



Summary of this week's 'Busy' Newsletter

This newsletter is a bit busy, but we will take the lads through it on Wednesday night. The content of this week's edition includes:

- Proposal to increase the game-time of some of our lesser experienced players
- Cheshire Cup Match report against Macclesfield
- Report on our success in the Cheshire Development Squad
- A look forward to the big game against Winnington Park
- Details of our Flint Fixture, Christmas Meal and half-term Awards
- Details of this week's fixture at Caldý
- Update and Details of the Spring Tour ... **AND FORM TO RETURN**

Our Double Edged Sword

Everyone connected with the club is obviously happy to reach the Quarter Finals of the U14's Cheshire Cup after our victory against Macclesfield on Sunday. The game was in the balance until five minutes from the end, and although many players were jubilant, the three coaches, some of the players and their respective parents left Moss Farm a little downhearted. Although it has been, and will continue to be our policy to ensure that who ever turns-up on a Sunday gets a minimum of 20 minutes game time irrespective of the effect on the end result, we fell that has to be different for the few Cheshire Cup games.

As we have seen in the past 18 months, success on the pitch has helped grow the credibility of the Northwich U13/U14's, and this season we have already won 7 out of 10 games and continue to attract more players (in fact this Sunday we see two new players join our triumphant squad). Recent advise from Sandbach says that to successfully run two teams we would require a squad of 40, and with a current squad size of 28, with a regular turn out of 25, we still full short of the numbers for two teams.

This situation also exists in the U15's, which gives us an opportunity. We have been working closely with Dave Jeffers and Mike Penny by looking at the feasibility of organising up to 6 further games for a combined U15+14's B-Team without disrupting the current planned fixtures. We will discuss this with Ken Houghton (our Fixtures Secretary) and communicate our proposal to you in due course.

In the meantime:

- Unlike some other clubs, we will continue to ensure that our lesser experienced players get good game-time (with Cheshire Cup games excepted), and this will include the next three fixtures against Caldý, Winnington Park and Flint.
- We will continue to welcome new recruits into our fold and make the learning experience as fun as possible, with the aim of having an 1st & 2nd XV fixture list (as currently operated by Caldý, Sandbach & Whitchurch U14's).
- We will select certain matches (already on the fixture list), where we feel the opposition is weaker, and ensure the lesser-experienced players get a full game (as we did with Helsby) and use the rest as replacements.
- We will attempt to work a further 6 fixtures into this season to accommodate a combined U15+14's B-Team.

Finally, before we concentrate on this Sunday's match report, we would like to personally thank the following players who did not get any game-time, but involved themselves in the preparation before the game, and encouragement during the match: Tom Foulkes, Michael Chubb, Ryan Simpson, Luke Targett, Stephen Parry and Alex Dickenson (although injured still turned up). Well done lads, you will all get an opportunity on Sunday at Caldý.

Sunday 25th November - [Home](#) Fixture
Cheshire Cup Match



Northwich U14's 17 versus 0 Macclesfield U14's



Northwich U14's - 17 v Macclesfield U14's - 0

Tries: Mike Collier, Elliot Alston and Jamie Hall

Conversion: Chris Sheppard

Star Player: Joe Halsall

Northwich eventually over powered their visitors and are now rewarded with a place in the draw for the Cheshire Cup Quarter Finals. Macclesfield started the game strongly and were unlucky not to take the lead, but the Northwich tackling proved to be the difference between the two teams.

Next Sunday: Caldý (Away) (Extract sent to the local papers).

