

Fixtures and Results 2013 - 14

Wolves NIW		Vikings Standish Media Services 1	Developmentals Raging Bull 3S	
September 6	New Brighton	DE LA SALLE	W	Broughton Park
13	KENDAL	Altrincham Kersal	W	MOORE 2
20	Carlisle	CALDY 3	W	Anselmians 2
27	VALE OF LUNE	Firwood Waterloo		SANDBACH
October 4	Broughton Park	WIRRAL		Wirral 3
11	WIDNES	Warrington		MANCHESTER 2
18	Warrington	ROSSENDALE		Birchfield 2
25	KIRKBY LONSDALE	Blackburn		BROUGHTON PARK 4
November 1	Eccles	ALDWINIANS		Christleton 1
8	Winnington Pk (Vase)	Lymm		Winnington Park 2
15	BIRKENHEAD PARK	WHITCHURCH		LIVERPOOL UNI VETS
22	Wigton			
29	Bolton			
December 6	PENRITH	Liverpool Collegiate		FIRWOOD WATERLOO
13	Kendal	ALTRINCHAM KERSAL		Moore 2
20		BOLTON		Lymm 3
27				
January 3	CARLISLE	Caldy		ANSELMANS 2
10	Vale of Lune	FIRWOOD WATERLOO		Sandbach 3
17	BROUGHTON PARK	Wirral		WIRRAL 3
24				
31	Widnes	WARRINGTON		Manchester 2
February 7	WARRINGTON	Rossendale		BIRCHFIELD 2
14				
21	Kirkby Lonsdale	BLACKBURN		Broughton Park 4
28	ECCLES	Aldwinians		CHRISTLETON 1
March 7	Birkenhead Park	LYMM		WINNINGTON PARK 2
14				
21	WIGTON	Whitchurch		Liverpool University Vets
28	BOLTON	Bolton		LYMM
April 4				
11	Penrith	LIVERPOOL COLLEGIATE		Firwood Waterloo
18	NEW BRIGHTON	De La Salle		BROUGHTON PARK 3
25				



Club President
NIGEL DAY
Welcomes
VALE OF LUNE



Our visitors to the Memorial Ground, today, Vale of Lune RUFC, also the summer home of John O'Gaunt's Bowmen, one of the oldest archery clubs in the UK with a history going back to the 1780's, for the past 30 years. Despite narrowly losing in their encounter last weekend against Birkenhead Park, Vale came away with two valuable bonus points to retain second spot in the league.

Wilmslow, on the other hand, were always playing catch-up away at Carlisle last week. Jonah, Ric Hughes and Pudsey will have used training, this week, to try and get the set pieces firing, which all seemed to go AWOL against Carlisle. Two well taken tries were not enough to come away with any points, so I guess the atmosphere on the coach trip home will have picked up, however, imagine what it would have been like with all the points in the bag. So today's game against Vale is an opportunity to recover our composure and get back on track.

That said, we are only three games in to the season and despite the temptation, and the example that football sets, it is a bit early in the season to decide who is going up or down at the end of the season in April 2015!

We are all aware of those little indiscretions by professional sportsmen and women in almost every sport but every so often one crops up that lets us mere mortals know that those we put on pedestals are mortal after all, I'm talking about Aaron Cruden missing the All Black's flight to Argentina having been out for a 'few beers' the night before! This clearly has not amused Steve Hanson and, with Dan Carter currently out injured, has only added to the pressure on the seemingly invincible the All Blacks in the Rugby Championship.

Wilmslow Vikings (2nds) currently sit in 2nd place in the league following a solid win against Caldly, 53 – 12, here at home. A number of Vikings 'newbies' made their debut appearance which led to a rapid start with a couple of quick scores, from there they sat back and allowed Caldly back in to the game and eventually organising themselves to run out winners 53-12. Notable performances from Rowe, Thomas and Clawson combined with a bit of 'hat trick avoidance' from a member of the front row...you'd have thought he'd want to crow about it!

Unfortunately, The Ravens (3rds) had to withdraw from last weekend's fixture against Anselmians, due to a sudden shortage of players; clearly something that needs addressing at all levels of the club to prevent this happening again. Jim, Matt and Bryn have been working hard this week to ensure player's future availability and commitment.

Injuries, particularly, in rugby are causing more and more problems for clubs up and down the country, from Leicester, who suffered at the hands of Bath at the weekend, no Tom Youngs and no Geoff Parling to Wilmslow with a longer than wished for injury list...and so early in the season. As players get bigger and stronger, and are able to hit the tackles, rucks and mauls harder it is not possible to increase the resistance of the body to withstand these hits. Combined with the often seen propensity to take the tackle rather than avoid it, it can only lead to a continuing problem, particularly for those clubs with limited resources and squads.

And on a final note, before today's action kicks off, Good luck to Vale with their Ice Bucket Challenge on Sunday, nominated by Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club!

