



TOUCHLINE RAMBLINGS

SEASON 2007-2008



STOCKPORT RUGBY NEWS

BLACKADDER IV REVISITED

Trench warfare victory takes us to the last 16.



In conditions closely resembling a field in Northern France circa 1916, the 1st XV battled through to an excellent win which takes us through to the last 16 of the EDF Intermediate Cup.

Two seasons ago we made what can be regarded as the ultimate journey at our rugby level. Along the way we bumped into a very feisty outfit from up the M6 in the shape of Carlisle. This time it was their turn to visit us in the same competition and we managed to lay on some proper Cumbrian weather for them. It had rained on and off all week but it saved itself for a final series of down pours on Saturday. I didn't think the game was in doubt at Saturday lunch time arrived but we did wait to discover whether the option to switch to the better drained 3rd pitch was going to be used. In the end it was agreed to continue on the 1st XV pitch...our own little piece of the Somme...

TEAM NEWS: No surprises , With the exception of Ian Kennedy (sore shoulder) and Chris Weeks (unavailable) General Burgon had all his big guns available. Talking of big guns they don't come much bigger than James Drew who returned to the match squad for the first time since 27th October at Winnington Park. (The Editorial staff at the Ramblings would like

(Continued on page 2)

2007-2008

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13-12-07

STOCKPORT

39

v

CARLISLE

Half Time

3

0

0

HOME TEAM

Richard HOPKINSON	15
Greg NEWTON	14
Craig COOPER	13
James DALTON	12
Chris NEL	11
Steve PEARSON	10
Mike RAVEN	9
Dave MORRIS	1
Andy FULLER	2
Jan Erik ANDERSON	3
Tim OAKES	4
Dave MARWICK	5
Hugo CORBETT	6
John WILSON	7
Peter BREDEKAMP	8

AWAY TEAM

Glen WEIGHTMAN	15
Ollie BARKER	14
James CLARK	13
Barry CARR	12
Tim HUGHES	11
Ben RIMINI	10
Ben BLAIN	9
Steven STAMPER	1
Graham KIDD	2
Harry MARSHALL	3
Martin GREALISH	4
Gareth LEWIS	5
Mark ALLAN	6
Bobby SHERLOCK	7
Elliott McGRADY	8

Attend: N/KWeather: V westVenue: Headlands R**REPLACEMENTS**

Christian CHAPMAN	16
Alex HOOLEY	17
Phil LEIGH	18
James DREW	19

Tom GRAHAM	16
Martin BURNETT	17
George GRAHAM	18
Paul RYAN	19

SCORING SEQUENCE											REPLACEMENTS				
Time	Home	Away	No.	T	C	P	PT	DG	Score	Y	R	Off	On	Reason	
31	X		15			Y			3	0					
44	X		5	X					8	0					
44	X		15		Y				10	0					
50	X		6	X					15	0					
50	X		15		Y				17	0					
55	X											6	16	TACTICAL	
58	X		15			Y			20	0					
59	X											14	19	TACTICAL	
65	X											10	18	TACTICAL	
67	X		7	X					25	0					
69	X											2	17	TACTICAL	
71	X		12	X					30	0					
71	X		15		Y				32	0					
74	X		5	X					37	0					
74	X		15		Y				39	0					

(Continued from page 1)

to pass on their congratulations to 2nd Lt Drew and Mrs Drew on their recent marriage but would also say that the next time he decides to get wed will be make sure it's in the closed season!) The Team News of more interest came from the opposition camp who were at pains to point out that they had travelled with a weakened platoon through injury and unavailability.

Carlisle won the toss and elected to defend the trenches at the valley end. This gave them the strong wind in the first half and also meant that their 22 was the softest part of the ground making it hard to attack across. It was clearly their intentions to get on the board and get a lead and then dig in over the second half.

Within seconds of the kick off it was clear that the ground had soaked up even more rain than we had thought. The contest was not going to be a beauty contest and the infantry in the shape of the forwards would have a huge contribution to make.

From the first whistle Carlisle made their intentions to kick themselves into position clear. Our intentions were very different. The forwards were tasked with getting us up the field. Steve Pearson was having a few range finding issues into the gale as his cross field kicks to find position insisted on drifting straight out.

