

Sunday 16th December - Away Fixture



Flint U14's **28** versus **12** Northwich U14's



Northwich U14's v Flint – 16th December 2007

Sam Jones 9	Tom Sheridan	Will Mitchell	
Squad Players in attendance on the Day	Simon Dale 1	2	3 Baden Powell Tom Bebbington
Mike Gough	Andrew Dawson 4	5 David Lewis Mike Collier	
Players not on Duty	Jamie Hall 6	7 Ryan Kitt Josh Hall	
Steven Parry	Sam Clayton 8	Jack Vandersteen	
Declan Woodward	10 Chris Sheppard		
Alex Dickenson (injured)	Jordan Byrne 12	13 Michael Chubb	
Joe Halsall (injured)	11 Samir Zaman	Tom Foulkes 15	
Ryan Simpson (injured)	14 Luke Targett		
Players in black started			
Players in red played as replacements			

Tries: Luke Murray and Chris Sheppard
 Conversion: Chris Sheppard
 Star Stag: Chris Sheppard
 Star Bull: Andrew Dawson
 Valuable game-time was given to some of the lesser-experienced players in the growing Northwich squad, and against a large mobile Welsh team and supported by some of the more established players they produced a superb performance.
 Next Game on Sunday 6th January 2008: Chester (Away)

As planned the Executive Coach left Moss Farm on time, and headed (again) to North Wales. With only one pitch and two fixtures the U14's needed to kick-off early to allow the U13's game to follow. Because of recent difficulties at Caldy and a cancelled fixture against Winnington Park, the coaches kept to their selection priority to the lesser-experienced players. Flint were a big team, both in size and numbers, but the brave 'Bulls' held their own for much of the game and all four tries from Flint came from breakaway situations exposing slight inexperience in the Northwich back division's defence. The referee imposed a strict stance from the start with both teams, and found the need to talk to some of the Northwich players for indiscipline on more than one occasion, that slightly disappointed the coaches (for whether the referee is right or wrong, he is always right). Besides a few problems in defence, as well as the cold sea breeze, Northwich were stronger in attack, and on two occasions broke through to score two tries: one each for Luke Murray and Chris Sheppard with Luke's try turning into a 'Chruke' when Chris Sheppard converted his excellent individual try. The coaches were naturally proud of the squad and especially pleased with the contribution of the players that had lacked recent game-time.



'Tango' Moment of the Day: For the first time this season, a try has made the TMD charts. Chris Sheppard received the ball from Sam Jones in his own 22 and immediately shipped the ball down the line to Michael Chubb who in turn passed to Luke Targett, Luke came back in field and popped the ball to Luke Murray who broke through the opposition line, but was then tackled. As he fell he looked back to pop the ball to Chris Sheppard who had followed the play throughout, Chris was then tackled and popped the ball back to Mike Collier who



almost made it to the line but was tackled two metres out. Mike presented the ball in textbook style and in came Chris Sheppard to take the ball over the line. Besides being an excellent passage of team rugby, Chris's determination, awareness and fitness means that he once again wins a magnum of Tango-pagne, well done Chris!

RBS Spectators' Player of the Day: The spectators picked out some excellent performances from the more established players (hereafter known as 'Stags') but probably missed some of the superb contributions from the less experienced players (hereafter known as 'Bulls'). So before the RBS Player of

