



# TOUCHLINE RAMBLINGS

SEASON 2007-2008



## STOCKPORT RUGBY NEWS

# COMING ALONG NICELY

## 1st XV end visitor's 34 game unbeaten run

Stockport welcomed newly promoted Northwich to Headlands Road last Saturday. Northwich had an unbeaten run of 34 games under their belt

and it was going to Stockport's task to break the visitor's winning habit and to extend their own.

*(Continued on page 2)*



2007-2008

No.2

No. 330

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10-60-07



<b>STOCKPORT</b>	<b>29</b>	v	<b>0</b>	<b>NORTHWICH</b>
Half Time	<b>12</b>		<b>0</b>	

**HOME TEAM**

RICHARD HOPKINSON	15
JAMES DREW	14
GREG NEWTON	13
JAMES DALTON	12
NICK WROE	11
STEVE PEARSON	10
MIKE RAVEN	9
JAN-ERIK ANDERSON	1
CHRIS WEEKS	2
ANDY FULLER	3
MATT LANGTREE	4
DAVE MARWICK [C]	5
ALAN BOYD	6
JOHN WILSON	7
TIM OAKES	8

**AWAY TEAM**

RICHARD DALE	15
SANDY CHUBB	14
CHRIS WILLIAMS	13
ROB JONES	12
STEVE CAMPBELL [C]	11
SAMMY NAYLOR	10
STEVE TAYLOR	9
DANIEL DAVEY	1
FRED TAYLOR	2
MATHEW BARBER	3
JOHN SIMPSON	4
CHRIS HEYWOOD	5
JAMIE MIRATANA	6
RICK SMITH	7
GRAHAM ROBINSON	8

Attend: 94

Weather: Fine

Venue: H/dlands Rd

**REPLACEMENTS**

CHRIS NELS	16
KIERAN HIBBS	17
IAN KENNEDY	18

IAN LEARS	16
DONNY PHILLIPS	17
MARK THOMPSON	18

**SCORING SEQUENCE**

**REPLACEMENTS**

Time	Home	Away	No.	T	C	P	PT	DG	Score	Y	R	Off	On	Reason
4	X		15			N			0 0					
8	X		3	X					5 0					
8	X		15		N				5 0					
12		X	15			N			5 0					
18	X		11	X					10 0					
18	X		15		Y				12 0					
25		X	15			N			12 0					
40		X							12 0			8	17	HALF TIME (INJURY)
46	X		13	X					17 0					
48	X								17 0			11	16	TACTICAL
55		X							17 0			4	16	TACTICAL
60		X							17 0			1	18	TACTICAL
60	X								17 0			18	6	INJURY
64	X		10	X					22 0					
64			15		Y				24 0					
66	X								24 0			6	17	TACTICAL
72	X		16	X					29 0					
73			15		N				29 0					

There was mixed team news for Stockport. Craig Cooper was out with a groin strain and Peter Bre-denkamp was unavailable. Greg Newton would move to centre with Nick Wroe coming in on the wing. Tim Oakes moved back to No8 with Matt Langtree promoted into 2<sup>nd</sup> Row.

The Bench made interesting reading. First there was Ian Kennedy. Ian was on the verge of a 1<sup>st</sup> XV come back after 2 seasons out with successive knee operations, Hanging on this was a £50 wager between the Editor and Ian. Next was 20 year old South African fly half Chris Nel who was deemed ready for a 1<sup>st</sup> XV debut after one 2<sup>nd</sup> XV run out. The 3<sup>rd</sup> person on the bench was young Kieran Hibbs. 18 years of age and Player of the tournament back in April in the Didsbury Tournament winning team. Kieran is the first of the current brood from the Colts to make the step up to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. It was a particu-



larly proud moment for the Editor who has watched Kieran's progress since he was an under 13.

