



TOUCHLINE RAMBLINGS

SEASON 2007-2008



STOCKPORT RUGBY NEWS

WET WEATHER WIN

1st keep a clean sheet as well

All the stops were well and truly pulled out in order to get Saturday's 1stXV fixture against Winnington Park played. Full preparations were made for it to be played on the better drained far pitch.

For a time it looked touch and go as the rain

never seemed to let up for more than a couple of hours, but in the end all the ground staff's work proved worth while and considering the conditions it produced quite an entertaining 80 minutes of rugby .

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2007-2008

No. 18

No. 346

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& ALPHA
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24-01-08

STOCKPORT	32	v	0	WINNINGTON PK
Half Time	8		0	

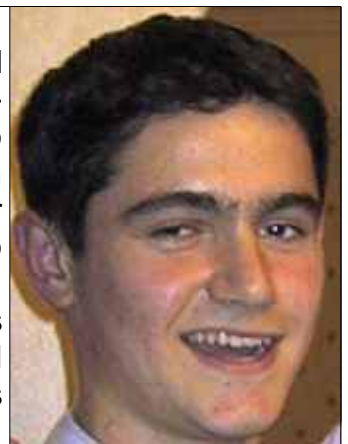
HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM	
James DREW	15	Nathan ARCHER	
Greg NEWTON	14	ELLIS	
Craig COOPER	13	Niel WELSH	
Steve PEARSON	12	Mark PATTERSON	
Chris NEL	11	Andy EVANS	
Phil LEIGH	10	Sam BARTON	
Mike RAVEN	9	Mark WARR	
Andy FULLER	1	Will BURGESS	
Chris WEEKS	2	Joe ROBBINS	
Tony SHORE	3	Anthony SULLIVAN	
Tim OAKES	4	Carl PATERSON	
Dave MARWICK	5	Harry STUBBS	
Hugo CORBET	6	Ryan McKIBBON	
John WILSON	7	Dave CROSS	
Peter BREDEKAMP	8	Ben RICHARDSON	
REPLACEMENTS			
Ian KENNEDY	16	Matthew SANT	
Matt LANGTREE	17	Terry JONES	
Tom EATON	18	HILL	

MATCH SEQUENCE											REPLACEMENTS				
Time	H	A	No.	T	C	P	PTDG	Score	Y	R	Off	On	Reason		
26	X		3	X				5 0							
26	X		15		N			5 0							
31	X		15			Y		8 0							
36	X										10	18	Injury		
49	X		18	X				13 0							
49	X		15		N			13 0							
54	X		15	X				18 0							
54	X		15		N			18 0							
60	X										3	16			
62	X		8	X				23 0							
62	X		18		Y			25 0							
68	X										4	17			
72	X		11	X				30 0							
72	X		18		Y			32 0							



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TEAM NEWS: Richard Hopkinson was away in the land of the rising sun on business. James Drew would deputise at 15. James Dalton was on crime fighting duties so Steve Pearson would take the 12 shirt . Greg Newton was back on wing. In the forwards there was a return for Hugo Corbet in the back row. On the bench we were to witness the return of the 'Prodigal Son'. Tom Eaton. Tom has been plying his trade in the National Leagues for some years and has played 10 at Rotherham and Halifax in recent seasons. As you can, see the years have been kind to him.....



MATCH: It was going to be a pretty muddy affair but we still saw a high degree of rugby skill. It would come down to which side could make most effective progress across the pitch and at the same time not make too many errors.

From a line out in the first minute we saw 7 phases of play which finally ended when Greg Newton lost the slippery ball through his fingers with the line beckoning.

Our line out was winning the lion share of the ball from both sides throw ins, but early on we were guilty of kicking away some possession with the narrow pitch cutting down our attacking options. We weren't having all our own way and Winnington Park squandered some opportunities themselves when

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the slippery ball got away from their players with the try line on offer.

The majority of the action was taking place in the visitor's half but we were having difficulties finding the final opening. Chris had a run at the full back but was well tackled wasn't until the 26th minute that we finally broke the deadlock.

