



# TOUCHLINE RAMBLINGS

SEASON 2007-2008



## STOCKPORT RUGBY NEWS

# TABLE TOPPERS

## ...as Chester falter...we go top.

Having the 1st XV sitting on top of the league was a Christmas present that Tim Burgon had not even dared to ask Father Christmas for when he sat on his knee recently. I believe he thought that his alternative request for a shiny Fire Engine had more chance of coming to fruition.

The danger of a fixture like the one we faced

at the weekend is that the players take one look at the league table, and see that Vale had recorded only one win all season. Then they remember the seeing to we gave them in the away fixture this season. However, as they say, a week is a long time in rugby and in the five weeks since our last meeting they

*(Continued on page 2)*



**2007-2008**

**No. 15**

**No. 343**

MAIN SPONSORS OF THE TOUCHLINE RAMBLINGS

**& ALPHA**  
INTUITIVE DATA MANAGEMENT

Alpha Business Computers Ltd  
Bentley House, Newby Road,  
Hazel Grove, Stockport,  
Cheshire, UK. SK7 5DA.

[www.alphacom.co.uk](http://www.alphacom.co.uk)

Tel: +44(0)161 483 5650  
Fax: +44(0)161 483 5576

**20-12-07**

**STOCKPORT**

Half Time

22

5

v

**VALE OF LUNE**

5

5

**HOME TEAM**

Richard HOPKINSON
James DREW
Craig COOPER
James DALTON
Chris NEL
Steve PEARSON
Mike RAVEN
Dave MORRIS
Andy FULLER
Jan Erik ANDERSON
Tim OAKES
Dave MARWICK
Hugo CORBETT
John WILSON
Peter BREDEKAMP

**AWAY TEAM**

15	ADAM ARMSTRONG
14	JAMES BRYAN
13	ANDY GARNETT
12	CRAIG ORRICK
11	JAMES HODDER
10	NEALE FOSTER
9	OWEN HUGHES
1	PHIL JACKSON
2	GAVIN BARTON
3	ANDREW SUTCLIFFE
4	LEE FARNWORTH
5	LEE ACTON
6	DANIEL PERRY
7	DANNY LIN
8	MALCOM FOWLER

Attend: N/KWeather: Cold DryVenue: Headlands R**REPLACEMENTS**

Chris WEEKS
Alex HOOLEY
Phil LEIGH

16	JOE CLARKSON
17	ALISTAIR RICHARDS
18	ALEX COWEY

SCORING SEQUENCE											REPLACEMENTS			
Time	H	A	No.	T	C	P	PT	DG	Score	Y	R	Off	On	Reason
13	X		14	X					5	0				
13	X		15		N				5	0				
22		X							5	0		14	17	INJURY
38		X	17	X					5	5				
38			10		N				5	5				
40	X								5	5		1	16	TACTICAL
42	X								5	5		10	18	INJURY
52	X		9	X					10	5				
52	X		15		N				10	5				
60		X							10	5		3	18	INJURY
62	X		7	X					15	5				
62	X		15		Y				17	5				
64	X								17	5		7	17	TACTICAL
38	X		13	X					22	5				
38	X		15		N				22	5				

*(Continued from page 1)*

have acquired new coach, several new players and from all accounts a gritty resolve to mount a real effort to keep themselves in North 2 West.

**TEAM NEWS:** Greg Newton would miss his first game of the season, James Drew would come back in on the wing. We would probably be the only team in the league to field three potential hookers with Chris Weeks and Alex Hooley on the bench.

We knew from the previous encounter with Vale earlier in the season that they were quick starters. They didn't disappoint. Their forwards rumbled as usual. It wasn't long before James Dalton was getting to know his opposite number. They were the calk and cheese of No 12's. James, slight, agile, pacey. Craig Orrick from the battering ram school of rugby. It was an interesting contest and to be fair the big Vale No 12 held his own well. James soon realised that the appropriate line was 'I can't get over you so I'll have to get up and go round'...

