

NEWCASTLE R.U.F.C.



TOUR TO MULLINGAR R.U.F.C.



EASTER
1979

Some two years ago we were honoured to have the company of a contingent of Mullingar R.F.C. members at our annual dinner. Only later, during the course of the week end did the subversive purpose of the visit become apparent. It was only incidental to the week-end's revelries that one of our members spent the night in police custody at Liverpool after saying farewell to the visitors. The main purpose was to regenerate the old friendships between Newcastle and Mullingar Clubs and in this the visit has proved to have been totally successful.

We had the pleasure of welcoming a splendid touring party to Newcastle last Easter and now our members are looking forward to the reciprocal visit. If any member from Newcastle fails to thoroughly enjoy the visit I know from experience he will only have himself to blame. I would like to sincerely thank all those members of the Mullingar community who have been involved in laying on the visit.

I wish the members of both clubs every happiness and pleasure both on and off the field. Very best wishes to the tour.

Your's Sincerely,

J.M. POINTON.
CHAIRMAN



PLAYER'S ON TOUR

ROBERT PATRICK WATKINS

1st. XV. FULL BACK
Ht. 5'7" Wt. 11st. 10lbs.
Age 23 B.R. Maintenance

TEVEN PAUL BARROWCLOUGH

STAV. WING STAFFS COULT.
Ht. 5'7" Wt. 10 ST.
Age 18 APP. MECHANIC.

ULIAN JOE BERRINGTON

1st. XV. PROP
Ht. 6' Wt. 13st 7lbs
Age 17 APP. FITTER.

DAVID BRIAN BLADDER

ST. XV. CENTER.
Ht. 5'9" Wt. 11st. 7lbs.
Age 23 TRAINED MANAGER.

WILLIE BROOKS

1st. XV. PROF.
Ht. 6' Wt. 16st.
Age 26 FITTER.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER BATON

1st. XV. PROP. ENG. COIT
Ht. 6'1" Wt. 13st. 8lbs
Age 21 STUDENT

PHILIP EVANS

1st. XV. WING 1st XV Capt.
Ht. 5'9" Wt. 10st. 10lbs.
Age 26 Civil Engineer.

CHRIS JOSEPH FLEMING

1st. XV. Hooker.
Ht. 5'8" Wt. 12st. 3lbs.
Age 26 Engineer.

JOHN GREEN

2nd & 3rd XV second row
Ht. 6'3" Wt. 15st. 7lbs
Age 28 Rep.

1st XV GAME SAT 14th. APRIL K.O. 3.00p.

2nd. XV GAME SUN 15th. APRIL K.O. 3.00p.

JOHN ALAN HARRIS

1st. XV WING Forward Ex. Capt.
Ht. 5'10" Wt. 12st. 12lbs
Age 35 Co. Director

DAVID JOHN HANDCOCK

1st. XV SECOND ROW
Ht. 6'1" Wt. 15st.
Age 32. CO DIRECTOR.

James Anthony Herbert

2ND XV WING FORWARD
Ht. 6'1" Wt. 13st. 7 s.
Age 23 Fitter NCB.

WILLIAM HUTCH

2ND XV PROP
Ht. 5'11" Wt. 15st
Age 38 BLACKSMITH.

STEVEN CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

3RD XV WING FORWARD.
Ht. 6' Wt. 12st 12lbs.
Age 26 SOLICITOR

PHIL ARTHUR POLLEY

1st. XV WING FORWARD.
Ht. 6'3" Wt. 13st.
Age 22 Grocer.

DAVID JOHN KELLY

1st. XV. Lock.
Ht. 6' Wt. 13st.
Age 30 P.D. Teacher.

DAVID ANDREW LITCHTON

3RD. XV. FULL BACK
Ht. 5'11" Wt. 12st.
Age 20. Trainee Manager.

TONEY LIPSIX.

4TH XV SECOND ROW.
Ht. 6' 3" Wt. 14 ST
Age. 25 FITTER.

BILL PATRICK WATKINS.

2ND XV WING/2 FULL/B
Ht. 6' Wt 13st. 3lbs
Age 47 Chartered Engineer

KEVIN WILLIAM WATKINS

4th XV FULL BACK.
Ht. 5'8" Wt. 10st. 7lbs
Age 18 Civil Engineer.

ROBERT IAIN MORBY.

1st. XV CENTER.
Ht. 6'1" Wt 13st 10lbs.
Age 19 STUDENT.