Senior Colts (U18s) Raging Bull Intermediate Colts League : Division A	
September 7	Penrith
14	CALDY
21	Bury
28	CHESTER
October 5	Wirral
12	SEFTON
19	Cockermouth
26	VALE OF LUNE
November 2	Fylde
9	Caldy
16	BURY
23	Chester
30	County Cup Rd
December 7	WIRRAL
14	Sefton
21	
28	

**Cheshire Vase
Round 2
Saturday 8th. November
Winnington Park v Wilmslow**

January 4	COCKERMOUTH
11	Vale of Lune
18	
25	FYLDE
February 1	County Cup Rd
8	
15	PENRITH
22	
March 1	League Cup Rd
8	League Cup Rd
15	League Cup Rd
22	County Cup Rd
29	League Cup Rd
April 5	
12	League Cup Rd
19	
26	League Cup Finals
May 3	County Cup Finals

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Replica Jerseys

I read with interest the RFU's announcement that two newly designed jerseys will be worn in the autumn internationals against New Zealand on 8th. November and against Samoa on 22nd. November and that replicas will be available at £91 each. What's more, jerseys to be worn during the World Cup will be launched in May and it would be naïve to imagine that the price tag for these would be less. You can work out for yourself how much the full set will cost. I personally won't be buying any of them.

All I would like is for the RFU to sort out their new 'Fixtures and Results' page on their web site. On the old page, which is no longer updated, you could copy your club's league table and paste it easily into MS Word and from there into MS Publisher, where this publication is produced. You can't do that any longer as the new page only allows you to export the table into Excel. It's a tortuous process, then editing it and importing it into MS Publisher and only slightly easier getting it into MS Publisher via Word. Why can't it be exported or copied and pasted into Word, I know not. I sent an email explaining the problem to the RFU's 'Fixtures and Results' address but haven't had the courtesy of any acknowledgement or reply, which confirms what many of us believe already that they really couldn't give a tinker's fart about the volunteers, who do all the behind the scenes stuff at any rugby club. But then I'm a pensioner and can't afford to wear an RFU replica jersey!

Clearly though, the replica jersey business must be profitable so I was disappointed not to see any item or discussion on the subject in our committee's latest minutes. A limited edition of Wilmslow jersey replicas could easily become a collector's item, commanding a price premium on the RFU's product, because there would be so few of them. Just imagine, how much you'd get for a replica No. 10 jersey with MacCallum's name on the back. The kids would love it and their dads would pay a fortune. If only.....

Making An Impression

Former Wolves scrum half Charlie Mulchrone, once a Macclesfield Blue, a Rotherham Titan and now a Worcester Warrior, hit all the right notes in his home debut at Sixways a fortnight ago against Moseley in the Championship. In a livewire performance, he scored twice, once from a lineout



when he dummied, before ducking and diving over from five metres after twenty three minutes and then early in the second half, he received the ball in his own half before setting off to break the Moseley line for a sixty metre run to the line.

Much more of that and they'll make him Lord Mayor of Worcester.

Meanwhile, brother Fergus scored for London Irish against Newcastle, making it a good day for father Paddy.

'When Irish eyes are smiling, it's like a dawn in June, To the sound of Irish laughter, you can hear the angels sing!'

Both Mulchrones played last weekend, Fergus against Saracens and Charlie against Doncaster but neither troubled the scorer.

Poor Decisions

I made some poor decisions about my alcohol intake an All Black is reported as saying after missing the team's flight to the US. Quite!

How many other poor decisions are made, I wonder, by less exalted players on any particular night of the week.

David Morton last week in Carlisle wrote that as an amateur club, they had to accept that there would be times when players wouldn't be available to play or for training because of work reasons, holidays and so on. I guess he could have added alcohol intake to the list.

Certainly, Kendal admitted to a team change when they visited us a fortnight ago because one of their players had turned up for training on the Thursday with an excess of alcohol intake, incurred in the beer tent at the Westmorland county show that afternoon.

2014 - 2015 SEASON
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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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Saturday 20th. September Carlisle 25-12 Wilmslow

Away wins are always hard to come by and the task becomes even more difficult when you are forced into team changes, which you would probably have preferred not to have had to make. For this game, the Wolves had to draft in several players with limited experience at this level and others had to play out of position. Inevitably they found it hard to adapt to the demands of North 1 league rugby.

That is not to say that they didn't commit themselves wholeheartedly to the cause. They tackled and they defended until they dropped. Some of the older hands, MacCallum, Day and Clifford were relentless, urging their team mates on. Toby Rowe, back from cricket, stood out with some exciting play from full back and the much improved Adam Hewitt put in a full stint at No. 6. But it wasn't to be enough. Rugby is a hard hard game to play without sufficient possession of the ball and the Wolves set piece play, scrum and lineout creaked all afternoon.

On the other hand, there was an air of confidence in Carlisle. After a poor season last year, the talk is of a new look young side, with the potential to go places. They started with a good home win against Eccles and were unlucky to lose in the final moments at Birkenhead Park last week. Despite enforced changes in their line up, there was still plenty of belief as they set about outplaying Wilmslow in most facets of the game.