Northwich U14's v Macclesfield – 25th November 2007



Sam Jones



Will Mitchell
Tom Sheridan

Simon Dale



Mike Gough
David Lewis

Mike Collier



Joe Halsall

Ryan Kitt
Jamie Hall



Sam Clayton

Jack Vandersteen



Chris Sheppard

Players not on Duty

Andrew Dawson
Baden Powell (ill)
Alex Dickenson (injured)

Elliot Alston



Tom Bebbington



Luke Murray



Josh Hall

Matt Beesley
Jordan Byrne



Squad Players in attendance on the Day

Tom Foulkes
Luke Targett
Michael Chubb
Luke Targett
Ryan Simpson

Players in black started
Players in red played as replacements

Anselmians	39	v	0	Crewe & Nantwich
New Brighton	10	v	33	Winnington Park
Northwich	17	v	0	Macclesfield
Wilmslow	42	v	10	Wirral
Lymm	22	v	19	Caldy A
Ashton on Mersey	0	v	53	Caldy B
Alt Kersal	37	v	0	Dukinfield
Ellesmere Port	0	v	50	Sandbach

The conditions were excellent for a game of rugby, and after previous fixtures with Macclesfield, the battlefield was ready for another closely fought but sporting encounter between two equally matched forces. Sam Jones won his *second* toss in a row and elected to receive the kick into (Cricket) Pavilion End and that was where him and his team stayed for the first next fifteen minutes (a lesson learnt for our captain - when you win the toss you either start with

the kick and put the immediate pressure on the opposition half, or if the wind is strong, choose to go with the wind and only then, accept the kick). Macclesfield piled on the pressure, and were unlucky not to score, with their impressive blonde flanker knocking on an almost certain try, and with the two Sam's (Jones and Clayton) holding up a 'blue' surge beyond the Northwich try line. Northwich could not get out of their own 22, with both half backs getting kicks charged down. Maybe if Macclesfield had scored, the game might have been different, however on reflection this superb piece of defensive play with some strong tackling from the 'Stags' ended up



being the difference between the two teams. Eventually the ball did get down the line to both Tom Bebbington and Luke Murray who together gained good ground into the 'blue' half, and



at this point the pendulum started its swing back. The forwards cranked up the pressure and with some decent back play, Northwich found themselves camping in new territory, and then the Macclesfield team cracked under the strain and allowed Mike Collier to throw himself over the line to score his *second* try of the season. The half ended 5:0 to the 'Stags'.



The *second* half stayed close, albeit Northwich had the advantage both in possession and territorially, but eventually with an excellent blind-side move Sam Jones shipped the ball to Elliot Alston who weaved his way through the opposition defence to score his *second* try for the club, and this time Chris Sheppard made no mistake in converting his effort. By this time the fitness levels between the two teams started to show, Macclesfield heads were dropping, the Northwich tackling stayed intense, and desperate kicking fragmented the game. With minutes to go, Jamie Hall, who 'pound for pound' must be one of the strongest player in the team emerged with the ball from the maul, and in Luke Murray fashion blasted his way over the line to score his *second* try of the

season, with Chris Sheppard missing his **second** conversion of the day. Northwich kept their **second** clean sheet of the season, and in a day of **seconds** Macclesfield had no answer and finished **second**.

'Tango' Moment of the Day: Reluctantly so, Josh Hall is awarded this week's 'Magnum of Pop', but enters the charts in last place. Not for a piece of individual skill but for a moment that Sky Sports will include on their next 'Sporting Bloomers' DVD. As the game became stretched and Macclesfield reverted to a kicking game in an attempt to break down the incessant Northwich defence, the 'blue' stand-off kicked a high 'Gary Owen' straight towards the 'Stag' full-back. Now the textbooks tell you to "... never to let the ball bounce ..." and Josh had obviously read that bit, but instead then of "... get underneath the ball and ensure you catch the ball positioning your body in such a way that if you drop it the ball goes backwards ...", Josh volleyed the ball back in full. It was returned so high that everyone could hear the ice crack as it landed back in the opposition half. Not one for the coaching manuals Mr. Hall!



