

WARRINGTON



R.U.F.C.

Welcome to Kirkby Lonsdale

It's always a pleasure to welcome the players, officials and spectators of Kirkby Lonsdale to Warrington, as we are always assured of a good game and it's good to return the generous hospitality they always show us at their beautiful ground.

Kirkby Lonsdale is a club of long-standing,, having been formed in 1877. In 1888 they joined the Westmoreland County Union and were honoured by having one of their players, a G Webster, selected to play for the County against the touring Maoris. Another notable player was Billy Walling who was capped 47 times by the County and had two England trials. Modern Kirkby Lonsdale was perhaps born with the building of their excellent clubhouse in the 1980s, where they had the honour of playing the first Rugby Union game in England under the newly introduced League system in 1984. They gained promotion to Level 6 in 2010 and have been a steady fixture in this league ever since.

Contests between Warrington and Kirkby Lonsdale are always closely fought, with just a couple of points separating the teams at the final whistle. (Apart from the game at Kirkby last January, when we fielded a much-weakened side,) We won our first encounter back in October 2013, when Pat Roberts kicked a penalty two minutes from the end to give us a 24-22 victory. We were trounced 44-10 in the return fixture in January but then we enjoyed two more tight contests, both of which we lost by narrow margins. In September 2014, Kirkby beat us 28-26 with a penalty in the last minute after we had fought back from being 22-0 down and in January they scraped the win at Warrington when we were four points ahead until the dying seconds when they scored in the corner to win 22-21. Kirkby is currently the only unbeaten side in North 1 West and today is something of a show-down.

Before closing, just a few words on the World Cup, now that the party is over and all the guests have gone. First of all, I think that the media does not come out of this smelling of roses. Their assassination of the coaching staff and their hounding of Sam Burgess (although he didn't do himself any favours by the manner of his departure) was bordering on the outrageous. But they have finally got what they wanted with the resignation of Stuart Lancaster this week. However, in retrospect I think there are a lot of what-ifs. What if Robshaw had elected to kick for goal in the game against Wales? What if Hartley, Tuilagi and Armitage had been allowed to play? What if Joseph had not been injured at a critical time? However, in Rugby we only remember the winners and the what-ifs are soon forgotten. Let's hope we don't see too many what-ifs in the game today.

Dave Jervis, President, Warrington Rugby

Obituaries

Neil Shaw. Yesterday was the funeral of Neil Shaw. The whole club, and especially the U13s and the Minis and Junior coaches, offer deepest condolences to Kirsten and his children, Hannah and Adam.

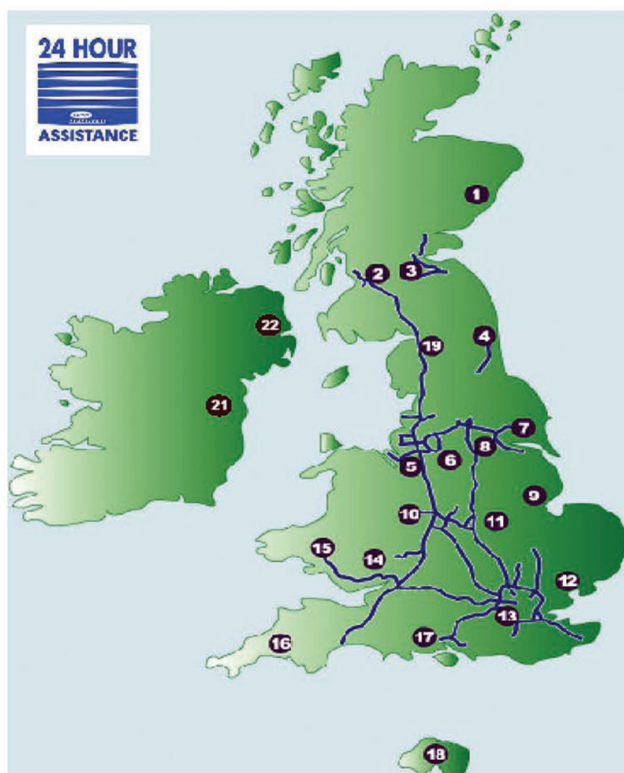
Warren Coleman. It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Warren Coleman, much loved father of ex-player and coach Stewart. The funeral is next Tuesday at 2.15 at St Monica's.