They dominated the opening minutes and it was no surprise when third choice fly half James Rocke landed a penalty after five minutes. The first scrum on the Wolves put in was shunted ten yards back. The squat little Tom Graham in the Carlisle front row could hardly keep up, it was going back so fast. Nor was the second scrum much better. Wolves full back Rowe rescued a situation on his line when it looked as though the home side must score and they did on the quarter hour when a long clearing kick by MacCallum was fielded on the touchline in his own half by Carlisle's full back Matthew Minett. There wasn't much wrong with MacCallum's kick but nobody could do anything about Minett's surging run down the middle without any hand being laid upon him. It looked as though he would score himself but unselfishly he passed to his centre Dan Holmes who raced over the line.

At this stage, the Wolves had barely been out of their own half and certainly hadn't managed a concerted attack of their own. But they now had a bit of luck when a Carlisle forward dropped the restart. The scrum was messy but they managed to get the ball away along the line to Max Harvey on the right wing who was held up just short. Back it came left to Hewitt, who confounded the home defence with something that looked like a dummy and went through the gap to score. The Carlisle players must have been wondering, when MacCallum's kick went over, how they were only 8-7 ahead.



The Wolves forced another two or three promising positions in the second quarter but critical lineouts and scrums went awry and there was no further scoring up to half time.

Just as against Kendal the week before, the Wilmslow back three conspired to drop the ball early in the second half, enabling the home side to sustain pressure onto the Wilmslow defence, who despite scrum and lineout chances just couldn't clear the ball. Almost inevitably, Carlisle eventually strung a move together to put young left winger Yousef Sahib in for a score. This was followed by a kick to the corner by Minett, now playing at number 10. They took the lineout, crabbed across to under the posts and then when they recycled the ball right, Minett was in on the right. Down 18-7 away from home, nearly thirty minutes still to play, the omens for the Wolves weren't good.



Nevertheless, they got into Carlisle territory and when a clearing kick was taken on halfway, MacCallum spotted space and then off loaded to Day, who put right winger Ian Culligan in for a try. It was virtually a carbon copy of Holmes first half try for Carlisle.

Briefly there was hope but the traffic was still mainly towards the Wilmslow line and when Rowe, quite correctly tried to thump the ball downfield into space for a chase, it was only taken comfortably by that man Minett, who off loaded to his big second row for a powerful gallop down the field and then took the return pass for the final score, which he converted himself. It was a good afternoon for him.

Saturday 13th. September Wilmslow 19—22 Kendal

Wilmslow produced their best performance of the season so far but still ended up being edged out by a resilient Kendal outfit. It was an enthralling contest between the free flowing Wolves backs and back row forwards against the gritty and powerful Kendal forwards.

With two Cumbrian county props in their ranks and a front row with well over a thousand appearances for Kendal, the visitor's pack became more and more of a potent force as the game progressed. Some careless play at the start of the second half by Wilmslow backs had allowed the Kendal forwards to set up camp in the Wolves twenty two. Young Robert Taylor, playing on the Wilmslow tight head, stood out like a beacon and was hardly shifted throughout but the pressure on the loose head caused the Wolves all manner of problems and prevented them from clearing their lines. Eventually after over ten minutes of desperate defence, the referee awarded Kendal a penalty try.

The final denouement for the Wolves took place only three minutes from no side. Once again, the Wolves scrum was disrupted, the ball squirted out and the experienced Kendal scrum half James Gough stole it to nip in for the winning score. That they were in that position at all was the result of some harsh refereeing by the otherwise excellent Robert Sheard. The Wolves had stolen a Kendal throw at the lineout and broken out of defence with some powerful running by Mike Black and Alex Taylor, who was then penalised for not releasing in the tackle. Crucially though, he did not seem to be held so he rose to his feet again and gained another ten yards. It was the sort of play, you see regularly go unpenalised but Mr. Sheard saw it differently and the resulting kick had put the Wolves back in deep defence from where Gough eventually got the decisive score. Sometimes, you don't get 'the rub of the green' or 'the fall of the dice goes against you' and for the Wolves this was such an occasion.

The first notable incident took place in the first minute of the game when full back Jack Harrison's clearance was taken by Kendal centre Mark Carruthers and the ball passed to Bob Mataia on the Kendal left wing. It was the first touch of the ball in English rugby for the Auckland born Samoan, just arrived from Brisbane. Sheer strength at pace had a Wilmslow defender, to the gasps of the crowd, knocked back yards and only a desperate lunging tackle from Lawrence James prevented Mataia from getting away. He looked a real threat every time he got the ball and will cause plenty of mayhem in N1W defences this season. No wonder the Kendal official who had tracked him down was pleased with himself afterwards. In the next play, the Wolves were penalised and Kendal full back Chris Park opened the scoring with a straightforward kick at goal.

The Wolves now got themselves into Kendal territory and from a lineout, won by the increasingly prominent Adam Hewitt, the forwards drove and then released hooker Josh Whiteley on the narrow side who darted over. There was some debate over whether Whiteley had a foot in touch or not but the referee decided that he touched down before his leg touched the ground out of play. It was the sort of incident which in the professional game is the subject of the TMO and endless playbacks.