the Day, the 'Star Bull' award needs to be established: Michael Chubb made some great runs and demonstrated his growing confidence with some excellent textbook tackles; Tom Foulkes looked initially uncomfortable in a full-back position, but when he moved back to his more familiar position at wing he looked good with the ball and like Michael made some promising 'hits'; Baden Powell still needs to fully unleash his strength on the pitch, but showed his growing fitness levels and played a good pack role; newcomer Samir Zaman has much to learn about the game but has already shown that he is a natural runner of the ball and has a great deal of strength to offer, as well as integrating well into the squad (welcome and well done Samir); David Lewis has developed rapidly since rejoining the team and is not far away from securing a starting place in the initial XV; it was unfortunate that Steven Parry, Declan Woodward, and Matt Beesley were absent but in training all three are showing great promise with their excellent running ability; but the 'Star Stag' of the day goes to Andrew Dawson, in summary his performance was brilliant, his tackling was superb, his agility around the pitch was close to that of Sam Clayton and the absent Joe Halsall, and his running with the ball was sound. For those who do not know, Andrew has recently been selected for the National Junior Sailing Squad and therefore cannot commit to playing ever week, but on this performance, when he is available, he will feature in the coaches' minds when selecting future teams. As for the full blown RBS awards, the top three go to: Sam Clayton in third place for another solid and action packed performance; Jamie Hall enters the 'RBS Hall of Fame' for the first time, in second place, with an excellent performance, his direct running, tenacious attitude in the tight and brilliant display of cover tackling obviously impressed the icicles on the touch-line; and despite cold hands, and incredible love for the Welsh referee, Chris Sheppard cracked open another bubbling performance, with a nice blend of running and passing in attack and a perfect tackling display. Well done Chris you are the last 'Star Stag' of 2007!



King Richard (of Verulanium) of the Day Award: Not many people know this, but in the midst of time King Richard made his way up Watling Street to Chester, and on his way he stopped off at Moss Farm in Northwich. Besides miles of disused mine shafts, one of the other Roman legacies to the famous salt town was its extensive Ostrich farming in a small district outside Northwich called Mossilanium. Now many people believe that the famous student of the Rugby School, Webb Ellis initiated God's game, but in fact in 269AD, King Richard of Verulanium spun passed an Ostrich egg to his Chief of Staff at the Mossilanium Ostrich Farm (now known as Moss Farm) to initiate a sport now known as Rugby Union. This piece of local history was recently dug up in an ancient time capsule as part of the extended excavations at Chester amphitheatre. So the Northwich Under 14's wish to revive this great historical event by initiating an award to be given after every game by the previous week's holder of the award to a player for a notable 'Spanner Moment' during the game. The award will be officially known as the 'King Richard (of Verulanium) of the Day Award' but for short will be locally known as the '(King) Dick of the Day Award'. Donations are also welcome into the club, and because of the deep affection all the coaches have for their Welsh neighbours, the Welsh Dragon (bobble-less) hat will now symbolise this great man and is a fitting honour for any future spanner moments. To start this new tradition, the coaches had to make the presentation to the first incumbent, and their was a choice to be made: Chris Sheppard wanting to leave the pitch because his hands were cold; Mike Collier more

worried about his broken finger nail rather than tackling the fourth try scorer for Flint; Tom Sheridan for swearing at the referee, but more importantly in ear shot of his mum (shame he missed a memorable edition of Heartbeat later that

evening); but Jack Vandersteen (pictured right with his award) will go down in history as the first 'Dick of the Day', not for being called over by the referee once for arguing, not even for being called over by the referee twice and with the referee demanding a coach to join the discussion for attempting to knee the second Flint try scorer in the head, but being called over by the referee for a third time for being the first player in history to give away a penalty for a 'red-mist' stare at his opposite number. Hail the new King Richard of Verulanium!



Half Season Awards: As you can see from this season's 'Attendance Register', the under 14's have had a total of 32 sessions to date i.e. either mid-week/Sunday training sessions, full-blown matches or bag-packing. Three players have achieved a remarkable 100% attendance record for attending (in full) all of these 32 sessions: Josh Hall, Tom Sheridan and Chris Sheppard – an achievement that has not even been replicated by any of the three coaches (who have all missed at least one session each this season). Well done lads ... your display of enthusiasm and ultimate enjoyment, as well as all of you showing massive signs of personal improvement during 'game-time' is the main reason that we ultimately turn up to coach you at each of the sessions – keep the dedication up, as the game has a 'canny' way of paying back 'investors' with high 'interest'. The choice for the most improved player was



between Tom Sheridan and Ryan Kitt, and with a £20 gift voucher already in Tom's pocket, the coaches presented Ryan with a well-deserved award. Many players have impressed the coaches this season, and three stood out for the award of 'Coaches mid-season Player': Joe Halsall, Chris Sheppard and Sam Clayton, and with nothing choose between them, and with



Joe absent post his ear operation (speedy recovery hoped by all – maybe the cup game on the 3rd February could be a good target return-date), and Chris already flush with an award, the coaches awarded Sam Clayton the mid-season honour.