I will admit now that my match prediction had been 50-0 but as the rain drops fell and time ticked away without any points in the first half I couldn't see me getting any where close to that figure. What was noticeable was that as long as the play stayed on the far side of the pitch their 'uniforms' remained quite clean but within

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

seconds of the action switching closer to us they disappeared into the Somme-like mud bath.

Our progress up the pitch really was reminiscent of trench warfare. A few yards of ground made only to be sent back packing again. There were a few lighter moments thrown in presumably to keep the spectators entertained. The first came from James Dalton as he tried to kick us into the Carlisle 22. Suffice to say that when the ball finally came to rest over the touchline James had managed to get us closer to our own 22 rather than the oppositions....to be fair it was a very windy afternoon James but I was only thankful that they hadn't given him any grenades to play with as well.

The backs eventually decided that they wanted to

have a go at making a few yards across no man's line. There were a few decent runs but you need good ground under foot to make sudden moves, Craig Cooper did however get to under posts but when the ball was recycled Mike Raven lost the soap like ball forwards.

Despite the terrible conditions we were still managing to play some good rugby, but when the break through came 30 minutes into the battle we had to be thankful for a very generous decision from the referee.

The ball was kicked towards the Carlisle line and Greg Newton gave chase and caught the full back with the ball who was attempting to escape to the safety of the touchline. The ball then shot out of his hands and over the side line. The Referee judged that he had deliberately off loaded the ball across the line and awarded a penalty. I thought it was a harsh a call. I thought that Sapper Newton may have knocked it from his grasp.

Any kind of conversion would be good in these conditions but Richard Hopkinson just stepped up as if practising on a summer's day on a firm ground and nailed the three points.

At this point I had an idea and sent a runner to ask Tim if he would like me to prepare a change of shirts for the lads at half time. Ian Kennedy ruled out of the battle with a sore shoulder and watching wrapped up in a long warm coat thought the replay would be in the negative. He was wrong and thanks to Gillian Stone and her son William a clean set of shirts was ready for the team when then the half time whistle went and they were ordered to the changing room. Some players also opted to clean shorts and took the opportunity to wash some of the mud out of orifices where they didn't even know they had orifices!



Hopkinson was the only player suffering from any war wounds. He had developed a nasty case of trench nappy rash in the first 40 minutes. Safe to say he didn't call upon Catherine to sort that problem out.

On the restart there were a few of factors that were now in our favour. The wind was at our backs, the area of pitch we were now attacking was more conducive to running rugby and most important of all we had clean shirts on...unfortunately one of those three factors wasn't going to last for long.

We were quickly on the attack and saw runs from Tim Oakes and Chris Nel up the wing. Young Private Nel was looking as if he was really enjoying the conditions.....Not...as he shivered on the wing dreaming of warm evenings on the High Velt back home. I detected

(Continued on page 5)

EDF Intermediate Cup

3rd Round



North			
Birkenhead Pk	P	P	Cleckheaton
Chester	15	6	Broughton Park
Middlesbrough	34	0	Aspatria
Stockport	39	0	Carlisle

Midlands			
Amphill	5	3	Loughborough St
Bedford Ath	38	0	Newark
Luctonians	64	0	Derby
Syston	3	10	Newport

London			
Basingstoke	P	P	Dorking
Haywards Hth	14	12	Dunstablians
Staines	42	0	Old Colfeians
Wimbledon	12	38	Old Albanians

South West			
Bracknell	35	11	Exmouth
Clevedon	12	6	Newton Abbot
Coney Hill	13	8	Reading
Taunton	P	P	Cheltenham

4th Round

North & Midlands		
Birkenhead Pk or Cleckheaton	v	Luctonians
Chester	v	Amphill
Middlesbrough	v	Bedford Athletic
Newport	v	Stockport

London & South West		
Basingstoke or Dorking	v	Clevedon
Bracknell	v	Haywards Heath
Old Albanians	v	Coney Hill
Staines	v	Taunton or Cheltenham



(Continued from page 3)

that the visitor's appetite for the fight might just be faltering when we got our first try of the game in the 44th minute. Carlisle discovered the difficulties of clearing their lines with the boot and when they tried, it lead to line out barely 5 metres from their line. We went for a catch and drive and Captain Dave Marwick of the Northumberland Light Foot was the scorer. Another great conversion by Hoppo brought the score to 10-0.

