off **all** the cabin lights, as is customary. I shall just dim some."



"Is that Nigel's plane up there?"

(Republished, for those who didn't see it first time, including Nigel)

North One West Fixtures 2015-16

DATE	OPPOSITION	RESULT	Sponsor
2015		Home Team 1st	
5 Sept	Wilmslow (Away)	W 30-45	
12 Sept	Blackburn (Home)	W 49-13	
19 Sept	Leigh (Away)	W 22-26	
26 Sept	Vale of Lune (Home)	W 45-23	
3 Oct	Rochdale (Away)	W 17-23	
10 Oct	Widnes (Home)	W 38-3	Emma & Richard Woodward
17 Oct	Carlisle (Away)	W 19-21	
24 Oct	Penrith (Home)	W 36-14	
7 Nov	Kendal (Away)	L 27-12	
14 Nov	Kirkby Lonsdale (Home)	D 12-12	Warrington Ladies
21 Nov	Broughton Park (Away)	W 19-32	
5 Dec	Eccles (Away)	L 24-20	
12 Dec	Altrincham Kersal (Home)	W 38-15	Steve Riley
19 Dec	Blackburn (Away)	D 19-19	
2016			
9 Jan	Leigh (Home)	W 29-22	
16 Jan	Vale of Lune (Away)	P	
23 Jan	Rochdale (Home)	L 10-22	Dave Cunningham
30 Jan	Widnes (Away)	L 24-10	
6 Feb			
13 Feb	Carlisle (Home)		
20 Feb	Penrith (Away)		
5 Mar	Kendal (Home)		Dave Jervis
19 Mar	Kirkby Lonsdale (Away)		
2 April	Broughton Park (Home)		
9 April	Eccles (Home)		Dave Broadbent
16 April	Altrincham Kersal (Away)		
23 Apr	Wilmslow (Home)		Ross Thompson

Warrington RUFC vs. Carlisle RUFC

WARRINGTON RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

Carlisle RUFC

Colours: Red, Blue and White

Kick Off 2:15 p.m.

TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	1	Alexander Neil
Sean Hughes (Captain)	2	Tom Graham (Captain)
Jon Ward	3	Joe Anderson
Josh Riley	4	Paul Halliday
Phil Lyon	5	Lewis Fuller
Sean Callender	6	James Addyman
Pete Edwards	7	Carl Wills
Max Faulkner	8	Josh Holmes
Jack Hannon	9	Matty Roper
Tom Wood	10	Ryan Robb
Nathan Beesley	11	Robbie James
Luke Johnston	12	Barry Earl
Jonno Smith	13	Dan Holmes
Max Caldwell	14	Ben Purdham
Haydn Fraser	15	Andy Glendinning
	<i>Bench</i>	
Elliot Johnston	16	Alistair Randall
Danny Fleming	17	Guy Graham
Steve Pilkington	18	Jason Israel
<i>Coach: Andy Roberts</i>		<i>Coach: Gary Hewer</i>

Referee: James O'Brien, Liverpool Society

Sponsorship

As you can see, we have no sponsor for today's game. However, there is still one game open for sponsoship. This is the game against Broughton Park. Is there anyone brave enough out there?

The Return of the Fun Bus

As some of you will remember, or perhaps not, quite a few spectators made the away trip to Carlisle by coach. The Carlisle captain was so impressed with us that he called it the "Fun Bus". You will see from the opposite page that we have two major away trips left, discounting Vale of Lune, which might involve a rail journey. So, who is up for a Fun Bus reprisal on either the 20th February (next week) or the 19th March? The usual crew is expected to attend and no sick notes will be accepted. Anybody else interested should see Richard Woodward or Andy Kellett, as soon as possible.

