



END OF SEASON 2003 /04

KEN HOUGHTON—MAY 2004

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR — SIMON BRIDLE (JUNIOR CHAIRMAN)

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the officials, helpers and players for making this season another successful one for the club! We have had some fantastic accolades and results, and have achieved all our objectives.

The highlights include:

Presented with the Sport Cheshire “Community Club of the Year” award and as a result of this we were nominated for the BBC North West “Club of the Year”. Although we did not win this award we were in the final three and it was an honour to be nominated. Sir Alex Ferguson, Sir Bobby Charlton and David Moyes, were amongst a large array of sporting stars in attendance at the Midland Hotel Manchester where this event took place.

Winners—Under 10’s Cheshire Cup. This team successfully defended their Cheshire Cup win at Under 9’s and have shown they are a real force to be reckoned with.

Nominated for the Vale Royal “Community Club of the Year” where we were runners up to Hartford Gymnastics club.

Schools Tag and World Cup.

We ran a very successful set of Tag competitions for the local primary schools. We did Year 5 & 6 in both Northwich and Winsford in July and then we held a **World Cup Tag Contest** for year 3 & 4 Children. Each team was allocated a country from the World Cup, they studied that country in school and then represented that country at the World Cup. Well done to USA who now hold the Trophy.

Recruitment of players has been at an all time high!

The committee has been working very hard promoting the game to as many schools as possible and I am very confident that in season 2004 – 2005 the club will be able to field a complete set of teams from Under 7’s right through to Under 18’s Colts.

Girls and Ladies Teams Thanks to the hard work of Phil Clarke, Kevin Jones and Malcolm Griffiths, we are able to launch 2 girl’s teams and a ladies team

This will mean that for next season we will be one of just a handful of clubs in the country that has teams at all ages and genders.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Today (Sunday 9th May) sees the first game of Womens Rugby to be played at Moss Farm Kick Off 2pm. Why not stay and cheer them on.
- Chairman Simon is on a sponsored Diet—he plans to loose 5 Stone by the end of the Year. Please support him—don’t buy him a beer :-)
- The Junior AGM is next Sunday (16th May) 10:30—12:30 with refreshments afterwards. Please come along and see what happens behind the scenes.

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WHAT IS THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT IN THE UK?

Type this question into the Internet and you will get many different opinions. However, Women and Girls Rugby is up there with the best.

We are very pleased and proud to announce that from next season Northwich RUFC will be fielding girls teams at U14 and U17 and a Ladies team for 17 and overs.

The girls teams will be largely home grown, with a number of girls turning 12 this year and being too old to play mixed rugby it is essential that we find an outlet for their considerable talents.

Our Ladies team has a nucleus of players drawn from a team that was playing out of Crewe & Alsager College. They have just gained promotion out of

their current league (North West 3) and had out grown the facilities available to them. We are very pleased to welcome them and we have already got some local ladies signing up to play.

We are deeply grateful to **Alzach Pools** who have come forward as a major sponsor for our female teams.

As I was composing this newsletter, I realised that many folk probably don't know the work that goes on year round in this club. So I thought I would share with you a diary of highlights for the year, starting from the end of the previous season. As you will see, a lot has happened and I am sure I will miss some things out, I apologise in advance to anyone or anything that I miss out, the old grey matters is not what it once was!

During **May and June** Saturday mornings saw training for the Vale Royal squads that would compete in the Cheshire Youth Games. Vale Royal entered 3 teams, a mixed Year 5 & 6 Tag team, a Girls Year 7 to 9 Tag team and a boys year 8, 10 a side team. Training went well and selecting sides was a challenge for the coaches. The Cheshire Youth Games are held in Macclesfield in late June. All teams did extremely well, the Girls and the Boys year 8 sides were both very unfortunate to only come third, they so nearly won, however, the V.R. year 5 & 6 Tag team were triumphant and **Northwich RUFC** was well represented in the Team. Congratulations to all the children and to Kevin Jones and Ken Houghton their coaches. Also thanks to Trevor Rawlin, Phil Clarke and Malc Griffiths for coaching the older teams so well.

