

## Fixtures and Results 2019 - 20

### Wolves North 1 West

September 7	BURNAGE	W
14	Stockport	W
21	NORTHWICH	W
28	Penrith	L
October 5	ALTRINCHAM KERSAL	W
12	Broughton Park	W
19	WARRINGTON	W
26	Douglas IOM	L
November 2		
9	BOWDON	W
16	Vale of Lune	W
23	WATERLOO	W
29	SANDBACH (Cheshire Vase)	L
30		
December 7	Birkenhead Park	W
14	KESWICK	
21		
28		
January 4	STOCKPORT	
11	Northwich	
18	PENRITH	
25		
February 1	Altrincham kersal	
8	BROUGHTON PARK	
15	Warrington	
29	DOUGLAS IOM	
March 7	Bowden	
14	VALE OF LUNE	
21	Waterloo	
28	BIRKENHEAD PARK	
April 4	Keswick	
11	Burnage	
18		
25		

### Vikings Sale Sharks Division 2 South

Anselmians	W
NORTHWICH	W
Altrincham Kersal	W
CREWE & NANTWICH	W
Lymm	W
LIVERPOOL ST HELENS	L
Holmes Chapel	W
Didsbury Toc H (Cup)	P
HELSEBY	W
Didsbury TOC H	W
LIVERPOOL COLLEGIATE	W
Manchester	W
WIDNES	W
Moore	
Northwich	
ALTRINCHAM KERSAL	
Crewe & Nantwich	
LYMM	
Liverpool St Helens	
HOLMES CHAPEL	
Helsby	
DIDSBURY TOC H	
Liverpool Collegiate	
MANCHESTER	
Widnes	
MOORE	
ANSELMANS	



**Club President**  
**CHRIS GEORGE**  
**Welcomes**  
**KESWICK**



A warm welcome to Wilmslow Rugby Club for our match today against Keswick, the last match of 2019. Today is also the day we all get to wear our dreaded Christmas jumpers at the club to start the festive activities off – apologies in advance to our guests from Keswick, we hope you join in the fun!!

Last week was an excellent weekend for sport with the Wolves beating top of the table rivals Birkenhead Park 22-24 away on Merseyside. It was a very close fought duel in the end, and we were very happy to come away with 5 points and increasing our lead at the top of the table to 9 points over Park. Whilst it wasn't the best performance for the Wolves this season with us spilling the ball in the tackle eight times in the first half alone, in defence we were strong as our opposition gave us the toughest of tests. The Birkenhead Park hospitality was as good as ever and our own Barry Fisher got to carve the turkey, although Rick Green wasn't looking very happy at his plate!!

The Vikings played Widnes 2<sup>nd</sup> XV at home winning 29-19 and also took the 5 points to stay top of the Halbro Division 2. To round off a magical Saturday, United beat City in the derby, AJ showed Ruiz how to box, and I went to Stockport on Sunday to support our U12's and U16's who came away with decisive victories (always good to beat the old enemy!!). Whilst at Stockport "the Alleys" were quick to point out that they play us at Kings Road on January 4<sup>th</sup> when they hope to have a full team to play us. I'm sure that CJ and Jenno will have the lads well prepared for the return match.

This week the Vikings are away to Moore and hope to come home with a good win to stay top of the table going into 2020. We look forward to the Vikings returning to the club after the game in Warrington to join in the Christmas festivities.

Don't forget to come down to the Club for the Boxing Day Spectacular where Wilmslow U23's play Wilmslow HS Old Boys for the Sue Fisher Cup. Lots of mulled wine, the 200 Club Draw and as one Vet describes this annual match "it's like rugby only faster"!

Dates to save in your diaries for 2020:

The Annual Players Reunion is on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020; and

The Wilmslow Running Festival is on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020, comprising the Half Marathon, the 10k Run and the Fun Run.

### Halbro Senior U18 Colts : Senior League C

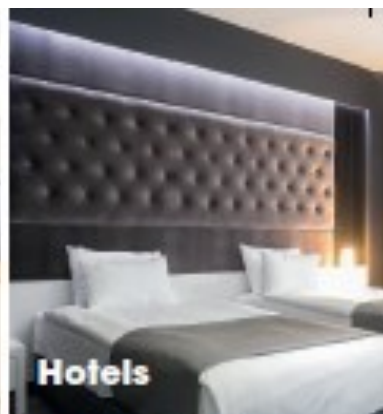
September 8	Caldy	W
15	LITTLEBOROUGH	W
22	Sefton	W
29		
October 6	ALDWINIANS	
13	Whitchurch	
20		
27		
November 3		
10		
17	SOUTHPORT	
24	Littleborough	
December 1		
8	SEFTON	
15		
22	Aldwinians	
29		
January 5		
12		
19	WHITCHURCH	
26		

February 2	Southport
9	CALDY
16	
23	
March 1	
8	
15	
22	
29	
April 5	
12	
19	
26	

**The Cheshire Colts Cup for U18s gets underway on 10th. November when Wilmslow play Chester. Only eight sides appear to**



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Vikings Coaches  
**Steve Braddock**  
**Al McLennan**  
**Mark Bartlem**

***Wilmslow RUFC is an open community based club, offering a game to anyone coming through the gates from the age of six upwards - with no upper age limit.***

***Nevertheless, subscriptions and bar receipts are just not sufficient to maintain the wonderful sports field we have here.***

***We, therefore, acknowledge and thank all those individuals and organisations, who have supported the club, the teams and the players this season either by sponsorship, advertising or donation. Without them we just would not be here.***

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## KESWICK RFC

I'm not aware that Wilmslow and Keswick have ever come up against each other before. We've played most, if not all, of the north westerly Cumbrian clubs at different times and it's a rare season that we don't visit one or other of Carlisle, Penrith, Wigton or Aspatria and not so long ago, Netherhall, remember them, and Egremont featured in what was then known as North West 2. Going even further back in the mists of time, Barry Fisher remembers playing at Whitehaven and

Workington at a time when Wilmslow would travel to take on a combined West Cumberland selection.

