



WINCHESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

MEMBERS' eNEWSLETTER

Emailed to over 1000 Members & Sponsors

No 211 22.12.11

SATURDAY 7th JANUARY 2012

Winchester 1st XV vs Purley John Fisher Away | KO: 14:00 | London 3 SW

Winchester 2nd XV vs Overton 1st Home | KO: 14:00 | Friendly

SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2012 |

Colts Saxons vs Portsmouth Home | KO: 14:00 | U17s Cup

U16 Development vs Gosport & Fareham B Away | KO: 11:00 | Friendly

6 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP TICKETS

England v Wales - 25 February 2012

The club has been allocated additional tickets for this game and a pair of category 3 tickets is available at the cost of £122. These are available to members on a 'first come first served' basis on the usual RFU ticket conditions. Any member interested should send a written application (that should include the member's email address) with a cheque made out to WRFC Ltd to the Club's International Ticket Secretary at 30 Velmore Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 3HE.

WRFC eNEWSLETTER

Thank you for your support over the last 12 months. It has been much appreciated.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year

Owing to the Christmas holidays, etc. the next edition of the Club eNewsletter will be published on **Thursday 19th January**, when weekly publication will recommence as normal. Articles and photographs should reach the Editor by Wednesday lunchtimes, for publication in the next edition of the eNewsletter.



CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR WINCHESTER

Winchester made it 3 from 3 in December with a professional 30 -0 victory against local rivals Andover. On a day where rugby was difficult due to an extremely muddy surface Winchester scored five tries against an organised and committed opposition.

Andover came with a simple game plan and executed it well initially. Their scrum-half put up a number of searching box kicks as they looked to control territory. This tactic, some powerful ball carrying around the fringes of the rucks and a strong scrum did however seem to be the extent of their ambition. Winchester's defence, with 19-year-old flanker Will Self to the fore, coped with this admirably and Andover rarely looked threatening.

Winchester took a 3-0 lead when fly half Tom Nelson converted a penalty. This lead was soon extended when the Winchester pack shunted Andover back for a push over try claimed by veteran No. 8 Richard Knight. Nelson missed the conversion attempt but Winchester seemed well on their way.

Nelson, newly arrived from Zimbabwe, was struggling in the unfamiliar cold and muddy conditions. A tackle on an Andover player who was chasing a kick ahead saw him sent to the sin bin. However, Winchester is used to playing with 14 and his loss did not seem to affect them. Shortly before half-time a well-rehearsed backs move saw inside centre Matt Gibson move powerfully up the middle of the pitch. Good support from Spencer Edwards and Dom Wade gave winger Matt Woods the opportunity to cross the line for his eighth try of the season. Nelson converted and Winchester went in at half-time 15 – 0 up.

Winchester came out for the second half determined to gain a try scoring bonus point. A scrum following the kick-off saw flying wing Matt Burt in space. For once he backed his pace not his footwork, flew round the outside of his opposite number, drove powerfully to the line and offloaded to full-back Spencer Edwards. Edwards then offloaded back to Burt who crashed over for his 11th try of the season to maintain the advantage in his personal scoring battle with Woods.

Soon after Winchester gained their fourth try and their bonus point when second row Matt Lown broke from the back of a maul for his second try in consecutive weeks. Bonus points look like being important in the battle for promotion and Winchester could now afford to relax a little. Coach Andy Fields went to his bench giving important game time to 18-year-old prop Tom Williams.

Andover refused to roll over and lay siege to Winchester's line for a 10 min period. However, Winchester's defensive organisation and first up tackling has improved significantly and they were able to repel their efforts. Eventually Winchester regained some semblance of territory and control. An excellent lineout catch and drive saw prop Danny Waite break off. The ball was recycled down the blindside where a good pass from Tom Williams and a toe poke through saw the outstanding Angus Adamson touchdown for Winchester's fifth try and a 30 – 0 victory.

Winchester head coach Andy Fields, a man whose default setting appears to be miserable, seemed pleased with his side's victory in testing conditions. 'It is important that we maintain this

momentum into January. I will be running training sessions throughout the Christmas period and they are important if players are serious about challenging for promotion in the New Year’.

	LONDON SW3	Pld	Won	Dwn	Lost	For	Agt	Diff	Pts	Bonus
1.	Sandown & Shanklin	12	10	0	2	371	203	168	48	8
2.	Old Alleynians	12	10	0	2	340	218	122	46	6
3.	Winchester	12	10	0	2	285	132	153	45	5
4.	K.C.S. Old Boys	12	8	0	4	275	176	99	38	6
5.	Old Wellingtonians	12	7	1	4	298	217	81	38	8
6.	Ellingham & Ringwood	12	7	0	5	376	244	132	34	6
7.	Old Blues	12	6	0	6	257	223	34	32	8
8.	Old Freeman	12	4	0	8	227	289	-62	22	6
9.	Weybridge Vandals	12	3	1	8	228	276	-48	18	4
10.	Purley John Fisher	12	3	1	8	167	305	-138	16	2
11.	Andover	12	1	1	10	161	438	-277	8	2
12.	Alton	12	1	0	11	134	398	-264	5	1

WINCHESTER 1st XV IS SPONSORED BY DENPLAN

WINCHESTER 2ND XV MAINTAIN TOP SPOT AFTER ALTON PULL OUT

After last weekend’s disappointment the 2nd XV were looking to put things right and round 2011 with a win.