In **July** we held two tag tournaments for Year 5 & 6 children. One here at Moss Farm for Northwich & District Schools and the other at The Verdin High School Winsford, for Winsford and District schools. Both events were a great success with 16 teams participating at Northwich and 12 in Winsford. The Winsford event being won by St Marys School Middlewich who fielded an almost all girls team, showing that Rugby is just as much a Girls sport—more of that later!

August Bank Holiday Weekend

was celebrated by a 4 day Festival, which will now be known as the **Northwich Festival**. The weekend started with a **Sportsmans Dinner**, with **Phil Bennett** as guest speaker, we had a Rugby Competition on the Saturday with local band "**The Bog Trotters**" playing in the evening. Sunday was the Farmers Market followed by the Battle of the Bands and Monday is the Car Boot Sale followed by the **Festival of Sport**. This is our biggest single fund raiser in the year and we raised approximately £8,000 last year to help fund the clubs activities. Look out for details of this years events later in this newsletter.

September and we start the season proper. We hope you liked our 'pre-registration' letter and form that was mailed out to everyone. This really helped to streamline the whole registration process which has often dragged on far too long. Look out for the forms coming through the door this August. Please ensure that you provide us with any changes of address and any email address you may have recently acquired. Also in September we were visited by **Sale Sharks** players, who put about 70 of our children through the **Powergen Award Scheme**. Players were awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze awards depending upon their skill levels. Gold Awards were presented in front of the crowd at the Sale vs London Irish game in October and the remainder of the awards were presented at the club by **Jos Baxendale and Iain Fullerton** from Sale Sharks

October—this month saw England building up to the World Cup, and to celebrate the event we held a **World Cup Style Tag Tournament** for Year 3 & 4 Children from Northwich and Winsford. Each team that entered was allocated a country from the World Cup draw. The children then studied that country in class and then played as that country in the World Cup.

The event was sponsored by **Cosgrove Engineering** (our thanks to John Cosgrove) and saw each team member receiving a T Shirt with their countries name on. Unlike the real thing, the event was won by the USA and everyone had a great time.

Also in **October** we were presented with the **Community Club of the Year Award** at the Sport Cheshire Dinner at Mere Golf Club. This was a great honour and meant that we were put forwarded for the **BBC's Northwest Sports Awards** in the Community Club of the year Category.

November - Along with a large portion of the nation, we were all glued to the World Cup, especially the final and "that drop goal". At this point you knew Rugby was going to become more popular than ever.

December, a tough month for the club, although all the celebrations went on as normal, we were all very concerned for our friend, colleague and junior coach, Jonny Blower, who was left paralysed after a freak accident whilst playing for the first team against Warrington. As a club and as a Junior section we have committed to help in the fund raising that will help to make Johns life a little easier.

January—The few fixtures we had were mostly lost to the weather. However, we were nominated for the BBC's NorthWest Community Club of the year and Chairman Simon and Kevin Jones represented the club at the televised awards dinner at the Midland Hotel Manchester. We made the last 3, but were not successful this time (but there's always next year!)

February and we all celebrated the arrival of the William Webb Ellis Trophy in Northwich as part of the Sweet Chariot tour of England. A great night was had and we raised some serious cash for the JBT.

We were pleased to launch our first **Girls Rugby Team** this month They will start playing matches next season, but training has already started and they have a major sponsor in the form of **Alzack Pools**, our thanks to **Alan Jackson** for his generosity. We were in romantic party mood this month with the annual **Spring Ball**, this year being the Valentines Ball. Our thanks to Ken Houghton for leading the organisation on this event. Again this was a terrific event that raised money for the club and the John Blower Trust. This event continues to grow in popularity year on year and we are keen to continue this trend. If you enjoy a good night out with an excellent dinner and dancing to a great live act then this is the event for you.

March and we are into the Cheshire Festivals again. **Congratulations to Dave Hunt and the Under 10's as they once again are the Cheshire Champions** at their age group. To win it once is excellent, to do it twice in a row is outstanding. Well done everyone.

