



Warrington Web Site: www.warringtonruffc.com

1923 - 2011

South Lancashire/Cheshire League 2

Welcome to Marple RUFC from Warrington RUFC

Marple RUFC Contacts:

1st XV Captain: Simon@ragingbull.co.uk
Simon Gregg 07834818139

A warm welcome to our visitors for today's game – Marple RUFC. Warrington are currently 3rd in the SLC2 table, despite winning more games than any other team, Marple 10th

Enjoy yourselves gentlemen and put as much money as possible behind the bar and don't forget the raffle for a bottle of lemonade (could be whisky though).

Today's Referee: Mr. Mathew Riley, Manchester Referees' Society

Today's Ball Sponsor:

Today's Match Sponsor:

We all look forward to a clean, open and entertaining game this afternoon. Both sides are more than capable of delivering this.

**Enjoy today and we'll hopefully see you at the next home game vs
Trentham, Saturday 19th March 2011, KO 3:00 pm.**

Pete Postlethwaite, who died in January, was not only a fine actor, he was a good and witty man. We were at West Park G.S. St Helens, a hot bed of rugby. Pete was a tenacious back row forward brave and resolute. I was also lucky enough to have been on stage with him where his talent and love for the theatre shone through. I will remember the many films and plays of course, but above all his personality which carried him to the top. I mourn his passing. *Dave Broadbent*

Regards

Dave Broadbent, President, Warrington RUFC

Your Absent Host – The late Geoff Savage

Your absent 'host' today is the late Geoff Savage, who died about 6 years ago but remembered his playing colleagues in his will – hence the free beer you will enjoy. Geoff was featured prominently in a Sunday newspaper some years ago as the instigator of the 'Oil Blacks' rugby team and was a character as large as life, if not larger. I can't relate most of the tales about Geoff without incurring hellfire wrath. One tale I can tell was about the quiz evening at the Lion Hotel, Bridge Street, Warrington about 40 years ago. Geoff was asked what the acronym SPCK stood for. His reply after some consideration was 'Some Poor C*nts Knackered'. Obviously the wrong answer.

The famous referee, Alan Peaker, was in harness with Geoff about this time but Alan is a different legend as you will see in a future programme.

'Our trip to Shetland was the first family trip I had been on for four years, we went in mid-November 2003. There was a group of 8 of us altogether and we were heading up to Lerwick as part of the Aberdeen Strollers Rugby Club jolly to the 125th anniversary celebration of rugby in Shetland. One of the members of our group was none other than the founder of the Sullom Voe oil terminal rugby team, the Shetland "Oil Blacks" (founded somewhat less than 125 years ago). The trip was done in a weekend with a night on the boat both ways from Aberdeen and a night in a hotel in Lerwick. A game was played on the Saturday which I was duly called up for, and there was a dinner and a ceilidh with the Shetland rugby club that evening.'

From the internet.

Trivia: South African Rugby Positions

Tswana	Xhosa	Zulu
1. poropo	irenka	ifolosi eliyinsika
2. hukere	ihuka	ihuka
3. poropo	irenka	ifolosi eliyinsika
4. loko	ilokhu	ifolosi eliyingidi
5. loko	ilokhu	ifolosi eliyingidi
6. mofolanka	iflenki	ifolosi langasophikweni
7. mofolanka	iflenki	ifolosi langasophikweni
8. morobedi	idoda yesibhozo	unamba-8
9. sekeramohalofo	isikramhafu	iskramuhhafu
10. folaihalofo	iflayihafu	iflayihhafu
11. wingi ya molema	iphiko lasekhohlo	iwingi lasokunxele
12. sentere ya ka fa teng	isenta	isenta
13. sentere ya ka fa ntle	isenta	isenta
14. wingi ya moja	iphiko lasekunene	iwingi lasokunene
15. fulubeke	umvingci	ifullbhekhi

There will be a test on this after the Past Players' lunch today,

Warrington RUFC

Warrington RUFC 1st XV Fixtures 2010-2011 (*)