Early on there was a lovely cameo moment involving Tim Oakes. We were rucking on our 10 metre line and Richard Hopkinson was nicely lined up just inside his 22 ready to clear with the boot. The ball came out. Mikey Raven picked up and spun it ball towards Hoppo....but..... just at that moment Tim Oakes decided to change position behind the ruck and ran straight between the two and into the path of the pass. Totally un-phased by his sudden possession of the ball. Tim calmly kicked the ball down the touch line and to safety.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*(Continued from page 2)*

Meanwhile back in the 22 Hoppo was still standing, hands to the ready. His face was a picture.....

The game soon settled down into an even contest. All facets of the game were explored but not extensively. There was some adventurous backs play and a fair amount of grunt and grid by the forwards but probably just too many turn-overs conceded and errors were made to find an immediate break through. It in fact took 13 minutes and was a really nice five pointer. We pressured their backs who dropped the ball. We then recycled possession 4 times until Andy Fuller finally drove up the right. This time the ball went sweetly down the line until it reached James 'Banana Man' Drew who fended one tackle off before making it to the corner. It seemed that it wasn't raining enough for Hoppo's liking on Saturday and he only trou-

bled the scorer with one conversion from four. 5-0

Unfortunately scoring didn't do much to improve things. The game lapsed into a series of fairly aimless kicks, shorts bulldozing runs and a box full of errors from both sides. It was one of those errors that allowed Vale to equalise a couple of minutes before half time. We were getting a move going down the far wing and Mike Raven passed to Peter Bredenkamp. Peter then spun a pass out wide which was a lovely flat pass to run on to. The only problem was that it was the Vale hooker who was ran onto it and he was quickly heading off in the wrong direction. Mike Raven reacted quickly and gave chase. He caught the No 2 just short of our line, only see him off load over his shoulder straight into the path of their replacement wing who took the ball over the line for an unlikely try. 5-5.

At the break Dave Morris came off for Chris Weeks with Andy Fuller moving to prop. It was the only change made but only seconds after the restart Tim Burgon was forced to make another. Luckily for Vale the match video doesn't show the incident but it left Steve Pearson out cold and in no state to continue. If we were looking for a silver lining then (a) it would give Phil Leigh a whole half at 10 and (b) at least Steve would have 3 weeks to recover before our next league game.

Phil wasted no time in catching the eye. He saw more recycled clean ball in his 1st 5 minutes on the pitch than Steve had seen all game. We nudged our way forwards and started to turn the screw on the visitors. The score was not too long in coming. From a line out the forwards drove 23 metres towards the line and this allowed Mike Raven to go over from close range in the 12th minute. 10-5.

The second half was proving to be more entertaining. We saw breaks from Mazza and Chris Nel and we were keeping the pressure in the Vale 22 without being able to score at will. When the score did come it was no surprise that it came from the forwards' efforts again as they were definitely starting to dominate their opposite numbers. A line out close to the Vale line and this time it was John Wilson who planted the ball over the line although the replay does show that we were running the risk of being penalised for 'truck and trailer'. Hoppo broke

*(Continued on page 4)*





JW off side as usual

(Continued from page 3)

his duck for the day and the lead was now 17-5.

The game went into another lull. Luckily I was being thoroughly entertained by Ed Weeks's 3rd's and their valiant fight back from 17-10 down to win 25-17. Meanwhile back on the 1st XV pitch Chris Nel went on a nice little run. He off loaded as he reached the touch line and Roger Dyson ruled him in touch. With the benefit of the action replay I can tell you that he actually timed his off load perfectly.....

Vale never got closer than 23 metres from our line for the whole of the 2nd half and I suppose without Peter B's gen-

erosity they wouldn't have in the 1st Half either. It was left to young Phil 'Ryan Giggs' Leigh to round off the game in style.