The visitors conceded a penalty and we chipped into touch 5 metres out. We got the line out just right and drove over with young Tony Shore touching down for his second try in as many weeks. James Drew was unable to add the extras. 5-0.

6 minutes later James Drew added a penalty from in front of the posts 8-0. A short



time later Phil Leigh picked up a bang on the head. I have to confess I didn't see what happen to Phil and on the video it was a case of one moment he was standing at fly half and the next moment the referee had stopped the game for a head injury and Phil had gone. In his place we would get 45 minutes to study the form of the latest addition to the squad. T Eaton Esq. His arrival signed a bit of a resurgence in the visitor's efforts late in the first half. But they we rebuffed and the there was no further score in the half. 8-0.

We looked quite sharp after the restart and camped ourselves back in the Winnington 22. A lot of pressure ensued and the ball eventually came to Tom Eaton who spotted a

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narrow opening towards the corner and he made the line for his first points. No conversion 13-0.

Our next try had a touch of class. We first recycled the ball 6 times making 10 to 12 yards over the half way line. Mike raven then passed to Tom Eaton who slipped a neat and short pass to Steve Pearson. Steve broke into the Winnington 22 and found Hugo Corbett in support. Hugo fed the ball back to Steve who found Craig Cooper outside him. Craig moved forwards and attracted defenders before floating the ball out to James Drew who slid over the line to score. No

Conversion 18-0.

Winnington had the next brief phase of pressure but despite a number of penalties they could find no way through a determined Stockport defence. Pressure was relieved by a break down the left wing by Tom Eaton which he finished off with an outrageous pass backwards over his head....

Tony Shore gave way to Ian Kennedy for the last 20 minutes. Ian had not had time to muddy his shirt before we scored again. There was an element of farce about the try. Mike Raven Picked up from the base of the scrum but as he tried to pass the ball out it was knocked up in the air. As it descended Hugo Corbett got his hands to it first. He turned and headed towards the try line. He suddenly found his path open in front of him like the Red Sea and he was the only person moving when he ran under the posts to score with the opposition all waiting for a referee's whistle that never came. Tom Eaton took on the kicking duties and added the 2. 25-0.



The final score of the day was another great team try, lots and different hands, ball quickly recycled a good mixture of backs and forwards involved and when the ball eventually was passed left with the try line beckoning then a simple little inside pass by Mazza to Chris Nel gave the hard working South African a clear run in to the line. Tom

Eaton added 2 more to his 'Debut' tally 32-0.

We were still full of running and it was only the conditions that spared the visitors from a score line that I fancy would have been closer to double the final score of 32-0.

This Saturday sees another must win game away at Rochdale. Lets pray for some rain free days this week.

THE RAMBLER



The 3rd's would have this lot any time....

NORTH 2 WEST

Saturday, 19th January 2008			
Chester	29	0	Northwich
Leigh	P	P	Broughton Pk
Lymm	10	11	Rochdale
Sandbach	20	3	New Brighton
Stockport	32	0	Winnington Pk
Tyldesley	6	13	Vale of Lune
Saturday, 26th January 2008			
Broughton Park			Tyldesley
New Brighton			Lymm
Northwich			Sandbach
Rochdale			Stockport
Vale of Lune			Chester
Winnington Pk			Leigh

NORTH 2 WEST								
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pt
Chester	14	11	2	1	465	155	310	24
Stockport	14	11	0	3	427	126	301	22
Broughton Park	13	10	0	3	285	150	135	20
Lymm	14	9	0	5	325	178	147	18
New Brighton	14	8	2	4	296	237	59	18
Rochdale	14	8	1	5	260	204	56	17
Sandbach	14	8	0	6	268	256	12	16
Leigh	13	5	1	7	216	267	-51	11
Northwich	14	4	1	9	160	226	-66	7*
Vale of Lune	14	3	0	11	181	361	-180	6
Winnington Park	14	2	1	11	185	458	-273	5
Tyldesley	14	0	0	14	117	567	-450	0