It was after one of the periodic league re-organisations circa. 2000 that trips to Cumbria dropped out all together, when Wilmslow played in the South Lancashire and Cheshire League, and only returned when we graduated to this level around 2007-08. So we're delighted that Keswick can now be added to the list of Cumbrian opponents and we'll look forward to the return trip in early April. Unfortunately, 4th. April clashes with the Easter school holidays so if anyone is thinking of making a weekend out of it, they had better make their bookings pdq., if they're not too late already.

Nevertheless Keswick RFC have unwittingly had a huge impact on this club's wellbeing. Back in the early 1980s, G G H Baker, then active at the club, went to Keswick with other luminaries of the time and participated in the Keswick Half Marathon, a circular sort of a run around Derwent Water, organised by Keswick Rugby Club to raise funds for the development of Junior rugby in the area. Graham was hugely impressed and came back with a proposal that Wilmslow Rugby club should do the same and a year later the inaugural Wilmslow Half Marathon took place on a route through



Mobberley, Great Warford, past the much lamented Stag's Head, into Alderley Edge and back down the A34. A few years later, the event's organisation passed to Wilmslow Running Club, the route was changed but ever since it's been a major local event every year and Wilmslow Rugby club, in common with other local sports clubs, have substantially benefited from grants that the Half Marathon committee have been able to make from the funds that the event generates from sponsors and over 4000 runners taking part each year. We have Keswick Rugby Club to thank for the inspiration which made it all happen.

Keswick were promoted to North 1 West this season after winning both the Cumbrian League and then winning a four club play off against Aspatria, Wigton and Cockermouth last season. The Cumbrian League is populated



almost exclusively by the West Cumberland clubs and until this season the winners would move up into the North Lincs and Cumbrian League, before joining this one. Whether or not it will prove to be a step too far for Cumbrian League clubs to come straight into North 1 West, time will tell. Keswick are the first to come up through the current arrangements and they've found it hard going since. In 2017-18, they had finished 4th. In NLC 1 behind De La Salle (Salford), Aspatria and Bolton, all clubs with a recent short tenure in N1W. Aspatria who finished second in the play off matches last season went up to the North 2 West league, where they're currently in the second half of the table

**Pictures from  
Keswick v Northwich  
26th. October**

Keswick's one success has been at home against Warrington last month. Two tries, one in each half, the second one after 73 minutes, were enough to despatch Warrington to the foot of the table for a week. It was an edgy affair at the end as Warrington pressed hard for a late score to salvage the game but Keswick held on. They then travelled to Bowdon a week later to go down by 36 - 5 and last week, they went down at home to Firwood Waterloo by 8 - 25. It was a cold drizzly afternoon at Davidson Park last weekend but by all accounts Keswick refused to be overrun. They

took an early lead but Waterloo had four tries by half time. Keswick though put on a good show in the second half which was shared, a try apiece. They could easily have had a second right at the end had the final pass not gone to ground.

Nothing is certain in rugby and we can be sure that our visitors will be up for this one. To head back home for Christmas with the Wolves scalp in their bag would give them no end of hope for the New Year and the second half of this season's campaign. The Wolves should take nothing for granted.

Wilmslow coach Chris Jones was in no doubt last week. Keswick is now the most important game of the season for us, he said, just after the Wolves had won at Birkenhead Park.



# Vikings and Colts

Division 2 South 2019-20

## 17th. November

Colts League C  
Wilmslow 0 – 12 Whitchurch

## 23rd.. November

League 2 South  
Vikings 34 - 29 Liverpool Collegiate

## 24th. November

Colts League C  
Littleborough 24 - 10 Wilmslow

## 30th. November

League 2 South  
Manchester 17 - 41 Vikings

## 7th. December

League 2 South  
Vikings 29—19 Widnes

## 8th. December

Colts League C  
Wilmslow 57—12 Sefton

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	+/-	Pts
Wilmslow Vikings	12	11	0	1	464	133	331	0	41
Liverpool St Helens 2	11	10	0	1	244	121	123	0	37
Didsbury Toc H 2	12	9	0	3	397	234	163	0	36
Holmes Chapel	12	6	0	6	267	240	27	3	34
Widnes 2	11	6	0	5	302	221	81	1	30
Crewe & Nantwich 2	11	6	0	5	253	184	69	2	29
Altrincham Kersal Cougars	11	6	0	5	328	297	31	1	26
Liverpool Collegiate 2	12	5	0	7	259	306	-47	1	25
Anselmians 2	12	5	0	7	233	268	-35	1	25
Moore	10	5	0	5	278	263	15	1	24
Manchester 2	12	4	0	8	289	356	-67	1	24
Northwich 2	11	4	0	7	191	357	-166	1	17
Lymm Eagles	12	2	0	10	263	526	-263	1	14
Helsby	11	1	0	10	100	362	-262	3	13

Concedes: Anselmians 1, Helsby 1, Crewe & Nantwich 1, Manchester 1

## Senior Colts Conference League - C 2019 -20

Team	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	+/-	Pts
Southport	7	7	0	0	174	26	148	0	35
Wilmslow	8	5	0	3	180	113	67	1	29
Whitchurch	7	4	0	3	128	68	60	2	24
Aldwinians	6	3	1	2	98	112	-14	0	20
Sefton	8	2	1	5	136	200	-64	3	19
Caldy Senior	7	2	0	5	108	174	-66	1	16
Littleborough Senior	7	1	0	6	73	204	-131	2	13

Concedes: Whitchurch1

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## Saturday 23rd. November 2019 North 1 West Wilmslow 34 - 6 Firwood Waterloo

The Wolves winning streak continued with six unanswered tries in their most complete performance of the season thus far against a Waterloo side, fancied by many to be in the promotional mix come next April.

Waterloo saw their fair share of possession, particularly in the second half, when their dangerous back three hoovered up any loose or misdirected kicks and initiated a series of threatening counter attacks, which had the Wolves penned back for lengthy periods. The Wolves defensive line though retained its discipline throughout and did well to restrict Waterloo to just two first half penalties.