Six minutes later we were scoring again. We kicked our way up to the Carlisle line and they restarted with a drop out. We sent the ball to Craig Cooper who broke through the centre and off loaded to John Wilson. John charged on towards the line but they fed back inside to

Hugo Corbett who had the pace to get to and surf over the line. With a further conversion the lead was up to 17-0 and we were in cruise mode.

Field Marshall Burgon (promoted in the field) then sent to Blighty for reinforcements. First Chris Chapman replaced the try scorer Hugo and then James Drew came on for Greg Newton and after the addition of a penalty (20-0) Phil Leigh swapped with Steve Pearson.

The next try went to my man of the match Bombardier John Wilson had worked tirelessly all afternoon. Digging latrines, defusing bombs and he even had time to turn over a few balls as well. We pressed their line again and John picked up and dashed over from about 6 yards out. No conversion 25-0. We then had the final replacement of the afternoon with Alex Hooley coming on for Andy Fuller.

Still two tries to report. In the 71st minute. Raven to Leigh who then slipped a neat inside ball to Craig Cooper who was clean through. He passed to James Dalton who had a clear run under the posts. Hoppo converted 32-0.

Three minutes later Alex Hooley went for a run up the left touch-line and the ball was recycled . It eventually arrived with Captain Mazza. Now David was at pains for me not to say that he flopped over the line from close range a la Andy Fuller from last week's report...so the truth is that he staggered over from 5 yards with tacklers hanging on looking like a mud splattered buffalo struggling with heavy shopping. Hoppo's extras brought the score to 39-0 and also brought the final whistle when my watch still showed the battle had 5 minutes to run.....see it could have been 50-0...we'll never know

I've enjoyed bringing this report a lot more than Saturday's weather and of course it is tongue in cheek and written with due respect to the real soldiers of the Great War... lest we forget. This Saturday Val of Lune visit the Headlands Swamp when it's back to League affairs with a 2.15pm kick off.



THE RAMBLER





CAROLS @ SRUFC

with The Cantilena Choir

Tuesday Dec 18th



In the Clubhouse

7.00-9.00 pm

Bring the family

Good music

Good company

Mince pies

Mulled wine

NORTH 2 WEST

Saturday, 1st December 2007			
Broughton Pk	26	8	New Brighton
Chester	20	11	Lymm
Northwich	17	32	Leigh
Tyldesley	21	40	Stockport
Vale of Lune	20	26	Sandbach
Winnington Pk	12	21	Rochdale
Saturday, 15th December 2007			
Leigh			Chester
Lymm			Broughton Pk
New Brighton			Rochdale
Sandbach			Winnington Pk
Stockport			Vale of Lune
Tyldesley			Northwich

NORTH 2 WEST								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	
Chester	11	9	1	1	329	126	203	19
Stockport	11	9	0	2	368	109	259	18
Lymm	11	8	0	3	272	129	143	16
Broughton Park	11	8	0	3	252	131	121	16
New Brighton	11	7	2	2	265	181	84	16
Rochdale	11	6	1	4	210	170	40	13
Sandbach	11	6	0	5	193	222	-29	12
Leigh	11	5	0	6	187	236	-49	10
Winnington Park	11	2	1	8	161	348	-187	5
Northwich	11	2	1	8	119	181	-62	3
Vale of Lune	11	1	0	10	149	321	-172	2
Tyldesley	11	0	0	11	93	444	-351	0

NORTH 1

Saturday, 1st December 2007			
Altrincham K	24	49	Huddersfield
Birkenhead Pk	23	9	Darlington
Liverpool-St H	14	20	Cleckheaton
Penrith	6	16	Middlesbrough
Sheffield Tgs	3	10	Kendal
Westoe	17	8	Hull
Saturday, 15th December 2007			
Cleckheaton			Birkenhead Pk
Darlington			Altrincham K
Huddersfield			Hull
Kendal			Westoe
Middlesbrough			Sheffield Tgs
Penrith			Liverpool-St H