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North 1 West League Table - 13th November

#	Team	Pd	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Kirkby Lonsdale	9	9	0	0	122	41	5
2.	Wilmslow	9	8	0	1	168	39	7
3.	Kendal	9	8	0	1	114	38	6
4.	Warrington	9	8	0	1	128	37	5
5.	Altrincham Kersal	9	6	1	2	94	31	5
6.	Penrith	9	5	0	4	49	25	5
7.	Vale of Lune	9	4	0	5	-13	21	5
8.	Rochdale	9	4	0	5	-3	20	4
9.	Eccles	9	3	0	6	-99	17	5
10.	Carlisle	9	2	1	6	-54	14	4
11.	Blackburn	9	3	0	6	-106	12	0
12.	Broughton Park	9	1	0	8	-94	6	2
13.	Leigh	9	0	0	9	-143	5	5
14.	Widnes	9	1	0	8	-163	5	1

Standish Media Services - Division 1 13th November

#	Team	Pd	W	D	L	Diff	Pts	Adj
1.	Wilmslow 2	8	7	0	1	158	29	0
2.	Crewe & Nantwich 2	8	7	0	1	142	29	0
3.	Wirral 2	8	6	0	2	134	26	0
4.	Preston Grasshoppers 3	8	6	0	2	132	26	0
5.	Warrington 2	8	5	0	3	-45	23	0
6.	Rossendale 2	8	4	0	4	-25	20	0
7.	Blackburn 2	8	3	0	5	-47	17	0
8.	Bolton 2	8	3	0	5	-49	17	0
9.	Macclesfield 3	8	3	0	4	-25	16	0
10.	Leigh 2	8	3	0	4	-90	14	-2
11.	Altrincham Kersal 2	8	2	0	6	-116	14	0
12.	Burnage 2	8	2	0	6	-125	14	0
13.	Broughton Park 2	7	2	0	5	-1	13	0
14.	Liverpool Collegiate 2	7	2	0	5	-43	13	0

Some of the action from the game against Penrith



Go on Daz! You can make it.



And so die all enemies of Penrith



Max Walker in a friendly mood



It wasn't me ref!



Some of Warrington's travelling supporters at Kendal

Punchlines

A round-up of gossip, misdoings and idiocy in Warrington Rugby Club.

Is it really him?

Many of the female fans of Warrington must have been sighing in anticipation when they saw the name of Ewan McGregor on the teamsheet in the last programme. Was the star of Trainspotting, Star Wars and Moulin Rouge actually playing for Warrington? Would he be signing autographs after the game? Is he “May” in the club’s Christmas calendar, to be on sale this week? Well, sorry to disappoint you but **our** McGregor is not Scotland’s answer to Brad Pitt and is absolutely no relation of his famous namesake. In fact, his name is not even Ewan. It’s James. And he is not in the calendar.

(In the same vein, Jonno Smith has tweeted to inform all his lady fans that he is absolutely no relation to Will Smith, the American actor)

A strange rate of exchange

This is an old story but well worth the re-telling. All the people mentioned still play for the club but their names have been withheld.. Two years ago, one of our iconic members decided to hold his stag party in Prague. As a highlight of the trip, he arranged a visit to a shooting gallery where participants could handle and shoot a range of guns from AK47s to Uzis. Our bridegroom-to-be had already paid for the event in advance, so he asked his fellow trippers to pay him the £20 fee in sterling rather than Czech Koruna. “No problem” was the reply. Consequently, one of the party, whose international travel in those days had been confined to a day out in Rhyl, immediately dashed to his bank, peered over the counter and slapped a £20 note down. “Could I change that into sterling?” he asked. The bank teller gave him back his £20 note!

He’s done it again

We have unconfirmed reports that Shaun McDermott actually tackled someone in the second team game against Preston Grasshoppers. Now the last time that happened, the Berlin Wall had just come down, George Bush Sr had just been elected president of the US, there were demonstrations in Tiananmen Square and petrol was £1.68 a gallon. As we say, the reports are so far unsubstantiated, but we’ll keep you informed.

Is once enough?

Our recent away trip to Carlisle was quite an experience. There was a coach laid on and this was packed with many of our more mature supporters, as well as the team. In fact, it was so good, that the Carlisle captain made mention of the “Fun Bus” in his after-match comments. This was probably because of the raucous support given to the team, and the ref, during the game. But the fun did not stop there, as we had a brief interlude on the way back at some remote pub near Shap, specifically selected by John Callendar, arriving back at the club around half ten.

