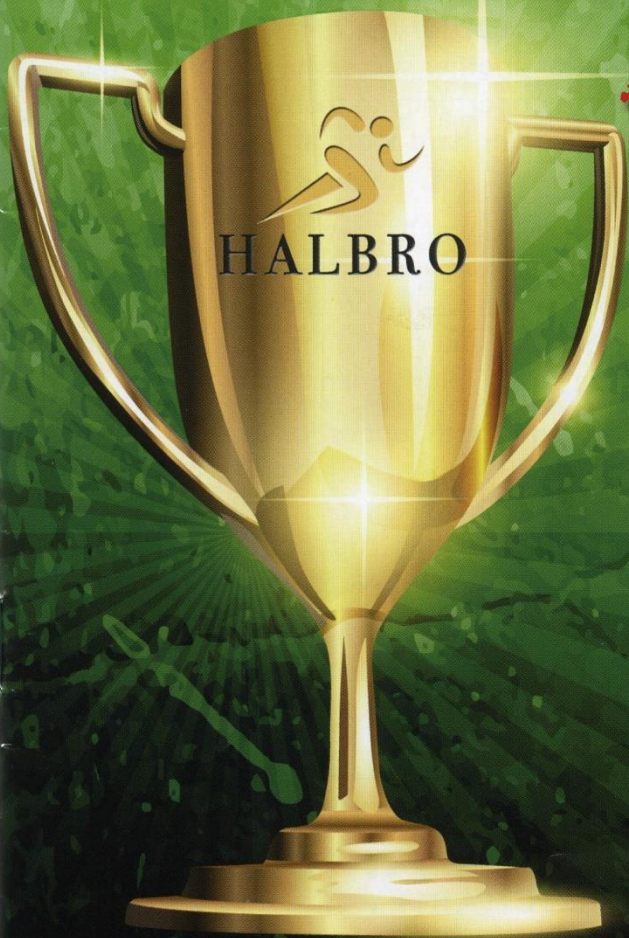


HALBRO NW COLTS LEAGUE

JUNIOR COLTS

KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

Finals



**SUNDAY
5th MAY
2019**

11am–5pm
Bradwall Road
Sandbach

Entry by programme

£6*

*Concessions £3 - Families £12

Sponsored by Crewe Colour Printers Ltd

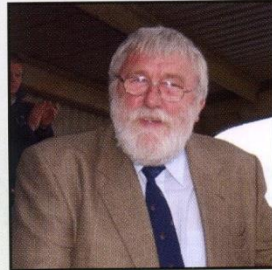


COLTS LEAGUE

Promoting Colts Club Rugby in the Northwest & Beyond



A word from the Honorary President



It is with great pleasure that I welcome all the competing clubs, together with their supporters, to Sandbach today for the Junior Colts League cup finals. This is the culmination of another successful season for the HALBRO Colts Leagues and I use this opportunity to thank my colleagues of the Colts League committee for their hard work and dedication in making this possible.

Today is for the lads playing, and I say to you all, never forget the work your coaches and parents have put in to get you here. To reach a final is an achievement in itself, so whatever the result you will remember this day. Respect the referee, enjoy your day, and carry on playing this great game of ours where you will make good lifelong friends.

My humble thanks to the referees and touch judges for all they do for the colts game, and once again to the Sandbach Club for allowing us to use their excellent facilities. Last but by no means least, on behalf of all the clubs playing in our leagues and cup finals, a massive thanks to John Moores and HALBRO SPORTSWEAR for their wonderful support of colts rugby over the years.

Frank Morgan – Hon. President, HALBRO NW Colts Leagues

Sandbach RUFC
& Crewe Colour Printers
proudly support the

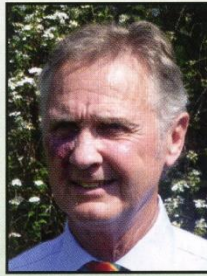


Registered charity no. 1075641



NORTH WEST
Air Ambulance
CHARITY

www.nwaa.net or call 0800 587 4570



Welcome

On behalf of everyone at Sandbach RUFC, may I extend a very warm welcome to everyone, for what we all hope will be a celebration of everything that is good in our game.

Congratulations to all the teams on reaching these finals and we hope that, win or lose, you will enjoy your day.