In contrast, the visitors had no answer when the cavalry in the Wolves lethal back division got going. Sean Street, Bob MacCallum and Jonny Kennedy are as dangerous a midfield as any in this league, add Kieran O'Rourke, whose influence just grows week by week, the in form James Coulthurst, the powerful Mark Jennings together with Ethan Harding and Ben Day, when both are fit and available, and you have a unit capable of shredding any defence at this level on their day. And this was their day! Wingers Jamie Kingdon and Sam Cutts are also well capable of providing the finishing touches when given the chance. Up front, a recast pack, still short of several automatic first choices, more than held their own. The return of prop Adam Taher showed in a much improved scrummaging performance from the one that was pushed about the previous week at Vale of Lune. It was also gratifying to see players such as Conor McMurdock, the newcomer Ollie Stockwin and Jack Masters make full contributions at hooker, prop and No. 8 respectively.

Waterloo were first off the mark and had the better of the opening fifteen minutes, forcing the Wolves back and into early handling errors. After eight minutes, they deservedly took the lead with a simple penalty from their full back Darragh O'Brien. They were looking dangerous on the attack again when they were rightly penalised for crossing in the Wolves twenty two and the game then changed with a pair of line breaks from Wolves full back Mark Jennings, leading to the first of three scores for winger James Coulthurst. Five minutes later, quick clean scrum ball in the Waterloo twenty two released a bit of Merlin like wizardry from MacCallum, which opened up a channel for the Wolves second try from Kieran O'Rourke. The third followed two minutes later when Waterloo got turned over at the breakdown in the Wolves' half and a long kick and chase ended with Coulthurst prodding the ball over the line for his second touchdown.

Wilmslow were down to fourteen players, Sam Cutts being Yellow Carded for an unintended tip tackle, when O'Brien kicked Waterloo's second penalty. Then as half time approached a clean take in the lineout by Seb Pemberton was the prelude to the ball being fizzed across the line to Jennings, who created the space for Coulthurst to complete his hat trick on the stroke of half time.

In the second period, the Waterloo back three of full back Darragh O'Brien and wingers Jacob Allen and Luke Nelson were adept at fielding and running back any marginally inaccurate kicks coming in their direction but despite forcing the Wolves to defend deeply for lengthy periods, the visitors were unable to breach the Wilmslow line and their moves eventually broke down when they were forced into a loose or dropped pass. The Wolves still added two more tries, both absolute beauties. When the Waterloo hooker got Yellow for a piece of skulduggery, ten minutes into the half, MacCallum planted the kick well into the Waterloo twenty two, the lineout drive was then held until the ball was moved across the back line and a sizzling exchange of passes between MacCallum, Coulthurst and back to MacCallum had the No. 10 scampering in for the fifth try. The final try had its origins from a late scrum in the Wilmslow twenty two. Jennings made the initial foray down the narrow side and a multiphase passage of play from backs and forwards alike the length of the field ended with hooker McMurdock producing an outrageous side step and finding nobody in front of him he just trotted in to score under the posts. Arguably it was the best of the Wolves tries and a fitting final flourish.



One just had to applaud both the Wolves back play when they had possession and their achievement in denying Waterloo a try during their periods of ascendancy. As one of the old Wilmslow hands said afterwards, 'Coaches Chris Jones and Mark Jennings are clearly making progress on the training field, there was a growing accuracy and structure to the Wolves play and on this showing they deserve to be where they are.'

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## RUGBY WORLD CUP 2019

### Pool Matches Results

Japan 30 - 10 Russia.  
Ireland 27 - 3 Scotland  
Russia 9 - 34 Samoa  
Japan 19 - 12 Ireland  
Scotland 34 - 0 Samoa  
Ireland 35 - 0 Russia  
Japan 38 - 19 Samoa  
Scotland 61 - 0 Russia  
Japan 28 - 21 Scotland

France 23 - 21 Argentina  
England 35 - 9 Tonga  
England 45 - 7 USA  
Argentina 28-12 Tonga  
France 33 - 9 USA  
England 39 - 10 Argentina  
France 23 - 21 Tonga  
Argentina 47 - 17 USA  
England C France

Australia 39 - 21 Fiji  
Wales 43 - 14 Georgia  
Fiji 27 - 30 Uruguay  
Georgia 33 - 7 Uruguay  
Australia 25 - 29 Wales  
Georgia 10 - 45 Fiji  
Australia 45 - 10 Uruguay  
Wales 29 - 17 Fiji  
Australia 27 - 8 Georgia

New Zealand 23 - 13 South Africa  
Italy 47 - 22 Namibia  
Italy 48 - 7 Canada  
South Africa 57 - 3 Namibia  
New Zealand 63 - 0 Canada  
South Africa 49 -3 Italy  
New Zealand 71 - 0 Namibia  
South Africa 66 - 7 Canada  
New Zealand C Italy

### Play Offs

QF Japan 3-26 South Africa  
England 40 -16 Australia  
SF England 19-7 New Zealand  
F South Africa 32-12 England

New Zealand 42-14 Ireland  
Wales 20-19 France  
South Africa 19-16 Wales



19th. October 3.00pm  
GLOUCESTER

8th. November 7.45pm  
WASPS

21st. January 3.00pm  
NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

3 January 7.45pm  
HARLEQUINS

22nd. February 3.00pm  
LEICESTER TIGERS

7th. March 3.00pm  
LONDON IRISH

28th. March 3.00pm  
EXETER CHIEFS

18th. April 3.00pm  
BRISTOL SHOGUNS

9th. May 3.00pm  
SARACENS

16th. May 3.00pm  
BATH

5th. June 3.00pm  
WORCESTER WARRIORS

## Saturday Suppers after Rugby

Here are a couple of recipes which should go down well over the holiday period. The terrine is particularly powerful and tasty and good as part of a Boxing Day lunch or dinner.

### PORK TERRINE WITH APRICOTS AND PRUNES

250g minced pork (and/or diced pork belly), 150g sliced streaky rashers, 200g chopped pig liver, ½ chopped pig kidney, 50g unsalted butter, 200g chopped onions softened in 50g unsalted butter, 10 crushed juniper berries, 10 crushed black peppercorns and/or green peppercorns, 1 tsp salt, 2 cloves crushed garlic, ¼ tsp mace, ¼ tsp nutmeg, 1 tsp chopped thyme, beaten egg, 100g quartered dried apricots or prunes, 1 tbsp shelled pistachios, 25ml calavados, 25ml fino sherry, bay leaves.