We were also nominated for the Community Club of Vale Royal, however, we came runners up.

April and the season draws to a close again. Some of us went to Twickenham to cheer Sale on in the Powergen Cup Final. Sadly we were not involved in any end of season festivals so the season ended with a visit to Whitchurch for the Mini / Midis.

May, last weekend saw our first joint venture with Winnington Park as we staged a Speakers Lunch with Dean Richards on the Saturday before the Cheshire vs Durham County game and an adult 10's comp on the Sunday all in aid of the JBT.

A BUSY YEAR I THINK YOU'LL AGREE.

WHY NOT GET MORE INVOLVED AND HELP US BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL?

TEAM NEWS

Under 7's—No Report received

Under 8's Report

We welcomed a large intake of new recruits this year- no doubt due to all the hard work put in by all the coaches at the local schools- and some of these new players have turned into rising stars!

Some of our more experienced players could not make the whole season due to other commitments, which was a shame because they made all the difference when they did play!

The season on the whole has been a mixed one. We had victories over Winnington Park and Wilmslow, but failed to repeat that form in the Cheshire Cup. The second half of the season saw a slight drop in form, but I think that was mainly due to the fact that we concentrated on preparing for full-contact rather than Tag rugby!

Finally I would like to thank all the players and parents for making this season lots of fun, with a special thanks to Dave France for all his help.

Dave Sweeney

Under 10's

Well what can we say! another great season for the Under 10's. All the players have played fantastic all season, whether we've been training or had a match. All the players have shown loyalty and dedication.

We won the Cheshire Cup for the second year running, another fantastic achievement. It was almost a week later until Dave got his voice back.

We have had quite a few new recruits this season and they have done really well, to watch the team you wouldn't think that this was their first season.

We nearly had something in common with Arsenal FC, (not that we'd really want to) being unbeaten all season, the only team that managed to beat us was Chester, and that was down to dodgy refereeing.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents for all their support throughout the season. Without them, we wouldn't have had the success that we have had.

To end, Steve and I would just like to say well done to all the players, keep it up for next season.

Dave Hunt and Steve Jones.

Under 11's Phil Clarke

This season has once again seen great progress being made by the squad, we saw an initial influx of players which has now settled down to a squad of about 17-18 players. In terms of results we have been about 50/50 in terms of victories and defeats this is something that I do not monitor as I am more concerned about the development of the individual and collective skills of the squad as opposed to it's success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan and Daniel who have done a fantastic job in the coaching department this season and also Wendy Beesley who has dealt with all the administration without these individuals the squad would not have been able to function. I look forward to seeing you next season.

Under 9's

The past season has been a building year for the Under 9's, a mixture of new and experienced players entering their first year of contact rugby. From the initial hesitance for tackling and confusion over positional play, training through the wind and rain of the English winter and some great games with wins and losses - over the year we have begun to see improvements in all the players. As the season progressed the skill of the players increased as did the team spirit, from parents as well as the team. The competitive year began well with wins against Wilmslow, Manchester, Crewe & Nantwich and the first of 2 wins against local rivals Winnington Park. The inexperience of the team showed in encounters with well organised teams from Sandbach and Chester who demonstrated excellent handling and supporting play, but with further wins against Ormskirk and the second of the Park clashes we scored 18 tries in two matches displaying an attacking instinct and will to win. With the mix of players (some under 10) playing in the Under 9's for this season we declared this for the Cheshire Cup, and after initially being accepted into the competition we were later informed that we would not be allowed to play. This was a big disappointment as the team would have acquitted themselves very well and enjoyed the tournament.

As the season drew to a close the squad was bolstered with a few extra players. Defense and tackling that had been missing in some of the earlier games was improved, understanding of the rules and positional play also evident with some solid team performances.

Hopefully all the players learnt some new skills throughout the season, and enjoyed the training, matches and camaraderie created in a rugby team. The coaches would like to thank the parents for their support and ask for this to continue for the next season. With a good season under our belts the Under 9's will build on this next year, as Under 10's we will have inclusion in the Cheshire Cup and other end of season tournaments to gain vital playing experience. We hope to see you all again - players and parents - next season.

