

NORTHWICH JUNIORS 2002–2003



Northwich RUFC - Junior Section



NORTHWICH RUFC— Awarded RFU Seal of Approval & Sport England Club Mark



11th May 2003

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FUTURE DATES

- *Club AGM—14 May at Moss Farm—7:30pm*
- *9th June—Schools Tag Rugby Contest—Winners represent Vale Royal in the Cheshire Tournament*
- *7th Sept. Registration day. New Season*

Northwich have become one of the first 10 Rugby Clubs and 20 Sports Clubs in the country to achieve the prestigious double award of Sport England Club Mark and the RFU Seal of Approval. These awards are recognition of the fact that Northwich RUFC has proven itself to be Safe, Child Friendly, Dynamic and well run Sports Club. This is a little like a business receiving BS5750 accreditation, for those of you in business, you will get an idea of the amount of work that has had to go into to getting this accreditation and the sort of work that will be required to maintain it. However, we know that these awards help guide us along the path of best practice and Northwich RUFC are proud to have achieved this status.

Chairman's Report

Comments from the Chairman:

Madness - it must have been a form of madness that came over me when I accepted the challenge to become the new Junior Chairman. Little did I know how much work and hassle it would entail. Neither though did I know how rewarding it was going to be either. I am so proud of what we as a club have achieved this year, Club Mark & Seal of Approval, a Junior player in the England setup, a fantastic web site, having 40 children play demonstration games and form the Guard of Honour at the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham – and that's before we start to mention the actual rugby that's been played.

The 2002/2003 season has been another busy time and has produced some excellent Junior Rugby here at Northwich. We have seen a number of notable successes, both for teams and individuals and I am sure the season has been greatly enjoyed by players, coaches and parents.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank all the coaches and officers of the Junior section, as well as those parents who have helped out and supported our work, and especially all our young players, for their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work this season. Coaches and actively supportive parents are vital for us and we can never have enough help. As we move the club forward and in light of the work we have done in obtaining Club Mark and Seal of Approval it is becoming clear that we will have to find more volunteers to fill the required roles. I know there are many of you reading this that have talents that you take for granted in every day life, but they may be just the skills that your club needs. So please, PLEASE, come and talk to me if you feel that you are able to assist in any way, be it administrative, organisational, professional or sporting, we will be very glad of your help.

As part of our effort to continuously improve, a number of our coaches have furthered their Rugby coaching awards this year and have also attended courses on First Aid, Equity in Coaching, Child Protection, Working with Disabled sports people and A Club for All. Well done to you all.





Chairman's con't

NORTHWICH RUFC - JUNIOR SECTION

Report



In our playing successes this season we have seen the best Cheshire Festival results for many a year. The Under 9's won their Festival and brought home the Cheshire Cup, The Under12's won the Cheshire Shield for there age group and both the Under 7's and the Under 11's made it to the final of their respective festivals. The Under 11's were also finalists at both the Wilmslow and Rochdale tournaments.

As most of we have seen by now, we have an excellent website up and running now . In its first season this site has had over 10,000 hits. I am sure there are many businesses that would like that amount of interest. (Speaking of which, if you know anyone that might like to advertise on our website, please let me know) As a direct result of our website we have been visited by a number of touring teams. We have entertained teams from Wales, Peterborough and Worcesester at various ages from U12 to U16.

This has been my first season as Chairman and as you can see we have made a number of changes, I hope all for the better. As the season closes your Coaches and the Committee will be going into planning mode, trying to come up with an action plan for the next 12 to 18 months. Again if there are things that you feel strongly about and that you would like to see us do or change, please let us have your views, or better still come and join us and help us make those changes.



Well Done
Northwich Juniors

As reported in last years newsletter Phil Clarke has decided to stand down as Junior Fixtures Secretary as he takes on more coaching duties for Juniors, Seniors and in the Community with his role as Rugby Development Officer for Sport Cheshire. I am very pleased to welcome Paul Turrell to this post. Paul has been a very supportive parent for a number of years as his son has been actively playing Rugby since he was either 6 or 7. So I hope you will please join me in welcoming Paul to the happy band of volunteers that keep this club going forward..

Finally I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable summer and a warm welcome back at the start of next season.