Sandbach Rugby Club is delighted to be your host for today and our volunteers, too numerous to mention individually, will be doing their very best to ensure that you have a safe and pleasant time with us. With this in mind, we ask that spectators comply with the directions published by the league by remaining outside of the barrier fences at all times. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated and assist us to keep to what is a fairly tight schedule.

The presentations for each final will follow the individual matches and will take place on the concourse outside the clubhouse. Once again, your co-operation with regard to the barriers in this area will be appreciated.

Have a great day!

Phil Bell – *Chairman Sandbach RUFC*

Sandbach RUFC
& Crewe Colour Printers
proudly support the



Registered charity no. 1075641



NORTH WEST
Air Ambulance
CHARITY

www.nwaa.net or call 0800 587 4570

CREWE & NANTWICH



James Doano
Bill Christian
Max Owen
Ryan Messam
Alex Greer
Thomas Teale
Thomas Manaton
Sam Rideout (C)
Jack Drewery
Mark Medovnikov
Adam Potter
Kier Williams
Adam Cabble
Noah Tulip
Felix Piaseki
Arthur Holden
Toby Holgeth
Jack Hart
Chris Redmond
Sam Perch
Tobey Evans
Sam Mulatero

Coaches

Mark Manaton, Nick Kennedy, Andy Pemberton

WEST PARK (St. Helens)



Isaac Backhouse
Daniel Carberry
Matthew Chalmers
Jacob Colbeck
Oscar Gordon-Smith
Callum Hitchmough
William Johnson
Jack Kelly
Matthew Lawson
Nathan Leadbetter
Lochlan McArthur
Sam McGibbon
Seth McQueen
Tom Meadows
Ryan Morgan
Liam O'Keeffe (C)
Josh Ridgeon
Liam Rossington
Patrick Rush
Matthew Summerskill
Nathan Webster
Joseph Winstanley

Coaches

Geoff Meadows, Kevin O'Keeffe, Paul Rush, Ste McArthur

CALDY



Edward Chisholm
Shay Parker
Harry White
Aonghas Malcom
Elliot Cotton
Luca Casaletto
Matthew Mountney
James Colquitt
Matthew Waddington
Oliver Thompson
Luke Austin
Joe Gawith
Calum Roberts
Louis Cowan
Conor Coleman
William Edwards
Matthew Cotgrave
Connor Dunbavin
Mario Triguero
Jamie Gardiner
Max Jones
Louis Fletcher
Ben Way
Issac Hardisty
Tom Williams
Jaycee Semilla
Sam Best

NEWCASTLE (Staffs.)



Callum Mellor
Charlie Henderson
Connor Smith
Jacob Barber
John Balpher Heath
Josefa Matakibau
Kavisan Vijakakumur
Luke Yates Smith
Marcus Amoako
Nathan Williams
Nnamdi Ekechukwu
Oliver James
Oliver Yeomans
Olmide Okeowu
Rio Steadman
Ryan Holland
Sam O'Sullivan (C)
Sam Windsor
Scott Harrison
Takayuki Sakai
Will Begley

Coaches

Nathan Smith, Dan Slack

SHIELD FINAL



11.00am



Crewe & Nantwich

v

West Park (St. Helens)

PLATE FINAL



12.30am



Caldy

v

Newcastle (Staffs)

BOWL FINAL



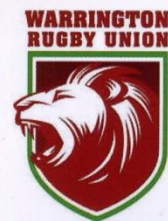
2.00pm

Lymm

v

Trentham

CUP FINAL



3.45pm

Firwood Waterloo

v

Warrington

LYMM



Seb Affi

Nonso Agina
James Anderson
Will Barwell
Leo Bircham
Hayden Young
Freddy Cluskey
Will McDonnell
Matthew Jones
Tom Nanda
Chris Owen
James Payne
Harry Pike
Oliver Roberts
Thomas Roberts
Alf Shelley
Paddy Smith
Jack Street (C)
Drew Wolfenden
Dave Evans
Alex Gregory
Scott Watson
Luis Dean

Coaches

Derek Madley, James Street, Kerry Anderson

TRENTHAM

A large, silver, reflective trophy cup with a wide rim and a fluted base, positioned behind the player names.