Apperances

<u>Name</u>		Games Played This Year	<u>Total</u>	Tries this Season	Points This Season
Beesley	Nathan	14+2	23	9	45
Bennett	Sam	3 + 2	5		
Brazendale	James	0+2	3	1	5
Caldwell	Max	3	10		
Callander	Sean	15	47	1	5
Connelly	Matt	14+1	76	3	15
Edwards	Pete	3+5	20		
Fleming	Dan	15 + 1	112	1	5
Fraser	Hayden	2+ 2	40	3	15
Green	Tom	1	2		
Griffiths	Dan	0+1	21		
Haddon	Mike	2 + 1	150		
Hockenhull	Ben	17	18		37
Hughes	Sean	9 + 1	86	1	5
Hughes	Kieran	10+1	75	10	50
Johnstone	Elliot	11+4	71	3	15
Johnstone	Luke	8+2	104	2	10
Jones	Kevin	3	246		
Lynch	Phil	2+2	43		
Lyon	Phil	0 + 1	1		
Lythgoe	Zak	4	134		
Marland	Alex	3+3	6		
McGregor	James	5 +3	8		
Nicholls	Sam	2+1	13	1	5
Norman	Darren	13+2	15	5	122
O'Rourke	Clement	14	42		
Pilkington	Steve	15+2	72	6	30
Preston	Ryan	0+2	22		
Riley	Josh	15	71	2	10
Rockey	Matt	3+2	157		
Smith	Jono	8	18	2	14
Thompaon	Paul	3	221		
Thompson	Jamie	6+1	13	3	15
Walker	Max	13+1	24	3	15
Ward	Jon	5 +3	26		
Wood	Tom	16	104	8	40
Wright	Andy	1	1		

Bonus Ball Wiiners for January

02/01/2016	52	Roll Over
09/01/2016	48	Roll Over
16/01/2016	38	Dave Pugh
23/01/2016	24	Dave Cunningham
30/01/2016	42	Ruth Anderson

Let The Punishment Fit The Crime

As the pedants among you know, we don't have rules in Rugby Union. We have laws. And those laws are constantly broken in every game that is played. That is why we have referees. Their job is to try to ensure that the game is played fairly within the laws – and to punish the law-breakers. However, at top level, the referee is not alone. He is assisted to make the right decisions and to punish any-off-the-ball infringements by two empowered touch judges and a television match official. So it seems that, here, all contingencies are covered.

But then there's the case of Chris Ashton. The Saracens winger put in a clumsy tackle on Ulster centre, Luke Marshall, pulling him down by the head, which is illegal. The referee checked with the TMO, who saw no evidence of gouging but Chris was penalized for the head tackle. Enter the fifth official, the citing officer, who accused Chris of gouging. This is a serious crime, which must be heard by the RFU's high court, the RFU Disciplinary Committee. Gouging involves hand contact with the eye, be it with a nail, a finger or a knuckle. It is highly dangerous and could affect the victim's sight. Gouging has no place in Rugby. However, like a punch, a gouge involves intent. You can no more have an accidental gouge than you can have an accidental punch. (By the way, I played at hooker for 30 years and have suffered intentional gouging first hand, albeit, very rarely)

So to be convicted of gouging, then intent must be proved. No intent was proved at Chris Ashton's hearing but, unfortunately, it would seem that, just as in the Soviet Union under Stalin, if someone is accused then they must be guilty. So Chris Ashton receives a 12 week suspension because the Disciplinary Committee wishes to send out a strong message that gouging will not be tolerated. This is an unjust sentence which effectively ends the international career of a talented sportsman who has not got a gouging bone in his body.



Even At Our Level

But disciplinary judgments delivered to send out messages exist even at our level. Our Colts recently played Leigh Colts. It was an ill-tempered match and after the final whistle, fighting broke out between the players. This caused some of the Warrington spectators to intervene to break up what they thought could have deteriorated into a very serious situation.

However, this was seen as a pitch invasion and we had to appear before the Lancashire Disciplinary Committee. We were found guilty and were fined six points, suspended for twelve months. **That means, if any team in the club commits any further "indictable offence" between now and the end of January 2017, the first team will be docked six points.**

The position of the RFU is that if violence erupts on the field of play, then spectators should not get involved, and it sends out a strong message to this effect. This club also abhors gratuitous, on-field violence and any player committing violent acts, outside the laws of the game, will be dealt with very severely. We also reserve the right to ban any spectator found guilty of violence in or around the club. Rugby is tough enough as it is.

Responsible Behaviour of Spectators

Good spectator behavior is something that we pride ourselves on at Warrington. Our spectators enjoy banter with the opposition and the occasional good-natured gems of advice for referees. However, we are never abusive. Unlike the spectators encountered during our recent visit to Widnes! I have never heard the likes of the foul-mouthed, one-eyed tirades directed at the travelling Warrington support throughout the match. Even the mild-mannered John Arnold was told to "Eff off, Klondyke" by a Widnes master of wit and repartee, who couldn't even distinguish a Russian ushanka from a Yukon fur trapper's hat. So let's maintain our reputation and continue to treat all visiting spectators, and referees and players, with the respect they deserve.

