

Match Report - Sunday 7th September - [Home](#) Fixture



Northwich U14's 45 versus 17 Congleton U14's



Tries: Jack Vandersteen, Josh Hall (2), Elliot Alston, Sam Jones, Mike Collier and Tom Bebbington
Conv: Chris Sheppard (5) Star Man: Chris Sheppard

Northwich dominated a strong opposition and this enabled everyone in the growing squad of 25 players an opportunity to play an active part in an excellent victory. Another large crowd witnessed a highly impressive performance from both the forward and back divisions with very few unforced errors. A special mention to two more debutant 'Stags', David Lewis and Stephen Parry who both showed great promise during the game.

This Sunday: v Wilmslow (h) (Extract sent to the Northwich Guardian).



Top Row from Left to Right: Sam Clayton, Luke Murray, Alex Dickenson, Tom Bebbington, Mike Collier, Jack Vandersteen, Simon Dale and Chris Sheppard. Middle Row: David Lewis, Baden Powell, Stephen Parry, Elliot Alston, Luke Targett, Tom Sheridan, Mike Gough, Jordan Byrne and Joe Halsall. Bottom Row: Michael Chubb, Jamie Hall, Tom Foulkes, Will Mitchell, Sam Jones, Josh Hall, Ryan Kitt and Andrew Dawson.

Northwich U14's v Congleton - 7th October 2007

Sam Jones	Will Mitchell
Simon Dale	Mike Gough Baden Powell
Mike Collier	Joe Halsall Alex Dickenson
Ryan Kitt	Sam Clayton Andrew Dawson
	Jack Vandersteen
	Chris Sheppard
Josh Hall	Luke Murray Luke Targett
Jordan Byrne	
Tom Bebbington Tom Foulkes	
	Michael Chubb Stephen Parry

Players not on Duty

- Sam Oakes
- Tom Finney
- Lee Burke
- Ryan Simpson

Players in black started
Players in red played as replacements

Northwich fielded their largest squad of 25 highly toned players, all wanting their bit of the action. The pre-match warm-up was fiercely contested and after Congleton won the toss and elected to kick-off the Northwich team rattled into the first few physical encounters. The game had started and it was not long before the scoreboard started to groan into action. The first try came after some excellent forward handling, allowing Northwich to edge towards the Congleton try line, and like a tank emerging from a pea green fog Jack Vandersteen lunged over to set another 4+ on the Richter scale (expertly converted by Chris Sheppard). The second try was quick to follow, when from another sparkling backs move Josh Hall pierced his way through the tough Congleton defence like a hot poker stamping the seal of excellence on the herd of unrepentant wildebeest (again, expertly converted by Chris Sheppard). To be fair the Congleton squad did prove a hard



Sam Jones exploding sausage, with referee on the spot to award try



The excellent Chris Sheppard in action



Elliot Alston scoring his first try for the 'Stags'

nut to crack in the first third, Joe and Tom Beck gave the Northwich front row a challenge and on three occasions the scrum was pushed back; Zak Jones, Jack Scolfield and Max Marrell were all excellent in both tackle and turnover ball. The two stars for Congleton however, were Oliver Winnington and Scott Sommerfield and it was Scott with an individual kick and chase that led to Congleton's first try. Those who have watched Congleton before will remember the excellent contributions from Shaun Nuntry. Shaun lost recently lost his mother to illness and we all felt for him when he had to leave the field with an emotional breakdown, and all the players and coaches wish him well and hope that he soon feel better and will face us again in the New Year.

The ball in the third Northwich try tracked the flow of a meandering river as the ball flowed neatly through the hands to one side and then the next and finally polished off in the corner by Elliot Alston. At the end of the first third Northwich led 19:5. Then on came the army of new recruits as Northwich made 10 changes and Congleton 6. Scott Sommerfield again proved the danger man and crossed over the line but because of an overdose of 'show-boating' the try was not given, but shortly after he again broke through the Northwich defence to score his second try, converted by Max Marrel. Sickness all week, and a sea of red and white could not keep Sam Jones out of the limelight, and like a sausage skin under great heat, he exploded into action to score the squad's fourth try (a difficult and even more expertly converted by Chris Sheppard). At the end of the second third Northwich led 26:12.