Winchester looked to field a very strong side but Alton struggling for players had to cancel late Friday night.

Winchester takes the points but generate no point’s difference. This is the 3rd league to be cancelled on them and with a break of over 3 weeks attention moves to the first games in 2012.

	HAMPSHIRE SENIOR MERIT	Pld	Won	Dwn	Lost	For	Agt	Diff	Pts	
1.	Winchester 2nds	11	10	0	1	309	81	228	41	
2.	Solent University	11	9	1	1	358	131	227	39	
3.	Trojans 3rds	11	7	1	3	219	244	-25	33	
4.	Sandown and Shanklin 2nds	10	5	4	1	325	166	159	29	
5.	Portsmouth 3rds	11	4	2	5	256	278	-22	25	
6.	Alton 2nds	10	5	0	5	74	127	-53	25	
7.	US Portsmouth 2nds	11	4	1	6	212	319	-107	24	
8.	Havant 3rds	11	4	0	7	181	231	-50	23	
9.	Southampton 2nds	11	4	0	7	164	399	-235	23	
10.	Petersfield 2nds	11	3	0	8	280	243	37	20	
11.	Andover 2nds	11	2	2	7	161	213	-52	19	
12.	Tottonians 3rds	11	2	1	8	204	311	-107	18	
12.	Southampton 2nds	9	2	0	7	111	375	-264	15	0

WINCHESTER 2nd XV IS SPONSORED BY TRAVELBAG.COM

WINCHESTER 3rds FINISHES 2011 WITH A WIN OVER ANDOVER

Winchester 3s travelled to Andover for the last game of 2011 with high expectations of extending their 6 game winning streak. The usual 3rd team player churn meant 9 changes to the team that beat Ryde the previous week. Just to add to the challenge regular team leaders Jaimie O'Mara and Si Ryan both produced notes from matron excusing them from rugby. Veteran scrum-half Andy Roberts took on the captaincy for the day and prop Andy Duncombe stepped up to lead the pack.

It was still a strong third team squad which took the pitch and for the first quarter Winchester looked like a team which had played together for years. After only 7 mins Nathan Hallett, playing at outside centre instead of in his usual No.7 shirt, finished off an opportunist try when the Andover winger misfielded a kick out of defence and was dispossessed by winger Ed Jeavons. This was followed by another score on 15 mins when No.8 Jake Hiscock, making one of his welcome cameo appearances in-between university studies, broke from a scrum taken against the head, beat off the attempted tackles of the Andover back row, rounded the blindside winger and as the Andover fullback, loudly cursing his fellow defenders, came across to cover fed inside for flanker Si Elsey to score.

When the resulting kick-off was successfully fielded by the forwards and recycled, Kempley Buchan-Smith broke from outside-half and set off on a mazy 50 metre run which was finished off by Nathan Hallett for his second try of the afternoon. It looked like Winchester would run away with the fixture but stern words were being exchanged under the Andover posts and, together with the realisation that there was a mismatch in pace between the two teams outside backs, the opposition decided to tighten up their game and play a game based around their experienced pack and strong following breeze.

For the next 25 minutes Andover did not leave the Winchester half and battered away with their large runners close to the breakdown. Winchester were not helping themselves by creeping offside, when the speed of their defensive line was well up to the task of defending, and a string of penalties was helping Andover dominate territory and possession. Eventually the Winchester defence was broken on 30 mins and, when the Andover outside half bulldozed his way over the line on the stroke of half time, Winchester's lead was cut to only 5 points with the scoreboard reading 17-12 to the visitors.

The second half was started with a traditional kick-off by Andover, followed by a traditional large scale brawl the end result of which was the Andover scrum half being sent behind the posts for 10 minutes to cool off. Winchester took maximum advantage of his absence with Jake Hiscock opening his account for the afternoon by scoring under the posts and Andy Roberts intercepting a pass from the base of the scrum by Andover's stand-in scrum-half and feeding Si Elsey for his second try.

Those two scores took the fight out of the Andover revival and, when an injury to one of the Andover props resulted in uncontested scrums being requested, the game was effectively over as a contest. Jake Hiscock rubbed salt into the Andover wounds with a 70 metre break for his

second try and a deserved, but perhaps fortunate, hat-trick when Andy Duncombe decided the last two unopposed metres to run to the try line was a little too far for him and passed the ball on to his No.8 when most would have scored themselves. Final score Andover 12 Winchester 45.

