

Next Sunday's Game

THERE WILL BE NO GAME OR TRAINING ON EASTER SUNDAY

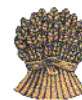
Sunday 14th April [Away](#) Fixture - meet at 1000am at Sandbach Rugby Club



Northwich U13's

versus

Sandbach U13's



Match Report for Last Sunday's Game - Sunday 1st April - [Home](#) Fixture

(sent to Northwich Guardian)



Northwich U13's

31

versus

12 Congleton U13's



Northwich made it seven straight wins to Cheshire opposition, and even with seven enforced changes to the usual starting line-up, Northwich powered past a strong Congleton XV with three tries from Luke Murray, one from Sam Jones and with Chris Sheppard adding a try and three conversions. *(Extract sent to the Guardian).*

Northwich U13's – The Victorious XV

Sam Jones 9	Mike Gough 2	Lee Burke 3
Ryan Simpson 1	Steff Haspell 4	Alex Dickenson 5
Ryan Kitt 6	Jack Vandersteen 8	Jordan Byrne 7
Michael Chubb 11	Chris Sheppard 10	Josh Hall 12
Tom Sheridan 15	Luke Murray 13	Luke Targett 14

Players Missing

- Sam Oakes
- Will Mitchell
- Baden Powell
- Mike Collier
- Simon Dale
- Sam Clayton
- Jamie Hall
- Tom Foulkes
- Tom Finney
- Andrew Dawson

For the record, Congleton came to win, and arguably fielded both their best team of the season and their strongest set of supporters on the touchline. There were strong performances from Tom Beck at prop, Scott Summerfield at scrumhalf, and by far their best and most outstanding player was 'Ollie' the Congleton no.8.

However, many of today's Northwich squad can still remember the first game of this 2006-07 season when 'Stags' could only muster a squad of eleven to face Congleton. This latest victory in the current seven game winning streak shows how far the squad has developed this season. Northwich were without, two of their three Cheshire players Will Mitchell (ill) and Mike Collier (Skiing); were without regular first team starters Sam Clayton, Tom Foulkes and Baden Powell (all on Cheshire Scout hiking competition), Jamie Hall, Tom Finney and Simon Dale (all on holiday), Sam Oakes (injured); and without our latest recruit Andrew Dawson who was also unavailable (sailing in a National Open).

So the stage was given to some of our developing players to face a strong Congleton squad. Lee Burke, Luke Targett and Stefan Haspell all debutants, Michael Chubb, Ryan Kitt, Ryan Simpson and Jordan Byrne were all given the chance to play a full game.

This mixture of experience and fresh enthusiasm showed great promise right from the first kick-off, and although the pack lacked physical size, all eight were awesome throughout the whole game. Ryan Simpson and Lee Burke brought a new mobile dimension to the position of props; Mike Gough (once his dad had managed to get him out of bed) was superb as hooker; Stefan Haspell was influential and spurred his fellow lock Alex Dickenson into one of his best games in a Northwich shirt; Ryan Kitt and Jordan Byrne moved from the backs into the forwards and were both excellent; and Jack Vandersteen led the pack brilliantly from his no. 8 position.

At recent training sessions the coaches have been working on the tight eight working the phases and then letting the backs get the glory tries, and for the first time this season this tactic worked with all 31 points being scored by the backs. Sam Jones nearly eliminated the 'kicking game' for one of 'hands', he had a some excellent blind side runs, which led to an excellent individual try, orchestrated the pace of play and gave some fine passes out to his backs; Chris Sheppard was on form, he looked really comfortable with his scrum half, and sped some quick ball out to his centres as well as scoring an excellent individual try and converting three of the five tries scored on the day (narrowly



missing a fourth by hitting the posts in strong winds from the touchline); Luke Murray and Josh Hall are definitely turning into an excellent pair of centres, both making strong, straight runs, Josh leading the tackling count, and Luke leading the 'bulldozer' runs by scoring three tries on the day to make it eleven for the season (even though the one from the penalty move was meant for Josh, but we will let them argue that one in the clubhouse); Tom Sheridan is still learning the position as full-back but has already made that position his own in 2007, and although the hardening ground caused both sides problems, Tom has real potential in this position; and finally to the two wingers, Michael Chubb could one day follow in the footsteps of his brother on to the hallowed turf of Twickenham and is proving to be a great introduction to the squad by adding some security in tackling to the wing position, and with the natural running style he shows in training it is only time before he scores his first of many tries in a black and gold shirt, and finally to Luke Targett who had an excellent debut for Northwich with some brilliant tackling, with two champagne moments by 'dumping' the accomplished Congleton and South

Cheshire scrum-half on two separate occasions.

To choose a man of the match is difficult, from fifteen players that all contributed some excellent moments, so this week, rather than looking at the points scorers, the RBS man-of-the-match goes to the two props Ryan Simpson and debutant Lee Burke for their mobility and strength in the forwards that allowed Luke Murray, Sam Jones and Chris Sheppard to score all of the points and guess what – ANOTHER MASSIVE WELL DONE to the Northwich players – seven straight victories.

Northwich Team: Forwards – Ryan Simpson, Mike Gough, Lee Burke, Stefan Haspell, Ryan Kitt, Jordan Byrne, Jack Vandersteen and Alex Dickenson; Backs – Sam Jones, Chris Sheppard, Luke Murray, Josh Hall, Luke Targett, Tom Sheridan and Michael Chubb



This week's photographs supplied by Steve Jones

Mid- week Training

The next evening session will be on Wednesday 4th April. Please meet at the club (Moss Farm) for 6.30pm. Training will be finished no later than 8.00pm. THERE WILL BE NO TRAINING on Wednesday 11th April.

New Players

The U13's coaches would like to give a warm welcome to two recent newcomers to Moss Farm. Lee Burke pictured above joins us from Verdin School in Winsford and Luke Targett pictured right, is one of the successes from Dave's hard work at Rudheath School. With the squad getting bigger it is important to continue to balance maintaining success on the pitch with ensuring that all squad players get the chance to contribute on match days. That is why everyone needs to continually grow their skills at training so that the coaches can maintain this equilibrium.



Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 4th April
 Sunday 8th April
 Wednesday 11th April
 Sunday 15th April
 Wednesday 18th April
 Sunday 22nd April
 Wednesday 25th April
 Sunday 29th April
 Sunday 29th April

Training - meet 1830pm at Moss Farm
 Easter Sunday - No Game and No Training
 Easter Week - No Training
Away Fixture to **Sandbach U13's** - meet at Sandbach Rugby Club at 1000am
 Training - meet 1830pm at Moss Farm
Home Fixture to **Crewe and Nantwich U13's** - meet at Moss Farm at 1000am
 Last Wednesday night Training of the 2006-07 season- meet 1830pm at Moss Farm
Home Last 2006-07 Fixture to **Helsby U13's** - meet at Moss Farm at 1000am
PLEASE KEEP AFTERNOON FREE – PRIZE GIVING and other SURPRISES