

NORTHWICH JUNIORS 2000—2001



Northwich RUFC - Junior Section

NORTHWICH RUFC— LEAGUE CHAMPIONS Lancashire and Cheshire Senior Colts

The stars of the show this year were undoubtedly the Colts who were overall winners of their Lancashire and Cheshire Senior Colts League, slipping up in only one league game all season – a great result. They are also in the Colts Cup final against Altrincham Kersal. This is bound to be a thrilling game.

The deciding league match was played at home against Ashton on Mersey and our boys decided that they would make sure of the league with an emphatic win, beating the luckless Merseysiders 56—5. The other notable game was our win over neighbours Winnington Park, who went down to us 15—6.

Many of us were denied a last opportunity to see the re-match of this game recently when Winnington Park conceded the final league match of the season before kick off.



NORTHWICH COLTS
scale the heights of the
Lancashire and Cheshire
Senior Colts League

11th May 2001

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Chairman's Report

FUTURE DATES

- *Club AGM—16 May at Moss Farm—7:30pm*
- *6th June—Parents Evening. Come and meet the coaches over a beer and discuss the future of the Junior Section*
- *15th June—Schools Tag Rugby Contest—Winners represent Vale Royal in the Cheshire Tournament*
- *2nd Sept. Registration day. New Season*

Well, here we are at the end of yet another season. One that we will hopefully remember for things other than the atrocious weather and the impact that the Foot & Mouth outbreak has had on the fixtures.

We always reach this time of year with mixed feelings – we will all miss the rugby, but at least the coaches can look forward to well deserved Sunday morning lie-ins (some hope!) and we can all enjoy the summer (assuming we have one!).

For Northwich Juniors the 2000/2001 season has been pretty good overall. We now have a strong Junior Section with some 171 players registered and have nearly completed the monumental task of getting them all registered with the RFU. Our thanks to Junior Secretary Jim Brunlees for all he has done with this.

On the playing side we have had a lot of success to celebrate this year, details of which you can read later, however I would just like to highlight some of our successes:-

- ❖ The U7's performed well against U8's teams in the mini tournament at Wrexham
- ❖ A combined U7's & U8's team won the U8's trophy at the Hoylake 7 -a -side tournament
- ❖ U9's won their tournament at Wrexham and were runners up at Hoylake
- ❖ U10's won their tournament at Wrexham and were runners up at Hoylake



Chairman's con't



Report



Our older Junior members have done the club proud in terms of Representative Honours:-

- ❖ **Chris Steele, Ivor Robinson, Mark Johnson, Mark Thompson, Adam Jenkins and Lee Almark** all secured places in the Cheshire U14 Development squad.
- ❖ From the Under 16s, **Chris Dale, Dane Walker, Andy Joseph, Ben Palmer, Tom Rafferty and Eliot Fallon** all played for Cheshire this season.
- ❖ From the Colts, **David Harvey** captained Cheshire's U18 Colts side. He was joined in that team by **Chris James** who also played for the successful North of England team and narrowly missed selection for **England Colts**. **Chris James** and **Huw Jones** also played for the Cheshire U20 team.

Socially we have had an enjoyable and successful season too, starting with our Junior Section 'Kick-Off BBQ' way back in September. This was followed by Bonfire Night, the Children's Christmas Party, the New Year's Dance and two Race Nights. All of which were well supported and some of which helped us raise much needed funds for the club. We have also organised two Parent/Child trips to first class matches at Twickenham this season.

My thanks to all the Coaches and members that organised these events, without whom non of this would happen

Finally, on behalf of NRUFC I would like to thank all our young players, their coaches and all of you who have helped and supported us this season for all your hard work and good as the efforts of its members - all of them. Also I would like to thank Rob Hyde and all the Moss Farm staff for their help and co-operation throught the year. I hope you all have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at the beginning of the next season!

Trevor Rawling



**Well Done
Northwich Juniors**



2001

NRUFC Juniors Results Summary; 2000/2001



Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
Colts – League	9	8	0	1
Colts – Non League	7	6	0	1
Under 16	18	10	0	8
Under 14	16	10	0	6
Under 13	19	9	1	9
Under 12	17	3	2	12
Under 11	8	1	1	6
Under 10	20	15	1	4
Under 9	18	14	1	3
Under 8	20	15	1	4
Under 7	19	16	0	3
TOTAL	171	107	7	57





TEAM TALK

U7's—Coached by Melissa Motttershaw—The U7's have had an excellent season, winning undoubtedly more than they lost. We have had a consistent turnout each week and hopefully this will continue throughout next year as we move up to U8's. The U7's helped provide the backbone of the U8's in their tournament win at Hoylake where all played to their best.

U8's—Coached by Graham Motttershaw—The U8's WON the Hoylake Tournament playing very well through their matches. This year they began to learn how to tackle and will hopefully continue their progress and will continue to show up armed with the same drive and enthusiasm as has seen them victorious this season.

U9's—Coached by Ken Houghton—These guys have had a fantastic season, as the table above shows we have won much, and lost very little. Including Tournament games we have only lost to 5 sides all season and those that did extract a win out of us were made to fight very hard for the privilege. On the wins side we have had some excellent and at times very convincing victories. **Highlights—**winning the Wrexham Tournament (with the squad strengthened by 3 of the Under 8's—thanks guys); Getting to the final of Hoylake 7's; Beating Winnington Park at home with only 8 men! **Lowlights—**not being able to compete in Cheshire Cup due to re-arranged fixtures, not beating Douglas at Hoylake for the second year (but we'll get 'em next year!) and allowing Winnington Park a draw when we played them away! The guys can all be very proud of their achievements this year and although we have had some movement in the squad make up, we end the year with an excellent squad capable of doing great things at U10's

U10's—Coached by Chris Hart—I believe we had a great season, but it could have been considerably better. Highlights of the season would be winning the Wrexham tournament in style; going so close to winning the Hoylake Sevens; absolutely thrashing our local rivals before their referee abandoned the game two minutes into the second half to avoid complete humiliation; and above all else, watching the lads enjoy themselves.