Thank you for an enjoyable year.

Kevin and Dan



TEAM NEWS –CONT’

Under 12’s—Ken Houghton

A season of growth, that is how I would sum up this season. Under 12’s has often been a trying year as soccer moves to Sunday mornings for this age group and many a good team has all but folded when soccer wins out. However, this year we only lost 3 to soccer and that is almost an untruth as all 3 have turned out for us this season. The interest in the World Cup, coupled with starting rugby at High School has lead to a large influx of players this season. As we close the books on the season the squad stands at 27, which is very good and augers well for the coming years. However, the huge influx of new players has meant that there has been a time of consolidation as we try and get everyone up to a good playing level. This has held back the more established performers, but overall the squad is stronger for it.. Consequently results have been a bit of a mixed bag, probably about 50 : 50 though I haven’t checked the stats. We were short on game time this year, the RFU’s policy restricts us to only 12 games in the season and some of those were lost either to weather or to opposition that didn’t have a side at our age. With a large squad, and few games it is hard to ensure everyone gets game time, whilst trying to collect good results. We had a reasonable Cheshire Cup, going out in the Semi Finals to the tournament winners Lymm. However, like Sale vs Newcastle, we got our revenge the following week when they visited Moss Farm.

My thanks to Kevin Jones, who started the season with us but was persuaded to take on the U9’s , Kevan Underhill, who has stepped up to the challenge and to Andy George, who is always willing to get get involved and has acted as team medic when required.

I look forward to the challenge of “real” rugby next season when we go to 15 a side. We have benefited from many good new players this year and I hope to be welcoming even more new faces into the side next season.

My final word is to the children, don’t be sitting around on your computers and playstations all summer. Get out and get fit—its going to be a tough season next year, 18 games plus cup games and a lot more ground to cover.

Pain - is just weakness leaving the body!

Under 13’s—Ashley Barber

Another mixed year with some very pleasing results along with some very disappointing ones, with a squad of some twenty-four players many of which have played together for several years and some very welcome newcomers.

As a squad they are starting to bond but still lack an amount of confidence and desire to win when things get hard.

A few games are worthy of mention, when the team have had to play a very high standard of rugby just to achieve a 0-0 draw (scrum down red ball) along with several games where the half time score got too one sided resulting in Northwich players appearing in opposition colours for the second half.

With a little more commitment and attention to detail this squad will hopefully reach its true potential in the coming season.

Thanks to the boys for all their efforts this season and a special thanks to the regular band of parents for their support during the year.



Under 14’s, 15’s 16’s & 17’s —No reports received

PLAYING EQUIPMENT & SPONSORS

Another of those behind the scenes activities this year has been the work our Chairman Simon Bridle has been doing in the area of Sponsorship. Simon has worked very hard at this and has been very successful. Not only has he secured a major sponsor (**Alzach Pools**) for the woman and girls teams, but he has also raised sufficient sponsorship (some £2000) to get every team in the Juniors a new strip. Here are just some of our Sponsors, to which we are very grateful.



You may have also noticed that we have got new post protectors and some SAQ fitness equipment. All of these things help to improve the standards that we at Northwich can achieve.

Our success in the Community Club Awards has helped us become a more appropriate target for sponsors to consider and as we go into next year there are still many projects that require funding. So if you know of a company that would like to be associated with Northwich Rugby Club through sponsorship or by providing support in other ways then please contact Simon with the details.

sbridle@northwichruffc.co.uk

THE CLUB SHOP

All this new kit that we have had sponsored has created a great deal of work for Wendy Beesley and Laraine Dodd our two wonders of the kit world. These two Ladies have been essential to the smooth operation of our teams this year as they have not only negotiated good deals with suppliers for our shirts, but they have also sourced, Shorts, Socks, Gloves, Gum Shields etc for our players. It is our plan to have another "container" on site before the start of

next season and this will be the home of the club shop (as opposed the back of one of these ladies car's as is the case at present). We are intending to increase our range of leisure wear as well, the club Polo shirts have proven to be very popular and there is a lot of interest in replicas of the new First Team strip from Kooga.

