

Match Report - Sunday 4th November - Home Fixture



Northwich U14's 3 versus 30 Sandbach U14's



Northwich U14's v Sandbach – 4th November 2007

Sam Jones 9	Will Mitchell 2	David Lewis 3
Simon Dale 1	Ryan Simpson 1	Baden Powell 3
Mike Collier 4	Sam Clayton 5	Alex Dickenson 5
Joe Halsall 6	Jamie Hall 6	Ryan Kitt 7
		Jordan Byrne 7
	Jack Vandersteen 8	
	Chris Sheppard 10	
Josh Hall 12	Elliot Alston 13	Luke Murray 13
Tom Bebbington 11	Tom Sheridan 15	Matt Beesley 13
Tom Foulkes 11		Luke Targett 14
		Steven Parry 14

Players not on Duty: Sam Oakes, Andrew Dawson, Michael Chubb, Mike Gough

Players in black started
Players in red played as replacements

Penalty: Chris Sheppard
Star Player: Chris Sheppard
Northwich were given a master class in how to play fifteen-man rugby. The Sandbach visitors were excellent and if it were not for some excellent tackling from the hard working 'Stags' then the margin would have been far greater.
Next Sunday: Cheshire Cup Match v Congleton (Away) (Extract sent to the Northwich Guardian).



Sandbach agreed prior to the fixture to play a match made up of two 20-minute halves for a 1st XV fixture, and then to have a further 20-minute practice period to ensure that all the 'Bulls' got valuable game time. Although the Sandbach 1st XV were obviously far stronger than Northwich in all quarters, the format seemed to work well by giving all players a chance to compete against such an impressive outfit.

Rather than talk too much about the game, it maybe good to reflect on a few differences

between the two teams. Having over 50 under 14's on their books gives Sandbach the opportunity to play both a 1st and 2nd XV fixture every week; it is also true that the Sandbach schools major on the game of rugby (hence the other significant victories in the U13's, 15's and 16's fixtures too) and currently boast England Academy players in all qualifying age groups; with the Grammar School littered with many rugby photographs plus England and Cheshire shirts, demonstrates the great tradition in the town. However, their base building blocks are still the same as ours. Although the Northwich players may well have been 'psychologically' affected by the apparent size difference between the teams, it could still be argued that Sandbach's best player was their smallest: the excellent scrum-half. In fact the real difference was in their approach, aggression, drill, skill and technique (and not all in their size), and all of this can be coached. As a Northwich squad we are not yet in the same league, however with more victories than defeats this season, we have still reached a significantly competent level within the county, and on Sunday many of our players showed some superb tackling, running and mauling skills, and although out-classed, the effort and commitment was there, but the overall breadth of technique across the squad clearly still needs further development. So rather than despair we must be proud



of what the players have achieved to date. So as coaches we are highly proud and motivated by both the longer-term potential of the squad as well as the excellent team spirit that exists within the squad (for we have consistently seen over 20 players turn up to every weekday training session and match since March of this year).



‘Tango’ Moment of the Day: To reflect this spirit, one of our keenest and physically smaller players, Tom Foulkes, showed his massive heart and determination to pole-axe the largest player on the pitch, with an excellent tackle (that obviously hurt both parties), but immediately stood up to face the next opposition surge. Well done Tom.

Respect **Barrie’s Spectators’** selection of the **RBS Spectators’ Player of the Day:** The previous week the ‘Stags’ easily beat Leigh, but probably in a way that left the coaches disappointed. This weeks performance was full of heart and some excellent defensive play, and without the endless stream of crunching tackles from Tom Bebbington (continued to batter with his sore shoulder), Josh Hall, Elliot Alston, Chris Sheppard, Sam

Clayton, Simon Dale, Jamie Hall, Joe Halsall, Jack Vandersteen, Sam Jones and Luke Murray, the defeat would have been far greater. This superb display of individual defensive play was reflected on Barrie’s ‘innovation sheet’. However, a top 3 had to be agreed: in third place was Josh Hall for only missing one tackle facing him all match; in second was Sam Jones, who under extreme pressure still managed to launch some attacking play through both forwards and backs; but just on his number of bruises, his ruffled hair and sheer exhaustion after the match, Chris Sheppard now leads the RBS table with another excellent individual contribution. Well done Chris!

Photographs supplied by Martin Kitt and to date, an anonymous ‘clicker’

Next Sunday’s Game

Sunday 11th November **Away** Fixture - meet at 10.00am at Congleton Rugby Club (Hankinson’s Park and not Back Lane, go into Congleton town on A54 and head out towards Buxton, you will see Club House on the left, just past the Police Station on the right - maps given out on Wednesday)

PLEASE CONFIRM AVAILABILITY

Cheshire Cup Match



Congleton U14’s versus **Northwich U14’s**



Please Note: A squad of just 20 players will be selected (Cheshire Cup rules) for this fixture on Wednesday night and communicated after training. However all players are welcome and encouraged to attend as part of the squad.

Forthcoming Events

- Sunday 11th November** - Cheshire Cup (Preliminary Round), Away Match against **CONGLETON U14’s** – meet at Congleton Rugby Club at 1000am
- Wednesday 14th November** - Evening training – 6.30pm at Moss Farm
- Sunday 18th November** - Away Match against **RHYL U14’s** – meet at Rhyl Rugby Club at 10.00am (directions and travel arrangements to sorted later)

HELP with Improving Communications:

Still waiting the remaining mobile numbers for the following players: **Baden Powell, Lee Burke, David Lewis, Tom Bebbington**. It would be really helpful if you could text your number (with name) to Steve on **07846 157955** (Please note my change of mobile number)

... and a few email addresses still not known: **David Lewis, Tom Bebbington and Tom Finney**.