RICHARD NADIN

2ND XV WING FORWARD EX CAPT.
Ht. 5'9" Wt 12st.
Age 32 CH. ACCOUNTANT.

KENNETH ALAN ROBERTS.

1st. XV Prop Ex Capt.
Ht. 6'1" Wt. 14st. 12lbs.
Age 30. Engineer

NICK ARTHUR STACE

1st. XV Scrum Half Age 22
Ht. 5'7" Wt. 11st. 2lbs
Accountant Staffs up 23's

PATRICK SMITH

2nd. XV Wing
Ht 5'9" Wt. 12st.
Age 24 Rep

JOHN LIVINGSTONE BELL

3rd XV CENTER/ WING
Ht. 6' Wt. 13st.
Age. 32. SOLICITOR.

GLYN WALKER

2ND. XV WING
Ht 6' Wt. 13st.
Age 21 MINER.

DAVID CARINTORAL WESTER

2ND. XV STAND OFF
Ht. 5'9" Wt. 14 St.
Age 32 CO Director

JOHN RICHARD WOOD

2ND 3RD XV WING
Ht. 5'9" Wt. 11st.
Age. 21 NOUNDER

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

1st. 2ND XV PROP
Ht. 5'10" Wt. 13st.
Age 24 P.T. TEACHER

RESULTS TODAY.

	P	W	L	D	F	A
NEWCASTLE.	8	6	2	0	65	32
MOUNTGAR.	8	2	6	0	32	65

TOUR OFFICIALS

COLIN GEORGE PERRY

STANLEY WILLIAM GRIFFITHS.
HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CLUB
FOR THE LAST TEN YEAR'S
PRESENT CLUB CAPTAIN RECOVERED
FROM A BROKEN LEG SUSTAINED
PER SEASON PREVIOUS YEAR.

Newcastle, after missing many early opportunities, beat **Leek** 10-4. It was against the run of play that Leek scored an opportunist try, but they were then forced to defend desperately.

Newcastle's superiority in most phases paid off with a try from Bill Fairbairn, converted by Phil Evans, and then full-back Bob Alcock, in his first game of the season, scythed his way through to complete the scoring.

In other matches against Leek, Newcastle II. and III. won 9-8 and 16-0 respectively, the fourths lost 16-15 to Shrewsbury III., the fifths beat Macclesfield 20-3 and the Veterans beat Warren 13-10.

Newcastle were 19-12 winners over **Stafford II.**, after twice being in arrears. They led 10-4 at the interval, through tries by Bob Newby and Dave Hancock, Paul Alcock converting one. In the second-half, Phil Evans (penalty goal), Paul Barrowclough (try) and Alcock (conversion) scored for Newcastle.

In other matches against Stafford, Newcastle II. and III. won 12-9 and 36-3 respectively, but the fourth team lost 28-0 and the Colts 44-0.



Armchair sportsmen for the afternoon . . . members of Newcastle Rugby Club watching the Boat Race in the comfort of the club-house after their match with Old Longtonians had been postponed, due to the weather.



At Newcastle R.U.F.C. annual dinner, Lindsay Burke is seen receiving the club's goal-kicking competition trophy from chief guest Mr. David Archer, President of the Staffordshire Union. Looking on are: Mr. Jim Handley, club secretary; Mr. Terry Quinn, treasurer; Mr. John Pointon, chairman; and Mr. Ron Cotterill.

Newcastle lost the forward struggle in heavy conditions against a heavier Stourbridge pack and went down 18-0. After an early converted try for the home team, defences held firm and, with handling moves out of the question, Stourbridge completed their victory with four penalty goals.

Old Sandbachians dominated their match at **Newcastle**, winning 36-3. They also took the second team fixture 49-0, but Newcastle gained some consolation by winning the third and fourth team games 30-3 and 24-12 respectively.



Newcastle off to Mullingar
Easter 1979.

Rugby club captain breaks leg

NEWCASTLE Rugby Club plans for the coming season received a severe jolt when their recently-appointed captain, Colin Perry, suffered a double fracture of the leg in the second of a series of trial games.

The final trial takes place tomorrow and prospective players should attend the Lilleshall - road ground, Clayton, and report to the club vice-captain, Phil Evans, at 2.30 p.m.

Training will continue at the club on Monday and Wednesday evenings (7.0).

Newcastle rugby club captain

Colin Perry, previously with London club Saracens, has been appointed first team captain by Newcastle R.U.F.C.

Other appointments: second team captain Tony Bloor; third team, Tony Stubbs; fourth team, Ken Parkes; fifth team, Graham Wells. Tony Bloor and John Sumnall were elected as coaches.