Begin by cutting the liver and kidney into rough pieces, then place them in the food processor bowl and process until quite finely chopped. Now mix with the pork mince. Next stir in the onion, crushed juniper berries, crushed peppercorns, salt, mace, thyme, garlic and egg. Make sure everything is well distributed so the flavours merge. Add the dried fruit, pistachios, calvados and cider and then set aside for 2 hours.

Lay some of the bay leaves on the bottom of the terrine tin, pack the pork mixture on top, spread a few more bay leaves and juniper berries on the surface and bake for about 1½ hours in a bain marie (that's a roasting tin half filled with water).

Allow to cool with cling film and a brick on top to weigh it down so that it's not too crumbly to slice. Serve with cornichons, watercress and crusty bread or toast.

### TURKEY, HAM AND PISTACHIO PIE

Puff pastry, 250g pieces of diced ham, 400g turkey pieces from the joint, 2 diced onions, 2 chopped garlic cloves, 200g button mushrooms, 250ml chicken stock, 100ml double cream, 1tbsp ground black peppercorns, 100g shelled pistachios, 2tsp mixed herbs

Save yourself the bother of making the pastry. The ready rolled shop stuff is perfectly good. Simply line a pie tin with butter so the pastry doesn't stick to the sides. Now pick up the rolled pastry and carefully lay it in to the tin, trimming the excess away from the edges.

Soften the onion and garlic in butter and then stir in the ham dice, turkey pieces, mushrooms, pistachios, pepper, herbs cream and stock. We're looking for a thickish meat, mushroom and stock mixture, which we now tip onto the pastry. Now roll out the remaining pastry until it fits nicely on top as a lid. Prick a few times to allow the steam to escape, brush with a beaten egg and bake for 30 minutes or so until golden brown. Serve with a buttered baked potato.

To drink: Most medium bodied red wines will accompany these two dishes very well. Try a Kiwi Pinot Noir.

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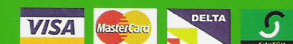
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## NORTH 1 WEST 2019-20

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pts	B Pts	Adj
<b>Wilmslow</b>	12	10	0	2	396	246	150	53	13	0
<b>Birkenhead Park</b>	12	8	0	4	386	213	173	44	12	0
<b>Burnage</b>	12	8	0	4	426	297	129	43	11	0
<b>Northwich</b>	12	9	0	3	316	227	89	41	5	0
<b>Altrincham Kersal</b>	12	7	0	5	352	260	92	40	12	0
<b>Penrith</b>	12	7	0	5	347	304	43	39	11	0
<b>Stockport</b>	12	7	0	5	341	285	56	38	10	0
<b>Firwood Waterloo</b>	12	8	0	4	317	232	85	37	5	0
<b>Douglas (I.O.M.)</b>	12	7	0	5	286	232	54	35	7	0
<b>Vale of Lune</b>	12	5	0	7	285	268	17	30	10	0
<b>Broughton Park</b>	12	4	0	8	260	338	-78	21	5	0
<b>Bowdon</b>	12	2	0	10	226	443	-217	12	4	0
<b>Warrington</b>	12	1	0	11	145	354	-209	6	2	0
<b>Keswick</b>	12	1	0	11	115	499	-384	5	1	0

### THIS WEEK'S OTHER MATCHES

**Altrincham Kersal v  
Douglas (IOM)**

**Bowdon v Penrith**

**Burnage v  
Birkenhead Park**

**Firwood Waterloo v  
Stockport**

**Northwich v  
Vale of Lune**

**Warrington v  
Broughton Park**

## League Fixtures & Results - 2019/2020

HOME TEAMS	Altrincham Kersal	Birkenhead Park	Bowdon	Broughton Park	Burnage	Douglas	Firwood Waterloo	Keswick	Northwich	Penrith	Stockport	Vale of Lune	Warrington	Wilmslow
Altrincham Kersal		31-17	49-3	28/3	11/1	14/12	29/2	44-24	17-25	29-24	14/3	18/4	8/2	1/2
Birkenhead Park	4/1		18/1	44-7	4/4	14/3	31-21	8/2	35-20	29/2	36-3	43-22	50-7	22-24
Bowdon	15/2	14-25		18/4	1/2	38-15	14/3	36-5	12-38	14/12	28/3	11/1	15-23	7/3
Broughton Park	10-41	7/3	34-14		21-6	15/2	4/1	68-10	21/3	34-20	18/1	20-22	4/4	17-24
Burnage	40-37	14/12	59-29	14/3		57-27	8/2	45-21	4/1	28-18	29/2	28/3	18/1	18/4
Douglas	4/4	22-17	4/1	39-7	21/3		15-17	18/1	6-17	8/2	31-0	7/3	20-8	38-34
Firwood Waterloo	16-12	1/2	63-10	61-15	37-27	11/1		28/3	15/2	18/4	14/12	20-14	7/3	21/3
Keswick	7/3	5-36	21/3	11/1	15/2	0-36	8-25		12-52	10-39	18/4	1/2	12-6	4/4
Northwich	18/1	18/4	8/2	23-15	24-20	28/3	16-12	29/2		14/3	7/3	14/12	27-3	11/1
Penrith	21/3	37-30	4/4	1/2	7/3	17-27	43-22	4/1	29-39		31-29	15/2	29-10	32-27
Stockport	27-26	15/2	33-17	34-12	23-43	1/2	4/4	69-3	31-21	11/1		38-29	21/3	22-29
Vale of Lune	24-26	21/3	40-24	29/2	12-17	20-10	18/1	43-5	4/4	19-28	8/2		28-18	12-19
Warrington	22-25	11/1	29/2	14/12	12-52	18/4	7-17	14/3	1/2	28/3	7-32	14/9		15/2
Wilmslow	28-15	28/3	59-14	8/2	36-32	29/2	34-6	14/12	35-14	18/1	4/1	14/3	47-22	