NORTH 1								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	
Kendal	11	11	0	0	335	115	220	22
Huddersfield	11	10	0	1	240	158	82	20
Birkenhead Park	11	8	0	3	254	127	127	16
Westoe	11	7	1	3	217	204	13	15
Cleckheaton	11	6	2	3	259	199	60	14
Middlesbrough	11	6	0	5	271	175	96	12
Sheffield Tigers	11	6	0	5	212	189	23	12
Hull	11	4	1	6	208	224	-16	9
Liverpool-St H	11	2	0	9	202	288	-86	4
Darlington	11	2	0	9	136	362	-226	4
Penrith	11	1	0	10	181	314	-133	2
Altrincham Kersal	11	1	0	10	164	324	-160	2

STH LANCS & CHES 1

Saturday, 1st December 2007			
Anselmians	18	13	Widnes
Aspull	11	17	Bowdon
Ruskin Park	7	0	Hoylake
Vagabonds	16	21	Sale FC
Wilmslow	32	12	Burnage
Wirral	11	10	Wigan
Saturday, 15th December 2007			
Bowdon			Anselmians
Burnage			Wirral
Hoylake			Aspull
Ruskin Park			Vagabonds
Sale FC			Wilmslow
Wigan			Widnes

STH LANCS & CHES 1								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	
Wilmslow	11	10	0	1	315	134	181	20
Wigan	11	6	2	3	264	116	148	14
Burnage	10	7	0	3	272	151	121	14
Sale	11	6	0	5	223	187	36	12
Hoylake	11	6	0	5	167	147	20	12
Widnes	11	5	1	5	212	221	-9	11
Wirral	10	5	0	5	163	183	-20	10
Aspull	11	5	0	6	161	218	-57	10
Vagabonds	11	4	1	6	248	197	51	9
Bowdon	11	4	0	7	151	202	-51	8
Anselmians	11	2	0	9	137	313	-176	4
Ruskin Park	11	3	0	8	140	384	-244	4

	NORTH 2 WEST : 2007-2008											
	HOME						AWAY					
	Broughton Park	Chester	Leigh	Lymm	New Brighton	Northwich	Rochdale	Sandbach	Stockport	Tyldesley	Vale of Lune	Winnington Park
Broughton Park		24-0	10-12	10-7	26-8	1/3	29/3	12/4	5/1	26/1	16/2	62-4
Chester	9/2		39-7	20-11	26-26	19/1	1/3	29/3	12/4	5/1	72-10	30-8
Leigh	19/1	15/12		18-39	6-27	19/4	9/2	1/3	29/3	27-10	28-3	23-17
Lymm	15/12	19/4	8/3		44-17	16-10	19/1	9/2	14-20	36-3	29-7	39-6
New Brighton	19/4	8/3	16/2	26/1		8-6	15/12	29-3	16-0	42-12	27-26	41-8
Northwich	3-17	6-19	17-32	16/2	5/1		12/4	26/1	8/3	26-20	20-5	16-16
Rochdale	20-11	17-19	22-14	9-23	24-24	5-3		5/1	26/1	16/2	8/3	19/4
Sandbach	16-18	3-28	13-12	9-14	19/1	14-12	27-26		16/2	8/3	19/4	15/12
Stockport	34-15	9-10	39-18	1/3	9/2	29-0	27-12	48-8		19/4	15/12	19/1
Tyldesley	5-37	5-66	12/4	29/3	1/3	15/12	0-29	5-59	21-40		19/1	9/2
Vale of Lune	12-22	26/1	5/1	12/4	29/3	9/2	10-25	20-26	5-50	34-0		1/3
Winnington Park	8/3	16/2	26/1	5/1	12/4	29/3	12-21	10-15	0-72	48-12	22-17	

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW YOUR RUGBY.....?