1.Andy Duncombe 2.Si Newing 3.Adrian Mort 4.Phil Edwards (Dave Wandless 55 mins) 5.Phil Prangle 6.Si Elsey 7.Matt Durrant 8.Jake Hiscock 9.Andy Roberts 10.Kempley Buchan-Smith 11.Ben Rogers (Dave Byrne 55 mins) 12.Rich Ellison 13.Nathan Hallett 14.Ed Jevons 15.Penda Cox

Tries: Jake Hiscock 3, Nathan Hallet 2, Si Elsey 2 Conversions: Penda Cox 5

	HAMSHIRE MERIT ONE	Pld	Won	Dwn	Lost	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
1.	Tottonians IV	9	9	0	0	393	37	356	36
2.	Eastleigh II	9	8	0	1	303	73	235	33
3.	Winchester III	10	7	0	3	228	145	83	31
4.	Ryde	9	5	0	4	211	154	57	24
5.	Millbrook II	10	4	0	6	209	256	-47	22
6.	Overton II	10	4	0	6	129	179	-50	21
7.	Gosport & Fareham III	9	4	0	5	107	303	-196	21
8.	Fareham Heathens II	9	3	1	5	116	165	-49	18
9.	Basingstoke III	9	3	0	6	247	327	-80	18
10.	Romsey II	10	3	0	7	127	93	34	14
11.	Andover III	10	1	1	8	63	406	-343	13

SWEET VICTORY AGAINST LEAGUE LEADERS

Colts victory against league leaders Trojans blows league title race wide open



As the first half of the season comes to a close the Colts claimed a convincing victory over league leaders Trojans, leaving three teams, Winchester, Havant and Trojans, all fighting for the league title.

After last week's disappointing loss to Havant the Colts came fired up to this must win game. It needed to be a big effort as Trojans remained unbeaten all season. The start was fast and enthusiastic from both sides. It was a credit to both teams that they came out playing fast running rugby despite the heavy and slippery underfoot conditions.

Winchester's forward power showed itself quickly and was to become a theme of the match, with domination at the scrum and powerful play at the rucks. The front row combination gave Trojans a torrid time, and the rest of the pack powered round the pitch in unstoppable form. And it was forward power that delivered the first try. A series of pick and go moves dragged the Trojans defence into the centre of the park and a fast spinning pass out to James Falconer on the right wing gave him ample space to run in the first score.

A quick response from Trojans found Winchester out of position defensively and they claimed an easy try. On the 25 minute mark another series of pick and go moves saw the forwards powering down the pitch. This time the forwards claimed the try for themselves with prop Tom Williams diving over. It was a real pleasure for the spectators to see him score after his worrying trip to A&E at the end of the previous week's match. Jordan Gott's conversion took the score to 12-5.

And that's where the score remained for the first half. Despite controlling some good phases of play, the conditions, and some overambitious handling, kept Winchester short of the line. Trojans then exerted a lot of pressure and it took some heroic defence on the try line to keep them at bay. A penalty was conceded but was missed by Trojans.

The HT score was in Winchester's favour but the game had been evenly balanced between the teams. The second half was a different affair, with Winchester claiming three tries without response.

A fast start chasing the kick off, followed by power from the forwards and some excellent handling saw Winchester gain a quick penalty and a more comfortable 15-5 lead. Clever kicking by half backs Cameron Wickes and Rhodri Adamson kept Trojans pinned in their half for long periods. Eventually the pressure paid off. Trojans passing broke down and centre Jordon Gott kicked the ball forward along the ground and chased it for the touchdown.

The best try of the match then followed combining power and skill across the field. The forwards pushed Trojans off the ball at a ruck on the 22 presenting Adamson with quick ball. His pass sped away, Jordan Gott made the dummy run creating space for captain Alex Miers to accelerate down the left wing, kick past the defenders and chase his kick to collect the ball and score.

A final try came in the closing minutes from a kick chase by Rhodri Adamson. He reclaimed the ball, threw a long pass opening up huge space for Jordan Gott to score.

While the tries were satisfying, the highlight of the game was Winchester's defence. Every time Trojan's neared the Winchester line the effort was immense. So while Man of the Match could have gone to a number of outstanding performances Harry Bull was singled out for an outstanding performance all round the pitch and particularly for some crunching defensive tackles at key moments.

	COLTS DIVISION ONE	Pld	Won	Drn	Lost	For	Agt	Diff	Pts
1.	Winchester	6	5	0	1	149	40	109	16
2.	Trojans	5	4	0	1	168	75	93	13
3.	Petersfield	6	3	0	3	88	75	13	12
4.	Havant	5	3	0	2	85	45	40	11
5.	Vectis	5	1	0	3	45	183	-138	6
6.	Portsmouth	5	0	0	5	54	159	-138	5

**WRFC COLTS ARE SPONSORED BY
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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CLOSED PERIOD

The Club House will be closed between Midnight-ish on Friday 23rd December until 9am on Tuesday 3rd January. The Club is available for Private Hire over this period.

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