Date	Opposition	Result
2010		
4 September	Oldershaw (A)	L 30 - 3
11 September	Wallasey (A)	W 20 - 31
18 September	Trentham (A)	W 12 - 13
25 September	Southport (H)	W 24 - 3
2 October	Sefton (A)	W 13 - 17
9 October	Ruskin Park (H)	W 10 - 5
16 October	Orrell (H)	W 10 - 6
23 October	Ramsey (IOM) (H)	W 28 - 12
30 October	Douglas (IOM) (A)	W 38 - 5
6 November		
13 November	Moore (H)	W 18 - 14
20 November	Marple (A)	W 18 - 14
27 November	Holmes Chapel (H)	Postponed
4 December	Dukinfield (A)	Postponed
11 December	Wallasey (H)	W 29 - 5
18 December	Trentham (H)	Postponed
2011	→ Happy New Year Y' All	
8 January	Southport (A)	W 32 - 3
15 January	Sefton (H)	L 29 - 27
22 January	Ruskin Park (A)	W 18 - 14
29 January	Orrell (A)	Postponed
5 February	Ramsey (IOM) (A)	W 15 - 9
12 February	Holmes Chapel (H) (*)	W 57 - 21
19 February	Douglas (IOM) (H)	W 55 - 0
26 February	Dukinfield (A) (*)	Postponed to 2.4.11
5 March	Moore (A)	W 19 - 9
12 March	Marple (H)	
19 March	Trentham (H)	
26 March	Holmes Chapel (A)	
2 April	Dukinfield (A) (*)	
9 April	Dukinfield (H)	
16 April	Oldershaw (H)	
23 April	Orrell (A) (*)	

(*) The fixture dates have changed because of various postponements

WARRINGTON RUFC 1ST XV APPEARANCES 2010/2011 SEASON

WARRINGTON RUFC 1ST XV APPEARANCES 2010/2011 SEASON

(UP TO AND INCLUDING MOORE - AWAY - 5TH MARCH 2011)

NAME	CAREER	THIS YEAR + AS SUB	TRIES	CONS + PENS + DROPS	POINTS
A ALMOND	87	17	5		25
C BYRNE	5	3 + 2	1		5
M CLARKE	8	1			
S COOMBES	63	17	4		20
M DRINKWATER	182	14	3	1	17
L GRAHAM	211	12 + 3			
P GRANT	170	8 + 4			
D GRIFFITHS	18	7 + 1	2		10
M HADDON	58	12 + 2	3		15
J HARROP	2	0 + 2			
B HART	2	1			
M HENNESSEY	38	19	2		10
P HENNESSEY	41	10 + 2	2		10
T HOCKENHULL	1	1			
G HOWSON	14	13 + 1	2		10
A HUGHES	62	2 + 3			
L JOHNSTON	35	19	9		45
B JONES	10	4 + 1			
K JONES	162	10 + 5	6		30
J KERAI	29	0 + 1			
Z LYTHGOE	36	17 + 2	2		10
R MACNAIR	39	1			
R MCEVOY	13	1			
S MCDERMOTT	71	3			
R MULLEN	43	2 + 2	1		5
D NEWENS	24	1	1		5
P PUGH	1	1			
D RICKARD	107	18	1		5
A RICHARDSON	6	6	2		10
A ROCKEY	6	6	6		30
M ROCKEY	107	19	6	38+27+1	190
P THOMPSON	172	12	2		10
S TICKLE	45	2 + 5			
M TIERNEY	52	11 + 3	1		5
M TOBIN	22	1			
S YOXALL	20	16 + 3	1		5
TOTAL USED	36		62	39+27+1	472

Compiled by Peter Riley. Thanks Peter.