After taking over the current squad when they were under 9's (and struggling to put out a side each week) I vowed to transform them into one of the best teams in Cheshire. Their progress has been very encouraging with us reaching the semi-finals of the Cheshire Tournament and Runners-up in the Hoylake Sevens last year, and repeating the feat at Hoylake this year. However, the Under 10's finally won a tournament they thoroughly deserved at Wrexham. We have great potential within the whole squad to achieve our ambition to be the best team in the County. We have recruited some great new players and it is pleasing to see that the newcomers have jelled quickly with the more established players, not just on the field, but off it as well. I hope everyone understands the need for a big squad, and the reasons for rotating players. It is not easy keeping everyone happy all the time, and having to rotate the stronger players with the developing ones, but next season we move from starting with nine players to 12 and I am confident that the squad we have will adapt to the new rules (goal-kicking, box kicking etc) naturally. My only wish for next season is that all the lads go to bed early on Saturday nights because we are notoriously slow starters on Sunday mornings. Most weeks we allow the opposition to get the better of us early on, before we all, to a man, decide to wake up and play some great rugby. I would like Northwich to dominate their opponents from the first to the last whistle next season. Finally, I would like to personally, and I am sure on behalf of the players, thank all the parents for their support and encouragement throughout the season. Special thanks to Geoff Dodd, Ashley Barber, Andy Hallwood and Peter Jackson for assisting with coaching etc.

U11's—Coached by Cameron Donald—There is a good core of players who have worked really hard and improved during the year. It has been pleasing to see the team understanding the importance of positional play and support in the first season where kicking and 12 a-side play was introduced to them. More players needed - bring your friends next season! Unfortunately due to work commitments I will have to give up coaching next season - I have enjoyed coaching you and I wish you all lots of luck.

U12's—Coached by Jonnie Blower—A challenging season for us with a mixed set of results. We have an excellent core of players that we are still trying to bring out the best in. We have suffered from low squad numbers this year, making it difficult to turn out a side on occasions. However, we have combined with the U11's when necessary and tried to field at least one team between us. So guys, start bringing some more mates down as we go to 15 a side next year.

U13's Coached by Mike Naylor

U14's—Coached by Dave Johnson

U16's Coached by Colin Naylor



COACHES & PARENTS EVENING - WEDNESDAY JUNE 6TH

COMMUNICATION - The difference between organisation and chaos. Ask anybody that works for a large Corporate organisation what is the one thing that needs to be improved and they will say Communications.

During the season all of the coaches try and get to talk to the parents as well as their children. However, with the limited time available and much to do this is not always as successful as we would like. We try and release fliers with important information, but you can't ask fliers a question. We are very aware that communications within the club and within the Junior Section are not all that they could be and so we want to consult you the Parents to try to seek ways of improving matters.

Therefore, the Junior Section is holding an open evening on Wednesday 6th June . 8pm at Moss Farm.

We look forward to welcoming as many parents as possible to this evening where we hope we can air the matters that concern you and seek ways to address them.

So please come and join us for an informal chat. Bring your ideas and concerns with you, but don't be surprised if we look for volunteers to help us improve.

The Junior Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month throughout the season and is made up of :- Trevor Rawling (Chairman) Jim Brunlees (Secretary) Phil Clarke (Fixtures Secretary) Ken Houghton (Communications) and all the Junior Coaches. So if you can't make it but would like to input, please contact one of us.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Club AGM—Wednesday 16th May - Moss Farm, Northwich. All NRUFC members (including Family members) are welcome to attend.

England v Barbarians - Sunday 27th May. Coach trip to Twickenham to watch this thrilling game. We still have a few coach places left—you will need to arrange your own tickets at this stage though. See Ken Houghton for further details. Coach Only is £16 Adult ticket & coach travel £44 and Child ticket and Coach is £24. These prices are slightly higher than originally advertised, this is due to an increase in coach fares that was outside of our control.

Parents Evening -Wednesday June 6th @ 8pm -Moss Farm Northwich. See above for details

Schools Tag Rugby Tournament - Friday 15th June, Moss Farm Northwich 4pm. This tournament gives year 5/6 children in local schools an opportunity to experience the thrill of rugby without the worry of the contact game. Teams must include 3 girls. Our tournament now welcomes the winners from the Winsford and Helsby tournaments and the winning team from the Northwich Tournament goes forward to represent Vale Royal in the Cheshire Tag rugby contest. Come along and support and experience a different slant on Rugby.

Summer Coaching - I understand many of the coaches plan to get a head start on the new season by introducing some of the new skills that are required during summer coaching sessions. Please see your Coach for details.

Coach Development – 10 of our Coaches will be undergoing development training this summer, some of us have the bruises already. We hope to see the improvements passed on in the new season.

Registration Day— and before you know it, summer will be over and a whole new season will be stretching out before us. I look forward to seeing faces old and new then.

That just leaves me to say, thank you for having read this far. This is the first Northwich Junior Newsletter, I trust it will not be the last. I would welcome any feedback you have on this publication and also any ideas you have for future editions. Ken Houghton

