

Dear Player/Supporter,

Welcome to our first electronic newsletter, which coincidentally comes near Christams, which gives me a great opportunity to both thank you for your support this year but also to wish you a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.



Getting established

I'm pleased to say that rugby for both women and girls in the North West continues to grow. In addition the overall playing standards are also improving. However I am conscious that we can do more to maximize our efforts and work together more effectively. One way to do this is to improve our overall level of communications, so I am hoping this newsletter will help you understand more of what is going on in the area, tell you where to get further information and to give you ideas for development in your part of the region. As always please feel free to contact me with your questions. Thank you again, see you in the New Year.

Jo Wells

RFUW Regional Manager North jowells@rfu.com

Cheshire vs Lancashire Day

Sandbach RUFC played host to the first leg of the Northern Counties Trophy on November 13th, and witnessed Lancashire out-class a resilient Cheshire team 46-3. Cheshire, whose squad had been primed by Coach Vicky Reeve for several sessions prior to the game, showed an obvious determination and organisation as they battled gamely through the first half. Crunching tackles and a great drift defence saw Cheshire restrict Lancs to only three tries and two conversions.

Cheshire had selected a mixed squad of relative new-comers and experienced players for the game, but when a team whose members play at North 1 standard come up against a team of players, many of whom are quite at home in the Premiership, then there weren't too many glimmers of hope for the second half.

Cheshire rose to the challenge however and despite Lancs deliberately killing the ball any time Cheshire threatened their try line, they were finally rewarded with some points when Eleni Smith kicked a penalty with 10 minutes to go. Lancs comfortably won the match but Team Manager Vicky Brookes said afterwards, "I was delighted with the effort and commitment shown by the Cheshire Team today and we've got a lot of good things to take forward into the next match against Yorkshire".



Before the full county game, the corwd were entertained with U17 & U14 county barbarians games. Thanks to the support

of an number of local clubs including Northwich, Sandbach, Buxton, Waterloo, Altrincham Kersal and Aldwinians, a mainly Cheshire Barbarians played a Lancashire Barbarians side at both age groups. Cheshire teams came out winners in both encounters but everyone enjoyed a great afternoons rugby.



Cheshire and Lancashire Ladies match.
Pictures courtesy of Altrincham Kersal web site www.akwrfc.com

Local Schools Tag attracts 50 girls

Thanks to local community coaching and organisation from Cheshire RDO Dave Livesey & Community coach Geoff Crawford, four schools in Vale Royal enjoyed a mini Tag Tournament late in November. It was a pretty cold afternoon down at Moss Farm in Northwich but nearly 50 Year 7 & 8 girls took part in a mini tag tournament. Local schools Weaverham, St Nicholas, Tarporley and Leftwich High Schools took part, with Weaverham winning all their games to claim victory.

The next tournament is already scheduled for the New Year. To contact Dave or Geoff please email:- davel@sportcheshire.org or geoffcrawford@therfu.com



Teams merge to create critical mass

Local rivalries have been set aside to help create the necessary critical mass to help develop girls and womens rugby in the region. The following clubs will be working together for at least the remainder of this season.

Altrincham Kersal & Ashton on Mersey U14, U17 & Seniors
Manchester & Stockport U14, U17 & Seniors
Northwich & Sandbach U14 & U17

For more information on the teams and for fixtures please contact :-

Altrincham Kersal & Ashton :- Anna Goatman anna_goatman@hotmail.com
Manchester & Stockport :- Pip Southern pip.southern@chamber-link.co.uk
Northwich & Sandbach :- Malcolm Griffiths mgriffiths@northwichrufc.co.uk
or

Nigel Farrar nigel@frmortgageservices.co.uk

Coming Up in 2006

January sees the start of the North West regional trials at all age groups. The trials will again be held at Broughton Park on January 29th. While senior players should already have filled in their relevant forms, U17 & U14 will be hearing from the regional team managers shortly. For more information or questions please email the following :-

Seniors Manager Linda Buckton LndBu@aol.com
U14 & U17 Manager Phil Clarke philclarke@rfu.com

Getting more information

Finally to close this edition of the newsletter, I hope you found the news interesting and hope it might encourage you to learn more about our activities in the North West. Further information about the North West regional activities and clubs, is currently at a temporary web site courtesy of Northwich Rugby Club. Further information about the RFUW is at the main RFU web site. Please feel free to copy this newsletter to colleagues who are not on our current circulation list and encourage them to sign up for the next copy at the North West site.

Womens Rugby North West

http://www.northwichgirlsrugby.co.uk/html/womens_rugby_nw.html

RFUW

http://www.rfu.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/rfuhome.community_detail/storyid/5972