The game now ebbed and flowed from one end to the other, with neither side enjoying any consistent advantage until Max Harvey came in off the Wilmslow left wing and made a mazy run through the heart of the Kendal defence. The ball was recycled, the forwards were held up on the Kendal right and when it was recycled right, Lawrence James had a clear run for the Wolves second try after twenty five minutes, imperiously converted from the touchline by Bob MacCallum. Harvey nearly had a score of his own after another lineout from a MacCallum penalty to within five yards of the Kendal line and the Wolves tails were up, until Kendal's Park saw no-one at home and kicked through for a long chase to the Wilmslow line. The Wolves cleared it this time but a break from a midfield scrum on the stroke of half time by Kendal No. 8 James Thompson, carried on by the South African flanker Rhys Studt, let Gough in for the first of his two tries.

After going 12-15 behind to Kendal's penalty try, the Wolves had fifteen minutes of decent pressure themselves. First Ben Day made a searing break from his twenty two and when he was forced to kick ahead, Mataia was caught in possession as he tried to field the ball on his own line and although Kendal managed to clear their lines this time, they had no answer when the Wolves immediately came again with MacCallum, James, Alex Taylor and finally Mike Black all handling. Another score at this stage would have seen them home but the Kendal pack regrouped and a pair of penalty awards drove the Wolves back for the final few minutes.

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Vikings and Hawks

Standish Media Services : Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Wo	For	A	D	Pts	Adj
Lymm 2	3	3	0	0	0	139	15	124	12	0
Wilmslow 2	3	3	0	0	0	125	40	85	12	0
Wirral 2	3	2	0	1	0	164	48	116	9	0
Firwood Waterloo 2	3	2	0	1	0	110	37	73	9	0
Bolton 2	3	2	0	1	0	57	31	26	9	0
Warrington 2	3	2	0	1	0	97	74	23	9	0
Blackburn 2	3	2	0	1	0	81	84	-3	9	0
Whitchurch 2	3	1	0	2	0	34	35	-1	6	0
Liverpool Collegiate 2	3	1	0	2	0	32	65	-33	6	0
De La Salle 2	3	1	0	2	0	27	70	-43	6	0
Rossendale 2	3	1	0	2	0	58	127	-69	6	0
Aldwinians 2	3	0	0	2	0	0	133	-133	6	0
Altrincham Kersal 2	3	0	0	3	0	28	107	-79	3	0
Caldy 3	3	0	0	2	0	17	103	-86	2	0

Raging Bull Leagues : Division 3 South

Team	P	W	D	L	For	A	D	Pts	+/-
Wirral 3	3	3	0	0	160	34	126	12	0
Firwood Waterloo 3	3	2	0	0	83	32	51	12	0
Sandbach 3	3	2	0	1	134	78	56	9	0
Christleton 1	3	2	0	1	98	58	40	9	0
Broughton Park 4	3	2	0	1	108	100	8	9	0
Uni of Liverpool Vets 1	3	2	0	0	86	23	63	8	0
Broughton Park 3	3	1	1	1	61	58	3	7	0
Wilmslow 3	3	1	1	0	53	18	35	6	0
Anselmians 2	3	0	0	2	35	76	-41	6	0
Manchester 2	3	1	0	2	72	118	-46	6	0
Winnington Park 2	3	2	0	1	84	89	-5	5	-4
Lymm 3	3	0	0	3	56	122	-66	3	0
Moore 2	3	0	0	3	45	136	-91	3	0
Birchfield 2	3	0	0	3	35	168	-133	3	

Saturday 13th. September
Altrincham Kersal Cougars 14-20 Vikings
Hawks 48 -13 Moore
Saturday 20th. September
Vikings 53-12 Cald
Hawks L- W Anselmians

No front row forwards meant that the Hawks were unable to field a side to play Anselmians.



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Wolves Appearances and Point Scorers : 2014 - 15

	Appearances	Tries	Drop Goals	Penalties	Conversions	Points
Jordan Ayrey	3					
Nick Barker	1					
Mike Black	4	1				5
Mike Clifford	4					
Ian Culligan	3	1				5
Ben Day	4	2				10
Jack Harrison	2					
Max Harvey	4	1				5
Adam Hewitt	4	1				5
Richard Hughes	3					
Simon Irving	3					
James Keys	3					
Lawrence James	1	1				5
Bob MacCallum	4	1		3	6	26
Conor McMurdoch	4					
Harry Patch	1	1				5
Matt Pearson	1					
Toby Rowe	1					
Eddie Stobart	1					
Adam Taher	1					
Gareth Tait	1					
Alex Taylor	3	2				10
Rob Taylor	4					
Jack Walmsley	4					
Callum Westaway	1					
Josh Whiteley	3	1				5
Ollie Wilkinson	4					
Tommy Wilkinson	1					

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League Round Up

20th. September : Vale of Lune 22-27 Birkenhead Park

This season's new look Vale, coached by Fergus Owens, with no Nick Royle and listing only five of the players who played here at Wilmslow a year ago, got mighty close to beating Birkenhead Park.