NORTH 1

Saturday, 19th January 2008			
Birkenhead Prk	P	P	Liverpool St. H
Cleckheaton	8	3	Altrincham K
Darlington	18	17	Hull
Kendal	11	9	Huddersfield
Middlesbrough	12	13	Westoe
Penrith	36	18	Sheffield Tgrs

Saturday, 26th January 2008			
Altrincham K			Penrith
Huddersfield			Darlington
Hull			Middlesbrough
Liverpool St. H			Kendal
Sheffield Tgrs			Birkenhead Pk
Westoe			Cleckheaton

NORTH 1								
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pt
Kendal	14	14	0	0	380	144	236	28
Huddersfield	14	12	0	2	299	187	112	24
Birkenhead Park	13	10	0	3	322	146	176	20
Westoe	14	9	1	4	250	231	19	19
Cleckheaton	14	7	2	5	293	256	37	16
Sheffield Tigers	13	7	0	6	263	235	28	14
Middlesbrough	13	6	0	7	293	201	92	12
Hull	14	4	1	9	257	294	-37	9
Darlington	14	4	0	10	183	408	-225	8
Penrith	14	3	0	11	244	382	-138	6
Liverpool St. H	13	2	0	11	208	335	-127	4
Altrincham Kersal	14	2	0	12	192	365	-173	4

NORTH 2 EAST

Saturday, 19th January 2008			
Aspatia	16	5	W Hartlepool
Carlisle	17	25	Gateshead
Driffield	27	10	Durham City
Morpeth	15	9	York
O Crossleyans	14	16	Hartlepool Rvrs
Pontefract	47	15	Aldwinians
Saturday, 26th January 2008			
Aldwinians			Carlisle
Durham City			Morpeth
Gateshead			O Crossleyans
Hartlepool Rvrs			Driffield
W Hartlepool			Pontefract
York			Aspatia

NORTH 2 EAST								
Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pt
West Hartlepool	14	13	0	1	387	158	229	26
Durham City	14	10	2	2	385	204	181	22
Driffield	14	10	0	4	471	218	253	20
Aspatia	14	10	0	4	377	206	171	20
Morpeth	14	7	2	5	326	246	80	16
Pontefract	14	7	1	6	315	315	0	15
Old Crossleyans	14	6	0	8	238	273	-35	12
Gateshead	14	5	2	7	304	390	-86	12
Hartlepool Rovers	14	5	1	8	241	367	-126	11
Carlisle	14	4	0	10	280	376	-96	8
York	14	3	0	11	189	394	-205	6
Aldwinians	14	0	0	14	118	484	-366	0

	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	12-5	26/1	16/2	62-4
Chester	9/2		39-7	20-11	26-26	29-0	1/3	29/3	12/4	90-12	72-10	30-8
Leigh	P-P	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	10-11	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	21-10		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		24-6	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	32-0
Tyldesley	5-37	5-66	12/4	29/3	1/3	6-20	0-29	5-59	21-40		6-13	9/2
Vale of Lune	12-22	26/1	14-12	12/4	29/3	9/2	10-25	20-26	5-50	34-0		1/3
Winnington Park	8/3	16/2	26/1	17-29	12/4	29/3	12-21	10-15	0-72	48-12	22-17	

NORTH 2 WEST : 2007-2008

STRAIGHT EIGHT
Old Bedians 3rd XV 3 v 10 Stockport Bulldogs

Well what can you say? It's a straight eight wins on the trot for the fast improving and confident Bulldogs. There is a new found confidence running through the side reflected in great team spirit and results. New faces have been integrated and have quickly made their mark resulting in a stronger than ever squad. In fact such is the camaraderie that despite the fact everyone wants to play a full 80 minutes guys are happy to play 40 and give their mates a slice of the action. That said the Bulldogs were made to work damn hard to stretch their unbeaten run by a fast improving Old Bedians 3rd string on Saturday. It merely demonstrates how good the league structure has been for North West rugby as there are no longer any 'easy' games.