Last week we made the trip to Kendall and again a coach was laid on. However, what happened to the “Fun Bus”? There was no John Arnold, Nathan Beasley’s dad, Ben Hockenhull’s dad, Andy Kellett, Steve Riley, Digger Barnes, Richard Park and Richard Woodward. Some of these did travel up under their own steam and the bus did boast a handful of second teamers, who had elected to play on Friday night so they could travel on Saturday. But what happened to the “Fun Bus” crew? Is it an age thing? Have they lost their staying power? (No sexual comments, please). We have three more big away trips, Vale of Lune in January, Penrith in February and Kirkby Lonsdale in March. So put the dates in your diaries and let’s get the “Fun Bus” up and running.



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)		Warrington Ladies
21 Nov	Broughton Park (Away)		
5 Dec	Eccles (Away)		
12 Dec	Altrincham Kersal (Home)		Steve Riley
19 Dec	Blackburn (Away)		
2016			
9 Jan	Leigh (Home)		
16 Jan	Vale of Lune (Away)		
23 Jan	Rochdale (Home)		Dave Cunningham
30 Jan	Widnes (Away)		
6 Feb	Blackburn (Away)		
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

Match Sponsors Wanted

We still have quite a few match sponsorships available. If you feel you can support the club by sponsoring a match, contact Sean Hughes or Richard Woodward. Sponsorships start at £200 plus VAT and guarantee an excellent afternoon at the Rugby Club.

Warrington RUFC vs. Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC

WARRINGTON RUFC

Colours: Green, Scarlet & White

Kirkby Lonsdale RUFC

Colours: Black, Yellow and Red

Kick Off 2.15 p.m.

TEAMS

Clem O'Rourke	1	P. Kwiczor
Sean Hughes (c)	2	M Holyland
Jon Ward	3	D Armistead
Ewan McGregor	4	D Cooper-Dunn
Josh Riley	5	L Kwiczor
Sean Callendar	6	E Towers
Matt Connelly	7	L Ngcumgama
Max Walker	8	C Galbraith
Ben Hockenhull	9	B Walker
Tom Wood	10	D Barton
Darren Norman	11	D Bird
Luke Johnstone	12	T Pickthall
Keiran Hughes	13	J Akrigg
Nathan Beasley	14	M Knapton
Steve Pilkington	15	H Ralston
	<i>Bench</i>	
Mike Hadden	16	J Thorsen
Danny Fleming	17	R Holmes
Kev Jones	18	C Ramwell
<i>Coach: Andy Roberts</i>		<i>Coach: John Pickthall</i>

Referee: Damian Hamilton, Manchester Society

Congratulations to Luke and Mike

Today's match is a landmark in the Rugby career of two of today's team. Luke Johnstone will be playing his 100th game for the club, while Mike Haddon celebrates his 150th appearance. Congrats to you both..

Today's Sponsor

Today's sponsor is our multi-talented team of ladies who do so much to ensure that all sections, especially the Minis and Juniors, run efficiently. Typically, these are the ladies who wash kit, deliver kids to the appropriate place, run the subs collection, operate the kit shop, sell cakes, raise funds and organise social functions. So thank you ladies and we hope you will enjoy a nice lunch, a few drinks, a good game...and buy a lot of calendars!

An Early View From The Touchline From Dave Broadbent

Very few of the knowledgeable crowd who follow the first team would have prophesied that, in the middle of November, we would have won our first eight games and been top of the league until our defeat at Kendal last week, having averaged 35 points a game.

It has been a glorious Autumn weatherwise – darkened only by England's awful showing in the World Cup. Whilst Warrington have been playing a brand of thrilling, open rugby to match the conditions, England played a rugby of no brand, sterile and joyless.

It may be surprising to some but, after an abrupt change of coach and a real thrashing at the end of last season by Wilmslow, we began this season by meting out a hiding to the same team, playing high pace, attacking rugby which pulled Wilmslow all over the pitch. They have not lost since.

Whilst big top challenges lie ahead in the shape of Cumbrian muscle, featuring Kirkby Lonsdale today, what has really impressed this season, is the pace and variation in attack, making us more of a threat all over the pitch.