Junior Roll of Honour:



Chris Dale Captains the ENGLAND Under 18 Team

At Northwich Juniors we have a long and county and other representative sides at we have finally got our first player recognised the England U18's to an opening congratulate him on this tremendous future career.

Chris is pictured here with fellow North- other lot")



proud history of providing good young players for our many age groups. This year has been exceptional as nised at the highest possible level. Chris Dale cap- victory against the Scotland A side and we wish to achievement and to wish him lots of luck with his

wich lad Mike Breen (though Mike plays for "the

Socially Speaking...

We have had a successful season too, not everything went as we would have wished, but we keep trying. As usual we started with Registration day and the Junior Section 'Kick-Off BBQ' way back in September, a good day as I recall and plenty of subs paid upfront.

This was followed by Bonfire Night, now this is an area where we still have much to learn. Not the least of which is we need Simon to work out how to go negotiate with the highest of authorities and ensure some decent weather. Bonfire night was rather a wash out and it has set us thinking as to whether or not we should be putting effort into such an event or whether we should be doing something different - Your thoughts please??

The Xmas celebrations for the children followed the time honoured formula, though somewhere en route Santa got lost. The vicious rumour that his hang over kept him in bed all day has yet to be proven ☹. There was a New Years Eve Disco at the club though the "nearly New Year" bash at Hartford Rec was sadly missing this year. Which was a shame as the karaoke the previous year was quite a hit.

March saw us the prestigious Portal Golf & Country Club for our Second Annual Spring Ball.

The inaugural event had been great success and this year we build upon that success. Attendance was up about 50% on the previous year and I hope we will be able to grow this event year on year. If you have never donned a dinner suite or ball gown before, I admit that it can be a bit off putting. However, please don't let that stop you from joining us next year. To make it a little easier for you next year, we have moved the date (yes away from the Cheshire Cup weekend - slight oversight on my part there!) and the

2004 Spring Ball will now become a **Valentine's Night Ball** on **Saturday 14th February**.

So you have plenty of notice and guys you know you have to take your lady out for Valentines night, so why not bring her to what I promise will be one of the best Valentines nights in Cheshire.

The committee have aspired to try and hold some more social events and we arranged a Quiz and Hot Pot night, sadly advanced bookings did not live up to expectations and the event was cancelled. However, from cancelling it on the Tuesday to the Friday when the event was due, various members of the committee took a stream of calls wanting to know if they could just turn up etc. So it seemed that the event was of interest, but please will you book in advance as we need to ensure we can cover our catering costs.

During the year we had a regular social gathering of families at Sale Sharks, where we were treated to some very entertaining Rugby and have had some good laughs. Sale move grounds (to Stockport) next season and I am still waiting to hear if we are able to get discounted tickets in the way that we did this season.

Still to come this year is the Northwich Festival - August Bank Holiday Weekend

As some of you may know, NRUFC have run the Festival of Sport on Bank Holiday Monday for a number of years now and it has become one of our main fund raisers. However, the format was starting to wear thin and it has been decided that we will up the ante and turn it into the "Northwich Festival - the best value social event in Cheshire"

The fun starts on the Friday evening with a **Sportsman's Dinner** featuring **Phil Bennett - former Wales and British Lions Captain**. This is a fully inclusive event where your ticket not only gets you in and treats you to our excellent entertainment, but it also gets you a 5 course dinner and FREE BEER all night!

Saturday - we hope to be able to bring you the England International on a Large Screen during the afternoon and then in the evening there will be an evening of raucous Irish entertainment from the "**Bogtrotters**".

On Sunday the Development of Arts in Northwich (DAN) will be staging a Battle of the Bands and on Monday we will have a Car Boot Sale in the morning followed by the Festival of Sport in the afternoon and the Grand Finale in the evening. Throughout the weekend there will be a fair, street theatre, various stalls and exhibitions.

We need volunteers to help make this a success. Your club depends on the money raised from this and other events for its survival. If you feel you can help in anyway at all please let your coach or one of the committee know.