Officers: president, Mr. J. Pointon; secretary, Mr. J. Handley; team secretary, Mr. J. Hamer; treasurer, Mr. T. Quinn.

Training sessions will be held at the club's Lilleshall-road ground each Monday and Wednesday (7.15), and Saturdays (2.15).

Training aid

During the last few seasons, a number of local clubs — Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle among them — have acquired training lights, which greatly increase the range of activities possible on training nights.

At 9.15 on a recent dark, late summer evening at Lilleshall-road, I watched Newcastle, under the guidance of coach Tony Bloor, assisted by John Sumnall, going through a series of activities far more closely simulating match situations than those usually managed in a gymnasium.

Also watching from the touchline, with a perception born of experience, was Bill Matthews, the long-serving Newcastle enthusiast. He told me that the club, although shaken by the loss of captain Colin Perry with a severe leg injury, had a fair degree of optimism for the new season. Pete Evans is taking over the skipper's duties.



Newcastle Rugby Union Football Club players seen at a squad training session in preparation for the new season.

Losing No. 8 forward Phil Robinson with a shoulder injury, Newcastle could not overcome the handicap and were beaten 18-7 by Tamworth. After conceding an early try, Newcastle hit back with a penalty goal by Paul Alcock, but as the game wore on their possession from the scrums got less and the loss of a man in the pack also told.

Tamworth's back row were in dominant mood and they set up three tries, Newcastle replying with a try from Paul Barraclough near the end.

In other matches against Tamworth, Newcastle lost the second, third and fourth team games 17-8, 7-0 and 30-7 respectively, but the fifths won 13-12.

Newcastle, too, made an encouraging start, newcomers Kevin Lee, at prop, Terry Kelly and Paul Alcock, back at scrum-half after a year's absence from the game, showing up prominently in the 21-9 win over Burton "A."

Alcock gave Newcastle an early lead with a penalty goal and although a dropped goal put the scores level, the home team's superiority in the back division brought a try from Paul Barraclough.

In the second-half, Newcastle added tries through Richard Bladen and Phil Robinson, with Alcock adding the extra points to all three tries.

After a slow start, Newcastle completed a double over Burton "A" by winning 9-4 away. This was a notable performance, for they had not had a game for four weeks and also lost outside-half Alan Griffiths through injury early on.

Burton scored in the corner from opening pressure, but the Newcastle pack countered strongly. Phil Evans landed a penalty and then Will Fairbairn crashed over for a try, Evans adding the goal points.

Newcastle II beat Burton 7-3, the third team were 4-3 winners over Whitchurch, the fourths lost 6-4 to Simon and the fifths overwhelmed J.C.B. 36-0. Veterans beat Biddulph 6-4.

A below strength Newcastle tumbled to a 30-0 defeat at home to a determined Tamworth, who made the most of the chances that came their way.

The visitors scored two first-half tries, then were held at bay for a long spell in the second-half, Newcastle's resistance crumbling near the end as Tamworth piled on the points.

Newcastle II lost 20-0 to Telford, but had some compensation by winning the third and fourth team fixtures 14-4 and 13-12 respectively. Newcastle V beat Old Longtonians IV 12-10 and the Veterans were 14-0 winners against Michelin.

Newcastle back with fine win

WITH their pack dominant, Newcastle R.U.F.C. resumed operations after a lengthy break with an impressive 38pts. to nil victory away over a Warrington Park team.

The teenage pair at lock, Mark Whittaker and Mark James, played with encouraging authority, and the Newcastle policy of running with the ball at every opportunity paid handsome dividends.

Nick Slack, in his first game since his return to the club, prompted the backs expertly. Rob Mawby crossed for two tries, with Paul Barraclough, Jim Eaton and Terry Kelly also touching down. Skipper Phil Evans landed three conversion kicks to give Newcastle a 26-0 half-time lead.

Although relaxing their grip in the second-half, Newcastle still managed to add a further 12 points.

Rugby Cup

Newcastle, at home lost 12-9 to Handsworth in the Staffordshire Rugby Union Knock-out Cup last night.

John Hamer (try) and Paul Alcock (penalty and conversion) scored for Newcastle, who led 9-8 until Kevin Lee had to leave the field with a shoulder injury.



"We are counting on bringing it back with us" was the cry as Newcastle Rugby Club, holders of the Mullingar v. Newcastle Trophy, set off for Mullingar, Southern Ireland, for the annual match between the two clubs. Displaying the trophy are Collin Perry, club skipper and Phil Evans, first team captain.