The forwards are comfortable making the hard yards, comfortable with the ball in hand and willing to play in a manner adjusting to the circumstances. Whilst we have lost Zach Lythgoe to Lymm, Josh Riley is back and begins to fulfil the high hopes we have of him. Danny Fleming is as hard working as ever and together with the back row, offers a formidable defensive presence.

The half back partnership of Hockenhull and Wood influences most games with swift and varied passing and has been a highlight of the season. This allied to a more direct approach in the three quarters, delivered at pace, has cracked open most defences.

The coaching team deserves great credit. The side seems settled and more relaxed. That shows with the outstanding rugby we are capable of playing.

Now for today's big test.....

It's Out at Last

At last all can be revealed!! The 2016 Rugby calendar featuring the lads in all their glory is now on sale.

Each month features one of our boys as you have never seen them, unless he's your partner or you have the misfortune to be someone's mother.

So dig deep. They cost just £10 each. Bulk orders accepted.

And don't be shy if your a bloke. You can always say you're buying it for your wife or girlfriend!



Memories of Colin Welland



Colin Welland died the other week. There were obituaries in the national press but how many people remember Colin? Well I do because he was part of my own rugby history.

Colin is perhaps best known for writing the screenplay for *Chariots of Fire*, for which he won an Oscar, confusing the mainly American audience at the Award ceremony when he declared, “The British are coming” in his Lancashire accent. But I knew him as a rugby player.

It was back in 1961 and I was captain of the Newton-le-Willows Colts side. In those days, Colts trained with the senior sides, as there were no minis, juniors and youth set-ups. One wet and windy Tuesday night I was in the changing rooms after another hard session of running around the pitch and playing tick-and-pass under the light cast on part of the field from street lamps. As we were enjoying the after-training banter, in walked Colin Williams, the bulky but quite pacey first team winger, and announced that he was leaving teaching and going to the Library Theatre in Manchester as an assistant stage manager. Naturally, this gave rise to hoots of derision, with the older heads warning him that all he could look forward to was a life of moving scenery around.

But it didn’t work out like that! He changed his name to Colin Welland and, as an actor, was first seen on our television screens as PC Dave Graham in *Z Cars*, before moving into film as the sympathetic schoolteacher in *Kes* (with the brilliant Brian Glover). He was back on television, as a short-trousered schoolboy in Dennis Potter’s *Blue Hills Remembered* and also played a “heavy” in *The Sweeney*.

However, writing was his great love and his first TV play was titled “Banglestein’s Boys” (The name comes from an old rugby song, we used to sing on away trip coaches in those days, whose chorus begins, “B----s to Mr Banglestein, Banglestein, Banglestein..”). The play was about a rugby tour and drew on his experiences of Newton’s annual tour to the Isle of Man Rugby and Hockey Festival (That was Ladies’ hockey). Naturally, being Colin, he insisted that a lot of the characters from Newton had bit parts, for which they were paid. One such character was Pete Rasburn or “Razzer” Now Razzer was a genetic freak and had no pain receptors, to the extent that we used to draw primitive roundels on his chest and throw darts at him. However, Razzer’s greatest talent was that he could eat anything. And I mean anything!

His favourite jape on away trips, and tours, was to challenge a member of the opposition to a drinking contest. In his strong Leigh accent, he would say to his unfortunate victim, “Ah bet thee that Ah can finish mah pint befoor tha can finish thahn.” The challenge was invariably taken up and Razzer’s opponent usually downed his pint in one only to look up and see that Razzer’s pint pot was still half full. “Ee lad,” Razzer would grin, “Ah said, finish tha pint”, at which point he would finish off the ale and then start to eat the glass. Now I bet even John Callendar has never done that!

Happy Days and RIP Colin Welland.

Matches of Weekends 7th November & 24th October

Kendal 27 Warrington 12

Warrington's roller coaster start to the season of eight wins on the bounce came to a soggy end at a damp and dismal Kendal, where they lost 27-12. Such is the close competition at the top of North 1 West that the loss sees them drop from top to fourth position but with only four points separating the top four clubs. Next week sees Warrington welcome new league leaders Kirkby Lonsdale to Walton Lea Road in what should be a high energy clash.

The opening skirmishes of the game gave no indication of what was to come, as Warrington started off in uncustomary high gear and soon had points on the board. An astute Tom Wood kick to the corner forced a knock-on from the Kendal right winger and from the resultant scrum, the ball flashed across the backs before Luke Johnstone spotted the smallest of gaps and sliced through the defence to touch down under the posts. Darren Norman converted and Warrington were seven points ahead.