#### The Match:

Stockport are getting into the habit of starting games with a real injection of energy and after 2 minutes Richard Hopkinson was given an early penalty attempt when the referee got wise to a Northwich player standing guard at the side of a ruck in a off side position. His attempt just drifted left. Northwich failed to relieve the pressure on their line and only a few minutes later Stockport went into a catch and drive from a line out close to the line. Andy Fuller was the ball carrier and the try scorer. 5-0. Richard Hopkinson was getting closer with every goal attempt. This time he hit the left upright.

Having established an early lead we promptly went to sleep. We got into a bit of kicking battle which we didn't win very convincingly. Hoppo then decided than instead of kicking he wanted to beat a few Northwich chasers. Unfortunately he was brought to ground and we conceded a penalty. More fortunate was the lack of kicking aim from Gary Bell's understudy, Richard Dale who kicked wide.

It served as a wake up call and we went on the attack again. Hoppo went into contact just over the Northwich 10 metre line. Steve Pearson then elected to go for the cross field kick into an acre of space. It looked as if the ball was going to trickle into touch but James Drew managed just to get a toe to it and poked it over the try



line. Nick Wroe finished off the job by beating the final defender to the ball. Hoppo added the conversion. 12-0 (18<sup>th</sup> minute)

We went through the same scenario as Northwich a year ago. An all winning season involving a promotion and a trip to Twickenham...how would the visitors react to being under cosh for the first time in a long time. Their problems were soon becoming apparent. Their scrum was under pressure in set pieces, They were having problems in the line out as well. What ball they did get the used quite well. It did however mean that they were forced to resort to quick throw ins and quick tap penalties. It was life on the rugby edge and for a time they managed to the balance on that edge and test our defences. The Stockport defence was not found wanting. Northwich mounted repeated forays at the line but couldn't find a weak spot.

# Bruce Adams at the Club Jazz Evening Fri Oct 19th



Tickets £18.00

Hot Food

Tickets behind the Bar or see Clive Oldham

Mike Drew

7.30 for 8.00pm

Kay Weeks

<b>NORTH 2 WEST 2007-2008</b>	<b>Broughton Pk</b>	<b>Chester</b>	<b>Leigh</b>	<b>Lymm</b>	<b>New Brighton</b>	<b>Northwich</b>	<b>Rochdale</b>	<b>Sandbach</b>	<b>Stockport</b>	<b>Tyldesley</b>	<b>Vale of Lune</b>	<b>Winnington Pk</b>
Broughton Park		6/10	27/10	10/11	1/12	1/3	29/3	12/4	5/1	26/1	16/2	62-4
Chester	9/2		10/11	1/12	26-26	19/1	1/3	29/3	12/4	5/1	13/10	29/9
Leigh	19/1	15/12		18-39	29/9	19/4	9/2	1/3	29/3	24/11	3/11	13/10
Lymm	15/12	19/4	8/3		13/10	29/9	19/1	9/2	22/9	36-3	24/11	3/11
New Brighton	19/4	8/3	16/2	26/1		3/11	15/12	27/10	6/10	22/9	27-26	24/11
Northwich	22/9	27/10	1/12	16/2	5/1		12/4	26/1	8/3	10/11	6/10	16-16
Rochdale	20-11	22/9	6/10	27/10	10/11	24/11		5/1	26/1	16/2	8/3	19/4
Sandbach	24/11	3-28	22/9	6/10	19/1	20/10	3/11		16/2	8/3	19/4	15/12
Stockport	3/11	24/11	39-18	1/3	9/2	29-0	13/10	29/9		19/4	15/12	19/1
Tyldesley	13/10	3/11	12/4	29/3	1/3	15/12	29/9	5-59	1/12		19/1	9/2
Vale of Lune	29/9	26/1	5/1	12/4	29/3	9/2	10-25	1/12	10/11	27/10		1/3
Winnington Park	8/3	16/2	26/1	5/1	12/4	29/3	1/12	10/11	27/10	6/10	22/9	



Half time; so far so good. 12-0. The early moments of the second period went to the visitors and we had Richard Hopkinson to thank for a try saving tackle. Even then Northwich still looked odds on to score but contrived to spurn the chance. They wouldn't get many more. Their move came to an end on the end of Hopkinson's boot that sent the ball sailing 10 metres out of his half from behind his try line.