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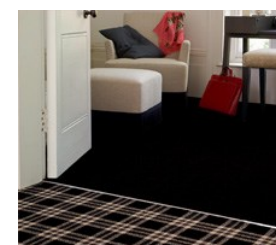
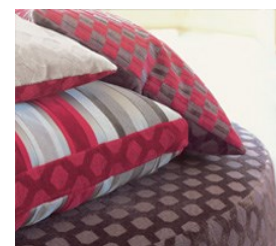
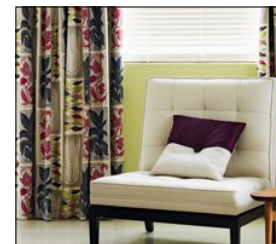
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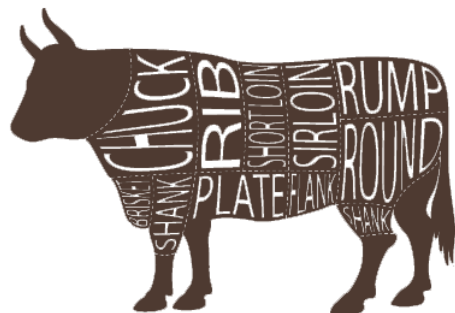
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## David Barker on Birkenhead Park

David Pike asked me after the game last week to pen a few words about my memories of matches over the years with and against Birkenhead Park.

Right at the top of the list is last Saturday's game which was not only one of the most exciting between the clubs I have ever seen, but also, from our point of view, the most heroic. What a game and well done to all the players.

In no particular order, other memories are that I got my very first Cheshire Cap at Birkenhead Park v. Northumberland in 1963. A 3 - 0 win for Cheshire! Barry Fisher tells me that his first Wilmslow cap was against Birkenhead Park, playing as a prop, in 1958!!

Other wonderful memories were winning the Cheshire Cup v. B.P. in 1973 at Chester after extra time. The team included amongst others, Steve Smith, John Hitch, brother Jim Barker, the great GWM Jones and Peter Shufflebottom our giant of a 1 second row. The picture shows a disgruntled Richard Haselhurst handing over the cup!



Beating B.P. in the second round of the John Player National Cup in 1972 as a prelude to stuffing Harlequins at Twickenham in the quarter final but sadly going out in the next round to Moseley.

Rick Green missing the final of the Cheshire Cup as his wife Dee was delivering her first baby and Alf Hitchcock in another match v. B.P. actually leaving the field of play as his wife was also producing.

In 1968 Tim Holloway and I went on tour with B.P. We first played Blackheath in London (won) then flew to Rome where we played Roma Olympic. At half time instead of oranges they brought on chilled glasses of Frascati (the Pope's favourite drink we were told!!!). Finally we flew back to Paris to play Stade Francais - an evening match under lights which again we won. The powers that be were so upset that they turned off all the lights in the stadium and our wonderful band of supporters had a hell of a job getting out! Others on this tour were Mike Elphick who transferred to us from B.P. and played second row for us for many years and Mike Chapman who played centre and wing. Both were fine additions to WRUFC.



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Tom Bull	<b>Barry Fisher</b>	James Nicholson	<b>Drew Donaldson</b>
James Coulthurst	<b>Curtaincraft</b>	Harry O'Loughlin	<b>Nick Fiennes</b>
Fraser Crawford	<b>Performance Acoustics</b>	Kieran O'Rourke	<b>Jon Hitch</b>
Ben Day	<b>Chris George</b>	Mike Parker	<b>Brooks Ltd</b>
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Gus Fiennes	<b>Brooks Ltd</b>	Andy Rimmer	<b>Norman Herring</b>
Charlie Gardiner	<b>KNH Plumbing</b>	Elliot Rowe	<b>Wizard Tea Rooms</b>
Ethan Harding	<b>Brooks Ltd</b>	Matt Shufflebottom	<b>T15 Consultancy</b>
Adam Hewitt	<b>Wilmslow U13s</b>	Loui Staples	<b>Drew Donaldson</b>
Rick Hughes	<b>David Barker</b>	Sean Street	<b>David Barker</b>
Mark Jennings	<b>Nick Jones Photography</b>	Jez Sumner	<b>Chris George</b>
Danny Kennedy	<b>Neubria</b>	Adam Taher	<b>Norman Herring</b>
Jonny Kennedy		Alex Taylor	<b>Iain Milne</b>
Jamie Kingdon	<b>CVSL</b>	Rob Taylor	<b>M2 Recruitment</b>
Sam Lawton	<b>Nigel Day</b>	Jack Walmsley	<b>Bryn Lewis</b>
Ollie Lee	<b>Jon Hitch</b>	Ollie Wilkinson	<b>T15 Consultancy</b>
Will Lees	<b>Performance Acoustics</b>	Tommy Wilkinson	<b>M2 Recruitment</b>
James Lewis	<b>Wilmslow U13s</b>	George Witham	<b>Brooks Ltd</b>
Rhodri Lewis	<b>Martin Ciconnani</b>	Ollie Witham	<b>Brooks Ltd</b>
Jack Masters	<b>Run Creative</b>		

## PLAYERS AND SPONSORS

The players and coaches would like to thank those organisations and individuals who are supporting the cause of Wilmslow rugby by becoming their personal sponsors. All the funds raised are directed towards funding coaching, kit, equipment, physios, team travel and other team expenses. No payments are made whatsoever to any individual to play. Our players are all amateurs, albeit at the serious end of amateurism. They train regularly as a team and put in a lot of time and personal effort to ensure their fitness to play at what is a demanding level..



Kieran O'Rourke



Charlie Gardiner

# in touch

## HOW TO WRECK YOUR CLUB

Last season Leicester South and Peterborough Lions were relegated from 2 North into the Midlands Premier League. Their respective committees then set about 'revising' their players' terms and conditions to reflect their new status at Level 5.

The result seems to be that Leicester South have lost all their players and have had to withdraw from the Midland Premier League, citing no front rows, player safety, blah...blah..blah .! Their second team also appears to have withdrawn from the leagues and the club will now play only friendly non league rugby until they are ready to be readmitted to the Midlands set up. At least, that's what it says on their web site.

The situation at Peterborough Lions is not just as drastic, not yet anyway, but all their first team players from last season have also b\*\*\*\*\* off in a huff and they've lost all ten of their matches this season, some of them by huge margins.

Reverting to amateurism is clearly not without its risks if you've been a paying club.