Unfortunately though, Park's Dave Hall had his kicking boots with him and took full advantage of referee Sharp's penchant for awarding penalties to land five and a conversion for seventeen points. Imaginative as ever, Stuart Vernon likened him to 'The Man with the Golden Gun', which was on TV later that evening

Park's two tries came from their prolific hooker Rob Doolan finishing off a catch and drive and from centre Joe Spencer, capitalising on a wickedly bouncing ball in the Vale twenty two.



Vale played their normal pacey game, not always holding on to the ball, and responded with a first half try in time added on from full back Tom Ball and then in the second half, chasing a nineteen point deficit, they ran it from every part of the field, Ollie Dobson scored twice and James Curran added the fourth. Two losing bonus points for Vale left them in second position in the table.

13th. September : Eccles 21-28 Vale of Lune

One of Elizabeth Raffald's claims to fame was her recipe for the Eccles Cake, a delicious currant filled delicacy with a world wide reputation, so it was fitting that in the first ever league meeting between the two clubs, they had faced each other at Gorton Street in October 2008 when the hosts were victorious in a RFU Senior Vase tie, that they should serve up such a tasty encounter, writes the inimitable Stuart Vernon.

Vale were a bit slow starting by which time fly half Scott Morton had kicked a penalty for Eccles and then ten minutes later they won a lineout and as the Vale stood off, flanker Andrew Maddocks put his side 8-0 to the good. Vale responded in their normal adventurous way and then on twenty minutes, they lost the ball to allow the Eccles full back to seize it and race away for a score under the posts. Morton then added a penalty to make it 18-0. Vale finished the first half with an untidy move which somehow didn't break down and eventually the Vale forwards drove lock Adam Foxcroft over for a try converted by Charlie Lomas.

Morton then kicked his third penalty but Vale were now getting into the ascendancy. Their belligerent scrum half Billy Swarbrick scored their second try and they drew level when winger Chris Week chased a kick ahead to collect the loose ball and to run in for the try. Both sides went for the win but it was Vale skipper Wallbank who was to break from a scrum fifteen metres out to get the winning score in the 74th. minute.

In addition to enjoying the rugby, Stuart Vernon, it seems also enjoyed the show of light planes taking off and landing in the adjacent Barton airfield, the trains flashing past at regular intervals and the friendly bustling atmosphere in Eccles' well appointed clubhouse.

13th. September : Kirkby Lonsdale 25 - 18 Broughton Park

Park generally had an off day in the Dales. They started badly, allowed Kirkby to score twice for a 13-0 lead through centre Josh Maddock and stand off Dave Barton, two tries and a penalty between them., and although Park got back into it with two late first half penalties from Matthew Raybould, Kirkby still looked the more likely. They scored a third try, second row Nick Edney crossing, to go 20-6 ahead and and a fourth from full back Harry Ralston. The last quarter was Park's, Paddy O'Donnell pulled one back and a

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late rally enabled hooker Andrew Selby to cross for a losing bonus point.



20th. September : Broughton Park 19-10 Eccles

Even with the return of several experienced hands, this was no cake walk for Park, as Eccles punished Park up front for most of the first half and only some gritty defence, combined with the visitors' one dimensional approach kept them down to one first half try. Ronan O'Brien landed two first half penalties to keep the deficit down to 6-10 and in the second half added two more as Eccles began to tire. Park's try came from substitute Jon Beardmore pouncing on to an Eccles defensive mistake.

13th. September : Penrith 36 - 12 Wigton

Three tries in each half saw Penrith win this one very comfortably. Wigton scored first but Penrith answered with 36 points before slacking off in the last quarter to all Wigton a late consolation. J J Key, Ed Swale, Jamie McNaughton (2), Lee and Chris Bratton all scored for Penrith.

13th. September : Birkenhead Park 22 - 14 Carlisle

Winger Yousef Sahib scored twice in the first half hour for Carlisle, both tries being converted by fly half Jason Israel. Park hooker Rob Doolan got them on the score sheet just before half time. Dave Hall converted and a penalty soon after half time further reduced the deficit. Despite growing Park pressure and a yellow card against Carlisle, it took until the last minutes before Doolan crossed again to put in front for the first time. Finally Dave Ibbotson scored their third try as Carlisle finally ran out of steam.

20th. September : New Brighton 14 - 12 Penrith

It may have been at the third time of asking but New Brighton recorded their first win back in North 1 West, something of an upset after the results of the first two rounds. Reports suggest that Penrith only had themselves to blame as they tried to dog it out up front with the solid New Brighton pack and outside were more intent on going into contact than running it wide and that suited New Brighton too. Penrith may have had more skill and pace but they didn't exploit it and paid the price. After dominating the early play, they got a penalty try but despite chances couldn't get another score. In the second half the NB pack really got going with a catch and drive score, followed by a turnover 30 metres out from which they eventually rumbled over. Penrith tried running it wide now and although they did manage a score from winger Darren Lee, when a loose clearing kick from the home side was fielded, but NB then managed to slow down the game in the last ten minutes to secure the win.