Line out to Vale on our 10 metre, Tap ball pinched by Tim Oakes. Raven to Leigh. Phil moved forwards and attracted 3 defenders towards him. He passed to Craig Cooper who moved the ball to Chris Nel. Chris then came in from his wing and held the attention of the defenders who'd been looking at Phil, together with he opposite number. This allowed Phil to loop around Chris and receive the return ball. Phil then set off, looping out to the wing. He had Craig Cooper inside but Phil elected to chip. It was perfect. The full back was caught on the wrong foot as the ball broke inside him right into Craig's path. A little gentle nudge with the boot and ball rolled over the line in front of him. Only one thing left to do...touch it down... well did he...or didn't he.....well the referee said he did and that's good enough for me. Just for the curious I'm sure you are wondering what did the video shows, well what I can tell you is what it doesn't show. It doesn't show Craig Cooper **not** touching the ball down correctly....make of that what you will.....who needs the technology anyway.



The game meandered to it's conclusion and we had 2 more points safely in the bag....one more than Chester had managed to wrestle after their 17-17 draw away at Leigh. This will be the last Ramblings until the 13th January following our away trip to Broughton Park. Thank you for all your support for this humble magazine over the year and in return I wish you all the very best for Christmas and frankly.....a bloody good 2008. **The Rambler**



WHO BUM WAS IT ANYWAY.....1,2,3.....?

# NORTH 2 WEST

Saturday, 15th December 2007			
Leigh	17	17	Chester
Lymm	14	21	Broughton Pk
New Brighton	18	15	Rochdale
Sandbach	49	7	Winnington Pk
Stockport	22	5	Vale of Lune
Tyldesley	6	20	Northwich
Saturday, 5th January 2008			
Broughton Pk			Stockport
Chester			Tyldesley
Northwich			New Brighton
Rochdale			Sandbach
Vale of Lune			Leigh
Winnington Pk			Lymm

NORTH 2 WEST								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	
Stockport	12	10	0	2	390	114	276	20
Chester	12	9	2	1	346	143	203	20
Broughton Park	12	9	0	3	273	145	128	18
New Brighton	12	8	2	2	283	196	87	18
Lymm	12	8	0	4	286	150	136	16
Sandbach	12	7	0	5	242	229	13	14
Rochdale	12	6	1	5	225	188	37	13
Leigh	12	5	1	6	204	253	-49	11
Northwich	12	3	1	8	139	187	-48	5*
Winnington Park	12	2	1	9	168	397	-229	5
Vale of Lune	12	1	0	11	154	343	-189	2
Tyldesley	12	0	0	12	99	464	-365	0

# NORTH 1

Saturday, 15th December 2007			
Cleckheaton	P	P	Birkenhead Pk
Darlington	P	P	Altrincham K
Huddersfield	P	P	Hull
Kendal	9	3	Westoe
Middlesbrough	P	P	Sheffield Tgs
Penrith	P	P	Liverpool-St H
Saturday, 5th January 2008			
Altrincham K			Middlesbrough
Birkenhead Pk			Penrith
Hull			Kendal
Liverpool-St H			Huddersfield
Sheffield Tgs			Cleckheaton
Westoe			Darlington

NORTH 1								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	
Kendal	12	12	0	0	344	118	226	24
Huddersfield	11	10	0	1	240	158	82	20
Birkenhead Pk	11	8	0	3	254	127	127	16
Westoe	12	7	1	4	220	213	7	15
Cleckheaton	11	6	2	3	259	199	60	14
Middlesbrough	11	6	0	5	271	175	96	12
Sheffield Tgers	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 K	11	1	0	10	164	324	-160	2

# STH LANCS & CHES 1

Saturday, 15th December 2007			
Bowdon	27	13	Anselmians
Burnage	P	P	Wirral
Hoylake	P	P	Aspull
Ruskin Park	13	9	Vagabonds
Sale FC	5	32	Wilmslow
Wigan	34	13	Widnes
Saturday, 5th January 2008			
Anselmians			Burnage
Aspull			Sale FC
Vagabonds			Wigan
Widnes			Bowdon
Wilmslow			Ruskin Park
Wirral			Hoylake

