

Sunday's Game

PLEASE CONFIRM AVAILABILITY

Sunday 4th March [Away](#) Fixture - meet at 1000am at Wirral Rugby Club (see directions)

[Map attached to last page of this Newsletter](#)

Please wear Shirt with either Northwich Club Tie or School Tie (Jeans & Trainers will be OK)

Kit in sports bag – including soap and towel

CHECK THAT YOU HAVE ALL YOUR KIT BEFORE YOU LEAVE



Wirral U13's

versus

Northwich U13's



Northwich U13's – Probable Team		Substitutes
Sam Jones 9	Will Mitchell 2	16 Tom Foulkes
Mike Gough 1	3 Sam Oakes	17 Baden Powell
Simon Dale 4	5 Alex Dickenson	18 Ryan Simpson
Mike Collier 6	7 Sam Clayton	19 Ryan Kitt
8 Jack Vandersteen	10 Chris Sheppard	
11 Jamie Hall	12 Josh Hall	
15 Tom Sheridan	13 Luke Murray	
	14 Jordan Byrne	

Match Report for Last Sunday's Game - Sunday 25th February - [Away](#) Fixture (sent to Northwich Guardian)



Warrington U13's

10 versus 14

Northwich U13's



Northwich U13's travelled to Warrington for a tough challenge and returned back home as the victors, with Chris Sheppard converting both the individual breakaway tries from Sam Jones and Like Murray. Northwich have now won all their games in February and will face a fresh challenge against Wirral in their first March encounter next Sunday.

However, the score line does not tell the full story of a close battle between two equally matched teams. Even though



Picture taken from the latest Jane Goody's keep fit video

Northwich showed much more promise in attack the Warrington team proved far better at the rucks and mauls, and with a stream of turnover balls, won line-outs and two early scrums won against the head the home team succeeded in making the 'Stags' look ordinary. However, it was from a penalty, deep in the Northwich half that Luke Murray was given the ball ... and at this point existing known metaphors cannot best describe the spectacle that was about to unfold: the knife was just too hot for the butter; the bull too big for the china shop; in fact the 'Camel' was led to the water, downed it in one, threaded his way through the eye of the needle, and killed all fifteen Warrington birds with just one stone, and he still had enough lead in his pencil to place the ball down under the posts. This should have been the trigger for better things, but the Warrington team continued to make life difficult, and if it was not for a missed conversion the teams would have been level at half time. Both coaches spoke with passion, and with the threat of being picked for next week's under 8's netball game, the Northwich team started the second half with much more vigour, intent and control, and it was not long until Sam Jones broke on the blind side and sprinted sixty

metres to score an excellent individual try; this was again expertly converted by Chris Sheppard. With fifteen minutes remaining and already a match competed with brilliant spirit, everyone knew that the game would be won by the team with the biggest heart, and although Warrington scored another unconverted try, it was not enough to overcome the Northwich brave-hearts. Besides the point scorers, there were notable performances from Sam Oakes, Jack Vandersteen and Jamie Hall, but in particular Tom Sheridan showed that with some positional coaching that full-back could be his new position; but the player-of-the-match goes to Sam Clayton who was excellent in all quarters and has shown great improvements since moving to blind-side flanker. The match was won, but the team knew it was not one of their better performances ... but a test of a good team is one that can win by not playing well ... does this mean that Northwich are turning into a good team? This question could well be answered next Sunday when the 'Stags' will try and reverse the 32-nil thumping they experienced against Wirral back in early December ... set next week's standards higher lads. **Northwich Team including substitutes (all used): Forwards – Sam Oakes, Will Mitchell, Mike Gough, Alex Dickenson, Sam Clayton, Simon Dale, Mike Collier, Jack Vandersteen and Ryan Simpson; Backs - Sam Jones, Chris Sheppard, Luke Murray, Josh Hall, Ryan Kitt, Tom Sheridan, Jamie Hall and Jordan Byrne.**



Post Match Analysis

On the whole the backs had a good game, with some encouraging hands and many try saving tackles; the defensive line was good and stifled the Warrington attackers; in Josh Hall and Luke Murray Northwich have the potential of having one of the best pair of mid-Cheshire centres at U14 level; the half back pairing of Sam Jones and Chris Sheppard showed glimpses of their growing understanding in previous victories; and also encouraging was the fine performance from Tom Sheridan at full-back as Warrington chose to kick deep on numerous occasions only to be returned in style by Tom; there was also some fine running from Jamie Hall, Ryan Kitt and Jordan Byrne, with Jordan making two important tackles. However, in attack the line was still too flat causing the backs not to capitalise on encouraging positions. Although three up-field kicks proved beneficial, there still appears to be a reliance from the half backs to kick rather than using players running from deep.

The effort from the forwards could not be questioned, especially before the game when they took it upon their selves to run their own practice drills; but technically during the game there were frailties. Too many were purposely hanging off the tight in anticipation of taking the second phase at depth, forgetting that the first phase ball needed to be won before the scrum half can opt to bring the deep runners back into the game. The most important aspect of winning a ruck is the position and direction of drive and height of contact of the first forwards to the break-down, and Will Mitchell (as always) and Sam Clayton were superb, but the other forwards came in too high, with little drive, and hence 80% of the rucks were lost in the first half. There was however a difference in the second half, especially when Jamie Hall (who is currently the Andy Farrell of Northwich – flanker or centre?) joined the front eight.

The forwards are now starting to find out the importance of playing as a pack rather than individuals and if they read the write-up in Newsletter no. 6 (page 3) it will remind them that the Wirral backs will be a big test for them on Sunday; hence Wednesday's training is targeted at improving these workable frailties.

Mid- week Training

The next evening session will be on Wednesday 28th February. Please meet at the club (Moss Farm) for 6.30pm. Training will be finished no later than 8.00pm.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 28 th February	Training - meet 1830pm at Moss Farm
Sunday 4 th March	<u>Away</u> Fixture to Wirral U13's - meet at Wirral RUFC at 1000am
Wednesday 7 th March	Training - meet 1830pm at Moss Farm
Sunday 11 th March	Training - meet 0945pm at Moss Farm or Cheshire Development Squad Training at IM Marsh Camp
Wednesday 14 th March	Training - meet 1830pm at Moss Farm
Sunday 18 th March	<u>Home</u> Fixture to Macclesfield U13's - meet at Moss Farm at 1000am
Wednesday 21 st March	Training - meet 1830pm at Moss Farm
Saturday 24 th March	<u>Cardiff Tour</u> meet at Moss Farm at 0615am leaving 0630am SHARP!
Sunday 25 th March	<u>Cardiff Tour</u> drop back at Moss Farm at 1900pm

Map to get to Next Away Game - **Wirral Rugby Club**

Address: The Memorial Ground, Thornton Common Road, Clatterbridge, Wirral, Merseyside CH63 4JU
 Telephone: 0151 334 1309
 Directions: From M53 junction 4 follow the signs for Willaston & Neston. Straight ahead at roundabout. Left at first crossroads. Wirral RFC is on the left

Map on next page