Seconds later Stockport extended their lead. Another Steve Pearson cross field kick, this time in the opposite direction from right to left and again it was James Drew who was there to field the ball. This time it was Greg Newton inside him to receive a well timed pass and to score in the corner. No conversion. 17-0. How much must that have hurt the visitors. Inches from scoring themselves and then nailed by a try seconds later.

Stockport Coach, Tim Burgon, deemed it was time to up the

stakes so threw Chris Nel at No 10. Steve Pearson moved to centre and Greg Newton to wing. It wasn't long for young Chris to put his stamp on the game. He executed a pin point kick to the corner. It forced the full back to play the ball and Chris had chased up and was on hand to bundle him into touch.

From the line out we made three attempts at charging over and then the ball went to James Dalton under the posts. He kept his arms free in the tackle and popped a simple ball to Steve Pearson to score from very close range. An easy conversion and the lead was up to 24-0.



The visitors were now having trouble even getting out of their own 22. Ian Kennedy joined the game replacing Jan Anderson. Greg Newton nearly got over in one corner and then seconds later Chris Nel scored a debut try. He sized up the defensive line 15 metres out and went for a gap. They didn't get a hand on him until he had the ball down in the corner. No Conversion 29-0.

We played out the remaining 7 minutes. Kieran Hibbs got his debut and packed 7 tackles into his short appearance. We finished off the game with a stunning backs move with the ball going through seven sets of hands. It was final action. 29-0

This Saturday Stockport visit Lymm for a real challenge. With both teams unbeaten it will be true top of the table battle. **Kick off 3.0pm**

NORTH 2 WEST								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Stockport	2	2	0	0	68	8	60	4
Lymm	2	2	0	0	75	21	54	4
Rochdale	2	2	0	0	45	21	24	4
Chester	2	1	1	0	54	29	25	3
New Brighton	2	1	1	0	53	52	1	3
Broughton Park	2	1	0	1	73	34	39	2
Sandbach	2	1	0	1	62	33	29	2
Northwich	2	0	1	1	16	45	-29	1
Winnington Park	2	0	1	1	30	78	-48	1
Vale of Lune	2	0	0	2	36	52	-16	0
Leigh	2	0	0	2	26	78	-52	0
Tyldesley	2	0	0	2	8	95	-87	0

Saturday, 15th September 2007		
Broughton Park	62 - 14	Winnington Park
Chester	26 - 26	New Brighton
Leigh	18 - 39	Lymm
Stockport	29 - 0	Northwich
Tyldesley	5 - 59	Sandbach
Vale of Lune	10 - 25	Rochdale
Saturday, 8th September 2007		
Lymm	36 - 3	Tyldesley
New Brighton	27 - 26	Vale of Lune
Northwich	16 - 16	Winnington Park
Rochdale	20 - 11	Broughton Park
Sandbach	3 - 28	Chester
Stockport	39 - 8	Leigh

Saturday, 22nd September 2007		
Lymm	V	Stockport
New Brighton	V	Tyldesley
Northwich	V	Broughton Park
Rochdale	V	Chester
Sandbach	V	Leigh
Winnington Park	V	Vale of Lune