STH LANCS & CHES 1								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	
Wilmslow	12	11	0	1	347	139	208	22
Wigan	12	7	2	3	298	129	169	16
Burnage	10	7	0	3	272	151	121	14
Hoylake	11	6	0	5	167	147	20	12
Sale FC	12	6	0	6	228	219	9	12
Widnes	12	5	1	6	225	255	-30	11
Wirral	10	5	0	5	163	183	-20	10
Bowdon	12	5	0	7	178	215	-37	10
Aspull	11	5	0	6	161	218	-57	10
Vagabonds	12	4	1	7	257	210	47	9
Ruskin Park	12	4	0	8	153	393	-240	6*
Anselmians	12	2	0	10	150	340	-190	4

	AWAY											
HOME	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	17-17		18-39	6-27	19/4	9/2	1/3	29/3	27-10	28-3	23-17
Lymm	14-21	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	18-15	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	49-7
Stockport	34-15	9-10	39-18	1/3	9/2	29-0	27-12	48-8		19/4	22-5	19/1
Tyldesley	5-37	5-66	12/4	29/3	1/3	6-20	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	

NORTH 2 WEST : 2007-2008

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

### Out of Jail

Things didn't look promising. Playing the only team to have beaten us in the league and yet again struggling to get 15 players on the field. In the end we scraped 16 together thanks to Richard Hope finding us some players. So 10 changes made from last week's 18 including 5 players making their 3s debut. Into the pack came Euan Stirling up from the 4s and having a cracking game along with Kieran Hibbs, back from Uni and man of the match. New arrival Marc Ward came in at scrum half and colts Richard Morgan and Anthony Coulson were drafted into the backs. Since, between them, they scored all of our points the degree to which they saved our bacon can easily be judged. We started well moving the ball confidently and after 10 minutes were ahead through a converted Ric Morgan try. Moor had strong running backs and in particular their full back made yards at will. Our tackling was not at its best and we didn't help ourselves by kicking the ball away on too many occasions and trying complex moves when we did get some quality ball. Moor scored two well worked tries and in between Ric Morgan slotted a penalty. Moor deservedly turned round 12 – 10 up. Things looked bleak when they went over again 10 minutes after the restart and for most of the rest of the game we struggled to make a real impact. With 8 minutes left and after a good forward surge Kieran Hibbs bashed his way over the line wide out and perhaps more importantly had the nouse to fight his way under the posts. Anthony Coulson added the extras to tie up the game. We repelled one strong Moor attack got back into their half, were awarded a penalty and from the resulting line out it was Hibbs again who got his hands on the ball to force his way over in the corner. The last play of the game was another penalty to us which Coulson coolly put over. Make no mistake we were lucky. However this game shows what can be achieved if you don't give up. We are still top of the league on points difference and hopefully can carry on where we left off in the New Year.

1. Jez Taylor
2. Jack Woodcock
3. Lee McLean
4. Euan Stirling
5. Matt Heywood
6. Kieran Hibbs TT
7. Ged Gurney
8. Rick Magee
9. Marc Ward
10. Paul Garner
11. Oye Oyewumi
12. Chris Caswell
13. Anthony Coulson CP
14. Richard Morgan TCP
15. Gareth Matthews
16. Chris Sham

### No Fixture this Saturday





BEST FANCY DRESS :  
JAMES  
'BANANAMAN'  
DREW



# STOCKPORT RUFC



# CHRISTMAS FANCY DRESS 15-12-07



# STOCKPORT RUFC 1ST XV 2007-2008

PLAYED 16 WON 12 DRAWN 1 LOST 3 POINTS FOR POINTS 481 AGAINST 160

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	Won	22	5
05/01/08	Broughton Park	North 2 West	Away			
12/01/08	Newport (Salop)	Intermediate Cup 4	Away			
19/01/08	Winnington Park	North 2 West	Home			
26/01/08	Rochdale	North 2 West	Away			
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				
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 12 LEAGUE GAMES