As well as clothing and equipment, the shop also has access to Rugby Video's and DVD's at discounted prices,

so before you spend up in Woolworths or Smiths, check out what Wendy and Laraine can do for you, you might be pleasantly surprised.

If there are items which you would like to see stocked in the shop, then please let W & L know or one of the coaches and we'll see if its feasible to stock them.

A great big THANK YOU to Wendy and Laraine for all their hard work this year.



SOCIAL EVENTS

As a committee we are keen to develop more social events, to get the parents and coaches better acquainted and to strengthen the feeling that this is *your* club.

Our major Social of the Year is the Spring Ball. We are seeing a year on year growth in numbers of about 40% for this event, so if this trend continues, it will soon sell

out. It is a fantastic night, but don't take my word for it, ask someone who went and also check out the pics on the Web site.

We will be doing one again next Spring, details will be available by the time we see you for the start of next season. We are also contemplating holding another big social close to the start of the year, probably around the

2nd week of October. Plans are still fluid for this at the moment, so any suggestions gratefully received.

What we really need though is some willing volunteers to help us develop and run a Social Calendar. I know that amongst our Mum's and Dad's we have some star organizers, we need you to come forward and help.

Don't be shy, you know you want to!

"WHAT WE REALLY NEED THOUGH IS SOME WILLING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US DEVELOP AND RUN A SOCIAL CALENDAR".

BITS & PIECES

Congratulations to Phil Clarke on his appointment as Rugby Development Officer (RDO) for Central Manchester. Phil has been a stalwart of the club for many years as well as our current U11's Coach and has been very successful at developing rugby at "Sport Cheshire". We all wish you well with your new role Phil.

Junior Chairman Simon Bridle is on a Sponsored Diet in aid of the John Bower Trust. He is determined to loose 5 stone by the end of the year. Please contact Simon and pledge your support, its all for a good cause.

Last weekend Northwich and Winnington Park held two events on the Bank Holiday weekend. The first

was a Sportsmans Dinner with Dean Richards as guest speaker and the second was a Rugby 10's competition followed by the "Party in the Park" that saw 3 acts performing in the marquee. These acts gave their time free and proceeds went to the John Bower Trust.



Mum's providing impromptu backing vocals at this years Spring Ball. Don't miss the next one!

THE NORTHWICH FESTIVAL

August Bank Holiday, you don't want to go away and spend hours in traffic, so what do you do?

Well Northwich RUFC will be following up the success of last year with another **4 Day Extravaganza at Moss Farm**.

The weekend will kick off on Friday with a Sportsmans Dinner, with a quality guest speaker. Saturday will see a return of the Adults Rugby 10's competition. We jointly hosted (with Winnington Park) an adults 10's contest in May which was well supported by local clubs and we hope to build on that event in the August.

Saturday Evening and we have local star band "Atlantic Soul" playing in the Marque, this band are selling out all local venues, so come and see what the fuss is about!

Sunday and we see a major dance troupe event with teams from all over the Northwest and also a Little Miss Vale Royal - Beauty contest.

We are looking for a major act to fill the Sunday Evening slot.

Monday kicks off early with the CAR BOOT SALE from 7 am and then the "Festival of Sport" from 11 am, incorporating the local "Strong

Man" contest. Contestants for this prestigious event are already deep into training.

Along side this there will be the Farmers Market and the Craft Fayre, both of which proved very popular last year.

Monday will wrap up with a disco just for all the loyal helpers, who will be on their last legs by then.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD & IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANYWAY, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Seriously, this is our major fundraiser of the year and we need it to be a success. There is awful lot to do and last year it fell to about 12 people to do the lions share of the work. We need your help.

Whether it be cutting sandwiches for sale in the refreshment tent, parking cars, working the BBQ (always a hit with the men!) right through to giving us ideas for an act for the Sunday or helping tidy up on the Tuesday. This is a huge undertaking, but it is one that keeps Northwich RUFC financially afloat.

