



Newcastle R.U.F.C. 1st XV

POWELL POWER!

Newcastle 1st XV... 10
Kings Norton 1st XV. 18

Due to injuries and unavailability, Newcastle were forced to make changes for the visit of Birmingham side Kings Norton.

With skipper Richard Owen, Nick Slack and Paul Barraclough all absent, Dave Locke retained his position at centre, whilst Martin Sands and John Wood came in at scrum half and wing respectively.

Kings Norton quickly opened up a 6-0 lead through two successful penalty attempts by fly half Ray Powell, before full back Dave Watson reduced the deficit for Newcastle in similar fashion after 15 minutes.

Then came a period of good possession and pressure by Newcastle which resulted in Watson levelling the scores after 25 minutes with another penalty.

However, Newcastle's joy was short-lived when Kings Norton second row Dickie Brookes chased over for a try. Powell was successful with the conversion attempt.

A further penalty by Powell gave Kings Norton a 15-6 interval lead.

Newcastle came back well in the second-half to

score a try through Dave Werikhe, after scrum-half Martin Sands broke through five players.

But unfortunately for the home side Powell was successful with yet another penalty attempt to round off the scoring.

OTHER RESULTS

Newcastle 2nd XV gained some consolation for the club by winning 30-0 away to Kings Norton, but the 3rd XV went down 9-3 to the Birmingham side.

Newcastle Vets drew 0-0 away to Solihull Vets.

'Local derby' a close contest

Newcastle 1st XV 10
Trentham 1st XV 9.

Newcastle squeezed home by the narrowest possible margin, on Saturday, to beat local rivals Trentham in a Merit Table match.

Tries by Clayton and Barraclough, one of which

took control of the set pieces.

However, Trentham could only manage one further score from Murray, a penalty goal, and Newcastle hung on.

Newcastle 2nd XV.....13
Trentham 2nd XV.....0

The Newcastle side contained a number of first team players who were on the way back to fitness.

Newcastle had the upper hand early on but in typical 'local derby' fashion Trentham came back and missed two kickable penalties, before the home side took the lead.

Hooker Sam Gilby landed a penalty, before six minutes later the lead was nearly increased when after a fine break by Richard Owen, Julian Bebbington was stopped just short of the line.

The lead was increased, however, two minutes before the interval, when Phil Rhead crossed for a try after excellent work by the backs.

Nine points in front at the start of the second half, Newcastle continued in similar style, having the majority of the play, and sixteen minutes into the half Phil Paton went over for an unconverted try to put them 13-0 ahead.

That completed the scoring, but Newcastle always looked capable of more points, but were let down by their final pass.

RUGBY

was converted by Watson, gave Newcastle an early advantage, but they were unable to increase their lead due to poor finishing and place kicking.

This let Trentham back into the match and they hit back with a try by Smith, which was converted by Wayne Murray.

Newcastle had to battle hard to keep their lead in the second half as Trentham, for whom hooker Mick Bezus outstanding,

TRAILING by only four points with 10 minutes to go, Newcastle R.U.F.C., conceded two late tries to lose 30-14 away to Derbyshire Cup holders, Matlock.

Newcastle had the tonic of a try by left-wing Paul Barraclough, but trailed 12-4 at the interval. They raised their game for a spell, rewarded by tries from Mawby and Werikhe, one converted.

From 18-14, however, a disputed try to Matlock jolted Newcastle, who then conceded another touch-down in the dying seconds.

Newcastle lost the second team match 17-10, the thirds won 12-10, but the fourths were beaten 20-4.

Newcastle returned to better form in their merit table match with Shrewsbury, but had to be content with a 12-12 draw. Rob Mawby excelled in the centre for Newcastle, and from one of his breaks Richard Owen went over near the corner.

Dave Watson converted and kicked a penalty goal, Dave Holmes also adding a penalty, but Newcastle allowed Shrewsbury to come back to level in the second-half.

Newcastle II. lost 13-12, Sam Gilby (try) and Alan Griffiths (conversion, two penalty goals) scoring, but the thirds beat Shrewsbury 6-4.

Trentham full-back John Wiggins announced his retirement after his team were beaten 10-9 by Newcastle in a merit table match. He marked his last appearance by easily being Trentham's best player.

Tries by Clayton and Barraclough, one converted by Watson, gave Newcastle an early edge, but poor finishing and place kicking allowed Trentham to hit back with a try by Andy Smith, which Wayne Murray converted. With hooker Mick Bezus outstanding, Trentham's pack took control of the set pieces in the second-half, but all they could manage was a penalty goal by Murray.

Newcastle won the second team match 13-0, the third team fixture was drawn 12-12, and Trentham IV won 16-6. Trentham Veterans beat Dudley Kingswinford 9-6.

Dominated for long periods by a more experienced pack and beaten 22-9 by Tamworth, Newcastle suffered the ignominy of two pushover tries in the middle of an otherwise closely-fought game, though their cause was not aided when scrum-half Sands had to leave the field with an ankle injury.

Newcastle's points came from a try by Williams after a good break by Mawby. The try was converted by Watson, who also kicked a penalty.

Newcastle II beat Great Chell 6-4. Chell scored first with a try by Steve Burgess but Newcastle hit back with two penalties.

Newcastle III beat Great Chell II 27-4, Great Chell III beat Newcastle IV 19-9.