A SPEED QUIZ JUST FOR FUN.....? Time allowed 1min 40 secs

1. The Name of Wales national Stadium?
2. The name of Scottish National stadium?
3. Nickname of Argentina?
4. What colours do Japan play in ?
5. Who won the 1st ever World Cup ?
6. Which is the only country to have won the WC twice?
7. Which Premiership club are nicknamed Cherry and whites ?
8. Who play at the Stoop.
9. What is Worcester' Nick Name?
10. Name an International team other than NZ who perform a HAKA?
11. What shirt number does the outside centre wear?
12. A player is the only one who scores the points for his side. He scores once by every way you can score the opposition fail to score What was the match score
13. I've only scored 3 tries in my career, In 1966, 1972 and 1981 they are the only points I've ever scored what is my career points total?
14. Which countries contested the very first International?
15. Who did we play in the very first game under my management.
16. What position does Phil Vickery play ?
17. Which club does Jonny Wilkinson play for?
18. Which ground is nickname the Cabbage patch.
19. Before they became Sale Sharks what were they called.
20. Who sponsors the Premiership in the England
21. Who are the sponsors the Celtic League.
22. Who are the Saints (RU)
23. The name of the current Irish National stadium
24. What colours do Toulouse play in
25. Which other Rugby Union Club did Jason Robinson play for other than Sale
26. What colour socks do the Barbarians play in.
27. If you were born in Iceland of Icelandic parents how long must you live in England to qualify to play for England.
28. What is the sale's 2nd XV called.
29. Under What age must you be to play Senior Colts rugby
30. Leicester's nickname.
31. Who is the current 1st choice NZ fly half
32. What is the emblem on an all Black shirt
33. What is the cup played for in matches between England and Scot
34. Where do they play for the Currie Cup.
35. There is famous rugby tournament held annually in Hong Kong when the final is played including the referee and how many people are on the field on play.
36. where will the 2011 world cup be held
37. What position does Brian O'Driscoll play.
38. The name of Sale's latest NZ signing?
39. At what age level can you lift in the line out?
40. What is the difference between Rugby League and Rugby Union Balls.

STOCKPORT RUFC CHRISTMAS FANCY DRESS PARTY



SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER: 7.0PM

TICKETS £5

Inc KARAOKE

Girlfriends, Wives and Boyfriends all welcome

Drinking Fines for No Fancy Dress!

See Mazza or Oaksey for Tickets

Stockport 3's v Crewe and Nantwich LOST 5-20

Stuffed Again

A filthy day with some doubt about the pitches. We have a bit of a history with C and N. They formally complained about our refereeing arrangements last season and their 3s overturned a 74 point away defeat, beating us at Crewe 36-3 on a week-end when their first team had no fixture. That probably cost us promotion in favour of – guess who - Crewe 2s. This time we were OK because all of their teams had fixtures. So we thought!! They cried off their 2s and we waited whilst three car loads arrived which meant a late kick off. Draw your own conclusions. Also we were not helped by confusion over selection and thus took the field minus one or two players we expected to have. Not much positive to say other than apart from a nice try scored by Simon Drew after really good handling. Other than the tight they were stronger than us in all departments and despite a valliant defensive effort there was only going to be one winner. Back to the league this week and hoping we can overturn the result of our only other defeat of the season against Heaton Moor 2s.

- 1 Matt Faulkener
- 2 Jack Woodcock
- 3 Tony Shore
- 4 Matt Heywood
- 5 Chris Caswell
- 6 Jon Curry
- 7 Dave Chapel
- 8 Simon Drew T
- 9 Gareth Matthews
- 10 Paul Garner
- 11 Nick Eastwood
- 12 Peter Lambert
- 13 Nick Jones
- 14 Oye Oyewumi
- 15 Dave Houghton
- 16 Lee McLean
- 17 Will Lowth
- 18 Joe Woodcock

3rd XV this Saturday v Heator Moor 2's (Home) kick off 2.15 pm

Being a Police Officer in the UK

Question: *How do you tell the difference between a British Police Officer, an Australian Police Officer and an American Police Officer?*

Answer: Pose the following question:

You're walking down a deserted street with your wife and two small children. Suddenly, a dangerous looking man with a huge knife comes around the corner, locks eyes with you, screams obscenities, raises the knife, and charges. You are carrying a Glock .40, and you are an expert shot. You have mere seconds before he reaches you and your family. What do you do?

UK POLICE OFFICERS Answer :

Well, that's not enough information to answer the question! Does the man look poor or oppressed? Have I ever done anything to him that would inspire him to attack? Could we run away? What does my wife think? What about the kids? Could I possibly swing the gun like a club and knock the knife out of his hand? What does the law say about this situation? Does the Glock have appro-

priate safety built into it? Why am I carrying a loaded gun anyway, and what kind of message does this send to society and to my children? Is it possible he'd be happy with just killing me? Does he definitely want to kill me, or would he be content just to wound me? If I were to grab his knees and hold on, could my family get away while he was stabbing me? Should I call 999? Why is this street so deserted? We need to raise taxes, have a paint and weed day and make this a happier, healthier street that would discourage such behaviour. If I raise my gun and he turns and runs away, do I get blamed when he falls over running away, knocks his head and kills himself? If I shoot him, and lose the court case does he have the opportunity to sue me, cost me my job, my credibility and I will lose my family home?