20th. September: Wigton 25-40 Warrington

As is their norm, Warrington have started with three away fixtures and won two of them at Widnes and now at Wigton. Only against Broughton park in the first game of the season did they come unstuck. Wigton frequently start the season slowly and then when the harvest is in and the ground getting wetter and muddier, their heavy brigade returns and they become a different side.

On this occasion, the game ebbed and flowed. Warrington looked to have had it won when they went 30-8 in front in the second half but a tremendous Wigton rally, started by their forwards saw them get three tries and back in range to within a single score. It took a penalty to put Warrington back in front by eight points and a disputed try at the end to make the win look easier than it was.

Are Warrington in their second season at this level going to be a side to watch, I wonder?

20th. September : Widnes 36-15 Kirkby Lonsdale

As summer moves into autumn, so missing Widnes players have re-emerged. They were slow to start though quickly going 3-8 down but recovered to lead 22-8 at half time. KL refused to lie down and came back with a seven pointer but ultimately, despite scares, Wids were able to finish things off with two further tries both converted. There were sixteen points for Kevin Leadbetter from a try and five kicks. Other Wids scorers were Gavin Hatton, Tom Spencer, Rob Critchley and George Lang.

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England v New Zealand Twickenham 2.30pm	Ireland v Georgia TBA 2.30pm.
France v Fiji TBA	Saturday 22nd. November
Ireland v South Africa Aviva Stadium	England v Samoa Twickenham 7.00pm
Italy v Samoa TBA	France v Argentina Stade de France TBA
Scotland v Argentina Murrayfield 5.30pm	Italy v South Africa TBA
Wales v Australia Millennium Stadium 2.30pm	Ireland v Australia Aviva Stadium 4.30pm
Saturday 15th. November	Scotland v Tonga TBA
England v South Africa Twickenham 2.30pm	Wales v New Zealand Millennium Stadium 5.30pm
France v Australia Stade de France TBA	Saturday 29th. November
Italy v Argentina TBA	England v Australia Twickenham 2.30pm
Scotland v New Zealand Murrayfield 5.30pm	Wales v South Africa Millennium Stadium TBA
Wales v Fiji Millennium Stadium 2.30pm	



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League North 1 West 2014 - 15

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pts	B Pts	Adj
Kendal	3	3	0	0	95	43	52	14	2	0
Vale of Lune	3	2	0	1	89	58	31	12	4	0
Penrith	3	2	0	1	82	38	44	11	3	0
Carlisle	3	2	0	1	79	44	35	10	2	0
Widnes	3	2	0	1	72	62	10	10	2	0
Broughton Park	3	2	0	1	62	43	19	9	1	0
Warrington	3	2	0	1	75	64	11	9	1	0
Birkenhead Park	3	2	0	1	70	63	7	9	1	0
Wilmslow	3	1	0	2	56	64	-8	5	1	0
New Brighton	3	1	0	2	52	63	-11	5	1	0
Kirkby Lonsdale	3	1	0	2	50	93	-43	5	1	0
Bolton	3	1	0	2	41	101	-60	5	1	0
Wigton	3	0	0	3	57	98	-41	2	2	0
Eccles	3	0	0	3	41	87	-46	1	1	0

TODAY'S OTHER MATCHES

**Birkenhead Pk v
Broughton Pk**

Bolton v Carlisle

Eccles v Widnes

**Kirkby Lonsdale v
Warrington**

**New Brighton v
Wigton**

Penrith v Kendal

League Results—2014/2015

HOME TEAMS	Birkenhead Park	Bolton	Broughton Pk	Carlisle	Eccles	Kendal	Kirkby Lonsdale	New Brighton	Penrith	Vale of Lune	Warrington	Widnes	Wigton	Wilmslow
Birkenhead Park				22-14										
Bolton							26-21							
Broughton Park				19-10						25-8				
Carlisle				40-10										25-12
Eccles									21-28					
Kendal	27-21	46-3												
Kirkby Lonsdale			25-18											
New Brighton								14-12						17-25
Penrith		34-12												36-12
Vale of Lune	22-27									39-10				
Warrington														
Widnes											14-27			
Wigton											25-40	20-22		
Wilmslow						19-22								



Vale of Lune RUFC

I think it's fair to say that we all look forward to matches against the Vale of Lune, whether here at the Memorial Ground or at Powderhouse Lane. Even in the foulest conditions, the two sides always seem to produce an attractive game, full of ambitious, if sometimes unlikely, stuff.

And then, of course, there are the Vale's famous supporters, who are guaranteed to enliven any occasion with their wit and enlightened comment. Enough of that nonsense for now, back to the rugby!