NORTH 1									Cheshire & South Lancs								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Cleckheaton	2	2	0	0	72	39	33	4	Burnage	2	2	0	0	97	27	70	4
Kendal	2	2	0	0	43	17	26	4	Wilmslow	2	2	0	0	43	7	36	4
Westoe	2	2	0	0	54	31	23	4	Vagabonds	2	2	0	0	53	24	29	4
Huddersfield	2	2	0	0	40	24	16	4	Wirral	2	2	0	0	49	34	15	4
Middlesbrough	2	1	0	1	69	25	44	2	Widnes	2	1	0	1	50	52	-2	2
Penrith	2	1	0	1	55	35	20	2	Aspull	2	1	0	1	39	45	-6	2
Hull	2	1	0	1	31	30	1	2	Sale FC	2	1	0	1	35	46	-11	2
Sheffield Tigers	2	1	0	1	29	39	-10	2	Ruskin Park	2	1	0	1	41	87	-46	2
Altrincham K	2	0	0	2	25	41	-16	0	Hoylake	2	0	0	2	35	48	-13	0
Birkenhead Pk	2	0	0	2	15	32	-17	0	Wigan	2	0	0	2	23	44	-21	0
Darlington	2	0	0	2	32	92	-60	0	Bowdon	2	0	0	2	18	43	-25	0
Liverpool-St H	2	0	0	2	23	83	-60	0	Anselmians	2	0	0	2	20	46	-26	0

## STOCKPORT SENIOR COLTS V GLOSSOP LOST 10-35

### Lesson Learned

After two relatively comfortable league wins over the preceding weekend we had the opportunity to flex our muscles against a team from higher up the Senior Colts Leagues. Glossop from the A league invited up into the hills. Due to traffic difficulties en route I arrived about half way through the first half to find no score on the board and to be told that we were more than holding our own in the face of what you might say were some slightly dubious tactics which had already left Anthony Coulson peering out of one eye.

Glossop took the lead with a try from their fleet footed left wing and their very reliable kicker added the extras. Glossop are not the only ones with a fleet foot wing and Mike Pearson made it a try a piece by Half time. 7-5

Glossop had a very large pack and we allowed ourselves to be slightly intimidated by their presence. The other factor in the game was the referee who, though we are always thankful to some poor soul for volunteering, would probably be better hanging up his whistle. In the second half we didn't get the run of the ball and Glossop found a few openings and ran in four tries to our one from Andrew Konarski who grounded in the corner after a sweet backs move. The final winning margin to the home side certainly flattered them but we showed enough to show that we can live in the company of A league teams. We will be back. In the mean time it's back to League action this weekend. It is a trip to Tarleton.

15. Andy KONARSKI
14. Mike PEARSON
13. Alex WILSON
12. Henri SIMPSON
11. Richard MOYES
10. Anthony COULSON
9. Jamie SMITH
8. James OAKES
7. Kieran HIBBS
6. Sean ROE
5. Jonny BAKER
4. Chris VALENTINE
3. Tom RENSHAW
2. Louis WALKER
1. Tom CRUSE
16. James DODD
17. Stephen HILL
18. James PARSEY
19. Jake WINSTANLEY
20. Tom BELL