OK it was a miracle the game went ahead given the number of cancellations across the leagues due to the British early Spring Monsoon. Sure the conditions were a leveller for the pitch was very heavy, muddy and slippery under foot but it was the same for both sides. The Bulldogs were ahead inside five minutes when Nigel Burge-Jones latched on to the end of his own chip and chase winning a four man race to the touch down. The home side then knuckled down and held the advantage territorially for the rest of the half. Although they never once looked like breaching the ever solid Bulldog defence they did punish one infringement with a penalty. Otherwise it was stalemate with the Bulldogs tactics of kicking for ground often being thwarted by the full backs repeated catch, run and long downfield return kicks.

So half time and skipper Mike Whetter brought on all six subs for a chance to stake their claim for a place in this weeks cup squad. There were some stern words in the half time team talk. Where was the Bulldogs natural driving, rolling forward game that all those victories have been founded upon? Where was the normally silky handling in the backs – too many rash panic passes were going to ground?

Bang. Right from the restart whistle it was business as usual as the forwards set off on a 25 metre rolling drive. Bedians collapsed the maul (illegally I might add – a tactic that prompted a discrete word with the otherwise excellent OB's referee) and somehow stole the ball. The fly half chipped forward and in rescuing the situation centre Dave Scott winced in pain and left the field with what subsequent X-rays proved to be a triple fracture of the right thumb. Thanks to the hosts for allowing first half substitute Hugh Crosbie back on.

With the Bulldogs in ascendancy the next score looked inevitable but somehow they just couldn't find the killer pass or last big forward push to the line. But finally the forwards came up trumps. A penalty in mid-field was kicked to the corner and the lineout ball secured. Bosh. The forwards drove and rolled forward the full 30 metres to the line and over. The referee was well positioned but couldn't see the ball grounded. Scrum five and Rob Zelinka and Marc Ward combined to draw the defence and give Rob a sniff of the line. The defence held him in the air on the line but he cleverly kept the ball free (top port moment by the way) and slipped it to Man-of-the-Match Marc Ward to crash over.

It proved the match winning score as both sides cancelled each other out over the final fifteen minutes. Just a word on double Dick-of-the-Day Andy Russell for a) forgetting his scrum cap and ringing Mike Whetter to see if he had a spare (the things players expect of their captains) and b) for a blinding moment of stupidity in forgetting to stand still at a penalty and charging fully 20 metres before questioning the referee and then claiming he put the kicker off.

So a real selection dilemma in prospect as every player has rightfully stacked a claim to be in the starting fifteen, never mind the squad, for this weeks Big Match. A mouth watering home cup quarter final against unbeaten Division 5 North leaders Wigan 4's. Bring 'em on.

Team: Patterson, Dunnington, Warrington, Willard, Gordon, Maziere, Russell, Phillips, Ward (**T**), N Burge-Jones (**T**), Sutherland, Scott, Crosbie, Burke, Whetter, Subs: Sterling, Moore, Zelinka, A Burge-Jones, Farrell, Sutcliffe

STOCKPORT RUFC 1ST XV 2007-2008

PLAYED 19 WON 13 DRAWN 1 LOST 5 POINTS FOR POINTS 538 AGAINST 193

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	Lost	5	12
12/01/08	Newport (Salop)	Intermediate Cup 4	Away	Lost	20	21
19/01/08	Winnington Park	North 2 West	Home	Won	32	0
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			
01/03/08	Lymm	North 2 West	Home			
08/03/08	Northwich	North 2 West	Away			
29/03/08	Leigh	North 2 West	Away			
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 14 LEAGUE GAMES

