

**Match Report for Last Sunday's Game – LAST GAME of the SEASON**  
 Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April [Home](#) Fixture



Northwich U13's

versus

Sandbach U13's



On the last match of the season Northwich U13's entertained Sandbach. Sandbach 1<sup>st</sup> XV had not lost to any opposition for 18 months, and currently they are clearly the best team in Cheshire and a definite contender for a northwest benchmark. On the last Sunday of the season they brought their best team to Moss Farm. This challenging fixture was aligned to the end of season so as to see how far Northwich had improved since their 71- 0 thrashing back in October when the side was still developing as a squad.



Squad for Sandbach game, 29<sup>th</sup> April: Top from the left: Ben Colyer, Sam Clayton, Mike Collier, Jack Vandersteen, Mike Gough, Jamie Hall, Alex Dickenson, Sam Oakes, Simon Dale, Baden Powell and Andrew Simpson. Bottom from the left: Will Mitchell, Luke Targett, Ryan Kitt, Luke Murray, Tom Sheridan, Sam Jones (captain), Chris Sheppard, Josh Hall, Michael Chubb, Lee Burke and Jordan Byrne.



Northwich had an available squad of 22. Absent from the game was Ryan Simpson who was on holiday, Tom Foulkes on school duty and Tom Finney absent without leave. Jordan Burns was injured but still attended to support his team-mates. Sam Oakes returned from a long lay-off.

Northwich U13's started with their strongest XV and also had the privilege of playing on the Senior 1<sup>st</sup> XV pitch. The team held their own, with some superb tackling from Sam Clayton, Luke Murray, Chris Shepard, Josh Hall and

Mike Collier. The intensity of the tackles was superb to the extent that Mike Collier had to go off with an injured shoulder. The half time score was 12 to nil. To ensure that everyone got a game, the coaches made several changes and although the second half team lost 19 – 0 the spirit and pride displayed by everyone was superb. There was some really good second half performances and courage shown by Andrew Dawson, Ben Colyer, Ryan Kitts, Jamie Hall and Sam Jones.



All of the tries scored by Sandbach were scored by one player, a stunning individual and one of the best U13 players seen in Cheshire for many a year. However, all the watching parents saw a Northwich performance that showed great enthusiasm and commitment, and gave great hope for the new season at under 14 level. For the last match of the season the RBS man of the match award goes to Jack Vandersteen for his aggression, commitment and leadership in the forwards, probably Jack's best game of the season.



In the afternoon the club held the end of year prize giving and the coaches would like to say a massive thank you to all of the parents that contributed to the food and refreshments, with a special thanks to Jane, Alison and Charlotte for preparing the room, and a mention to Stella for the very innovative, individually numbered shirt-cakes and to Tammy for the superb Northwich cake. It was a feast that everyone really enjoyed, including Helsby, Sandbach, Crewe and Nantwich, the under 14's, the colts, everyone in the bar, the under 13's and their friends and relatives. Thank you again.

Photographs supplied by Karl Colyer

### Getting Ready for the New Season

Mid week training may start informally in July, depending the Steves' holiday commitments, but we will forward more information in due course, however, the U13's official training will start around 8th August 2007. In the meantime the coaches will start to augment their own skills and the two Steve's will be off to do their level 2's at Rochdale and Warrington Rugby Clubs. Hopefully two more assistant coaches will join the set-up in the new season with Karl Colyer and Barry Sheppard doing some pre-requisites over the closed season. We are anticipating that all the squad will return for the new season, and we are still remain open to recruit some more players, which may give us the opportunity to get two teams out on *some* Sundays and maximise the opportunities to everyone for competitive play-time. So far I have only received 6 forms for the new season, so for those of you who have not already done so, I would greatly appreciate it if you could send your form back to me in the SAE supplied, ASAP (*cheques will not be cashed until September*).