



RFU LEAGUE NORTH 2 EAST 2008 - 2009

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adjust
Billingham	15	11	0	4	351	197	154	22	0
Old Crossleyans	14	11	0	3	264	217	47	22	0
Penrith	13	10	0	3	372	194	178	20	0
Sandal	14	8	0	6	284	226	58	16	0
Pontefract	14	8	0	6	270	266	4	16	0
CARLISLE	13	6	2	5	209	253	-44	14	0
Morpeth	13	6	0	7	247	225	22	12	0
Aspatia	14	6	0	8	265	274	-9	12	0
Driffield	14	5	2	7	268	289	-21	12	0
Gateshead	13	5	1	7	265	216	49	11	0
Durham City	13	2	0	11	154	348	-194	4	0
Ilkley	14	1	1	12	171	415	-244	3	0

ALL YOUR LEAGUE DATA

OTHER N 2 E GAMES TODAY

CARLISLE	ASPATRIA
DURHAM CITY	GATESHEAD
MORPETH	PENRITH
OLD CROCS	PONTEFRACT

RESULTS FROM 31.01.2009

DURHAM CITY	18-16	PONTEFRACT
GATESHEAD	8-9	CARLISLE
ILKLEY	10-16	ASPATRIA
MORPETH	18-5	BILLINGHAM
OLD CROCS	38-3	DRIFFIELD
PENRITH	27-11	SANDAL

CARLISLE LEADING LEAGUE POINTS SCORERS 2008—2009

PLAYER	TRIES	CONS	PENS	DG'S	PT'S	POINTS
G.WEIGHTMAN	3	10	27	-	-	116
C.HARRIS	4					20
L.BRUMPTON	2					10
G.GRAHAM	1	1	1			10



CARLISLE RFC OFFICIAL CLUB BADGE

RFU NORTH 2 EAST LEAGUE



CARLISLE RFC SEASON 2008 - 2009



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MORT'S MUMBLINGS

RAYMOND HIGGINS

The tragedy that has overtaken the family of Raymond Higgins is foremost in all our minds at this sad time. Whoever would have thought that last Saturday was the last time lads would have had the privilege of playing alongside Ray, or enjoying a pint and a "crack" in the bar after a game? Ray loved his rugby, and it was all the more enjoyable for him playing alongside his son, Steve, either for the Cougars or the Hornets. Ray enjoyed his sport and prior to playing for CRFC,

he was an experienced player with Carlisle Border Raiders and amateur clubs in the City. It would be easy to say, "but there for the grace of God..."



Don't, Ray would not have wanted that. Sad though his passing is at a relatively young age, he

would have been the first to tell us all that life is for living and enjoying. As we enjoy our rugby this afternoon, let us remember Ray with affection and for all he meant to those who knew him. Our sincere condolences are with his wife Tracey, and their children Steven and Natalie, in their hour of need. Doubtless, they will have drawn comfort from the obvious esteem in which Ray was held, given the number of people who attended his funeral. Rest in Peace Raymond.—we will remember you.

SATURDAY, 7th Feb 2009
2.15 pm versus
ASPATRIA



PASSION FROM THE PRESIDENT

The last week will probably go down as one of the darkest in the history of the Club. Martin Burnett, breaking his arm at Gateshead was bad enough, but what followed rocked us all to the core. Mike Rawling was badly hurt in the Hornets match with Penrith and was taken to hospital with a suspected broken neck. Worse followed - Ray Hignis who had propped in the same game, died in his sleep during the night that

followed. Mike is on the mend although it will be a long process. I join with all Members of the Club in wishing him a speedy recovery and a return to full health. To Tracey Higgins, Steven and Natalie, we offer our sincere sympathy in their sad loss; and in doing so assure them that we will help wherever we can.

On the back of all that I welcome Aspatria in the name of their President,

David Miller, to Warwick Road this afternoon. I know they come to Carlisle, more than a little hurt because of the background to the fixture arrangements. We all do what we think is right for our own Club, but given all that has happened this week, I know that both sides will take the field in a sporting spirit and give of their best. If for no other reason, we owe it to the memory of Raymond Higgins who was a great competitor.



NEXT - HOME OR AWAY?

TEAM	VERSUS	DATE	VENUE	KICK OFF
1ST XV	Old Crossleytans	14th Feb	HOME	2.15 pm
CRUSADERS				
HORNETS	Silloth	14th	HOME	2.15 pm
COLTS	Norether	14th	Away	2.15 pm
COUGARS	York	22nd Feb	HOME	2.15 pm
JUNIOR	Various	11th Feb	H & A	Various



An honest view from the man leading the troops into battle

READ STEVE'S STAMP ON THE GAME

One word sums up the last few games and weeks – tough, both on and off the field. But that is why relatively few people play rugby –it is a tough game. Today we expect a tough game against Aspatria as local derbies always are. We have dogged out narrow but deserved victories over Morpeth and Gateshead. Today we will not leave it so close in disposing of our local rivals. Ask yourselves why you play such a tough game and the answer will be for days like today. Go out and make Carlisle RUFC and all its friends and family proud of our performance and attitude.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HOME HOME

Tiffen & Co
ESTATE AGENTS

32 Lowther Street, Carlisle, CA3 8DH
01228 515666

Grateful thanks to Tiffen & Co for their generous assistance with the programme printing.