Let's take the last time we met in February. It was wet and blustery with a gale blowing down Vale's ground but the sides conspired to score four tries apiece, with the sole difference being Jack Turton's touch line conversion of Nick Royle's third try shortly after half time. The Wolves had had the better of the opening minutes with tries from Sam Cutts and Josh Whitley in the opening ten minutes and finished strongly with two more tries from Adam Taher and Mike Black. Sandwiched in between, the filling had been all Vale. Nick Royle, missing from this season's Vale team sheets, was at his most dangerous and James Curran got the fourth as Vale scored twenty nine unanswered points to emerge winners by 29-27.



Vale of Lune v Wilmslow 8th. February 2014

Last October, it ended 21-21 after the Wolves had looked dead and buried before unconverted tries in the last ten minutes from Simeon Meek and Lawrence James drew them level and in the time left, their tails were up and they were attacking hard, looking for the winning score. Earlier the Vale had gone into an 11-0 lead thanks to two Turton penalties and a try from Royle, who skinned everyone from his own half of the field. The Wolves were very lacklustre at this stage - that's the politest way of putting it - but they suddenly woke up. MacCallum and Turton exchanged penalties and then Sam Cutts ran in from halfway. 8-14 at half time looked more hopeful from a Wilmslow perspective.

A MacCallum penalty just after the break made it 11-14 but Vale got themselves in charge again. Wilmslow rang the changes but couldn't stop Royle getting his second of the afternoon. Belatedly, the Wolves started to play a bit. From a messy ruck on the line, Meek dived over and then when Vale put the ball out of play on the full, the Wolves had a lineup in the Vale twenty two from which, to howls of derision from the Vale's support, James took a suspiciously forward looking pass for the game saving try. Wilmslow supporters, of course, didn't see it that way as they applauded a fine late comeback.

This season Vale started well with two wins but a bit surprisingly lost at home last week against Birkenhead Park.



Vale of Lune v Wilmslow 8th. February 2014



Wilmslow v Vale of Lune 13th. October 2013

It is early days, but there are already signs that, sometimes, promotion in the leagues is not the Shangri La expected by clubs.



Fisher's Half Page

I see that Macclesfield, playing in National League 1 this season are now bottom of that league, having lost three out of three games, with a points difference of -87. Stockport, too, are in the same position in League 2 North, having lost all three of their games, with a points difference of -142. Perhaps both teams have lost players to Sale FC, presently the early leaders in National 3 North. We know they have money to spare for the right players, if they can find them.

Are we beginning to see a change in the balance of power locally, I wonder, with Sale overhauling Macc in National 2 North next season? Whatever Sale's money is clattering loudly at the moment and the odds must be on them rising another league. As far as Macc is concerned, I do know that Giles Heagerty has contacted some of our players and I am very pleased to say that he has been unable to tempt any to Macclesfield so far.

The winners of our League last season, Wirral, are also finding it tough in National 3 North, being second from the bottom having drawn two and lost one game, with a points difference of -17. Bottom of that League are Huddersfield YMCA, who were the surprising winners of the play-off for promotion against Birkenhead Park.

We have problems of our own. With the unavailability through injury of at least ten 1st XV players, we were unable to field a third team because of the lack of props. Long gone are the days when, if a prop was injured, one of the locks would move up and one of the back-row would go to lock. I remember a torrid fifteen minutes having to prop against Ray McLoughlin at Gosforth, the then current Irish prop. Neck muscles I never knew I had were aching for days.

Writing about that reminded me of another game against Gosforth. Their scrum-half was Malcolm Young, who was the England scrum-half at the time. Our scrum-half, probably Chris Shingles was injured, so David Barker moved from the back-row and played Young out of the game and we beat them 10-8. (That will be a pint, David). Rambling on. Our games against Gosforth and Northern across the road, were a two day event. We were hosted by our opponent for the night, met at the rugby cub for a libation or two the next morning and arrived back in Wilmslow around five o'clock, somewhat the worse for wear. My opponent, whose name has vanished into the mists of time, was Irish and an enthusiastic sampler of the Newcastle night life (plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose even today) and we arrived back at his mother's around four in the morning, only to be woken up at seven to be presented with a full Irish breakfast. It saved the day. I seem to remember another occasion when we were all on the coach ready to leave, but had to wait while one of the players, whose name does not escape me, finished his business with a young lady. Happy days.

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The Dirty Dozen League League N1W Forecasts

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So the early leaders are The Flying Scotsman, obviously concentrating very hard this season and the new entrant Percy Hotspur but the last two weeks have been difficult to get right with nobody managing more than five correct predictions in either week. It seems to confirm that all the sides are pretty well matched.

If Wilmslow can find a front row that can stand up in the scrum for eighty minutes, then the rest of the side looks OK, even with so many players out with injury. Last week, there was no Ollie McCall, no Jack Harrison so Toby Rowe, available again now that the Squirrels have won promotion, made his season's league debut and looked a threat every time the ball came his way at full back. True, his execution wasn't always spot on but he looked good enough to me. Gareth Tait, in for Alex Taylor, let nobody down and Adam Hewitt looked OK moved to No. 6.