Scorers Etc

**Andrew KONARSKI T**  
**Mike PEARSON T**



**This Sunday a Lancs Ches Colts League v Tarleton Away kick off 2.0pm**

## STOCKPORT 3'S v BUXTON 2'S WON 46-7

### A Game of Two Halves

The usual late merry go round saw us take the field with 6 changes from the side originally selected. Simon Drew, Jason Taylor and Jake Winstanley all made their first appearance for the 3s this season. Jake, making his senior rugby debut at scrum half, is a fine prospect. He had a great game and will no doubt be called on again before too long. Dave Hawley fresh from his holiday flight wandered down and was quickly pressed into second half substitute action. On another perfect day for running rugby we took advantage of some good quick possession and, from Nick Eastwood's opener on 4 minutes, scored at regular intervals. Dave Houghton grabbed a penalty and four conversions, Pete Lambert two tries and tries from Jason Taylor, Matt Heywood, and Jake Winstanley completed the first half scoring to give us a lead of 41-0. Buxton were quite solid in the tight but barely threatened our line. We played superb running rugby with excellent interplay between backs and forwards. At half time we were looking forward to running up a really big score. Nick Eastwood replaced Ged Gurney in the back row with Oye Oyewumi replacing Nick on the wing. Jack Woodcock came on for Will Lowth. To say the second half was a disappointment is a bit of an understatement. Our solitary highlight was a superb individual effort from Oye who stepped his way in from the 10 metre line. A lot of credit must go to Buxton for their spirited fight back which started when poor tackling let them in early in the second half but it was barely believable that they actually won the second half 7 – 5. All that was good about the first half evaporated. We regularly passed up scoring opportunities by taking the wrong options mostly due to lack of respect for the opposition or just through individuals glory hunting for tries. Our rhythm and fluidity disappeared and so did our scoring potential. We looked as clueless as an England team! We have a tough away game at Littleborough next week so let's hope we have learned something from our poor second half display and can get back to playing our usual brand of disciplined rugby.

1. Joe Woodcock
2. Will Lowth
3. Jez Taylor
4. Steve Mooney
5. Matt Heywood T
6. Dave Chapell
7. Ged Gurney
8. Simon Drew
9. Jake Winstanley T
10. Paul Garner
11. Nick Eastwood T
12. Jason Taylor T
13. Pete Lambert TT
14. Matt Brundrett
15. Dave Houghton  
PCCCC
16. Oye Oyewumi T
17. Jack Woodcock
18. Dave Hawley



**This Saturday Away v Littleborough 3's**

# STOCKPORT RUFC 1ST XV 2007-2008

PLAYED 4 WON 2 DRAWN 1 LOST 1 POINTS FOR POINTS 83 AGAINST 39

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			
29/09/07	Sandbach	North 2 West	Home			
06/10/07	New Brighton	North 2 West/CC	Away			
13/10/07	Bye	Intermediate Cup 1				
20/10/07	Rochdale	North 2 West	Home			
27/10/07	Winnington Park	North 2 West	Away			
03/11/07	Broughton Park	North 2 West	Home			
10/11/07	Vale of Lune	North 2 West	Away			
17/11/07		Intermediate Cup 2				
24/11/07	Chester	North 2 West	Home			
01/12/07	Tyldesley	North 2 West	Away			
08/12/07		Intermediate Cup 3				
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 Q-F				
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				



## LAST WEEKEND'S RESULTS AT SRUFC

1ST XV	NORTHWICH (H)	North 2 West	WON 29-0
2ND XV	SEDGLEY PK 2'S (A)	Intermediate Premiership	Lost 77-0
3RD XV	BUXTON 2'S (H)	Intermediate 4 South	WON 46-7
4TH XV	CONGLETON 2'S (A)	Intermediate 5 East	WON 34-7
COLTS	GLOSSOP (A)	Friendly	Lost 35-10

## THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES AT SRUFC

1ST XV	LYMM (A)	North 2 West	AWAY
2ND XV	NO FIXTURE		
3RD XV	LITTLEBORO 3'S (A)	Intermediate 4 South	AWAY
4TH XV	MACCLESFIELD (H)	Intermediate 5 East	HOME
COLTS	TARLETON (A)	Lancs/Ches Colts League	AWAY



It's that time of year again.... Tesco's are giving away vouchers which we can exchange for sports equipment. I'm always a sucker for a freebie so let's make sure we make the most of this opportunity. Including all the Minis and Juniors and their families we have over 500 people connected to this club. If each of us get just 1 voucher per week throughout the period of the promotion between now and Sunday 4th November then we would accumulate 4,000 vouchers.

That would be enough to get 5 new rucking pads or 25 training balls or 7 1st AID bags..the choice is ours.....

Let's get collecting.... the box to put your vouchers in is on a window sill at the far end of the club house

### TOUCHLINE RAMBLINGS

Forward any comments, letters or contributions to the Editor:  
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