AUSTRALIAN OFFICERS Answer:

BANG!

AMERICAN OFFICERS Answer:

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
Click.... (Sounds of reloading) BANG! BANG!
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

UNDERWEAR IS IMPORTANT!

Always wear clean underwear in public, especially when working under your vehicle...

From the Northwest Florida Daily News comes this story of a Crestview couple who drove their car to WalMart, only to have their car break down in the parking lot. The man told his wife to carry on with the shopping while he fixed the car in the lot.

The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection, she saw a pair of male legs protruding from under the chassis. Although the man was in shorts, his lack of underpants turned private parts into glaringly public ones.

Unable to stand the embarrassment, she dutifully stepped forward, quickly put her hand UP his shorts, and tucked everything back into place. On regaining her feet, she looked across the hood and found herself staring at her husband who was standing idly by.

The mechanic, however, had to have three stitches in his forehead.

ROMANCE MATHEMATICS

Smart man + smart woman = romance

Smart man + dumb woman = affair

Dumb man + smart woman = marriage

Dumb man + dumb woman = pregnancy

OFFICE ARITHMETIC

Smart boss + smart employee = profit

Smart boss + dumb employee = production

Dumb boss + smart employee = promotion

Dumb boss + dumb employee = overtime

SHOPPING MATH

A man will pay £20 for a £10 item he needs.

A woman will pay £10 for a £20 item that she doesn't need.

GENERAL EQUATIONS & STATISTICS

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend.

A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

HAPPINESS

To be happy with a man, you must understand him a lot and love him a little.

To be happy with a woman, you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

LONGEVITY

Married men live longer than single men do, but married men are a lot more willing to die.

PROPENSITY TO CHANGE

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, and she does.

DISCUSSION TECHNIQUE

A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

Bulldogs March On in Cup **Stockport Bulldogs 8 v 7 Oldham 3rd XV**

Absolutely bloody brilliant – the Bulldogs ground out a brilliant cup victory on Saturday to reach the Quarter Finals and extend their unbeaten run to four games. This was all the more remarkable given Oldham are top of their division and have only lost once all season. Captain Mike Whetter could rightly be forgiven for surrendering home advantage due to the cup rules. The Stockport pitches all being deemed playable at 10am but persistent heavy rain reversed the decision on the training pitch requiring an alternative local pitch to be found or make the offer to play away. Mike was forced into this decision at 11-30am and Oldham confirmed their pitch playable (those that played may well debate this). Worse to follow when news in the dressing room emerged that Oldham's first team away game was off and several were rumoured to be guesting for the third's. Who cares for at the end of the day the Bulldogs ran out worthy winners in a cliff-hanger of a match where not even the width of a Rizla paper could separate the sides.

From the offset it was obvious to the eight or so (fool)hardy souls on the touchline that this game would be a close tense affair with a likely close score line and how right they were. The Bulldogs paid scant attention to the home sides formidable record and took the game right to them at a ferocious pace. The closest either side came to their opponents 22 was a Bulldog forward charge that was halted illegally in mid-field. The penalty was out of range and their kick to the corner skewed and the defence cleared. Then twice Oldham came close but both times their kicker squandered penalty chances that would have sailed between the uprights under normal weather conditions. The Bulldogs rode the storm and came back strongly when a flowing three-quarter move was halted by a great cover tackle. But no matter for the ground was held and the forwards secured great second phase ball and three slick passes put Chris Holt clear down the line to open the scoring in the corner.

Once again though, Bulldog indiscipline cost them big yardage when stupid penalties were conceded and undid so much hard graft. Mark Dunnington was proving inspirational in the loose and with big Ben Gordon (he just pipped Duffers to Man-of-the-Match) orchestrating things the forwards got their newly found mauling game into gear and began to take control. However, as is so often, the final phase fell apart and the home side seized on possession and looked to set their pacey backs free. The Bulldog defence though was up to the task but twice were saved by the referee who deemed the attacker to have been held up in goal on both occasions. The Bulldogs conceded two more kickable penalties but mercifully Oldham's kicker was wearing wet weather boots so could only manage to convert one though the other – as with a previous effort – came back off the upright.