RBS Spectators' Player of the Day: Jordan Byrne came on in the second half and rapidly drummed up some late Spectator votes with his excellent running and tackling and was unlucky not to make the top 3. Third place went to **Mike Collier**, who has shown consistent improvement during the last few games, and although he missed out on two tries last week at Rhyl he succeeded with one this week, but try aside, Mike's all round contribution was superb. It has been a good week for **Will Mitchell**, last week he played his best game of the season, on Wednesday he heard that he had made the Cheshire Development Squad, and this week he played out of his skin and 'pound to pound' matches Jamie Hall's strength, a brilliant match. In most instances Will would have won the award on the day, but there was one player who could only be described as being absolutely brilliant on the day, and that was **Joe Halsall**. Joe's strength in tackling is

second to none, not only does he get there with speed, he also knocks his victim back with such aggression, with coaches in full agreement, the spectators could not give the award to anyone else, so well done Joe!



Cheshire Development Squad

After several recent Rugby trial events and with Northwich Rugby Club putting forward nine U14's players into the selection process we are proud to announce that four have been selected for this year's Cheshire Development Squad. Pictured left and from left to right - Sam Jones (also from Hartford High School), Elliot Alston, Chris Sheppard and Will Mitchell (all of Leftwich County School). It will be the second year running that Will has been selected for his County, and all players can look forward to some additional coaching sessions with some of Cheshire's finest. Well done lads!

Photographs supplied by Ian Foulkes

Flint Game and Christmas Event including 'Half Term Presentations'

As highlighted in our U14's Calendar, we have another fixture in North Wales on Sunday 16th December. We are looking at ways of funding this day for the players and if so, will organise travel to the game and event by coach. If we can finance the day there maybe a small charge of £5 for the boys with travelling parents welcome (and have the opportunity to let their hair down as well) and we plan on only charging the parents for the meal - with room on the coach paid for. If we cannot finance it then we will of course downgrade but still run an event after the Flint match that will include some 'Half Term Presentations'. We encourage all players to attend, even though some maybe injured or recovering from operations.

Could you please ensure that the attached form (combined with the Spring Tour) is completed by next Wednesday 5th December so that we have time to organise the event.

Winnington Park

On 9th December we look forward to our much-anticipated fixture against our neighbours. They too have had a good season to date, and have only lost one game this season, to a strong Mold team, albeit they have not yet played either Sandbach or Wilmslow. On Sunday 'Park' also made it through to the Quarter Finals of the Cheshire Cup by beating New Brighton (with Chesney) 33:10, so there is a chance of us meeting each other in the next round. We have spoken to John Pym, he too has a similar squad size to ours, and we have agreed to ensure that everyone who turns up gets a minimum 25 minutes of game-time. This gives many the chance to play against their school mates, so it should be a fun morning. But remember it is an away game, so please respect our hosts by complying with our dress code of club-tie and shirt.

Next Sunday's Game

Sunday 2nd December Away Fixture - meet at 10.00am at Caldly Rugby Club (Directions Below)

PLEASE CONFIRM AVAILABILITY

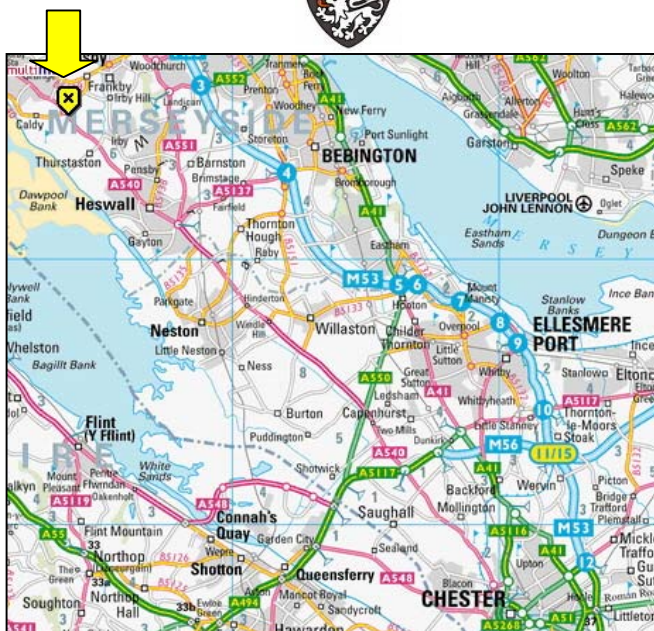
Shirt with Club or School Tie ... and remember your kit!