Results and League Table South Lancs/Cheshire Division Two (SLC2)

Results

Saturday, 5th March 2011

Douglas (I.O.M.)	22 - 17	Wallasey
Holmes Chapel	8 - 43	Oldershaw
Marple	19 - 6	Dukinfield
Moore	9 - 19	Warrington
Orrell Anvils	17 - 7	Southport
Ramsey (IoM)	66 - 5	Trentham
Ruskin Park	19 - 12	Sefton

Saturday, 26 February 2011

Holmes Chapel	10 - 9	Wallasey
Moore	19 - 19	Southport
Orrell Anvils	28 - 10	Oldershaw

SLC2 League Table after 5/3/11

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	B Pts	Pts	Adjust
Orrell Anvils	19	16	0	3	542	253	289	84.21	15	79	0
Ruskin Park	20	16	0	4	510	233	277	80.00	13	77	0
Warrington	19	17	0	2	472	223	249	89.47	8	76	0
Oldershaw	19	15	0	4	605	209	396	78.95	12	72	0
Dukinfield	20	15	1	4	443	253	190	75.00	8	70	0
Marple	18	12	0	6	400	258	142	66.67	8	56	0
Ramsey (IoM)	21	9	1	11	476	377	99	42.86	13	51	0
Sefton	19	6	1	12	278	305	-27	31.58	9	35	0
Douglas (I.O.M.)	20	6	1	13	270	493	-223	30.00	6	32	0
Trentham	19	5	0	14	256	442	-186	26.32	7	27	0
Moore	19	7	1	11	353	521	-168	36.84	6	26	-10
Wallasey	21	4	0	17	206	637	-431	19.05	3	19	0
Southport	20	4	1	15	169	395	-226	20.00	5	18	-5
Holmes Chapel	20	2	0	18	264	645	-381	10.00	5	8	-5

Warrington RUFC v Marple RUFC

Teams for Saturday 12th March 2011 at Walton Lea 2:15 p.m.

WARRINGTON

Colours: Red, White and Green

MARPLE

Colours: Black and Red

TEAMS

Johnston	15	Ingham
Jones	14	Smtih K
Rockey M. (C)	13	Stevenson
Rickard	12	Cortvriend
Almond	11	Harrison
Drinkwater	10	Gregg
Hennessey M	9	Riley
<hr/>		
Rockey A.	8	Bate
Howson	7	Woolfenden
Coombes	6	Nuttall
Lythgoe	5	Melvin
Tierney	4	Rooney
Grant	3	Duffey
Thompson	2	Smith M
Haddon	1	Cruse
<hr/>		
Griffiths	16	Ashton
Byrne	17	Boot-Handford
Yoxall	18	Owens

Warrington RUFC Cricket History

Not many people know this but the Club used to play several games of cricket every summer in the 60s and 70s. There were some hilarious games and moments, some of which you will learn about in this article. They are all true. Most of the players are now deceased but from their place in the sky, they will verify what is written here.

From memory, Phil Gandy put the WRUFC team together and put developed a fixture list of cricket sides and other RU 'no hoppers'. The team started in the late 1960s and played about 5 or 6 games per year, usually losing by large margins. Latterly, they played about one game per year, usually against WSC Cricket side, who usually cheated by playing 'ringers', e.g. Scottish cricket internationals who were in the area at the time (Ian Buttress was the culprit).

There are tales to be told, one of which involves the late Phil Gandy. Phil fancied himself as a slow spin bowler and usually went in early on (we all bowled in those days). One game, played at Rostherne, Phil demurred bowling but later agreed to bowl. The reason we found later was that the church overlooking the cricket field had a gap in the spire through which the sun shone at a certain time. Phil chose this time to bowl and the batsman was flummoxed by the glare and struggled against Phil's mediocre bowling. Clever man.

Greenalls Tales

Other tales can be told. WRUFC used to play a fixture against Greenalls Brewery bottling stores at Belvoir Road. Their captain was Jack XXX, who regularly interrupted the game for 'allowance time'. This meant a 10 minute break where many bottles of Greenalls beer were dispensed. There were some golden moments in these Greenalls games.

- Jack bringing out the bottled beer every hour
- Ken Wilkinson rushing in to bat with only one pad – on the wrong leg
- Charlie Warburton and Clive Simcock chasing the same catch and colliding in mid-wicket. Golden days.
- Yours truly standing near the opposition batsman and advising him that our next bowler was very fast. After taking the first delivery, the opposition bowler said 'That wasn't very fast'. Yours truly said 'That was his second ball !'.
- Phil Gandy had to take his daughter away from the boundary because of the language to the no-hoppers posted there.