In beating Penrith last week, New Brighton showed that they won't be the dummies of the league this season and reports suggest that Eccles are better than their results so far indicate. If they get a bit fitter so as to last the full eighty, they'll cause others some problems too.

	Broughton Pk v Eccles	Carlisle v Wilmslow	Kendal v Bolton	New Brighton v Penrith	Vale of Lune v Birkenhead Pk	Widnes v Kirkby Lonsdale	Wigton v Warrington	Points for Week	Cumulative Total
Braveheart	H	A	H	A	H	H	A	19	63
Draichgoch	H	A	H	A	H	H	A	19	57
The Flying Scotsman	H	H	H	A	A	H	H	22	71
Wigwalm	H	H	H	A	H	H	H	19	63
The Paella Fella	H	H	H	A	H	H	H	19	48
Kenshican	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	22	57
Nob	H	H	H	A	H	H	H	19	63
Percy Hotspur	H	A	H	A	H	H	A	19	71
Zoo Keeper	H	A	H	A	D	H	H	16	60
Super Ted	H	H	H	A	A	H	H	22	60
Judo Paul	H	H	H	A	H	H	H	19	54
Uncle Fester	H	H	H	A	H	H	H	19	60
Jonty								0	41
H for Heroes	H	A	H	A	H	H	H	16	60
Kiwi	H	A	H	A	A	H	A	22	60
Results for Week	H	H	H	H	A	H	A		

	Birkenhead Pk v Broughton Pk	Bolton v Carlisle	Eccles v Widnes	Kirkby Lonsdale v Warrington	New Brighton v Wigton	Penrith v Kendal	Wilmslow v Vale of Lune
Braveheart	H	A	A	H	H	H	H
Draichgoch	A	A	A	H	A	H	H
The Flying Scotsman	A	A	A	H	H	A	A
Wigwalm	H	H	A	H	H	H	H
The Paella Fella	H	A	A	H	H	H	A
Kenshican	A	A	A	A	H	A	A
Nob	H	A	A	H	H	A	A
Percy Hotspur	H	A	A	H	H	A	H
Zoo Keeper	H	A	A	A	H	A	A
Super Ted	H	H	A	A	H	H	H
Judo Paul							
Uncle Fester	H	A	A	H	H	A	H
Jonty	H	A	A	A	A	H	
H for Heroes	H	H	A	H	H	A	A
Kiwi	H	A	A	H	H	A	H
Results for Week							

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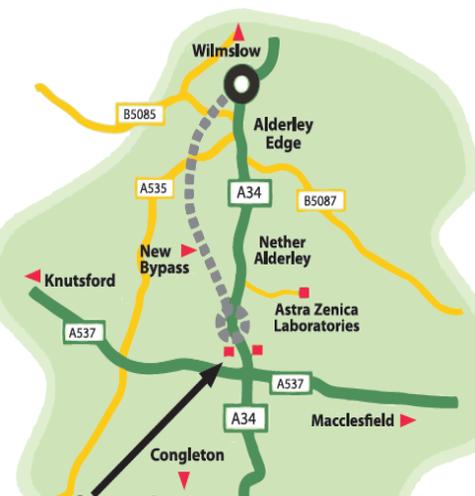
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11th. October
North 1 West
Wolves v Widnes

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Today's Referee
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Saturday 27th. September 2014

League North One West

Wilmslow v Vale of Lune

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| 14. Ian Culligan | |
| 13. Ed Stobart | <i>Jon Hitch</i> |
| 12. Ben Day | <i>Under 10s</i> |
| 11. Lawrence James | |
| 10. Bob MacCallum | <i>Ian Stewart</i> |
| 9. Olly Wilkinson | <i>Zac George and the U7s</i> |
| 1. Adam Taher | |
| 2. Max Harvey | <i>Norman Herring</i> |
| 3. Robert Taylor | |
| 4. Adam Hewitt | <i>Tim Holloway</i> |
| 5. Simon Irving | |
| 6. James Keys | <i>Paddy Mulchrone</i> |
| 7. Mike Black (Capt.) | <i>Nick Fiennes</i> |
| 8. Alex Taylor | <i>Iain Milne</i> |

Subs

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Tommy Wilkinson | <i>Concept Group UK</i> |
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| Gareth Tait | |

Vale of Lune XV

- | |
|----------------------------|
| 15. Chris Weeks |
| 14. Tom Ball |
| 13. Scott Manning |
| 12. Ben Dorrington |
| 11. Adam Macluskie |
| 10. Charlie Lomas |
| 9. Billy Swarbrick |
| 1. James Hesketh |
| 2. Phil Berry |
| 3. Ross Pillow |
| 4. Adam Foxcroft |
| 5. Ben Charnley |
| 6. Paul McLaren-Dorrington |
| 7. Sam Ackers |
| 8. Sam Wallbank |

Subs

- | |
|---------------|
| Ollie Dobson |
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| Daniel Baines |



Wishing the Wolves a Successful Season