TEAM TALK

U7's / U8's—Coached by Dave Sweeney — The season started with the players and coach not knowing really what to do! However, after just a few weeks (and a few more grey hairs!), things started to get much better. I must admit that the team has improved immensely over the last month or so. The high point of the season being Runners-Up in the Cheshire Cup. I would like to thank all the players for their amazing effort over the last few months and also the parents who have supported and helped in the many home and away games. I honestly believe that next season the team shall go from strength to strength....and of course we shall beat Wilmslow in a tournament!

Thanks for a great year!
Dave Sweeney.

U9's—Coached by Dave Hunt

When I was younger I was told that you only get out of something what you put into it, and these lads have got their just rewards. At the start of the season myself and the lads parents were a bit apprehensive about how they would take to tackling, no worries in the end, the only worry was the team on the receiving end.

Obviously winning the Cheshire Cup was the high light of the season, not having a try put past us was the cherry on the top of the cake. We also did very well at the Wilmslow tournament getting beaten by a lucky try, Matt Beesley having a try disallowed in the dying seconds (unlucky Matt).

On Sunday morning games we were beaten just once by them over the road and only having 6 tries put past us out of 16 games.

May I take this opportunity in thanking all the coaching staff for support this season and most importantly the dedicated parents who bring the lads every week standing in the rain, and rarely sunshine, thank you so much.

Dave

U10's—Coached by Phil Clarke

This season has once again seen the team make big strides forward in terms of their overall rugby development and their gradual progression towards playing the full game.

Attendance at training and on match days has been very good, with having such a small squad this has been vital. We are definitely in need of recruiting some more players for this age group as we go to 12 a side next season.

The best recruiters are the players themselves so I would like to ask them all to see if they can make a big effort over the closed season to bring in some new faces, it would be appreciated.

As a team, we were extremely fortunate to have been offered the opportunity (along with the U11's) to provide the pre match entertainment and the Guard of Honour at Twickenham for the England vs Scotland Calcutta Cup match.

What a fantastic experience to run out onto the hallowed turf of Twickenham and then watch a fantastic game of International rugby.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for their tremendous support over the season and I look forward to seeing them all at the Awards day.

Phil Clarke



NORTHWICH RUFC -
JUNIOR SECTION



U11's—Coached by Ken Houghton / Kevin Jones



2002 / 03 Season - so close to being a bumper season.

The team had a lot to live up to from last year, when we won the Cheshire Plate at U10's but this team just keeps on improving. However, they are still some way from being the finished article as our results this year show. We have entered 3 competitions this season and came away with 3 Runners Up Medals (doh!)

Though it was disappointing for all involved not to have topped the table in any of these tournaments, the fact that we made it to three consecutive finals and were only narrowly beaten in any of them is testament to the level these children are capable of playing to.

The squad has stabilised this season at 18 (though it peaked at 20) with a good mixture of new faces and old hands. Indeed 6 players have now been playing for 5 seasons. We were pleased to welcome a number of new faces this year including this teams first girl player. All our new starters have developed well and it now becomes a real headache trying to sort out who gets to play where and when. As you progress through the age groups, it gets to be less about individual brilliance and more about team work and at times we have found ourselves trying to rely still on the former whilst forgetting the latter. However, I am sure that when they all go away and reflect on the season they will realise that they have done extremely well and have much to be proud of.

My thanks to Kevin, for all his support in the coaching arena this year. Also to Paul Turrell and Richard Woodhead for keeping the stats and writing the very amusing (and accurate) match reports - some of you will have seen them on the web site.

It makes interesting reading to see that we have scored over 100 tries, that our top try scorer was Ben Jones, but only just as equal second top scorers were Chris Bridle and James Turrell our two props. The seasons stats look like this

	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Tries	Conversions	
Club	16	11	1	4	498	130	72	69	
Cheshire Cup	6	4	1	1	85	42	13	10	Runners Up
Wilmslow	5	3	1	1	68	28	10	9	Runners Up
Rochdale	5	4	0	1	84	21	12	12	Runners Up
Total	32	22	3	7	735	221	107	100	

U12's—Coached by Geoff Dodd / Ashley Barber

This season could be summarised in typical school report terminology "a good year's work however with a little more effort could do better".

Typically the squad are slow starters, they warm up and as the first game progresses they get better and better, this is an area to be worked on both as a team and individually. This slow start has lead to an up and down season in terms of form with some games lost that they should have won easily and others won with ease.