Miguel Ladeira
Louis Willott
Alfie Hughes
William Rhodes
Jacob Lacy
Elijah Stone (C)
Ben McMillan
Sajith Hithimlage
George Sketcher
Joel Bezus
Harry Tweats
Daniel Raftery
Tristian de Jager
William Devey
Ben Gibson
Oliver Walton
Jake Forrester
Caleb Galloway
Ali Ahmed
Daniel Simcox
Alfie Jackson
Leon Hasall
William Phillips

Coaches

Neil Phillips, Kevin Sketcher

FIRWOOD WATERLOO



Lloyd Brookman
Harry Murphy
Ross Almond
George Hopwood
Kian Thompson
Ben Rowan
Ethan Esgin
Joshua Johnson
Harry Furlong
Calum Prendergast
Ewan Rooney
Zak Butcher
Josh Doyle
Alfie Mutch
Joseph McClelland
Austen Dace
Finn Gordon
Keir Gordon
Will Kay
Rhys Hamilton
Will Loughnane
Alfie Shea
Joe Stuart
Benedict Skea
Alexander Barker
Louis Vidamour
Daniel McQueen

Coach

Kevin Brookman

WARRINGTON

WARRINGTON
RUGBY UNION



Jack Barker
Matt Beeley
Harvey Brown
Matt Bullock
Benny Carne
Kellan Conaway-Smith
Ewan Craven
Ollie Fleetwood
Josh Fowler
Michael Fulwell
Joe Higgins
Will Higgins
Tom Hill
James Hudson (C)
Andy Kellett
Archie Kellett
Luke Little
Scott Massey
Charlie McCurrie
Eddie Melhuish
Will Morgan
Jack Rigby
Joe Stewart
Roma Zheng

Coaches

Stuart Beeley, Conrad Morris

Should our game be called "Sandbach Football" not "Rugby Football"?

The following article is a summary of a fuller, referenced, version that is currently the subject of peer review prior to proposed publication in The Journal of Sports History. The author, a former Oxford historian now based in the USA, was kind enough to email this piece to us as he felt that Sandbach Rugby Club should be forewarned of possible media contact.



It is an oft-quoted "fact" that Rugby Union Football has its origins at Rugby School where, in 1823, William Webb-Ellis picked up the football and ran with it. There is now, however, a growing body of evidence that is leading scholars to suggest that the event actually occurred in Sandbach, Cheshire, some 7 years earlier.

The assertion is that the famous Saxon crosses, thought to date back to the ninth century but removed by the puritans in the 17th century, were returned to their current site in 1816 and used in the revival of a game known as "Sandbach foot ball". Very little is known about the game but a few fragments have filtered down the years:

- *The object was to transport a small ovoid leather sack, filled with sawdust, from the church door to the crosses. It then had to be kicked over the wooden cross-bar that was slung between them.*
- *At first sight, as the distance between the two "ends" was only a hundred yards, this does not seem to be too hard a proposition. Matters were complicated, however, by all those present being split into two "sides" in ratio of 2:1. If, for example, 30 men were present, the twenty largest would make up the "spoilers" whilst the ten fleetest of foot would be the "scudders". It was the job of the spoilers, by any means, to stop the scudders achieving their goal.*
- *Some versions have it that the crossbar's demise came when it was used to form the centre-pole of the town's famous Guy Fawkes's night bonfire in the mid 1820s.*
- *It is suggested that only four games were played each year and, whilst most sources indicate that the matches corresponded with the quarter days, there is one theory that the church warden, Mr. J. S. Tubbs, objected to the*

damage that the melees caused to church land and, consequently, limited the occasions upon which permission was given.

- Before the revival, there is a reference in the town's history that many believe refers to one of the first ever international matches. In 1651 a Scottish side, on its way home from an unsuccessful West Country tour (known to some as *The Battle of Worcester*), broke the journey at Sandbach and a challenge match was soon arranged. It seems that the ball and the object of the game were swiftly forgotten and the confrontation spilled out to an area that, to this day, is known as "Scotch Common". It is written that "the dispute was very hot for two or three houres, and there were some townsmen hurt and two or three slaine, the townesmen slew about nine or ten Scotsmen."
- The common was also, in those days, used for one of the earlier forms of cricket. One chronicler, Robin of Astley, has it that the townsmen formed up upon the left or "on side" (when viewed from the church) whilst the Scots were, to a man, upon the "off side". Others report that Astley, whilst too venerable to join the fray himself, was amongst the most vociferous of onlookers. One witness wrote that he [Astley] "...spent hour 'pon hour offering advice to those combatants who were in need of it; but even longer providing the same to those who were not!"
- There is only one mention of a prize being awarded. In 1652, a silver salver was donated by the Oldfield family, lords of the neighbouring manor of Bradwall, in memory of their youngest son who is said to have been one of the slain townsmen referred to above. The plate was presented by the town's Mayor and respected vintner, Mr Robert G. Reece. The victors paraded their spoils around the town until they called at the newly-opened Black Bear Inn for a spot of supper. It was never seen again! The Oldfields offered a reward of one guinea for the safe return of the plate but it was never claimed. There is an unsubstantiated local story that the reward was offered sine die and that, consequently, the responsibility for it has been passed on by covenant down the centuries to the current owners of the Bradwall estate. Should the plate turn up today the reward, if calculated as a share of GDP, could be worth as much as £28,000. More realistically, as a more equitable calculation would be based upon average earnings, the lucky finder would probably receive around £5,000. For identification, the wording upon the salver "Live thou for England; we for England died" is reported to reflect the dying words of the aforementioned Master Oldfield. The same words are now inscribed upon the town's war memorial.