LIVERPOOL PUT ON SIDELINES

When Liverpool should have been playing Wasps on Saturday afternoon at Sudbury, Middlesex, they were watching the match at Newcastle-under-Lyne, Staffs, as guests of the Newcastle club.

The Liverpool coach had broken down, limping into the Keele service station on the M6 with a snapped fan belt and damaged radiator. Emergency repairs put the radiator right but there was no replacement fan belt.

Eventually a fan belt was sent down from Liverpool but by then it was too late to reach Wasps in time and the game was cancelled.

Dave Watson made an impressive debut for Newcastle in the 18-6 victory over Congleton and was unlucky not to mark the occasion with a try, just failing to ground the ball.

After Congleton had kicked two penalty goals, Newcastle's forwards took command and tries came from Terry Kelly and Phil Jolley, Alan Griffiths converting both and also kicking a penalty. The remaining points came from a Nick Slack drop goal.

Newcastle II and III won 10-3 and 28-0 against Congleton; the fourths lost 15-8 to Dane and the fifths went down 14-11 to Wolverhampton. The Veterans defeated Michelin 19-3.



A Newport player breaks from the scrum during the Rugby Union match at Lilleshall-road, Trent Vale, between Newcastle II team and Newport II.



Newcastle took sweet revenge for their defeat in the Staffordshire Cup when they overwhelmed Trentham 41-4. Encouraged by an early try, they were superior in all departments, the determined running of the backs bringing a heavy crop of tries.

Jim Eaton, Rob Mawby (2), Paul Barraclough, Clive Ward and John Tebbutt touched down, with Alan Griffiths and Dave Watson contributing the remainder of the points from kicks.

Newcastle made it a clean sweep by winning the second, third and fourth team games against Trentham by 26-6, 42-6 and 8-0 respectively. Newcastle V. lost 6-0 to Ashton-on-Mersey IV. and the Veterans beat Wolverhampton Crofters 19-16.

After the disappointment of their midweek dismissal from the Staffordshire Cup, Newcastle bounced back to form with a 32-15 win over Ashbourne.

They trailed 9-0 in the first-half, but a drop goal by Nick Slack, and tries from John Wood and Rob Mawby helped them into a 13-9 half-time lead and the second-half was then dominated by Newcastle.

Mawby added two more tries, Bob Alcock also touched down and Dave Watson landed two conversions and a long range penalty goal.

Newcastle II lost 32-0 to Warrington, the thirds beat Warrington 8-3 and the fourth team match was drawn 12-12.

Newcastle completed a double over Leek with a 3-0 victory at Birchall. Both sides missed penalties before Alan Griffiths won the match with a kick.

The match was marred by the sending-off of Leek second row forward Neil Bown, for dissent, 15 minutes into the second half.

Newcastle II. lost 9-3 to Leek; Newcastle III. beat Leek 24-0; Newcastle IV. beat Old Longtonians 34-3; and Newcastle Veterans had a 39-0 victory over Warren.

In a dour struggle in atrocious conditions, Newcastle were held to a 0-0 draw at Willenhall where any attempt at an open game was out of the question. Both sets of backs battled fiercely, but defences held firm.

Astute kicking from fly-half Alan Griffiths kept Willenhall pinned in their own half for long periods, but Newcastle were unable to capitalise on their advantage.

Newcastle won the other games against Willenhall, the seconds by 18-3, the thirds 6-0 and the fourths 14-10. Newcastle Veterans beat Dane 9-0.

Eccleshall returned to winning form by beating Newcastle V 22-10. Trevor Castle (2), Ron Bentley and Steve Hollis scored tries, the first-named landing three conversions.

Tries by Steve Challinor and John Bater helped Eccleshall II to a 10-4 victory over Linley III, for whom Melvin Maskew scored.

Newcastle took on new opponents in Moore and in a dramatic finish were pegged back to a 21-21 draw. Two neatly taken drop goals by scrum-half Nick Slack gave Newcastle an early advantage and their lighter, faster pack had the better of the initial exchanges.

Moore tightened up, however, and in a dour battle it was an exchange of penalty kicks that kept the score moving, Dave Watson landing four for Newcastle and Slack dropping another goal to restore the lead minutes from the end, but Moore's last-gasp touchdown and conversion made it all square.

Newcastle won the second team match 13-10, their thirds beat Warrington Park 39-16 and the fourths were 60-3 winners over Old Longtonians IV.