The highlight of the year was the winning of the Cheshire Cup Plate Competition. After narrowly going out in the league stages the boys had the choice, do they give everybody a run out or go for broke. As they ran out plate winners you can see what their decision was, the galling thing was that the eventual winners were Wilmslow whom we beat a few weeks earlier - one to put down to experience.

The season finished with a small tournament against a touring side from Worcester with Crewe & Nantwich and Winnington Park. Northwich played 2 games against the tourists loosing both but gaining valuable experience – games that probably came too late in the season for them.

The squad continues to grow and develop whilst maintaining the nucleus from previous seasons; this is good news for next season when we start to play 15 a side.

Thanks from Ashley & Geoff to the Ugly Sisters, plank & plonker, Rob and his brain (both old and new), ant and all the others that on occasions listen to what we are saying.

Special thanks go to Andy, Peter and all the parents and helpers who have supported the team throughout the season. A final big thanks from Ashley and Geoff to the Clive Norling of Northwich Rugby Club Simon Jones for his refereeing through out the season.



Under 13's & 14's Coached by Malcolm Griffiths & Trevor Rawling

With the season drawing to a close firstly I would like to thank all the lads for their efforts throughout this season, and also thank all the parents for their support .

Thinking all the way back to September last year, the season started with some very close games. We won some and lost some but we played well, especially considering that the team had been somewhat weakened by the loss of some of our players to football. At this age group, some of our children have a hard choice as football (soccer) kindly moves their games to a Sunday, which then clashes with the Rugby. However, I am hopeful that most of them will return to us next season as football reverts back to Saturday.

By November we were joined by Trevor Rawling to help coach the side and by the remnants of the U14's squad as their numbers had dropped too low to field a team. The adding of these players made a quite a difference to the squad and improved our all round game. It also benefited some of our weaker players who, buoyed by the confidence borne in an improving team, rapidly improved their own skills.

The season has not always been a winning one, but through hard work the lads have done themselves proud. A crowning moment to the season for me would be going away to Ormskirk with 5 of our regular first choice players missing and only losing by two points at the end of the game. Every player that day put their heart and soul into the game and suddenly they had belief in themselves and their team mates. That day they discovered that it's all about the fifteen players on the park, doing it for yourself and your mates. It's moments like those that makes coaching so worthwhile.

I am looking forward to next season, hoping that we can continue from where we have left off. That is, improving week by week and enjoying the game. I would also like to say good luck to the members of the squad who have been selected to the Vale Royal Development team, from which will be drawn the 10 a side team to represent Vale Royal in the Cheshire Youth Games later in the summer.

I am planning to have some skills training throughout the summer and I will be in touch about that nearer the time .

Meanwhile, have a good summer and once again thank you to all the parents that helped with transport.
malc

Under 15's coached by Mike "No Nerves" Naylor



Under 16's coached by "Dangerous" David Johnson

No doubt the guys have had a good season and I wish I could bring you highlights of their exploits here. However, we have hit the publishing deadline and still no copy. 🚫

So if there are any parents, friends acquaintances, players, lovers or whatever out there that could lend a hand to these two hard working coaches and help them with the press and publicity side of their team it would be much appreciated by all.