Some of the things we are trying to develop for the Monday are more side stall attractions. We are looking for ideas and volunteers to run them. It doesn't matter how small or how bizarre these stalls are if they can make us any monies, that's

what we are after.

Janice Steel is organising these. We have to date, coconut shy, kids tombola, adult tombola, teddy stall [Janice wants donations of teddy bears], golf competition, hook a duck, penalty shoot out,

We should also be looking for a stall to sell NRUFC merchandise

This year, the organizers want to make a significant donation to the John Blower Trust, however, it is Johns sincere wish that we do not impact on the fund raising that the club already does and has to do for its OWN SURVIVAL. Therefore we have to match or better last years income before donations to the JBT can be considered.

We have the venue and the potential to be a huge event for the town, but we need manpower (and woman power) to make it a success.

The main man for this event is Tim Pickering and Tim is contactable on timpick@tesco.net or contact Simon Bridle (sbridle@northwichruffc.co.uk) or Ken Houghton on khoughton@northwichruffc.co.uk

JOHN BLOWER TRUST

As most of you will know by now, John, a Junior coach and senior team player, was seriously injured in a freak accident just before Christmas 2003. This has left John paralysed from the neck downwards and this has had a devastating effect on him and his family. His friends and family have formed the John Blower trust fund to raise money to help support John and his family in this very trying time. There have already been many fundraising events and there are many more planned. Please lend your support to these events where ever you can as

every little helps.

The next planned events are:-

SATURDAY 15th MAY - GLADSTONE CLUB

SAX FRAZ and ATLANTIC SOUL are on at the GLADSTONE CLUB. Ring FRAZ to reserve your tickets 01606 781297

Friday 28th May The Thatch Inn— Castle

A Race Night

Come and take part in what is always a great

Night of and frolics. Be an owner, a jockey or just bet on the races. It's always a laugh and you never know, you may run out a winner.

All proceeds from these events are going directly to the JBT.

Please come and support these events and look out for more JBT events in the near future.

Junior Section Fixtures 2004 / 05 Season

DATE	U 16'S	H/A	U 15'S	H/A	U 14'S	H/A	U 13'S	H/A	MINIS U7/8's to U12's	H/A	NOTES
Sep-5	Enrolment/ Training		Enrolment/ Training		Enrolment/ Training		Enrolment/ Training		Enrolment/ Training		
12									Training		
19									Training		
26			LYMM	A	LYMM	A	LYMM	A	Training		
Oct-3			ORMSKIRK	H			ORMSKIRK	A	ORMSKIRK	A	
10			WIRRAL	H	WIRRAL	H	WIRRAL	H	Training		
17					C/NANTWICH	A	C/NANTWICH	A	C/NANTWICH	H	
24			CHESTER	A	CHESTER	H	CHESTER	A	Training		
31									CHESTER	H	
Nov-7			WHITCHURCH	A	WHITCHURCH	H	WHITCHURCH	H	Training		
14									WHITCHURCH	H	
21			CUP		CUP		CUP		Training		
28			W/PARK	H	W/PARK	A	W/PARK	H	WILMSLOW/ TRAFFORD-MV	A	<i>Minis at Wilmslow</i>
Dec-5			CALDY	H	CALDY	A	CALDY	A	Training		
12									SANDBACH	H	
19			SANDBACH	A	SANDBACH	H	SANDBACH	H	BOWLING		
Jan-9			WILMSLOW	H	WILMSLOW	A	WILMSLOW	H	Training		
16									Training		
23			WIRRAL	A	WIRRAL	A	WIRRAL	A	W/PARK	H	
30					C/NANTWICH	H	C/NANTWICH	H	Training		
Feb-6									CHESTER	A	
13			CALDY	A	CALDY	H	CALDY	H	Training		
20									MANCHESTER	H	
27			WREXHAM	H	WREXHAM	H	WREXHAM	A	Training		
Mar-6									LYMM		<i>U11/12's A U7/10's H</i>
13			CHESTER	H	CHESTER	A	CHESTER	H	CHESHIRE CUP	A	
20									WIRRAL/PORT SUNLIGHT	A	<i>Minis at Wirral</i>
27	EASTER		EASTER		EASTER		EASTER		Training		
Apr-3									WREXHAM	H	
10			W/CHURCH	H	W/CHURCH	A	W/CHURCH	A	Training		
17			NEWCASTLE	A	NEWCASTLE	H	NEWCASTLE	H	WHITCHURCH FESTIVAL		
24			MANCHESTER	A	MANCHESTER	H	MANCHESTER	H			