THE MATCH SPONSOR(S) TODAY

Ian Gibson Associates from Durrhill Road in the city have always been generous supporters of the Club. We are especially grateful to them for their valued support, especially given the difficult trading conditions that businesses are having to contend with in the present economic climate. That, coupled with the short notice at which they agreed to sponsor, increases our debt of gratitude. We hope that you and your guests enjoy your afternoon at Warwick Road (both in and out of the bar) and that you will be persuaded to support us again at a date in the future. Thanks Ian.



GALLERY FROM GATESHEAD





CARLISLE RFC

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 26th February 2009 at 9.00 pm

Please attend this important meeting where the main item of business is a motion to allow the committee to apply for permission to have the Club incorporated as a company limited by guarantee.

There are two other minor motions.

For full details visit our website at www.carlislerugby.co.uk for full details.

'A warm welcome always awaits you at the popular Jazz Club'

CARLISLE JAZZ CLUB

Carlisle Jazz Club meet every Thursday night at 7.30pm at Carlisle RFC. All types of jazz tastes are catered for and there are regular visits from bands from home and on the continent. Non-members of the Jazz Club are welcome on payment of a small cover charge. A warm welcome is assured. Why not give it a try for a change!



SPONSORSHIP & FUND RAISING

Fund raising and sponsorship is a vital part of helping to run the Club. Whilst we are very grateful for all those firms, organisations and individuals that support our Club, we are always seeking to broaden our horizons. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in helping to sustain rugby at Warwick Road, please ask them to visit our website - www.carlislerugby.co.uk - for details.



RUSSELL ROBINSON is recovering from surgery on his back and we wish him well for a speedy recovery and look forward to him being back around the Club sooner, rather than later. **MATT CHARTERS can breathe easily again!** **MARTIN BURNETT has forgiven him for the collision that snapped his arm!** Talking about snapped arms and the necessary surgery - being the hardy soul he is, Martin came back to Carlisle Infirmary from Gateshead for treatment. Seems more of a production line that an emergency department these days. Martin was quickly assessed, had an operation to set and plate the broken bone, and pretty quickly he was down at Carlisle Rugby Club before the night was out—downing a pint or two. At Gateshead last Saturday it was great to see a familiar face back running the touch. **RAY SINGLETON** has taken time out this season to support his wife **LILLIAN** during her illness and treatment. She has recovered well and Ray now feels able to resume. However, he will be absent again soon when he goes for surgery to remove a cataract. The lads will be hoping that does the trick and that the immaculate nature of his touchline decisions will subsequently improve!! Good luck Ray.

MIKE RAWLING

Readers will be delighted to learn that **MIKE RAWLING** is on the road to recovery after suffering a broken bone in his neck during the match between the Hornets and Penrith 3rds at Warwick Road last Saturday. Mike was taken to the CIC before being transferred to Newcastle for treatment. At the time of writing, it was reported that, given the circumstances, he is making good progress; and he may be allowed home soon. Mike is a resilient chap and we all know that he will fight like hell to a full recovery, and will have our support during the process. We wish him, Katie, his children, all the best in the weeks and months ahead - a period that will have it's highs and lows. Good luck!

Hatches, matches, despatches and other chat and rumour to keep you informed

CLUB SHOP

The Club shop continues to flourish and can now supply a variety of new approved corporate rugby wear and accessories. Re-stocking continues and eventually all sides throughout the Club will be wearing the same kit. All articles are priced at a reasonable rate, and only to cover our costs, so as to ensure that all our Members get best value for money. Call at the shop during opening times for all your requirements.





CRUSADERS IN THE 'CANDY' LEAGUE

Since the turn of the year, the rugby available for the Crusaders has been sparse. As we know, and as agreed before the start of the season, the Candy League was split into two halves. We found ourselves in the upper echelons of the 2nd section, but we must begin to wonder if some of the other clubs that make up the league, have the same commitment and will to make it work. Darlington MP declined to honour a fixture at Carlisle the other week, and we ended up travelling to them to ensure some rugby. Last Saturday, Durham City were due at Warwick Road and at a late hour they pulled the plug on the game. Today, is a free league Saturday, and at the time of writing attempts were being made to arrange a friendly at CREIGHTON against their 1st XV. Hopefully that will go ahead. It may be that, if Candy League problems continue, there will be a need to review where we are going to play our second team rugby. The Candy League has been a great experience and the quality of rugby has been good, but if we do not look carefully at the situation, we may damage the development of our senior squad players - and that would be detrimental.