Photographs supplied by Steve Vandersteen, Steve Jones and Ian Foulkes

Cheshire Cup Quarter Final: The long awaited Cup draw has now taken place. We have been drawn against Altrincham Kersal who are of a very similar standard to ourselves, and with one of Sandbach and Wilmslow certain to be knocked out, there is still a possibility that we could make the Final and then, who knows? ... go on to win the Cup! The match will be played on Sunday 3rd February 2008 at Moss Farm.

Christmas Bag Packing: 20 under 14

Winnington Park	v	Anselmians
Northwich	v	Altrincham Kersal
Sandbach	v	Wilmslow
Lymm	v	Caldy 'B'

players turned up on Wednesday 19th December for some fund raising. The evening started at 4.30pm and ended at 9.00pm with the boys raising an amazing **£757.03** towards their South Wales tour in April 2008. There are two more 'bag-packing' dates for the diary: Saturday 26th January and Saturday 15th March 2008. Well done team, both a great turnout and an excellent result!



The Next Sunday Game

Sunday 6th January 2008 Away Fixture - meet at 10.00am at Chester Rugby Club (Directions Below)

PLEASE CONFIRM AVAILABILITY

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

Players already identified as not available for this fixture

Ryan Simpson
Joe Halsall
Jack Vandersteen
Jamie Hall



Chester U14's

versus

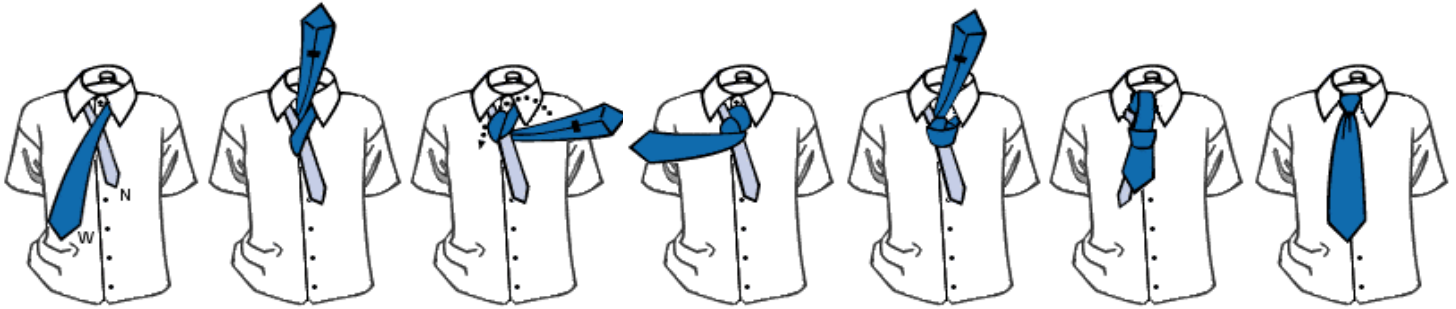
Northwich U14's



Directions Chester Rugby Club

Directions: Head out on the A556 towards Chester, go past Kelsall and through Tarvin. Join the A51 at Tarvin and continue towards Chester. Go past Vicars Cross golf course (on the right) and head up the hill. Just past the Little Chef on the left hand side, and before you get to the main roundabout at the A55 you will see Chester Rugby Club on the right hand side. Turn right and 200m on the left turn and park in the main car park of Chester Rugby Club.

CHRISTMAS TRAINING - To Tie a Windsor Knot: For those young 'Stags' and 'Bulls', who still have difficulty getting dressed before away games, I attach an 'easy-to-follow', mid-winter break, training session for you. Full inspection will take place at Chester Rugby Club on Sunday 6th January 2008, at 10.00am.



Post Script 'Bag-Packing' Photographs:



Final message from Auntie Barrie and Steve²:

A Happy Christmas to all players and your families, and a wonderful New Year to you all.