These Fixtures are correct at the time of going to press, however, look for an updated list throughout next year.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Training has now started for the Cheshire Youth Games teams. We need Year 5 & 6 boys and girls for the tag team, year 7 to 9 girls for the Girls Tag and Year 8 boys for the 10's competition. Moss Farm Saturday Mornings 10:30—12 for the next 6 weeks .

We are holding our annual Schools tag competitions in July.

Monday 5th July Moss Farm, Year 5 & 6 mixed tag; Friday 9th July @ Moss farm year 3 & 4 mixed tag; Friday 16th @ Verdin High School Winsford, year 5 & 6 Tag for Winsford and District.

Registration day is **5th September 2004**—we look forward to seeing you all then.

THE WEB SITE

Most of you now will have found www.northwichrufc.co.uk. This is a prime asset for us and our sincere thanks to Kevin Jones for keeping it so informative and up to date. If you want to get articles on the site, please contact Kevin or a committee member to discuss. We love to have match reports and observations from around the club. Kevin is investigating the possibility of doing E-newsletters, which would mean we can get our communications out quicker and cheaper and probably to more people (how many people find newsletters in jacket pockets months after they were passed out? Please ensure that when you fill in next years registration form you include your current email address.

You may not know but our web site is admired by many other teams and has resulted in us hosting a number of touring sides recently. It just shows it pays to advertise!!

CHAIRMAN'S GOALS FOR THE NEXT SEASON

Now we have been very successful in our recruitment of new players at all age groups we now want to raise the standards

of the teams. We have the coaches, players and enthusiasm to make the club the most successful in the Northwest. Phil Clarke will lead this initiative and will work closely with the coaches to identify the best way forward. We are determined to be the biggest and BEST club in the County!!

Achieve more sponsorship – the committee has been very successful in getting sponsors and every team now has a set of new logo'd shirts. It will be my principle objective to get some big sponsors to provide equipment, which the coaching staff identify as essential. A junior sized scrummaging machine is one item already identified.

100% subscription success – we have had a good year this year with over 90% success but next year we will achieve 100%. It is only fair that every player pays unless there are very exceptional circumstances, which will be considered by the junior committee. The committee will enforce a no pay – no play policy, our target is 95% payment on registration /subscription day (September 5th) and those not paid by October 1st will NOT be eligible to play!

Pride in playing for the club – The committee has provided the players with new shirts and we expect you to wear the club shorts and socks. Players turning up in unsuitable kit will not be allowed to play. If you need to buy these please see Wendy or Laraine. We have a lot of pride in what we have achieved and we ask you to have pride in putting on the club colours and to look the part, as you are all representatives of the club.

Work even more closely with the seniors – we are one inclusive club and it is my intention that a group of us attend all senior meetings and ask some seniors to the junior meetings so we can all adopt a one club mentality. Could I encourage as many of you as possible to come down on Saturdays and watch the seniors play. I am sure the seniors would love us to support them and I am sure they will reciprocate by helping us in our objectives. Sam and I have already agreed to build Northwich RUFC in its entirety.

Ensure the Girls and Ladies teams are fully established and integrated into Northwich RUFC. As a Junior section we have brought through some excellent girl players and we owe it to them to provide an outlet for their talents, please join with us and help us make this a success.

Encourage as many parents to volunteer to help out in any capacity; we would especially like more mothers, girlfriends etc to participate to help in the girl's section and other club events.

That's it for now, just again a big thanks to all for a great season!

See you over the summer at the social events we will be holding!

Simon