Bill Wilson replaced the injured (again) Paul Maziere but the clock was run down to the half time break. The Bulldogs listened intently in the half time huddle and turned round determined to work the maxim 'attack is the best form of defence' continuing where they had left off. The fitter faster Oldham three-quarters had other ideas and began to assert themselves. Only a dropped ball in goal as the winger tried to touch down prevented Oldham taking the lead before again finding the upright with a penalty. Then disaster struck when a defensive mix up left the inside centre to scoop up a loose ball and dive over under the posts for a converted try. This spurred on the home side and soon their backs were again put away. The winger broke clear and must have thought all he had to do was round the skinny kid in the duffle coat to score. But no, for as ever up stepped Flitty with one of his trademark crash tackles and again take the port moment with a try saving tackle. With five minutes to go Nigel Burge-Jones calmly slotted home what proved to be the winning penalty somewhat ironically of the upright. In the dying seconds Oldham wasted a golden chance when a quickly taken line-out was rightly deemed not straight. The Bulldogs had escaped with a well deserved and hard fought win. We are in the last eight so bring on the winners of the re-arranged Clitheroe 2's v Wigan 4's game.

- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1. | Gordon, |
| 2. | Dunnington, |
| 3. | Warrington, |
| 4. | Russell, |
| 5. | Zelinka, |
| 6. | Maziere, |
| 7. | A Burge-Jones, |
| 8. | Matthews, |
| 9. | Rimmer, |
| 10. | N Burge-Jones (P) |
| 11. | Farrell, |
| 12. | Riley, |
| 13. | Scott, |
| 14. | Holt (T), |
| 15. | Flitcroft. |
| 16. | Whetter, |
| 17. | Crane, |
| 18. | Wilson |

4th XV this Saturday v Sandbach (Away) kick off 2.15 pm

STOCKPORT RUFC 1ST XV 2007-2008

PLAYED 15 WON 11 DRAWN 1 LOST 3 POINTS FOR POINTS 459 AGAINST 155

DATE	OPPOSITION	COMPETITION	VENUE	RESULT	F	A
25/08/07	Longton	Pre-Season	Away	Draw	10	10
01/09/07	Cleckheaton	Pre-Season	Away	Lost	5	21
08/09/07	Leigh	North 2 West	Home	Won	39	8
15/09/07	Northwich	North 2 West	Home	Won	29	0
22/09/07	Lymm	North 2 West	Away	Won	20	14
29/09/07	Sandbach	North 2 West	Home	Won	48	8
06/10/07	New Brighton	North 2 West/CC	Away	Lost	0	16
20/10/07	Rochdale	North 2 West	Home	Won	27	12
27/10/07	Winnington Park	North 2 West	Away	Won	72	0
03/11/07	Broughton Park	North 2 West	Home	Won	34	15
10/11/07	Vale of Lune	North 2 West	Away	Won	55	5
17/11/07	Lymm	Intermediate Cup 2	Home	Won	32	15
24/11/07	Chester	North 2 West	Home	Lost	9	10
01/12/07	Tyldesley	North 2 West	Away	Won	40	21
08/12/07	Carlisle	Intermediate Cup 3	Home	Won	39	0
15/12/07	Vale of Lune	North 2 West	Home			
05/01/08	Broughton Park	North 2 West	Away			
12/01/08		Intermediate Cup 4				
19/01/08	Winnington Park	North 2 West	Home			
26/01/08	Rochdale	North 2 West	Away			
02/02/08		Intermediate Cup 5				
09/02/08	New Brighton	North 2 West	Home			
16/02/08	Sandbach	North 2 West	Away			
23/02/08		Intermediate Cup QF				
01/03/08	Lymm	North 2 West	Home			
08/03/08	Northwich	North 2 West	Away			
15/03/08		Intermediate Cup S-F				
22/03/08		Cheshire Cup Final				
29/03/08	Leigh	North 2 West	Away			
05/04/08		Intermediate Final				
12/04/08	Chester	North 2 West	Away			
19/04/08	Tyldesley	North 2 West	Home			
26/04/08		Play Offs				