At this point the rain started to fall and the already watery pitch became soaked while the ball took on the surface consistency of soap. As a result, Warrington started to commit more errors than they have done all season and eventually Kendal capitalized with a well-struck penalty. However the home side were now adapting much better to the conditions, as was to be expected and their marauding pack produced good continuous ball before finally releasing their back who handled superbly to score a try in the corner. This was converted from the touchline to make the half time score 10-7.

Ten minutes into the second half, Warrington had a good chance to draw level but the kickable penalty was missed and Kendal returned to the attack, pinning the visitors in their own half for much of the time. When the home side reverted to type with an excellent driving maul ten yards out, a forwards' try seemed inevitable but the ball was released to the backs and Kendal's pacey right winger crossed between the sticks to allow an easy conversion.

Warrington finally managed to find some of their expected flair on the energy sapping pitch when Kieran Hughes made a forty yard break which was supported by Tom Wood and Max Walker, before Nathan Beasley showed his pace to touch down in the corner to reduce the deficit to just five points. Unfortunately any Warrington hopes were soon dispelled when Kendal created an excellent try which saw their stand-off take an inside pass to ghost over. The conversion took their lead to 12 points and although Max Walker came close with a typical surge in the last ten minutes, Warrington's hopes of achieving their first-ever win at Kendal were finally destroyed when the home side sealed off the game with a penalty.

"It's always hard to win here," said coach John Callendar, "But I think we made it harder for ourselves today with too much spilled ball and too many missed kicks. In addition, this was our first wet weather game and we found it hard to adapt to the conditions. We now have to regroup for the big one next week against Kirkby."

Preston Grasshoppers 3rd XV 25 Warrington 3rd XV 3

Under the floodlights at Preston, on a bleak Friday evening, Warrington's second string came up against a side which had just too much power and pace and lost by 25-3, their sole contribution to the scoreboard being a Shaun McDermott penalty.

Because of the obvious time constraints it was a weakened team that travelled up the M6 and they arrived to find that their hosts were able to field their strongest side of the season. Enjoying at least a stone a man advantage up front, Preston soon used their power to effect when they stormed over through their forwards in the first ten minutes. They soon added a second try but Warrington responded with a Shaun McDermott penalty. Preston replied with a penalty of their own but virtually closed the game out when they went over for their third unconverted try on the stroke of half time.

The second half saw Warrington show great spirit, with some good defensive work from scrum half Jack Hannon and prop Sam Bennett, while stand-off Shaun McDermott astounded his team-mates with his first tackle of the season. Warrington even managed to trouble the home side in attack, especially through some hard running from second row Phil Lyons and hooker Alex Marland. Unfortunately, Spirit alone was not enough, although they did manage to restrict Preston to just one second half score.

“We were just short of muscle today,” said coach Paul Thompson. “But we are still in fifth position in the league, just six points short of Wilmslow, so it’s all to play for.”

Warrington 3rd XV 25

Caldy 3rd XV 13

Warrington received just reward for their resolute defence against a fairly one-dimensional Caldly team who relied solely on the strength of their bruising pack. However, Warrington’s disinclination to move the ball to the wider channels made the win harder than necessary.

Captain Sean McDermott opened the scoring with a penalty in the first 5 minutes when a series of well-executed forward drives took Warrington up to the Caldly 22 without the visitors having laid a finger on the ball.

Caldly responded with their own version of the pick and drive and for the next 10 minutes had Warrington on the back foot, deep in their own territory. A counter attack initiated by centre Craig Byrne with a bursting run up the middle finished with winger Griffiths putting full back Will Larbey in in the left hand corner for the first of his three tries.

From the restart, back-rower Ryan Carter ghosted his way through the oncoming Caldly pack and fed No8 Phil Lynch on his inside. Although Lynch was brought down on the Caldly 22 quick ball out wide to Griffiths should have resulted in a try but the winger was edged into touch just 2 yards short. Caldly again returned to the offensive through their pack but despite a lot of time in the Warrington 22 had only 3 points to show for their efforts. Just before half time Warrington gained a line out deep in the Caldly half and though possession was scrappy Carter steadied the ship and fed Phil Lynch on the burst. Though the No 8 was brought down a yard short, he was not held in the tackle and squirmed over for Warrington’s second try, duly converted by McDermott, to make the score at the turnaround 15-3.