Players		A	R	T	C	P	DG	Pts
1	Richard Hopkinson	12	0	4	35	9	0	127
2	Steve Pearson	11	1	5	0	3	0	34
3	Craig Cooper	12	0	6	0	0	0	30
4	James Drew	9	0	5	0	1	0	28
5	Andy Fuller	13	0	5	0	0	0	25
6	Greg Newton	13	0	5	0	0	0	25
7	Dave Marwick	14	0	4	0	0	0	20
8	Chris Nel	9	4	4	0	0	0	20
9	John Wilson	14	0	3	0	0	0	15
10	Peter Bredenkamp	12	0	3	0	0	0	15
11	Simon Baker	3	1	3	0	0	0	15
12	Mike Raven	11	0	2	0	0	0	10
13	Ian Kennedy	5	4	2	0	0	0	10
14	Christian Chapman	2	4	2	0	0	0	10
15	Tom Eaton	1	0	1	2	0	0	9
16	Jan-Erik Anderson	12	1	1	0	0	0	5
17	James Dalton	9	0	1	0	0	0	5
18	Chris Weeks	9	2	1	0	0	0	5
19	Matt Langtree	5	4	1	0	0	0	5
20	Phil Leigh	4	2	1	0	0	0	5
21	Nick Wroe	3	0	1	0	0	0	5
22	Charlie Maunder	1	3	1	0	0	0	5
23	Tony Shore	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
24	Tim Oakes	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Alan Boyd	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
26	Hugo Corbett	7	0	1	0	0	0	5
27	Dave Morris	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
28	Ben Kerr	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
29	Alex Hooley	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chris Thompson	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
31	Julian Harris	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
32	Colin Nevett	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
33	Kieran Hibbs	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
34	Zak Hammond	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Penalty Tries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals	210	52	54	37	12	0	426

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEKEND

Saturday 19/1/08				
TEAM	Opposition	H/A	Competition	Kick Off
1 ST XV	Winnington Park	Home	North 2 West	W
2 ND XV	Fylde	Away	Bateman BMW Premiership	Lost
3 RD XV	Holmes Chapel 2's	Away	Miller Homes Leagues 4E	P-P
4 TH XV	Old Bedians 3's	Home	Miller Homes Leagues 5N	Won
VETS XV			Vets League	P-P
Sunday 20/1/08				
Senior Colts	Birkenhead Park	Home	Lancs/Ches League	A-A
Junior Colts	Penrith	Away	Lancs/Ches League	A-A
U16	?	Home	Friendly	P-P
U15	Marple	Away	Cheshire Plate	P-P
U14	Broughton Park	Home	Friendly	P-P
U13	Broughton Park	Away	Friendly	P-P
U12	Anselmians	Away	Friendly	P-P
U11	Anselmians	Away	Friendly	P-P
U10	Anselmians	Away	Friendly	P-P
U9	Anselmians	Away	Friendly	P-P
U8	Anselmians	Away	Friendly	P-P
U7	Anselmians	Away	Friendly	P-P

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB THIS WEEKEND

Saturday 26/1/08				
TEAM	Opposition	H/A	Competition	Kick Off
1 ST XV	Rochdale	Away	North 2 West	2.15
2 ND XV	No Fixture	Away	Bateman BMW Premiership	2.15
3 RD XV	Sandbach 3's	Away	Miller Homes Leagues 4E	2.15
4 TH XV	No Fixture	Home	Miller Homes Leagues 5N	2.15
VETS XV	Chester	Home	Vets League	2.15
Sunday 27/1/08				
Senior Colts	Manchester	Away	Lancs/Ches League	2.00
Junior Colts	Penrith	Away	Lancs/Ches League	12.30
U16		Home	Friendly	11.00
U15	Marple	Away	Cheshire Plate	11.00
U14		Home	Friendly	11.00
U13	Marple	Home	Friendly	11.00
U12	Altrincham Kersal	Home	Friendly	11.00
U11	Training	Home	Friendly	11.00
U10	Training	Home	Friendly	11.00
U9	Training	Home	Friendly	11.00
U8	Training	Home	Friendly	11.00
U7	Training	Home	Friendly	11.00

TOUCHLINE RAMBLINGS: Any Contributions to:

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