Games Played 23rd and 30th January

Warrington 10 Rochdale 22

Warrington lost only for the third time this season to a hungry and predatory Rochdale outfit and now drop to fourth in the league. However, although this was a very much off-form Warrington side, full credit must go to Rochdale, who showed a greater desire to win with an aggressive defence which continually denied the home side opportunities to demonstrate their free-flowing brand of Rugby. The Rochdale back row was magnificent, winning turnover after turnover, starving Warrington of possession and ensuring that the majority of play took place in Warrington territory. In fact, if Eddie Jones is looking for expert advice on turnover technique, he may be well advised to pay a quick visit to Rochdale.

It didn't take the visitors long to get the scoreboard moving, as a period of pressure on the Warrington line eventually saw them cross in the corner and convert the try. Warrington had a brief spell on the attack, thanks to a pin-point kick from Tom Wood, but this proved short-lived as Rochdale enjoyed further territory and possession advantages before forcing a Warrington mistake and kicking a penalty on the thirty minute mark.

Rochdale then put in ten minutes of non-stop attack and Warrington defended their line heroically. Unfortunately, Rochdale still proved kings of the turnover and they used a set scrum ten yards out to attack the blind side and score their second converted try on the stroke of half time.

It seemed that the second half would see Warrington reprise their Lazarus act, as they started at pace and soon forced a penalty, kicked by Darren Norman. But this soon proved to be a false dawn, as Rochdale resorted to their bullying tactics to rule the breakdown. They finally put the result beyond contention when they scored their third try from a driving scrum. However, Warrington had the last word when they scored the try of the match when Steve Pilkington ghosted over under the posts, after great approach work from Jonno Smith and Haydn Fraser. The conversion came from Darren Norman.

"No excuses," said coach Andy Roberts. "Rochdale were on top form and we weren't. Hopefully, we can sort things out before our Derby match next week at Widnes."

Widnes 24 Warrington 10

Against all form, Warrington came surprisingly unstuck at bottom-of-the-table Widnes, losing only their fourth game of the season. But the form book was well and truly ripped up on a bitterly cold day when Widnes showed that a will-to-win pays scant regard to past performance, especially when allied with moments of attacking brilliance and an aggressive defence, albeit played to a micron of offside legitimacy.

The opening skirmishes of the match saw Warrington on top and they were soon rewarded with a penalty from Darren Norman. However, Widnes soon replied when they picked up a loose ball and their inside centre took a lovely lone to slice through the Warrington defence and score. The try was converted.

The home side returned to the attack almost straight away and, regaining possession from a turn-over, the ball flashed right and the winger put in a beautifully judged inside kick, which was gratefully picked up by a supporting back row forward who touched down under the posts. The conversion gave Widnes a 14-3 lead with just 15 minutes played.

It was then Warrington's turn to apply pressure and a kickable penalty gave them the opportunity to redress the balance but unfortunately it was missed. Then, totally against the run of play, Widnes scored an opportunistic try on the stroke of half time, so the sides turned round with Widnes 19-3 in front.

Warrington started to achieve possession and territorial dominance at the start of the second period, with Matt

Connelly and Josh Riley ruling the lines and the scrum gaining two strikes against the head. However, the stalwart Widnes defence continued to hold firm until a superb break from full back Natahan Beasley was backed up by Max Walker and the powerful number eight broke tackles to score under the posts. Darren Norman converted and it seemed that Warrington were back in the hunt.

Unfortunately, Widnes came back with probably the best try of the match. Spurning a penalty kick at goal, they opted for a scrum and quick ball saw their inside centre deliver an exquisite pass out of the back door. This was picked up by the left wing, who touched down for a score which would have graced Twickenham or even the Halliwell Jones.

“No complaints,” said Warrington coach Andy Roberts. “There is no way Widnes should be languishing at the bottom of the league. It’s just unfortunate that they should have found their true form against us. We must now make sure we return to winning ways in our game against Carlisle at home on the 13th February.”

Wirral 2nd XV 42 Warrington 2nd XV 7

Warrington’s second string was beaten for pace on the wide expanses of Wirral’s first team pitch and was eventually well-beaten by a well-drilled Wirral outfit.