Our neighbours at Macc, who were the third club relegated from 2 North last season, are amongst the front runners in

the Northern Premier League and clearly haven't suffered the traumas affecting Leicester South and Peterborough Lions. Were Macc able to retain most of their players from last season or is it that they have just been able to bring in players from their 2018/19 Cotton Traders Premiership second team? Certainly this season's Macc Lions side doesn't seem to be doing quite as well as in the recent past.

In our league, our friends at Vale of Lune also suffered an exodus of players after their relegation from the Northern Premier League last season, we are told to financial inducements elsewhere but their new players appear to have settled down and now have close to a 50% win/lose record.

Of the relegated clubs from Level 5 last season, Wilmslow are not the only one amongst the leaders at Level 6.. Syston, Derby and Lichfield are all doing well in Midlands 1 East and West respectively.

I wonder what makes these three different from the rest. All amateur clubs, like us, I would guess, with probably much the same group of players as before

Kendal are mid table in North 1 East so it looks like the vast palatial set up at Mint Bridge will have to wait a bit longer for the level of rugby and kind of team it aspires to.

Most of the other relegated clubs from Level 5 in the London and South Western divisions are all mid table, at best, this season. ..

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**The Garner Cup will once again be held at Prestbury Golf Club on 21st. May, reports David Barker.**

**More details to follow.**



Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. November  
Wilmslow 7 – 12 Sandbach

Despite sub zero temperatures and threatening swirling mists, a decent crowd, winter mufflers and all, turned out to witness this semi final Cheshire Vase game. Visibility from the touch lines was poor so it was not always possible to see clearly which side was doing what, especially when play was on the far side of the pitch and at the far end. The players though could see well enough and produced a decent enough fast moving game in freezing conditions.



Sandbach have been plying their trade in the Midlands Premier League for several seasons now, a level above Wilmslow who are so far this season's pace setters in North 1 West, a level lower. It was an opportunity, therefore, to assess the difference between a fourth placed level 5 side and one at the higher levels of the grade below. In many respects, it turned out to be 'Déjà Vu'. Last season the Wolves found Level 5 rugby more than they could cope with. The pace of the game was just quicker, the skill levels and athleticism of the players higher. On the evidence of this game, one would conclude that not much has changed and that the chasm between the two levels is as much as ever. Last season though, the Wolves would have shipped a barrel load of points in this kind of game and it would have been out of sight by half time. This time, although well beaten at the end, they were not overrun, the two Sandbach tries arose more from their good play than any careless defensive lapses by Wilmslow, and mathematically it was a contest right to the final whistle. Nevertheless, should the Wolves retain their current league position for the season, they will now be in no doubt, if any ever existed, that they will need to raise their game significantly to do better a second time round at the higher level.

Once again, the Wolves were missing several automatic first choice players that they could have done with but everyone turning out had first team experience and those brought in had been doing well in Wilmslow's table topping second team. For

these players though, there would have been a big difference between playing against sides in the North West Intermediate League Division 2 South and one from the Midlands Premier League.

There wasn't much to choose between the sides in the first quarter. Sandbach looked dangerous and fluent when they passed the ball wide whilst Wilmslow made several promising line breaks, which unfortunately just fizzled out when the ball carrier got isolated. A marked difference between the two sides was that Sandbach always seemed to have players running off the ball in support of their ball carrier and their handling was more secure, which, of course, enabled them to retain possession for longer and to build periods of pressure on the Wolves defence.

On the quarter hour, Wilmslow took the lead when they won clean lineout ball in mid field and the ubiquitous Ben Day, playing at No. 14 this week, came in off the wing to break the Sandbach line and a couple of passes later, full back James Coulthurst was powerful enough to hold off the Sandbach tacklers to go in under the posts. It was a smart sequence which would have shown the visitors that the Wolves could play a bit with go forward ball. Unfortunately, they didn't have much more of that for the remaining sixty minutes.

That was quite long enough for Sandbach to get into gear and the longer the game went on the more they forced the Wolves back into their den. To add to their difficulties, the Wolves increasingly fell foul of referee Henry's whistle at the breakdown and the pressure just built. But their defence got stuck in and it wasn't until half time approached that Sandbach were able to create the space on their left wing to reduce the deficit.

Mark Jennings, something of a talisman for the Wolves, had to be replaced at half time and Sandbach then dominated the second half, which was conducted almost exclusively in or around the Wolves twenty two. When the Wolves did get their hands on the ball it was deep in their half, they were rarely able to get beyond halfway and when they did, it wasn't for long as the siege on their line was soon resumed. Almost inevitably the pressure finally told when well into the final quarter Sandbach sucked the Wolves defence in close and created the space out wide again on their left wing for the match winning score. They then only had to control events for the ten minutes or so remaining to run out winners, which they did without allowing the Wolves any real sniff of a chance. In fact, the Wolves were once again stuck back in their twenty two, when the game was brought to a close.

Sandbach were clearly the better side, a good shade faster all around the pitch with the skills and organisation to match but the Wolves had faced up to them for the duration and gave nothing away easily. They can take solace from having restricted Sandbach to just two tries.

Cheshire Vase

Wolves Players, Appearances and Point  
Scorers 2019 - 20

	Appearance	Tries	Drop Goals	Penalties	Conversions	Points
Jordan Ayrey	7	1				5
Nick Barker	1					
James Coulthurst	12	8				40
Sam Cutts	11	3				15
Ben Day	9	1				5
Alex Donaldson	1					
Charlie Gardiner	5					
Sammy Graham	1	1				5
Ethan Harding	11	2		1		12
Adam Hewitt	12	1				5
Richard Hughes	2					
Mark Jennings	10	7		2		39
Chris Jones	1	1				5
Danny Kennedy	6					
Jonny Kennedy	5	3		3		21
Jamie Kingdon	12	10				50
Sam Lawton	11					
Ollie Lee	9					
Rhodri Lewis	3	1				5
Bob MacCallum	13	2		2	41	98
Conor McMurdock	5	1				5
Jack Masters	10	1				5
James Nicholson	2					
Matthew Norfolk-Clarke	3					
Kieran O'Rourke	8	1				5
Harry Patch	1					
Rick Parker	1					
Mike Parker	6					
Seb Pemberton	9	2				10
Andy Rimmer	4					
Matt Shufflebottom	9					
Loui Staples	1					
Ollie Stockwin	5					
Sean Street	12	13				65
Adam Taher	12	4				20
Alex Taylor	10	3				15
Robert Taylor	12	1				5
Tommy Wilkinson	3	2				10
George Witham	1					



Birkenhead Park  
7<sup>th</sup>. December



WHAT THEY SAID AT WATERLOO

Firwood Waterloo's hopes of extending their five match winning sequence came to an abrupt halt away at Wilmslow, as they conceded six tries in a 34 – 6 loss.