Caldly U14's

versus

Northwich U14's



Caldly Rugby Club

Address: Caldly Club, Paton Field, Telegraph Road, West Kirby, CH48 1NZ

Telephone : 0151 625 8043

Web: <http://www.caldlyrugby.co.uk/>

Directions:

Caldly Club lies on the Wirral Peninsula between Heswall and West Kirby just off the main A540 Chester to Hoylake Road.

Go to the end of the M56 motorway and turn left at the large roundabout following signs for North Wales, Queensferry. At the next roundabout turn right on to the A540 following signs for Hoylake. Stay on this road all the way to Caldly Club via Heswall centre.

Go straight through Heswall centre staying on the A540 road towards West Kirby and Hoylake, pass through open country and past 'The Cottage Loaf' pub on right hand side. Descend through the Thurstaston cutting and Caldly Club will be visible on the right. The entrance is at the far end of the grounds.

U14's Spring 2008 Tour

We have now received sufficient replies from the tour letter sent on the 18th October 2007, and although, the other 'Junior/Colt' age groups are planning on a 'mass' Easter Tour/Tournament(s) to Ireland, you have unanimously opted in our questionnaire for the **Morfa Bay Adventure Centre**. We have already gratefully received a handsome donation from a Sponsor who currently wishes to remain anonymous, and this has enabled us to send a deposit and secure the Centre for the **3-day** (2 night-package) on the 18th, 19th and 20th April 2008 (*noting that this is slightly different to the original dates on the U14's Calendar*). As the club has 9 players from Leftwich County School, I have already contacted both the Head of Year and Deputy Head who look like they will agree to the boys missing school duties on the Friday (18th), allowing us to leave Moss Farm on the Thursday (17th) afternoon at 1700hrs. **Year 9 SATS are planned for the 5th May, and if on an individual basis, parents would like us to build some supervised revision time into the weekend then this can be arranged.**

The weekend will consist of at least two organised local rugby matches, plus a host of activities that will include gorge walking, coasteering, mud assault course & surf skiing (see organiser's web site: <http://www.westwalestours.com/rugbypackage.html>). The tour includes accommodation (bed, restaurant, games room, play-park and adult-bar), meals and the above-named activities. In addition to our silent donor, we are also currently talking to a further sponsor to pay for individually (player) named tour-tracksuits. We are planning to accommodate up to 30 children and possibly 12 adults. In addition, we have already planned at least one fund raising day (Christmas-bag-packing at Sainsbury's) on Wednesday 19th December (more about that next week), but we do anticipate that this will further subsidise the cost of the whole tour by between £20 and £30 per child. We therefore estimate that the cost of the Tour will be £110 (£90 for the boys if we include with bag packing) which you must agree will be good value.

PLEASE FILL IN THE ATTACHED FORM and RETURN to either of the Steve's or Barrie by WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2007



Northwich U14's



Junior Rugby



www.northwichrufc.co.uk/Junior_Teams/Under_14_s/under_14_s.html

Please tick the appropriate boxes

Player's/Child's Name

Sunday 2nd December Fixture against Flint and Christmas Event with 'Half Term Presentations'

I am available for Sunday 2nd December No Attend but not to Play Available to Play

Parental/Guardian places required No 1 Parent 2 Parents

Tour Fund Raising Day – Wednesday 19th December 2007

I am available for Bag Packing No After school Any time during day

Spring Tour – to leave at 1700hrs on Thursday 17th April and return at 2000hrs on 20th April 2008

I am committed to attend the Tour No Yes

Parental/Guardian Place on the Tour No 1 Parent 2 Parents

I enclose a cheque (that I understand will not be cashed until 15th January 2008) for £30 as a deposit for my son to attend the Northwich Rugby Under 14's Spring Tour, and a further £30 for each parental place required.

Names of Parent/Guardian 1 (if applicable)

Names of Parent/Guardian 2 (if applicable)