Players		A	R	T	C	P	DG	Pts
1	Richard Hopkinson	11	0	4	35	9	0	127
2	Steve Pearson	9	1	5	0	3	0	34
3	Craig Cooper	10	0	6	0	0	0	30
4	Andy Fuller	12	0	5	0	0	0	25
5	Greg Newton	11	0	5	0	0	0	25
6	Dave Marwick	12	0	4	0	0	0	20
7	James Drew	7	0	4	0	0	0	20
8	John Wilson	12	0	3	0	0	0	15
9	Chris Nel	8	3	3	0	0	0	15
10	Simon Baker	3	1	3	0	0	0	15
11	Peter Bredenkamp	10	0	2	0	0	0	10
12	Mike Raven	9	0	2	0	0	0	10
13	Ian Kennedy	4	3	2	0	0	0	10
14	Christian Chapman	2	3	2	0	0	0	10
15	Jan-Erik Anderson	11	1	1	0	0	0	5
16	James Dalton	8	0	1	0	0	0	5
17	Chris Weeks	7	2	1	0	0	0	5
18	Matt Langtree	5	3	1	0	0	0	5
19	Phil Leigh	3	2	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	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Alan Boyd	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Hugo Corbett	5	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	3	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
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>391</b>

# RESULTS FROM LAST WEEKEND

Saturday 15/12/07				
TEAM	Opposition	H/A	Competition	Results
1 <sup>ST</sup> XV	Vale of Lune	Home	North 2 West	Won
2 <sup>ND</sup> XV	Caldy	Away	Bateman BMW Premiership	Lost
3 <sup>RD</sup> XV	Heaton Moor 2's	Home	Miller Homes Leagues 4E	Won
4 <sup>TH</sup> XV	Sandbach	Away	Miller Homes Leagues 5N	Won
VETS XV				
Sunday 16/12/07				
Senior Colts	Birkenhead Park	Home	Lancs/Ches League	P-P
Junior Colts	Tarleton	Away	Lancs/Ches League	Lost 3-27
U16	Chester	Away	Friendly	Won
U15	Wirral	Home	Cheshire Cup	P-P
U14	No Fixture			
U13	Rhyl	Away	Friendly	C-C
U12	Marple	Home	Friendly	C-C
U11	Marple	Home	Friendly	C-C
U10	Marple	Home	Friendly	C-C
U9	Marple	Home	Friendly	C-C
U8	Marple	Home	Friendly	C-C
U7	Marple	Home	Friendly	C-C

# SUPPORT YOUR CLUB THIS WEEKEND

Saturday 22/12/07				
TEAM	Opposition	H/A	Competition	Kick Off
1 <sup>ST</sup> XV	No Fixture			
2 <sup>ND</sup> XV	Waterloo	Home	Bateman BMW Premiership	2.15
3 <sup>RD</sup> XV	No Fixture			
4 <sup>TH</sup> XV	No Fixture			
VETS XV	No Fixture			
Sunday 23/12/07				
Senior Colts	Ashton On Mersey	Home	Lancs/Ches League	2.00
Junior Colts	Penrith	Away	Lancs/Ches League	12.30
U16	Manchester	Away	friendly	11.00
U15	No Fixture			
U14	No Fixture			
U13	No Fixture			
U12	No Fixture		Christmas Party	
U11	No Fixture		Christmas Party	
U10	No Fixture		Christmas Party	
U9	No Fixture		Christmas Party	
U8	No Fixture		Christmas Party	
U7	No Fixture		Christmas Party	

## TOUCHLINE RAMBLINGS: Any Contributions to:

Richard Hope, The View, Stockport RUFC, Headlands Road, Bramhall,  
 Stockport SK7 3AN. Phone (H) 0161 439 3665 (M) 07793 134 644,  
 (E): Rambler@stockportrugby.co.uk

**STOCKPORT RUFC Online : [www.stockportrugby.co.uk](http://www.stockportrugby.co.uk)**