Old Longtonians were convincing winners by 23-4 over Newcastle.

A John Davis penalty goal was augmented by a try from Perry and after the interval Newcastle, who lost scrum-half Nick Slack for a crucial period, reeled under a continuous onslaught. Further tries came from Andy Forrester, Tom Wainwright and Kenny Phelps, with two converted by Davis, Terry Kelly got a consolation try for Newcastle.

Old Longtonians won the second team match 19-12, Newcastle taking the third and fourth team honours 29-6 and 38-4 respectively.

Weather conditions more suited to snowballing than rugby at Newcastle when the Newcastle second team lost by 15 points to seven to Congleton.

Mawby's 12th try in 13 matches

NEWCASTLE R.U.F.C. continued their improved form by beating Whitchurch by 13pts. to 12 away.

Whitchurch went 6-0 ahead, but a break by Nick Slack and Paul Barraclough let in Rob Mawby, for his 12th try in 13 matches. Alan Griffiths converted and although Whitchurch dropped a goal, Newcastle forged ahead when skipper Terry Kelly crashed over for another try.

Newcastle were reduced to 14 men when Lindsay Turke went off with a leg injury, but an exchange of penalties, Griffiths scoring for the visitors, completed the scoring.

Wins by 8-7 in the second team match and 21-6 by the thirds made it a clean sweep for Newcastle.

Newcastle went down 9-0 at home to Whitchurch. Despite almost constant pressure, they were unable to convert territorial advantage into points. Whitchurch scored with three penalty goals.

JUNIOR RUGGER



A photo-call for the junior section of Newcastle Rugby Club at Clayton festival in this weeks "Calvert's Corner".

Potteries Rugby merit winners

AWARDS in the Potteries Rugby Union first merit competition will be presented at Newcastle Rugby Club on Friday (8 p.m.).

Mr. P. A. Clarke, marketing director of Harrison Mayer, the sponsors, will make the presentations to Crewe and Nantwich, who made sure of the first team section by beating Newcastle in the final match last Saturday, Congleton, the second team winners, and Newcastle, the third team champions.

Final placings were as follow:—

FIRST TEAMS

	P.	W.	D.	L.	%
Crewe & N'twich	6	5	0	1	85.3
Old Longtonians	9	6	0	3	66.7
Newcastle	9	5	1	3	61.1
Congleton	7	3	1	3	50.0
Leek	8	3	0	5	37.5
Trentham	9	1	0	8	11.1

SECOND TEAMS

	P.	W.	D.	L.	%
Congleton	5	4	0	1	80.0
Leek	7	5	0	2	71.4
Crewe & N'twich	5	3	0	2	60.0
Newcastle	9	4	0	5	44.4
Old Longtonians	7	3	0	4	42.9
Trentham	8	2	0	6	25.0

THIRD TEAMS

	P.	W.	D.	L.	%
Newcastle	7	6	1	0	92.9
Crewe & N'twich	5	4	1	0	90.0
Leek	8	3	0	5	37.5
Old Longtonians	9	3	0	6	33.3
Trentham	7	2	0	5	28.6
Congleton	4	1	0	3	25.0

Newcastle had to give best to a better drilled and more mobile Stourbridge pack and they lost 14-10 at home. They were upset by the late arrival of their opponents, but took the lead when Clive Ward went over for a try, Andy Wood adding the goal points.

Stourbridge broke away to score a try and Newcastle were further rocked when the visitors added a second touch down, which was converted. Dropped passes and missed penalties did not help Newcastle's cause and after Stourbridge got their third try, Alan Roberts went over for the home team, but it was too late.

Newcastle II and III won 21-14 and 31-0 respectively in other games against Stourbridge, the fourths beating Congleton 33-0.

Newcastle beat Shell Carrington 21-12 away, with Nick Slack taking the honours with five penalty goals and a conversion of the Phil Jolley's try.

Alan Griffiths scored 23 points and Dave Lock got four tries in Newcastle's 75-0 win in the second team match. Newcastle III beat Shell III 17-0, the fourths beat Anchor 19-13 and the

Newcastle spree

Newcastle took their total of wins for the season to 24 when they trounced Trentham 22-0 in the semi-final of the Potteries Rugby Union Cup.

Newcastle led 12-0 at the interval with a two penalty goals by Dave Watson and a try by Howard Tebbing converted by Dave Barling. Two penalty goals by Barling and a try by Paul Barrowclough increased the lead in the second half.