In the eyes of the large crowd the final third was full of spellbinding rugby and seamless substitutions. If it was a boxing match, the referee may have stopped it. The fifth try came from Mike Collier who was so excited about his exploits that he ran off the pitch to relay to his adoring fans the greater fineries of his conquest. The sixth try followed immediately from the kick-off, Josh Hall (who was pure genius) caught the ball broke the gain line and passed to Tom Bebbington who rapier liked crossed the border with his guided missile system homed in on his target to score his second try for the club (as expected, expertly converted by Chris Sheppard). The seventh try saw some more great forward play and then some laser precision passing from the backs allowing Josh to bag his brace (guess what? ... expertly converted by Chris Sheppard). The referee came under fire from a single Congleton dad, who thought that the fight should have been stopped after the first try, but whilst he continued to fire his verbal reasoning, Scott hopped dangerously close to the touch-line to score a try, and after the video judges were called in to adjudicate the twelve Congleton touch-judges all awarded the try, and the referee still smarting from his constructive feedback reversed his decision, only to be turned on by a few vocal 'Stags'. So there we are: Congleton missed the conversion;

the referee blew the final whistle; and Northwich had won 45:17. **In the end of match huddle the whole squad felt even better than the previous week and that they had all had their own opportunities to contribute to another encouraging performance, well-done lads! and a big thank you to Congleton in allowing us to rotate our large squad.**

Respect Barrie's Spectators' selection of the Spectators' Player of the Day: Auntie Barrie surpassed himself (or was there some youthful assistance) but the RBS technological innovation was used for the first time. Great praise was given to Luke Murray who continued to inject speed, strength and aggression to continuously break the gain line. Similar recognition was given to Elliot Alston for another faultless performance at fullback; Simon Dale Jack Vandersteen and Mike Collier were all singled out in the forwards, but the top three proved unanimous. In third place was Josh Hall, who not only scored two tries but also had a high passing and tackling count – well done Josh. In a close second place was Ryan Kitt, who two weeks running has surpassed expectations from his migration into the forwards, his tackling was immense, his rucking was superb and his fitness (and even pain) levels were impressive – well done Ryan. The RBS Spectators' pick of the day went to Chris Sheppard, who released the ball to his backs with accuracy, who commanded the mid-field and who never missed a tackle all day. Not always in agreement with the knowledgeable crowd, but this decision was unanimous with the coaches to – so a big well done to Chris.

'Tango' Moment of the Day: After picking up a positional Congleton field kick, Tom Sheridan did not just perform one faked 'shimmy', but the attacking backs were fooled by two in quick succession, followed by a storming run. We are in awe of this great moment, well done 'Teddy'.

Reflections for Mid-week Training: Our next match is against Wilmslow. We will not get things so easy. They have strong forwards and fast backs. The game plan will be simple: in the first fifteen, the 'Stags' will offer an impenetrable defence to frustrate the 'Hawks', once the seed of doubt has been sown, Northwich will tire the opposing forwards and unleash the potential in the backs. We will have to be on our game both on Sunday and at training on Wednesday night. So be there!

Next Sunday's Game

Sunday 13th October [Home](#) Fixture - meet at 9.45am at Moss Farm

PLEASE CONFIRM AVAILABILITY



Northwich U14's

versus

Wilmslow U14's



Other News – Cheshire Development Squad

Monday 15th October 2007 sees the start of the Cheshire Development Squad selection process, this will be held under our floodlights at Moss Farm – be there for 6.15pm. After the schools had selected their representatives this left both the Steve's with the difficult decision to select the Northwich '5'. Therefore the following players will attend the first trial session:

Sam Jones (Hartford High)
Ryan Kitt (Leftwich High)
Jack Vandersteen (NRUFC)

Sam Clayton (The Grange)
Josh Hall (Leftwich High)
Luke Murray (NRUFC)

Chris Sheppard (Leftwich High)
Will Mitchell (NRUFC)
Simon Dale (NRUFC)
Elliot Alston (NRUFC)

Other News – Communication

Still waiting the remaining mobile numbers for the following players:

Andrew Dawson Baden Powell Chris Sheppard Jamie Hall
Lee Burke Michael Chubb Ryan Simpson

It would be really helpful if you could text your number (with name) to Steve Vandersteen on 07710 157950.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 10th October - Evening training – 6.30pm at Moss Farm
Sunday 14th October - Home Match against WILMSLOW U14's – meet at Moss Farm at 9.45am
Wednesday 17th October - Evening training – 6.30pm at Moss Farm
Sunday 21st October - We are trying to arrange a 'B' – Team fixture with 'A' – Team Training
Wednesday 24th October - Evening training – 6.30pm at Moss Farm
Sunday 28th October - Home Match against LEIGH U14's – meet at Moss Farm at 9.45am
Wednesday 31st October - Evening training – 6.30pm at Moss Farm
Sunday 4th November - Home Match against SANDBACH U14's – meet at Moss Farm at 9.45am
Wednesday 7th November - Evening training – 6.30pm at Moss Farm