Caldly struck back early in the second half with an irresistible series of rucks and mauls from their heavier pack, to reduce Warrington’s lead to just 7 points.. Although Warrington had their fair share of possession, too often they ran back into traffic and were not quick enough to the break down to secure continuity. Finally, however, the ball did see some daylight and a well-timed pass from under-used centre Mark Tickle put full back Larbey in for his second try.

Five minutes later a fine individual effort saw Larbey collect his own chip kick and touch down in the corner for his hat trick to make the score 25-8. With the game now settled, Warrington relaxed and Caldly trundled back into the game with a final try through the forwards.

“This was a good win against a strong side,” said coach Lee Graham. “Hopefully, we are now back to winning ways although we have some hard games coming up”

Warrington 36 Penrith 14

Once again, Warrington performed their almost customary Lazarus act, having been seemingly dead in the water after 30 minutes to come back with 34 unanswered points to regain top position in North 1 West.

Warrington began well and soon applied pressure on the Penrith line. However, the visiting forwards started to gain the upper hand, taking control of the scrums and line outs but, perhaps more importantly, completely out-muscling Warrington at the breakdown. This plethora of possession allowed the visitors to engage their backs and a strong attacking surge saw them score their first try, which was converted.

Penrith maintained pressure on Warrington for the next ten minutes and eventually gained just reward when their right centre skipped over. This second try was also converted and Warrington were 14 points down and it seemed that they had no answer to the strong Penrith pack.

Fortunately, they managed to withstand any further Penrith attacks and eventually their scrum found cohesion and the line out started to work. The introduction of Luke Johnstone also injected some go-forward into their play and a superb break from his own 22 by Steve Pilkington was unlucky not to bear fruit as the centre was hauled down five yards short but Penrith defence had to touch down a Warrington fly kick over their own line. Warrington charged down the 22 restart and the ball fished right and then left before Luke Johnstone broke tackles to force his way over. Darren Norman converted to make the half time score 14-7 to Penrith.

The second period saw Warrington regain their self-belief, as they started to play the kind of rugby which has been the hallmark of their successful season. They were soon awarded a penalty but this was missed. But from the restart, Tom Wood floated a lovely pass out to Darren Norman and the winger scored an excellent individual effort as he swerved through the Penrith defence to score under the posts and then go on to convert his try to level the scores.

A pin-point kick from Tom Wood saw Warrington once again in the Penrith 5-metre zone. Penrith defended well but a clearance kick found Luke Johnstone, who put in another strong run before the backs combined to create space for Jonno Smith to blast over. The lead was further increased when Darren Norman crossed in the corner and then converted the try from the touchline.

The left winger was denied a hat trick ten minutes later and Tom Wood was just wide with an attempted drop goal but a penalty had already been awarded and Darren Norman stepped up to take Warrington's lead to 29-14, with the bonus point already in the bag. However, Warrington were still hungry and in the closing minutes, a quick tap penalty gave the ball to Max Walker and the number eight proved unstoppable from 15 yards.

"Once we got over our first half lethargy, we played some good rugby," said coach Andy Roberts. "But in two weeks we are at Kendal and up there we'll have to play good rugby for 80 minutes."

Blackburn 2nd XV 7 Warrington 2nd XV 10

Gritty second half defence saw Warrington's second team gain a commendable away win at Blackburn. Warrington led throughout but had to hang on against a powerful Blackburn outfit for the last twenty minutes.

The first half soon developed into a war of attrition, with both sides struggling to gain the upper hand. Eventually, the stalemate was broken when Sean McDermott kicked a penalty in the 23rd minute but this was to be the only score of a dour first period.

Fifteen minutes into the second half, Warrington increased their lead when Matt Rockey showed a touch of class by breaking through the Blackburn line and then out pacing the chase to touch down in the corner. The educated boot of Shaun McDermott converted from the touchline. Blackburn came back into contention when they were awarded a penalty try following a high tackle from Dan Griffiths but resolute, unflinching defence, aided by a few important turnovers from Sam Bennett, ensured that Warrington held onto their lead to earn a well-deserved win.

"We really had to dig deep today," said coach Paul Thompson. "But all the lads, with a special mention for Nick Pennington, never lost heart and they fully deserved the win."