In a cut and thrust game, Newcastle went down 20-19 to Erdington. Erdington's stronger pack just had the edge, but Newcastle used what little good possession they had to telling effect. Rob Mawby and Paul Barrowclough scored tries, Dave Watson landing three penalty goals and a drop goal.

In other matches against Erdington, Newcastle II won 13-12, the thirds lost 18-12, and the fourths won 51-3. Newcastle V beat Congleton IV 4-3 and the Veterans beat Trentham 12-9.

Newcastle's revival continued when they beat Mid-Cheshire College 15-13. A determined pack gained the initiative, setting up a try for Alan Roberts, which Alan Griffiths goaled.

A Nick Slack drop goal increased Newcastle's lead, but then he had to go off with a head injury and took no further part. Griffiths jinked his way over for a try he also converted, for Newcastle to lead 15-0 at half-time.

Newcastle were on defence for most of the second-half but, despite conceding two tries and a penalty goal, just held out.

Newcastle won the second team match 14-0 and the Veterans beat J.C.B. 12-4.

Newcastle returned to winning form by beating new opponents Glossop 16-0 in a match switched at the last moment to Newcastle. The home team's pack was in dominant mood, combining well in all phases of play.

Despite territorial advantage, it was left to Alan Griffiths to give Newcastle a 6-0 half-time lead with two penalty goals. The backs moved with a greater freedom in the second-half and John Wood and John Tellett crossed for tries, Griffiths landing one conversion.

Newcastle made it a hat-trick against Glossop by winning the second and fourth team matches 40-8 and 19-15, the fifth beat Anchor III 16-14, but the Veterans went down 11-3 to Winnington Park III.

Away to Metrovick, Newcastle won 13-8, but had sufficient chances to have romped home by a much wider margin, squandering possession by over-elaboration.

After Alan Griffiths had converted a try by Paul Barrowclough, Metrovick hit back to take the lead with two tries. This acted as a spur to Newcastle and after Barrowclough had crossed for his second try, Griffiths completed the scoring with a penalty goal.

Newcastle won the second and third team matches 15-4 and 16-14 respectively, but Metrovick IV won 13-6. Newcastle V lost 22-10 to Eccleshall and the Veterans beat Metrovick 15-0.

Kelly to lead Newcastle

Terry Kelly was elected captain of Newcastle Rugby Union Football Club at the annual meeting, with Nick Slack as vice-captain. Second team skipper will be Tony Bloor, with Dave Westrup leading the third team. Arthur Hudson continues as chairman of selectors.

Club chairman, John Poin-ton, reporting successful season socially and financially, stressed the need for improvement on the playing side.

Training starts at their Lilleshall-road, Clayton, ground on July 18 (7.30) and continues on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons under the guidance of the captain and coach Tony Bloor.

Showing their best form for a long time, Newcastle cantered to a 32-7 win over Wolverhampton II. They had the tonic of a try from the kick-off, Rob Mawby scoring between the posts for Dave Watson to convert.

Watson then landed a penalty goal, before the visitors hit back with a penalty and a try. From this point, Newcastle took complete command and tries came from Dave Hancock, Bob Alcock, Paul Barrowclough and John Woods. Watson kicked three conversions to complete the scoring.

Newcastle II lost 11-0 to Wolverhampton III, the thirds beat Wolverhampton IV. 14-4 and the fourths lost 18-10 to Wolverhampton V. Newcastle V. were beaten 13-9 by Hope Valley.

TRAILING 9-0 after a hesitant start, Newcastle R.U.F.C. came back strongly to defeat Shrewsbury by 15pts. to 12 in a surprisingly open game in difficult conditions.

Conceding a penalty goal and a goal, Newcastle struggled to find their rhythm early on, when strong tackling by the backs and determined play in the loose prevented further disasters.

A penalty goal by Alan Griffiths reduced the deficit and near the interval Rob Mawby swooped on a charged-down kick and went over in the corner. Griffiths converted.

Shrewsbury regained the lead with a penalty, but Newcastle pressure was rewarded when Dave Bladen came into the line to make an overlap for Mawby to go over for his second try, Griffiths again adding the goal points.

Newcastle completed a clean sweep over Shrewsbury, winning the second, third and fourth team fixtures 15-6, 21-10 and 20-4 respectively.



Ball practice for members of Newcastle R.U.F.C., in training at their Lilleshall-road ground for the new season.

Of all sports which seem to have caught on over the years, one which is proving extremely popular, both from a participation and spectator level, is Rugby Football, with literally thousands of men taking up the sport as a weekend hobby.