*There'll
always
be a
buzz in
their
matches*

HORNETS IN THE SHIELD LEAGUE

Last Saturday, Hornets entertained Penrith and lost a tight game, one that was subsequently marred by the unfortunate injury to Mike Rawling in the opening minute. Like their Crusaders colleagues, the Hornets have been finding rugby hard to find. The week before they should have travelled to Egremont on the Saturday. Egremont cancelled the match and left us without a match. Then, a hastily arranged game with Silloth at Warwick Road had to be pulled because of waterlogged pitches. At the time of writing the Hornets arse still without a fixture, but hopefully by 2.15 pm a game may have been arranged. All the Hornets will be looking forward to their forthcoming trip to Dublin at the end of the month to coincide with an international, although their hunger will have been knocked back after all the sadness of the last week!

NEIGHBOURING NEWS

PENRITH continue to press for the top of N2E. They had a tough game at home to SANDAL last week when they ran out victors by 27 pts to 11. ASPATRIA travelled to the Dales where they overcame ILKLEY by a margin of 10 pts 16. WIGTON continue their drift up the North Lancs / Cumbria yable. A comfortable victory over KESWICK put them in third place and was sweet revenge for the equivalent away fixture. **Near neighbours, CREIGHTON, are rooted to the bottom of the Cumbria League. They went down heavily at MILLOM last week, and it's just as well there is no where to be relegated to, otherwise they would be down! There are a couple of "backs" at Creighton who could grace a higher league!**



CRUSADERS - CANDY LEAGUE 2008 - 2009

Division 1												
Pos	Team	Pld	W	L	D	F	A	diff	4T	<7	Pts	PfCM
1	Tynedale Raiders	4	4	0	0	95	38	57	1	0	17	0
2	West Hartlepool Stags	3	2	1	0	51	57	-6	1	0	9	0
3	Blaydon Georgians	3	2	1	0	33	36	-3	0	0	8	0
4	Morpeth Reivers	4	1	3	0	49	63	-14	0	2	6	0
5	Hornden II	3	1	2	0	44	61	-17	1	1	6	0
6	Westoe II	3	0	3	0	33	50	-17	0	2	2	0

Division 2												
Pos	Team	Pld	W	L	D	F	A	diff	4T	<7	Pts	PfCM
1	Middlesbrough Wasps	3	2	0	1	50	32	18	1	0	11	0
2	Durham City II	3	2	1	0	41	32	9	0	1	9	0
3	Carlisle Crusaders	4	1	1	2	73	54	19	0	0	8	5
4	Darlington MP II	2	1	1	0	56	27	29	1	1	6	0
5	Penrith II	2	0	1	1	19	34	-15	0	0	2	0
6	Sunderland II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Darlington Bulls	2	0	2	0	14	74	-60	0	0	0	0

COLTS LEAGUE TABLE

UPDATED TABLE STILL AWAITED						
	Played	Won	Lost	Fair Play Points	League Points	Total Points
Alnwick	3	3	0	1	16	13
Wigton	3	2	1	0	12	12
Westoe	3	2	1	0	12	12
Morpeth	3	2	1	0	12	12
Penrith	3	2	1	0	10	10
CARLISLE	4	0	4	0	6	6
Northern	2	0	2	0	2	2

COUGARS - RFUW CN2 LEAGUE 2008 - 09

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	B Pts	Pts	Adjust
Sheffield Ladies	9	7	0	2	323	71	252	7	35	0
Darlington Ladies	7	5	0	2	182	70	112	3	23	0
Altrincham Kersal Ladies	7	5	0	2	190	65	125	2	22	0
Scunthorpe Ladies	8	4	0	4	162	130	32	4	20	0
CARLISLE COUGARS	8	4	0	4	103	181	-78	3	19	0
Ormskirk Ladies	8	1	0	7	17	234	-217	1	5	0
York RI Ladies	7	1	0	6	68	294	-226	1	5	0

COUGARS



Congratulations to Sarah and Jasper Spires (vice captain and coach & the latter plays for Aspatria) on the news that they are expecting in August and so the ladies are hoping for a Cougar cub!

The Cougars played away at York on Sunday, 25th January, demolishing the opposition by 12 pts to 29. New coach Johnny Taylor, after only a few sessions, has started to organise the Cougars game play and communication. Hopefully, the improvements will continue through the next few games. Try scorers were Lucy Meadley (3), Phillipa Bell and Belind Lloyd. Conversions added by Lisa Ritchie.

The next home game is against York on Sunday, 22nd February—all support welcome.