Researchers from the University of Chester are seeking funding to properly evaluate the historical evidence and there is also a rumour that Channel 4 is interested in producing an informed documentary.

C.F.B. Dixon – 01/04/2019

MINI & JUNIOR RUGBY



Welcome to Sandbach and we all hope that you will enjoy your day with us.

We are blessed with a thriving Mini/Junior section, which has successful sides at all age groups. The boys and girls are always keen, and there is a fantastic support structure within the club. We strive to bring the best out of them all but it doesn't matter to us if we produce the next Jonny Wilkinson, or the 4th team substitute, we just want the players to enjoy their rugby.

Numbers across our age groups are growing, and we now also have a thriving girls' section. Our recently-formed Coaching Academy helps us to ensure that all our players receive a wonderful standard of coaching. They are taught the basic skills from an early age and progress into more intricate drills, all the time being developed into future Sandbach players, with the Sandbach philosophy. Whilst we have, famously, produced some players who have made it into the professional set-up, we are equally proud to have produced players who have played in our own senior sides for 20 years and more. To support this, we signed up for the Old Mutual Wealth Kids First scheme a few years ago, which means we put children at the heart of everything that we do and all decisions that we make. We are also committed to the RFU's new Coaches' Charter, which places player development above winning.

While we boast some of the best facilities in the area, our mantra is not to rest on our laurels, but to develop the club as a whole. The Mini/Junior section is at the forefront of this and continues our heritage of generating not only good and great players, but players who uphold the ethics of rugby, which will hold them in good stead for the rest of their playing days and beyond. I can highly recommend to any aspiring young player that Sandbach RUFC is the way to go. If you are interested, give me a call on **07738 864208** or email mat.dolan@hotmail.co.uk.

Mat Dolan – *Mini / Junior Chairman*



A word from the Colts League Honorary Secretary



No doubt my words of pious wisdom will be secreted towards the back page of your programme, as usual, and it is therefore likely others more eminent than me will have already welcomed you to Sandbach RUFC. On the other hand, if like me you read your programme like a newspaper, from the sports pages forwards, then perhaps you'll be reading this piece first!

I congratulate all the players, managers, and coaches from the various colts teams who have won through to these HALBRO Colts League cup finals, trusting the fruitful road you have travelled thus far has been an enjoyable experience.

Today's finals will be for many the pinnacle of your rugby career and win, lose or draw you should savour this moment, which will hopefully live long in your memory. It will no doubt be something you can tell your children and grandchildren about in the years to come, giving you much satisfaction as you repeatedly expand on and recount it to others – just as your league president does now!

Enjoy your day – Live long and prosper.

To the team of volunteers from Sandbach I offer the league's grateful thanks for the provision of their excellent facilities and for all their efforts in preparing for and running today's finals.

Penultimately, I should like to thank on your behalf my colleagues of the Colts League committee. The time and effort these worthy volunteers put in across the season, organising league and cup fixtures, particularly when faced with the adversity of LCBs who only see things through blinkers and rose-tinted glasses, never fails to impress.

In colts rugby tradition the last word must always be with the referee. Please give respect and appreciation to your officials from the Liverpool & District Referees' Society for their support throughout the season, and for their efforts today. We all look forward to discussing the finer points of the games with them afterwards, in the bar, when they will of course have the last word.

Good luck, and have a great day.

Jon (Kitch) Kitchen – Hon. Secretary



It's time
to try...

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