STOCKPORT RUFC 1ST XV 2007-2008

AFTER 11 LEAGUE GAMES

Players		A	R	T	C	P	DG	Pts
1	Richard Hopkinson	10	0	4	34	9	0	125
2	Steve Pearson	8	1	5	0	3	0	34
3	Greg Newton	11	0	5	0	0	0	25
4	Craig Cooper	9	0	5	0	0	0	25
5	Andy Fuller	11	0	5	0	0	0	25
6	Dave Marwick	11	0	4	0	0	0	20
7	James Drew	6	0	3	0	0	0	15
8	Chris Nel	7	3	3	0	0	0	15
9	Simon Baker	3	1	3	0	0	0	15
10	John Wilson	11	0	2	0	0	0	10
11	Peter Bredenkamp	9	0	2	0	0	0	10
12	Ian Kennedy	4	3	2	0	0	0	10
13	Christian Chapman	2	3	2	0	0	0	10
14	Jan-Erik Anderson	10	1	1	0	0	0	5
15	Mike Raven	8	0	1	0	0	0	5
16	James Dalton	7	0	1	0	0	0	5
17	Chris Weeks	7	1	1	0	0	0	5
18	Matt Langtree	5	3	1	0	0	0	5
19	Phil Leigh	3	1	1	0	0	0	5
20	Nick Wroe	3	0	1	0	0	0	5
21	Charlie Maunder	1	3	1	0	0	0	5
	Tim Oakes	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Alan Boyd	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Hugo Corbett	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dave Morris	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Ben Kerr	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Alex Hooley	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Chris Thompson	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Julian Harris	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Colin Nevett	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Kieran Hibbs	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Zak Hammond	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Penalty Tries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals	165	43	45	34	12	0	369

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEKEND

Saturday 08/12/07				
TEAM	Opposition	H/A	Competition	Kick Off
1 ST XV	Carlisle	Home	Intermediate Cup	2.00
2 ND XV	No Fixture			
3 RD XV	Crewe & Nantwich	Home	Halbro Shield	Lost 5-20
4 TH XV	Oldham 3's	Home	Halbro Plate	Won 8-7
VETS XV	Rochdale	Away	Vets League	Lost 14-38
Sunday 09/12/07				
Senior Colts	Widnes	Away	Cheshire Cup	P-P
Junior Colts	Birkenhead Park	Away	Lancs/Ches League +CCup	P-P
U16	Ashton on Mersey	Away	Friendly	C-C
U15	Ashton on Mersey	Away	Friendly	C-C
U14	Ashton on Mersey	Home	Friendly	C-C
U13	Ashton on Mersey	Home	Friendly	C-C
U12	Macclesfield	Away	Friendly	C-C
U11	Macclesfield	Away	Friendly	C-C
U10	Macclesfield	Home	Friendly	C-C
U9	Macclesfield	Home	Friendly	C-C
U8	Macclesfield	Home	Friendly	C-C
U7	Macclesfield	Home	Friendly	C-C

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB THIS WEEKEND

Saturday 15/12/07				
TEAM	Opposition	H/A	Competition	Kick Off
1 ST XV	Vale of Lune	Home	North 2 West	2.15
2 ND XV	Caldy	Away	Bateman BMW Premiership	2.15
3 RD XV	Heaton Moor 2's	Home	Miller Homes Leagues 4E	2.15
4 TH XV	Sandbach	Away	Miller Homes Leagues 5N	2.15
VETS XV				
Sunday 16/12/07				
Senior Colts	Birkenhead Park	Home	Cheshire Cup	2.00
Junior Colts	Tarleton	Away	Lancs/Ches League +CCup	12.30
U16	Chester	Away	Friendly	12.00
U15	Wirral	Home	Friendly	12.00
U14	No Fixture			
U13	Rhyl	Away	Friendly	11.00
U12	Marple	Home	Friendly	11.00
U11	Marple	Home	Friendly	11.00
U10	Marple	Home	Friendly	11.00
U9	Marple	Home	Friendly	11.00
U8	Marple	Home	Friendly	11.00
U7	Marple	Home	Friendly	11.00

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