Keep up to date with the latest crack and news from the HQ of the game.

PITCH MAINTENANCE

Pitch maintenance and use of the fields is always a hot topic around the Club. A serious topic though it is, recent e mail message from Norman L brought about this tongue in cheek response from one wag: *"I want Norman's life. Even I can remember the days when we used a fork, spade or shovel to find the pitch markings so that the game could go ahead with an orange plastic ball—a ball that had frozen solid and doubled in weight. Charging a kick down resulted in numb fingers for the rest of the day.; and we are concerned about a puddle on the half way line. Let's keep the football mentality decisions to our neighbours at Brunton Park and continue our winning streak by another win without excuses! Stick that in your programme!"* Challenge met! Seriously though, we do need to take care of our assets, remembering at all times that the playing of rugby is paramount.

VALENTINES DAY

The next home game in North 2 East is the visit of Old Crossleyans. It just happens to be on Valentines Day - 14th February, a day traditionally kept for a bit of old fashioned and sometimes covert, romance and messages. Neither will there be any love lost - they know lady luck was on their side when we visited them - hopefully she will desert them next week! If anyone has any romantic messages they want to send via next weeks programme, send them to the Editor—discretion guaranteed!



COLTS CORNER



The Colts are off the mark at last! Wins over Wigton, Westoe and Northern make it a great start to 2009, although the lads were brought down to earth again last Saturday at Alnwick with a 14 pts to 35 reverse. The Wigton game was a late arrangement and we only took a bare XV. Up against a side that had already beaten us twice this season it looked to be heading the same way until the last 5 minutes. The hosts were 14—5 up and looking comfortable. A **James Roche** 50m effort gave us a sniff before **Max Connon** jinked over for a winning try with the last play of the game. **Matt Cullen** had earlier scored a try to keep us in the hunt.

Against Westoe the visitors dominated for long periods but it was Carlisle who took their chances, in particular in the purple patch mid way through the first half when **Stuart Bulman, Reece Bone & Kieran Little** all tried. **Steven Benson** improved two of them. This turned a 0—7 deficit into a 19—7 lead from which Westoe, despite possession, could only trim to 19—16 with three further penalties. Against Northern the visitors took the lead with an early try, but scores from **Aidan Hermeston, Karem Moulem (2) and Tom Martin** gave us control and three were converted by **Steven Benson** in a 26—8 win.

We scored tow early tries at Alnwick last Saturday from **Kieran Little & Tom Ritchie**, both converted by **Steven Benson** for a 0 - 14 lead. However, the sizeable and skilful home pack gradually took control and at the break it was 15 - 14. In the second half we lost our way after **Stuart Bulman** left with a 10 stitch ear lobe injury.

TALK FROM TWICKENHAM

Interest abounds regarding the proposed re-organisation of the leagues. No one was really sure whether it was going to take place for next season, or the following one. Another conundrum was, will there or won't there be any relegation from our league? The uncertainty in this regard was one of the main reasons why we felt unable to agree with Aspatria to another change of the fixture being played today. As it happens, final details of the Level 6 arrangements for next term were received in the post yesterday, but after an appeal by Aspatria to the Competitions Committee had been turned down. It has now been confirmed that there will be no relegation, but that is no excuse for players to opt for easing their feet off the pedal!

Those wanting to see more details about the league re-organisation should go to our website at www.carlisle rugby.co.uk where details are published.

Get your kids and grandkids Involved on Sunday mornings. Ages 7 - 16

“VRUGBY” ACTIVATOR

Who said young people took everything for granted? BEN BLAIN has volunteered to the Club's “VRugby Activator” - the representative for 16 - 25 year olds. A meeting was held recently at the Club with the county coordinator, Shelley Atkinson from Kendal. Ten other club players, all under 25, attended the meeting and pledged their support to support Ben, the project, and to organise a variety of events to raise funds for the Club. Well done Ben and the lads.



ANY FORM OF ABUSE OF THE REFEREE WILL RESULT IN DECISIVE ACTION BEING TAKEN BY CARLISLE RFC.

PLAYER KIT DONOR	CARLISLE	V	ASPATRIA
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REPLACEMENTS			
W.Allan & Son	Mark ALLAN	16	
	Aidan DAY	17	
Cumbria Bar Hire	Stephane HELIES	18	
		19	
WITH GRATEFUL THANKS	Referee	PAUL FINKEN	Durham Society

A WARM WELCOME TO THE REFEREE TODAY AND WE HOPE HE ENJOYS HIS GAME AT WARWICK ROAD AND THE HOSPITALITY IN THE CLUBHOUSE AFTERWARDS

SORRY, BUT THE ASPATRIA TEAM WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS



**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MATCH BALL DONOR (S) TODAY:
Mr & Mrs Alan Tiffen**