Indeed, the local area is amply catered for when it comes to Rugby, with no fewer than eight clubs around North Staffordshire and South Cheshire, and that's not taking into account the several Schools and Colleges who include the sport on their syllabus and field teams.

I have therefore decided to give some well deserved publicity to one of these local sides, this being the Newcastle RUFC.

Newcastle, who have an excellent Clubhouse and ground at Lilleshall Road in Clayton, as well as using pitches in the Lyme Valley, and Roe Lane, now have six sides representing them on Saturday afternoons.

The ages of the players in these sides range anything up from David Evans, who is just 17, to Bill Matthews and Peter Masters, who are both in their late 40s, yet still turning out regularly.

As well as these sides, there is a Colts team which plays on Sundays, and a Junior set-up, which caters for youngsters in the 7-14 age range, who go along on a Sunday morning to receive tuition on the game and have fun, while they are learning from experienced players, who are only too pleased to offer their services to the young lads, who are, on several occasions

through the season, given the chance to try out their newly-learned skills against similar Junior sides.

The fact that there are six full Saturday teams at Newcastle, gives nearly ninety people the chance to enjoy a regular game of Rugby.

They train twice a week, on Mondays at the Booth Street Sports Centre, in Stoke, adjacent to the Football ground, and also on Wednesdays at their own ground under floodlights.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Newcastle Rugby club, you can contact Jim Handley on 611948, the team Secretary, Keith Dale on 615770 or the Club itself on 617042. Parents wishing to find out more about the Junior Rugby sessions can contact Don Rouse on 610337.

Well folks, I'm afraid that's it for this week, but I'll be back soon, when I'll be taking a look at the facilities offered by a local Dancing school, until then, take care, Mike.





Newcastle Rugby Club second team, with their captain, Tony Bloor, centre of the front row.

Newcastle's recent improved performances suffered a setback when they were beaten 19-9 at home by Sedgely Park, a well-drilled side who had the tonic of an early try.

Alan Griffiths put the home side back in contention with a penalty goal, but Newcastle then conceded two penalty kicks, which were converted.

A period of Newcastle pressure early in the second-half produced a try by John Tellett, Griffiths adding the goal points, and Sedgely completed the scoring with a try and a penalty.

Newcastle II lost 56-7 to Alsager College, whose second team beat Newcastle III 10-3. Newcastle IV beat Alsager College III 12-6 and the Veterans had a 15-7 win over Sedgely Park.

There was a grandstand finish at Roughcote-lane, where Newcastle held on to a slender lead to beat Old Longtonians 12-10 in a Potteries merit table match.

In a game of two distinctive periods, Old Longtonians held sway in the first-half, in which Andy Forrester crossed for a try.

Newcastle rallied strongly in the second-half and a try by Paul Barrowclough, converted by Alan Griffiths, revitalised them. With their pack in dominant mood, Dave Bladen came into the line and went over for a try, Griffiths once more adding the goal points with a fine kick.

In the last few minutes, John Davis took a short penalty for Forrester to touch down, Davis reducing the margin to two points with the conversion.

Newcastle made it a clean sweep by winning the second team match 12-6, the thirds 4-3 and the fourths 16-3.

Newcastle were beaten for the first time in 10 weeks when they lost 10-6 to Broughton away. They had the tonic of an early try by Paul Barrowclough, converted by Alan Griffiths, and had the opportunity to increase their lead, but neglected chances.

Broughton kicked two penalty goals to level the score and the Newcastle pack, somewhat below par, could not cope with the heavier home forwards, particularly after Howard Green went off injured. Broughton clinched victory with a late try.

Newcastle won the second, third and fourth team matches against Broughton 14-7, 10-8, and 19-10 respectively; the fifths beat Old Sandbachians 24-3 and the Veterans defeated their Macclesfield counterparts 12-3.

With their packs in fiery form, Newcastle were 10-9 winners over Macclesfield. Adapting better to the mud, Newcastle went ahead when John Tellett drove over for a try and their second score came when Howard Tebbie broke from the line and linked up with Paul Barrowclough, who outspurred defenders for a try, converted by Alan Griffiths.

In between, Macclesfield replied with a penalty goal, but squandered chances by aimless kicking and it was not seconds from the end that they scored a converted try.

Newcastle lost the second, third and fourth team matches 31-6, 9-0 and 35-0 respectively, but won the Veterans' fixture against Macclesfield 18-12.