This was always set to be a tough fixture against a side that has only failed to take a try bonus point once this season and picked up a losing bonus point in both of their only losses. Yett the boys in myrtle started confidently, as has become their custom, taking the game to Wilmslow. They had good early spells of possession through keeping play close to the forwards. This helped them to a 0 - 3 lead through the boot of the ever dependable Daragh O'Brien.

Wilmslow remained patient and inevitably worked their way into the game as their forwards established a platform for the backs to score. They were very clinical in converting the few chances that were presented. Their third try started from deep in their 22 when they kicked long for their winger to win the chase for the ball and to cross the whitewash.

Following a high tackle, the home side were reduced to 14 but 'Loo were unable to properly capitalise as the home defence held firm. A penalty from a deliberate knock on was their only score in this period, reducing the deficit to 14.

Wilmslow's bonus point try came towards the end of the first half as their impressive backs engineered an overlap to score for a lead of 22 - 6.

In the second half the boys from Blundellsands again started with an attacking intent yet despite good periods of possession failed to add to their tally. The forwards maintained pressure on the home defence but they lost possession through slips at vital moments. Whilst there were good individual breaks from midfield notably by Captain Jack Weare, Daragh O'Brien and Kurt Riley, they made too many unforced errors in their opponent's 22. They needed quicker ball to threaten the home side more consistently, although they did restrict them to two second half tries.

The large travelling contingent from Blundellsands witnessed an accomplished performance by the home side who continue to make a strong case for the automatic promotion place at the end of the season. After the match coach Stuart Turner was realistic in commenting, "Not a good day at the office for us. We knew how good they can be and we needed to be on our top form to compete. I thought we competed well in many phases of the game, but we needed to convert our chances. Few sides will leave Kings Road with points this season."

James , Could you summarise your personal 'rugby journey' to date and your key experience's here at Wolves?

Nick Jones's Profile of James Coulthurst

• What have been some of the 'Highs' and 'Lows'?  
Highs – Definitely the play-off final against Driffeld and of course winning !!.. It was pretty special!  
Scoring the winning try is something I'll never forget.  
Simply fantastic #WWIMH !.  
Outside of Wilmslow, captaining my childhood club, Leicester Forest for 3 years was a big honour. Playing a season in New Zealand was an unreal experience and being able to put the Napier old Boys Marist 1st XV shirt on was 'sweet as ..bro !'

Lows - playing Vale of Lune away during hurricane Barbara, hiding behind the post pads at every chance possible!  
All in all it was a horrific experience, as was getting my front teeth knocked out.. it was far from ideal. The Silver lining though, was getting a new set of Gnashers! They looked like burnt fence posts before that!

• .... and of course the funniest ?  
There's one that stands out .. but I definitely can't write down for public record or fear of prosecution!  
One I can document is The Driffeld play-off fixture, laughing in the pre -game huddle whilst wearing Driffeld's away kit, because, for what was arguably the biggest game in Wilmslow's history, we'd forgotten our match shirts **"We play for the badge today lads!"** It turned out to be a good ice breaker and definitely helped us shake off pre match jitters!

• Who are the coaches, players, & teammates that inspired you  
Coach - Got to be Hughesie, still playing first team rugby at 53 is not only inspiring! It's a medical miracle! Team mates - Keith Harding, he's just unbelievably wise.

• What encouragement do you give your team mates?  
Just always BE POSITIVE. We all make mistakes and I believe how you react to them matters, so move on to the next job, don't carry the baggage of what went wrong, just keep improving how you address a situation .. I like the way we are playing as backs and the coaching has been great this season

• What do you feel is the most important personal attribute required to be successful in the team?  
Having the right mentality definitely! Whether that's to be able to work hard when it's tough or the ability to execute a skill or make the right decisions under pressure. God, I'm such a rugby nausea or .. maybe its just about being a bit rugby mental ? who knows

• What's the hardest challenge you've ever faced?  
Doing the 'Jimmer Skydive' on the bus... if you know, you know if you don't you wont find out from me ! what goes on tour....

• Your Favourite Film and Quote ?  
Inglorious Basterds: "You probably heard we ain't in the prisoner-takin' business, we in the killin' Nazi business..and cousin.. business is a-boomin'"

• And after Wilmslow... What's your Favourite Rugby team ?  
Leicester Tigers.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. December 2019 North 1 West  
Birkenhead Park 22 – 24 Wilmslow

In the end it was strength of character, willpower and a never say die spirit which enabled the Wolves to hold on for five more league points against their closest challengers at the top of the North 1 West League. If you had been expecting a close hard fought tense encounter, befitting a top of the table clash, then you wouldn't have been disappointed

In the face of relentless attack from Birkenhead Park in the final, seemingly interminable, play of the game, the Wolves defence was just heroic. Park threw everything they knew at Wilmslow for the single score which would have tied it up for them. Their forwards, as they had done all afternoon, drove again and again, wedged together in a kind of medieval phalanx and when they stalled, the cavalry in their backs tilted their lances and charged at Wilmslow's blue line. It wasn't for bowling, the tackles just flew in and when one man was stopped, the tackler just got to his feet and covered across to take out the next one. It was one for all, all for one amidst a backdrop of high drama but in the final analysis, you just wonder how Park failed to get that winning score. They created plenty of chances for themselves, not least when they spurned a very kickable penalty in this final phase. Why on earth didn't they take the three points on offer and settle for a four point league win? Had their thinking fallen victim to 'White Line Bonus Point' fever? If the roles had been reversed, what would Wilmslow's Bob MacCallum have opted for?