Newcastle Vets drew 0-0 with Stafford Vets and Great Chell IV lost 22-9 away to Willenhall V.

Williams try not enough

Newcastle 1st XV managed to cross the line only once against Tamworth, going down 22-9 in a game dominated for long periods by their opponents.

The sole try scorer for Newcastle was Williams, with Watson adding the conversion and also scoring a penalty.

Newcastle 2nd and 3rd XV's both recorded victories against Great Chell, winning 6-4 and 27-4 respectively, but the other encounter between the two clubs went 19-9 in favour of the Chell side.

There was no score in the match between Newcastle Vets and Stafford Vets.

Newcastle hold out

Newcastle I XV 3 Whitchurch I XV 3

Newcastle took on Whitchurch at Lilleshall-road in a Merit Table match.

The home team took the lead in the first minute, when full-back Dave Watson lended a penalty kick; only for Whitchurch to reply two minutes later in similar fashion.

Whitchurch began to attack strongly, but Newcastle withstood the pressure with good tackling and kicking by both Watson and Holmes.

The pattern of the game changed, and it was Newcastle's turn to attack with good scoring attempts by second row Toplass and winger Barraclough.

The second period started with a penalty award to the visitors, but the kick was unsuccessful.

Newcastle were reduced to 14 men when stand-off Dave Holmes left the field with an ankle injury. Whitchurch saw this as their chance to take the merit points, and piled on the pressure, but despite having five penalties awarded against them the home side held out.

Other results: Whitchurch 2nd XV 13, Newcastle 2nd XV 9; Newcastle 3rd XV 17, Whitchurch 3rd XV 10; Whitchurch 4th XV 27, Newcastle 4th XV 4; Newcastle Vets 12, Michelin II XV 18.

Fixtures (25/2/84):- versus Glossop, kick off 2.30pm. Newcastle Vets v. Warrington Vets.



Newcastle R.U.F.C. 2nd XV.

Newcastle fight back

Newcastle 1st XV 12, Burnage 1st XV 0

WITH the Lyme over its banks, and on a day when driving rain was not the ideal playing conditions, Newcastle entertained Burnage RUFC.

The weather caused a delayed start, but with the game underway, it was the visitors who applied the early pressure.

Newcastle defended well with some good kicking by Dave Watson and Dave Holmes. After 14 minutes centre Bob Mawby broke clear and ran at Burnage, being stopped just inside the 22.

From the scrummage the ball was released quickly to stand off Holmes, who put over the drop goal to give the home side a 3-0 advantage.

Conditions did not help Newcastle as they maintained their domination, with final passes going to ground after breaks by forwards Carter and Clayton.

A combined effort by these two players following a loose maul ended with John Clayton putting in Watson for the first try which he successfully converted after 30 minutes.

It was all Newcastle, with further scoring chances, however, being restricted to penalties, the last of which was successful giving the home side a 12-0 lead at half time.

There was no further score after the restart, with again ground and weather conditions playing a large part in restricting the game.

Other results: Burnage 2nd XV 7, Newcastle 2nd XV 12; Newcastle 3rd XV 16, Burnage 3rd XV 7; Burnage 4th XV 17, Newcastle 4th XV 8.

Fixtures: v. Old Longtonians, kick off 2.45pm. Warrington Vets v. Newcastle Vets.

Newcastle outpaced

TRAILING by only four points with 10 minutes to go, Newcastle R.U.F.C., conceded two late tries to lose 30-14 away to Derbyshire Cup holders, Matlock.

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A spirited performance by Newcastle's pack could not prevent a 10-3 defeat to a fast-running Mid-Cheshire College. Lacking penetration in the backs, Newcastle took the lead through a Watson penalty, but conceded tries on the stroke of half-time and in the second-half.

Mid-Cheshire College also won the second and third team fixtures, 9-3 and 18-3 respectively.

Newcastle returned to winning ways with a 21-7 victory over Willenhall in a merit table match. A sluggish first-half performance left Newcastle trailing 7-0, but they stormed through the second-half with a much more controlled performance.

Carter and Barraclough crossed for tries, Watson converting both and also kicking a penalty goal. Holmes dropped a goal and kicked a penalty.

In other matches with Willenhall, Newcastle II won 16-9, the thirds drew 10-10 and the fourths lost 15-6.

Although beaten 17-9 at Erdington, there was consolation for Newcastle in the display of their reshaped back division, who played well enough to suggest better things ahead.

The Birmingham side took advantage of tow untidy spells by Newcastle to score their points. Alan Griffiths got a penalty goal for the visitors and then converted a try by Dave Bladen, after good work by John Taylor. Newcastle attacked continuously in the later stages, but could not break through.

In other matches against Erdington, Newcastle II won 13-4, the third team lost 12-0, the fourths won 27-0 and the Veterans gained a similar margin against the Casuals.

Newcastle notched their sixth win of the season in beating Broughton 31-0 away. Their pack won ample possession and fly-half Holmes applied constant pressure with well-directed tactical kicks.

Slack, Read (2), Clayton, Wood and Huxley scored tries, Holmes kicking two conversions and Watson a penalty goal.

In other games against Broughton, Newcastle II won 24-12, but the thirds lost 16-15. The fourth lost 12-10 to Biddulph I and the Veterans beat Tamworth 14-3.