Other Tales

Terry Critchley and Mike Cornelia, Warrington RUFC

Warrington RUFC Results and Match Reports

Saturday 19th February 2011

Warrington 1st XV 55 Douglas (IoM) 1st XV 0

Visiting teams from the Isle of Man are rather like the French. You never know which side is going to turn up until they get off the bus. On Saturday, Douglas arrived with what turned out to be very much a development side, which had no answer to the devastating Warrington finishing, which saw four tries, and the game sealed, in the opening twelve minutes. However, they put in a gritty second half performance, restricting Warrington to just three tries.

Warrington opened their account virtually from the kick-off when Hennessey broke from a ruck and scuttled over. A second try came virtually from the restart, when the ball passed silkily along the back line for Almond to touch down in the corner. Hennessey was involved in the third score when he hustled the Douglas number eight at a scrum, ripped out possession and passed to Matt Rockey. The centre made ground before finding Johnson in close support and the powerful full back broke three tackles to touch down under the posts and allow Rockey his first conversion. On the stroke of the twelfth minute, Warrington secured a much-needed bonus point when Thompson fly kicked ahead, picked up and then pirouetted over the line.

The home side then visibly eased off and could manage only two more forwards' tries before half time. Both came from Ashley Rockey, first from a pushover and then from a maul after a line out.

Having lost their iconic hooker Thompson with a leg injury, just before half time, Warrington were forced into front row changes. Surprisingly, their next score came from a rare strike against the head, which allowed the backs to create enough space for Danny Newans to finish off in the corner.

Douglas were still putting in a laudable rearguard performance and it took a spectacular 40 yard effort from Sam Coombes to breach the defence again. However, the best try was saved until the last minute, when Zak Lythgoe burst through a ruck, put in a perfect dummy and surprised himself, and the spectators, by managing to outpace the opposition in a twenty yard sprint to the line.

Coach Dave Rockey was very pleased with the day's efforts. "Today we really showed we can go for the jugular and finish off. However, our big tests are ahead. We have Dukinfield next week and then Oldershaw and Orrell at the end of the season and the

only way we can be sure of promotion is by beating these teams who are ahead of us purely because of the controversial bonus points system."

Anselmians 2nd 27 Warrington 2nd 34

Warrington's second team maintained their promotion surge with this well-earned win over the league leaders in what was probably their best performance of the season.

Anselmians began the game at top speed and Warrington were hard-pressed to weather a twenty minute storm. Eventually, they broke the stalemate when Jayesh Kerai intercepted in his own 22 and handed on to Steve West, who showed glimpses of his old power and speed to cover 50 yards and touch down to allow McDermott an easy conversion. Anselmians replied with forwards' try but Warrington made sure of the half time lead when McDermott and West rediscovered some of their former magic to combine for a well-crafted try from West.

McDermott improved Warrington's score with a penalty immediately after the restart before young prospect Haydn Frazer crossed for the first of two excellent tries, separated by a signature try from Mark Tickle. The second Frazer try saw the ball pass through at least eight pairs of hands before the full back finished it off in style.

At this point, Warrington seemed to have the game won but inspiring words from Rocky Turner were overheard by the Anselmians' pack and it was they who were fired up to the extent that they clawed back to within seven points and it was only a superb last ditch tackle from John Hughes which prevented the Wirral side from claiming a last minute draw.

Merseyside Police 12 Warrington 3rd 0

Warrington's third string did their promotion ambitions some damage when a strong side probably succumbed to a touch of over-confidence to lose to an average police side. Warrington insisted on turning down a number of good scoring chances while allowing the Police to score two first half tries.

The second half saw a bit more purpose and heart from the visitors, especially with the introduction of Cunningham, who seemed to be everywhere. However, the best that Warrington could achieve was a scoreless second period before going back to the drawing board to redefine their strategy for the rest of the season.

Rugby Profile: Robin Thompson

Former British Lions captain

Robin Thompson was a shock choice for the 1955 British Lions tour to South Africa, but he and his team went on to be heralded as one of the greatest ever seen there and only a desperate fightback in the final test gave South Africa a share of the series at 2-2.