Although defeated 26-3 by Newcastle in a merit table match, Leek displayed spirit and courage after injuries to two players caused a team reorganisation.

Leek scored first through a Mick Sherratt penalty and Newcastle struggled to find their best form, over-elaboration bringing mistakes. Alan Griffiths levelled the scores before half-time with a penalty goal.

It was in the second-half that Newcastle seized control and in a 20-minute period they scored four tries, three by Paul Barrowclough and one from Rob Mawby, Griffiths kicking conversions each time.

Leek were shattered and only fierce defence kept the score down in the closing stages.

Newcastle won the second and third team games 17-10 and 34-0 respectively. Newcastle IV were beaten 12-3 by Rubery Owen, the fifths lost 32-0 to Macclesfield V., but the Veterans were 22-0 winners over G.E.C.

Newcastle drew 7-7 with new opponents Rhyl, in a typical forward battle on a heavy pitch and in difficult conditions. Against a strong pack, Newcastle had difficulty in gaining worthwhile possession, but had greater success in the loose.

Rhyl took the lead with a try against the run of play, but Alan Griffiths then kicked a penalty goal and a fine movement among the backs ended with Rob Mawby crossing for a try.

Poor finishing let down Newcastle, who conceded a penalty goal equaliser to the home side in the last few minutes.

Newcastle II beat J.C.B. 26-16, the thirds beat Rhyl 26-0 and the Veterans had a 24-3 win over Manchester Hawks.

Crewe and Nantwich became first winners of the Potteries merit competition by defeating Newcastle 7-3 in a fine game at Barony Park. In a gale-force wind, the standard of play was of a high order.

Newcastle took the lead with a penalty goal from Dave Watson, but just before half-time John Lawton crashed over for a try and Alan Pinkney stretched Crewe and Nantwich's lead with a second-half penalty goal.

Crewe and Nantwich had to withstand heavy pressure in the last 10 minutes, when 17-year-old full-back, John Hackett, marked his debut with an impressive performance.

Crewe and Nantwich won the second team game 7-4, Keith Wilson (try) and Andy Williamson (penalty goal) scoring, but there was compensation for Newcastle, whose 7-7 draw gave them the Division III merit title, on a slightly better percentage than their opponents. Newcastle IV beat J.C.B. 27-6.

Adopting a policy of running with the ball whenever possible, Newcastle were rewarded with a 13-7 win over Old Anselmians. This tactic cancelled out the advantage their opponents had through a heavier pack.

Rob Mawby and Clive Ward scored tries, Alan Griffiths kicking a conversion and a penalty goal.

The second and third teams were also winners over Old Anselmians, by 21-9 and 18-9 respectively, Newcastle IV beat Manchester Y.M.C.A. 6-0, but the Veterans lost 18-4 to Solihull.



Pictured at Newcastle Rugby Club's Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening at "The Borough Arms Hotel, King Street, are left to right, 2nd Team Captain, John Hamner; Fixtures Secretary, Jim Handley; Chairman, John Pointon, and President, Peter Smith, all seen with the North Staffs/South Cheshire 2nd Team Merit Trophy.

RUGBY CLUB PRESENTATIONS

Terry Kelly, first-team captain of Newcastle Rugby Club, spoke of a very successful 1980-81 season, surpassing the previous one and commented that the overall results of all the club's teams made very pleasant reading. He was speaking at the Annual Dinner and Presentation evening held at the Borough Arms Hotel, Newcastle, last Friday.

Delivering the Club's report Mr. Kelly explained that their first team had narrowly missed out on the Merit Trophy which was achieved by the second and

third teams. He praised each of the club's sides, including the newly-formed Colts team, for turning in performances of which they could be proud of.

In his toast to the Rugby Football Union, Mr. Stuart Lister of the Staffordshire Society of Referees, said that the game was all about finding fellowship and friendship, something that was very apparent at Newcastle.

Club President Mr. Peter Smith, made the following presentations: The Geoff Adams Cup for the player showing most improvement, Tim Britton; the Gor-

don Cox Trophy for the leading try-scorer, Phil Read; the J.D. Sumnall Trophy for goal kicking, Sam Gilby; the Bill Kirkham Trophy for the most outstanding forward in the club, John Clayton; the Jeff Maskery Cup for the most consistent performer in the 2nd XV joint holders, Martin Sands and Dave Holmes; the A.J.J. Wade Trophy for exceptional merit, Terry Marsh; and the Ron Cotteril Trophy for the Clubman of the Year was shared by John Hamner and Keith Dale.