The home side wasted little time in taking a commanding lead as they scored two converted tries in the opening quarter. Warrington knuckled down to their defensive task but were unable to prevent a third Wirral converted try shortly before the end of the first half.

The first ten minutes of the second period saw Warrington enjoy a rare period of territorial dominance and when their forwards produced quick ball from a series of rucks, the backs combined well to create sufficient space for ebullient centre Craig Byrne to barrel his way over. Andy Almond converted. However, Wirral quickly returned to the attack and ran in three further converted tries to seal a convincing victory.

“There is no substitute for pace in Rugby,” commented captain Andy Almond. “Hopefully, with the return of a couple of our young speedsters we can get back to winning ways at home next week against Bolton.”

Warrington 2nd XV 38 Bolton 2nd XV 0

Warrington’s second team maintained their promotion challenge with a six-try demolition of Bolton. In a game where they dominated in all phases, Warrington attacked almost at will, while their defence denied the opposition even the briefest appearance on the scoreboard.

It didn’t take Warrington long to begin their scoring spree. A precision kick from stand-off Shaun McBriers was gathered by Mark Tickle and the winger scuttled over for the first of his three first half tries. McBriers converted. The effervescent winger was soon on the scoresheet again when he sliced through the Bolton defence to touch down under the posts to allow an easy conversion. It was then the turn of Warrington’s rumbustious centre Craig Byrne to add a signature unconverted try to the score and the first half bonanza concluded when Mark Tickle outpaced the defence to claim his hat trick.

Warrington took their collective foot slightly off the gas in the second period but still continued to dominate, especially in the scrums and at the turnover, where hooker Matt Bayliss was outstanding. Eventually, the try machine kicked in again, first when Sean Callendar supported well before finishing off with a thirty yard run to the posts and then when Jordan Noone broke four tackles before shipping onto Andy Almond who touched down in the corner.

“We were on top form today,” said coach Shaun McDermott, “We played some really good rugby and are looking forward to maintaining the momentum in our next fixture against Rossendale.”

Liverpool St Helens 2nd XV 13 Warrington 3rd XV 12

Warrington's third team were on top in every phase of this game at Liverpool but poor finishing, and two missed penalties, meant that they lost a fixture they should have won easily.

The opening skirmishes saw Warrington quickly gain the upper hand in the forwards, where they dominated the set scrums and the lines and bullied the opposition at the breakdown. Good ball from all phases allowed the backs to combine well and eventually the reward came when full back Will Larbey joined the line to create the extra man and glide over in the corner.

Against the run of play, Liverpool replied with a forwards' try and a penalty to take the lead but a well-taken try from veteran centre Tony Fretwell, converted by Mark Tickle, saw Warrington turn round 12-8 ahead.

Warrington continued to rule the roost throughout the second period but an unfortunate defensive lapse saw the home side re-take the lead with a forwards' try. Once again, Warrington went on the attack and they managed to force two penalties in kickable positions in the closing stages of the match. Unfortunately, both kicks were missed and Warrington had to settle for the undeserved loss.

"We just couldn't close down the game today," said coach Lee Graham. "But I hope that we have learned a lesson."

Warrington 3rd XV 12 Didsbury Tov H 21

A much-changed Warrington 3rd team was immediately put under intense pressure by a heavier Didsbury pack and took some time to find its feet. They were not helped by some strange refereeing decisions, one of which saw Didsbury ward a penalty under the sticks, This was quickly taken and the visitors scored under the posts, with the conversion giving them a 7 point lead. The rest of the half was evenly contested and the two sides were separated by the same seven points at the turn around.

The start of the second half saw Warrington revert briefly to their true form, running straight and hard at the opposition. Eventually, this bore dividends as Ryan Preston forced his way over, after good runs from Jack Appleby and Alan Newton. Ryan Carter converted. Didsbury quickly replied with a contentious try and conversion resulting from an uncontested catch and drive from a line out. Warrington came back with some strong open rugby, which saw backs and forwards combining well before Dee Mann ghosted over. The conversion was missed

Warrington continued to press hard to take the lead but found it difficult to obtain sufficient clean ball. Unfortunately, Didsbury closed off the game in the dying minutes when their number eight drove over from a five yard scrum.

"We wandered off our game plan today and paid the penalty," said coach Lee Graham. "We were probably much better than Didsbury in virtually all aspects, yet we failed to do what we are good at. We have a local Derby against Northwich at home next on Saturday. Hopefully, we can recover our form."