Robert Henderson Thompson, rugby and rugby league player: born Belfast 5 May 1931; married (two children); died Belfast 14 August 2003. Robin Thompson was a shock choice for the 1955 British Lions tour to South Africa, but he and his team went on to be heralded as one of the greatest ever seen there and only a desperate fightback in the final test gave South Africa a share of the series at 2-2.

International rugby had begun for Thompson against the South Africans on their 1951-52 tour and ended early in 1956 when he turned professional with Warrington Rugby League club, where his brother was a doctor.

After gaining two Ulster Schools Senior Cup medals, he made his Ulster senior debut at 18 and won his first Ireland cap at the age of 20 in 1951 against the Boks, playing next against France in 1952, but not being capped again until 1954 against the touring All Blacks and then in all four Home Championship matches. In 1955 he appeared for Ireland against France, Scotland and Wales - skippering in the final two matches, once at No 8 and once at lock.

Following the Lions tour he played his 11th and final match for his country against Wales in Dublin, helping prevent the visitors from gaining the Triple Crown. The selectors decided not to take any player aged over 30 and at 24, Thompson became the third Irishman in succession to lead a Lions touring side.

The Wales hooker Bryn Meredith was on the first of his three tours and said:

As there was no coach in those days, the captain was totally in charge. An Irishman was always acceptable as captain and Robin was a fine figure of a man. We were fit and decided that running the ball was our best option on hard, dry grounds. We won the first test 23-22 and all of the pack tired in the heat near the end, but we hung on and gained a famous victory.

Meredith describes Thompson as "quiet" and "likeable". Unfortunately he was injured in the second test, and it was Cliff Morgan who led them to their third test win:

I think Robin made a mistake in playing in the final test when he was still not fully fit. I saw him just once after he turned professional, as to do that was "taboo" in those days.

Thompson appeared in 14 tour matches, including three tests, and the Springbok captain Stephen Fry said of him in 1955, "He has such a scrupulously fair outlook on the game that the tests could have been played without a referee."

Robin Thompson was born in Belfast in 1931 and took a BSc degree at Queen's University, and worked as an industrial chemist in Coleraine prior to the tour. His delightful Ulster accent and his love of the game won him friends easily, but his switch to Rugby League was a shock, though it was quickly ended by a bone disease and he worked later as a journalist, television reporter and media analyst.

(from The Independent 2003)

Rugby Profile: Robin Thompson (cont)

Aside on Robin Thompson. He turned up at Warrington RUFC at Loushers Lane one day in the 1950s, where I believe a relative or friend was playing. He was given a game that day and was taken under the wing of a Warrington forward who proceeded to instruct him on how to play the game and what the tactics should be. It was only after the game that someone told the 'instructor' who the new player was. Acute embarrassment. *Terry Critchley*

Warrington RUFC Cricket Team

This may seem like a joke but in the 60s and 70s our Club actually had a cricket team

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Trivia Question:

Marple RUFC History

Marple began with old school players from Marple Hall and formed the club in 1972 and were affiliated in to the RFU in 1975.

We played down at Brabyns Park next to the river for several years drinking in the Liberal Social Club a mile down the road.

We then secured the playing fields where we currently play and changed at the school 200 yards up the road, sharpening our boots on the pavements as we trudged down to the pitch. We usually managed to avoid upsetting the neighbours on the way back up after playing as we spattered mud from our boots up the road.

In the 1990's we managed to have 2 successful national cup runs reaching the 5th round twice in succession.

In 2000 we opened our clubhouse with the current club captain Simon Owens as the 1st team captain and ex Warrington player Phil Bettinson as player-coach. Marple then had 4 teams competing from the club.

The 1st team has seen one relegation since then with immediate promotion as champions and are now settled in this current league enjoying their highest ever position as 6th with captain Simon Gregg leading for a second season.

Marple's captain is also engaged to be married to the club captain's (Simon Owens) daughter next year making Tuesday night selections interesting!

The M&J section has nearly 250 members from humble beginnings only 10 years ago. Many of the 1st team here today are a result of a successful Colts side from several years ago. Our President today ran that Colts side.

We hope to beat Warrington today or Phil Bettinson will explain in lengthy detail the finer points of his reverse spin pass!

Cheers,

Simon. Marple RUFC