Fixtures 2003/04



DATE	U 16'S	H/A	U 14'S	H/A	U 13'S	H/A	MINIS	H/A	
Sep-07	ORRELL	H	ORRELL	H	ORRELL	H			
14									
21	M'CHESTER	H	M'CHESTER	A	M'CHESTER	H			
28	C/NANTWICH	H	C/NANTWICH	H	C/NANTWICH	A			
Oct-05	ALDERSHAW	A	CONGLETON	A	CONGLETON	A	CONGLETON	H	
12									
19									
26	CALDY	H	CALDY	A	CALDY	H	CALDY/ COLLEGIATE	A Matches at Caldly	
Nov-02									
9	ORRELL	A	ORRELL	A	ORRELL	A	ORRELL	H	
16	W'PARK	H	W'PARK	H					
23							M'CHESTER/ LEIGH	A Matches at Manchester	
30	WIRRAL	A	WIRRAL	A	WIRRAL	H	C/NANTWICH	H	
Dec-07	WHITCHURCH	A	WHITCHURCH	A	WHITCHURCH	H			
14	CHESTER	H	CHESTER	H	CHESTER	A			
Jan-04									
11	LYMM	H	LYMM	H	LYMM	A			
18	C/NANTWICH	A	C/NANTWICH	A	C/NANTWICH	H			
25							SANDBACH/ W'PARK	A Matches at W'park	
Feb-01			CONGLETON	H	CONGLETON	H			
8	ALDERSHAW	H							
15							WHITCHURCH	A	
22	WIRRAL	H	WIRRAL	H	WIRRAL	A	ORMSKIRK	H	
29							CHESTER	A	
Mar-07	WHITCHURCH	H	WHITCHURCH	H	WHITCHURCH	A	CHESHIRE CUP	A	
14	M'CHESTER	A	M'CHESTER	H	M'CHESTER	A	STOCKPORT	H	
21									
28							C/NANTWICH	A	
Apr-04	ORMSKIRK	A	ORMSKIRK	A			LYMM	u'11/12s H u'7-10s A	
11	EASTER		EASTER		EASTER				
18							WIRRAL	H	
25	BIRKENHEAD PK	H	BIRKENHEAD PK	A	BIRKENHEAD PK	H			

World Cup

England v
Georgia 13:00
Kick Off

England v
Samoa 07:00
Kick Off

ENG v Uruguay
- 13:00 KICK
OFF
Q-finals
10:00am
Semi Final
09:00 Kick Off



Communications and the Website - www.northwichruffc.co.uk

At the beginning of this season we decided to improve communications both externally and within the club by implementing a number of changes. These included creating a club web site, continuing with the Junior newsletters, improving match reports and the interaction with the local and national press. I'm glad to say that, thanks to your support we have been successful in all these aspects. As you read this newsletter, internet users will have accessed 12,000 of our web pages, we will have produced 4 newsletters, junior match reports and other articles featured in both the Chronicle & Guardian papers in at least 15 issues and club press releases have been sent to and featured in different rugby web sites and national magazines.

As for the web site, in September I was asked for more directions to away games, now maps for all next seasons away fixtures are on our site. I was asked to include all match reports, now every report people send me is included. I was asked if it was possible to download fixtures lists, you can now do that. I was asked to provide all fixture details and all coach contact information, kit details and prices, all that is now on. But we are not finished yet, I have yet more requests to keep me busy into next season.

I appreciate that not everyone can easily access the internet. For those of you who cannot, let us know what would help e.g. more newsletters, contact sheets etc. Secondly I'm looking for some budding reporters. Coaches find it difficult to keep track of the match and all the details while they are battling to win their games. I'd really like some volunteer parents who could do a short report every week and send or give it to me before Sunday night. Unlike football, there are only 2 rugby clubs in Northwich, so we often get match reports for the juniors in the sport section of the Chronicle & Guardian. We can also get players names and action details as well as the score. So please use your imagination and let me know if you'd like to help. Next season we would also like to send information about club activities by email. So when you re-register at the beginning of the season please fill in your email details. Finally over the summer I will further update the web site with more photos, more reports and will have the opportunity to add more of the things that help you. If you have any ideas please email me at kjones@northwichruffc.co.uk"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Club AGM—Wednesday 14th May - Moss Farm, Northwich. All NRUFC members (including Family members) are welcome to attend. 7:30 start.

Schools Tag Rugby Tournament - Wednesday 9th July, Moss Farm Northwich 2pm. 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 schools from Winsford and Northwich. Come along and support and experience a different slant on Rugby.

Cheshire Youth Games - Northwich will be hosting the Vale Royal development squads from which the teams will be selected to go to the CYG and represent the borough. There will be 3 teams - Years 5/6 will play a mixed (boys & girls) Tag tournament, Years 7 - 9 Girls will play a Tag Tournament and Years 8 boys will play a 10 a side contact tournament. All teams are being coached by Northwich RUFC coaches so please come and support the teams.

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 — again a number of our Coaches will be undergoing development training this summer, some of us are already in training. 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 on **Sunday 7th September for Registration Day.**

That just leaves me to say, thank you for having read this far. This is the ninth Northwich Junior Newsletter and as always

I would welcome any feedback you have on this publication and also any ideas you have for future editions.

Ken Houghton