Once again, coach Chris Jones had had to wrestle with a lengthy list of injuries. By his reckoning, eleven of his squad could not be considered for selection but there is more strength in depth at the club this year, witness the second string Vikings carrying all before it. On paper it didn't quite look the Wolves strongest selection but with Street, MacCallum, Harding, Day and Coulthurst in the back line, there was still plenty of potent running fire power, which was to prove decisive. A word too for Harry Patch, who had answered the call from afar for an all too rare appearance. Up front the smallest man of all, Conor McMurdock, playing at hooker was simply outstanding in everything he did. The front row was up against arguably the strongest and heaviest pack in the league. Ms. Taher, Parker and Stockwin all acquitted themselves with distinction and there were no slouches in the back five either. Coach Chris Jones was full of admiration for his players afterwards. 'Performances like that, he said, just don't happen by chance. It was testament to all the hard work and effort from the players since last summer. Their defence has been getting stronger week by week but on this occasion it was unbelievable.'

But it didn't start at all well. Within a minute, the Wolves had meekly coughed up possession at the breakdown, which should have been much more secure than it was. Park then got the benefit of the bounce of the ball and a delicate cross kick by their scrum half Sam Orr sat up perfectly for right winger Sam Tyrer to gather the ball and from just a metre or so to touch down.

Wilmslow's ball retention continued to be insecure in the tackle and at the breakdown but on the half hour it all came together when left winger Jamie Kingdon breached the home defensive line and when the ball was recycled, centre Ethan Harding's judgement to straighten the line was spot on and his perfectly timed pass to Ben Day gave the outside centre all the space he needed to run in for the equalising score, converted by MacCallum. Moments later Park were awarded a penalty in mid field and from the ensuing lineout, they drove and picked and drove again to regain the lead, lock jack Ashcroft touching down. It was then the Wolves turn to show that they also knew how to score from a close in lineout as they worked one of their favourite front of lineout moves to put Alex Taylor over in the corner for twelve apiece at half time.

The second half got underway in much the same vein. Park tended to rely on their pack to bludgeon its way up the field, whilst the Wolves would counter with enterprising penetrative running from their backs. Park went ahead again, when they opted for three points from a penalty. This was followed by an excellent piece of handling by the Wolves, backs and forwards alike, which ended with lock Seb Pemberton running clear down the left wing for an inside floated pass that saw scrum half Sean Street cross unopposed. Cue for Park's forwards to force themselves over from yet another of their well drilled forward drives, flanker Sean Mooney getting the try. Once again though, the Wolves responded by running and punching hard at the Park defence and when it opened up, Street was off again for the fourth try. Maulled again by these opportunistic Wolves, Park raised the tempo and the Wolves had to dig deep to keep them at bay. They then nearly had a fifth try, which would have put them out of sight when Street broke away again from half way but he knocked on when trying to collect his own kick ahead at full gallop.

And so to the final pulsating play of the game. Park were on their own line but they worked their way slowly down the field, making no mistake which would have been terminal. They lay siege to the Wilmslow line, got awarded a couple of penalties when the Wilmslow defence was forced to infringe but when they finally got turned over on the Wilmslow line after a multitude of phases and the ball was blasted into touch, the local referee, Jimmy Taggart, making no new friends at Park, blew for no side.

It had been a real top of the table encounter between two sides, both show casing their respective strengths. Park though will be kicking themselves for not taking the opportunity but in mitigation, they were up against a Wilmslow side, who have only once failed this season not to score at least four tries and whose defence must now be one of the hardest in the league to break down.

Chris Jones soon turned his thoughts to the visit of Keswick next week. 'That now becomes the most important game of the season, he said, they're a proud club, they have nothing to lose and they'll be up for it'

## SPECTATOR AND PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Show respect for officials and other players
- Encourage in your support
- Be courteous to all
- Applaud good play
- Verbally support in a proactive manner
- Remember victory is not everything
- Children are playing for their own enjoyment
- Enjoy the day and transmit that enthusiasm to the players



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## SPECTATOR AND PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Do not force your child to play
- Do not stray on to the pitch at any time
- Do not verbally abuse match officials - remember, they are volunteers
- Do not verbally abuse players or other spectators
- Do not use bad language
- Do not threaten or intimidate
- Do not become involved in physical aggression
- Do not do anything which is likely to offend by way of insult, humiliation or discrimination



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**NEXT MATCH AT THE MEMORIAL  
GROUND**

**BOXING DAY**  
**Wilmslow U23 v Wilmslow HSOB**

The Wolves are away on 11th. January at  
Northwich

**NORTHWICH RUFC**  
**'Team of the Town'**  
**MOSS FARM, FIRDALE RD.,**  
**NORTHWICH CW8 4BH**

Exit the M56 at the Altrincham turn off and take the left turn at roundabout onto the A556 towards Chester. Keep on the A556 until you cross the river Weaver and immediately afterwards turn right into School Lane. At the end of School lane, turn right into Chester Rd. (A559) and continue until you turn left in to Moss Rd. (B5374). The first turn left is Moss Lane, which you take, cross over Firdale Rd and into the Moss Farm leisure complex.

## TODAY'S REFEREE



**Andrew Irvine**  
**MDRURS**

**Wolves Saturday afternoon kick off  
times at The Memorial Ground will be  
at 3.00pm. throughout the season**



**Saturday 14th. December 2019**  
**North 1 West**  
**Wilmslow v Keswick**

### Wilmslow

15. Ben Day
14. Harry Patch
13. Richard Hughes
12. Ethan Harding
11. Jamie Kingdon

10. Bob MacCallum
9. Sean Street

1. Ollie Stockwin
2. Conor McMurdock
3. Adam Taher
4. Charlie Gardiner
5. James Nicholson
6. Jack Masters
7. Sammy Lawton
8. Alex Taylor

### Subs

Rhodri Lewis  
Chris Jones  
Toby Rowe

### Keswick

15. Andy Wallace

14. Chris Potter
13. Joe Bagnell .
12. Lewis Bell
11. Ryan Weir.

10. George Holme
9. Danny Price

1. Craig Fairclough
2. Dom Maguire
3. Mike Tait
4. Carrick Wharmby
5. Dan Harrison
6. Jake Winter
7. Christian Sellars
8. Joe Quail

### Subs

Josh Dare  
Daniel Allaker  
Aaron Howitt



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**Wishing the Wolves a Successful Season**