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July 18

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Warrington Business Awards winners

THE Warrington Business Awards winners were announced at a sold out glitzy ceremony at Lymm Rugby Club.

There were 12 winners at the event including a special Lifetime Achievement Award for Warrington Disability Partnership Chief Executive and founder Dave Thompson DL MBE.

Business of the Year was Dunky's Day Nurseries, with owner Siobhan McCarroll having double cause to celebrate after being named Business Woman of the year.

Meanwhile Gary Jenkins from the No Brainer Marketing Agency was named Business Man of the Year.

Jennifer Roulston, Warrington Business Awards 2018 Organising Committee Member and Partner at FDR Law, commented: "What a fabulous night. The quality of the nominations for each of this year's awards was extremely high and the deserving winners exemplify what a great collective 'can do' attitude we with have here in the Warrington business community.

It is the entrepreneurs, innovators and success stories we have celebrated at the Warrington Business Awards 2018 that are the driving force of the UK economy. Well done to everyone involved."

The Winners for each award were:

- Business of the Year, sponsored by FDR Law

Dunky's Day Nurseries

- Business Woman of the Year, sponsored by Watsons Solicitors

Siobhan McCarroll, Dunky's Day Nurseries

Business Woman of the Year - Siobhan McCarroll, Dunky's Day Nurseries

- Business Man of the Year, sponsored by Styles & Co Chartered Accountants

Gary Jenkins, No Brainer

- Employer of the Year, sponsored by Primas Law

Pennington Choices

- Apprentice of the Year, sponsored by Optionis

Ryan Kenny, Stanley Engineering Fastening

- Community Initiative of the Year, sponsored by Warrington Worldwide

Offload, Warrington Wolves Foundation

- Innovation of the Year, sponsored by Sci-Tech Daresbury

8KFlexWarm

- New Business of the Year (Start-up), sponsored by Natwest

iSupply Industrial

- Green Award, sponsored by Winwick Road Skip Hire

Golden Square

- Hospitality Provider of the Year, sponsored by Inspire Management Services

Room Forty

- Retailer of the Year, sponsored by Golden Square

Pets Pantry

- Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by Consilium Accountants

Dave Thompson MBE



From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



Business Rates

While higher wages, increasing costs and a decline in consumer confidence have hit retailers, the real pressure has come from business rates.

The fact that 10 sizeable retailers or restaurant groups have gone into administration or CVA since the beginning of the year is extremely worrying. The figures do not even include

all the small independent stores that have gone to the wall too.

Some companies have hit out at the Levy on property value claiming it creates an unlevel playing field by lumping high street businesses with a significantly higher tax bill than on-line focussed retailers with few or no stores.

According to UK Hospitality, pubs and restaurant alone are paying £1bn a year more in business rates than before because of a lag in the impact of the re valuation.

While higher wages, increasing costs and a decline in consumer confidence have hit retailers, the real pressure has come from business rates.

Faster Action on Fixing the UK's Infrastructure

Britain's economy is suffering because it "failing to get the basics right" on infrastructure with the worst road congestion in Western Europe.

Businesses are demanding a renovation of the country's physical and digital highways to transform the UK's economic prospects. We lag behind our rivals in Europe and across

the world in areas such as broadband speed and road transport and holding firms back from expanding according to the Institute of Directors.

Apprenticeship Levy Revamped As Take-Up Falls

The controversial apprenticeship levy is being changed in response to employer's complaints about its lack of flexibility.

Introduced last year the levy aims to raise £3bn annually to fund training. However since its introduction the number of

people starting apprenticeships has plunged with companies complaining the system is too rigid and complex. Now the Department of Education appears to have taken some of industries criticism on board.

Currently employers can transfer up to 10pc of their

levy payments to one other employers allowing them to use them more effectively.

The Government has now announced that in response to businesses requests from July this 10pc can now be spread among as many other companies as they like.

Labour Market Remains a Bright Spot

The latest UK labour market figures revealed that in the three months to March 2018 the number of people in employment rose by 197,000.

Unemployment fell by 46,000 over the same period. The unemployment rate currently stands at 4.2% down from 4.6% a year earlier and is the joint lowest since 1975 average weekly earnings (excluding bonuses) rose by 2.9%.

Retail sales rose by 1.6% in April 2018 the strongest rate of growth since October 2016 and more than offset the 1.1% decline in March.

UK Trade

The UK's trade deficit narrowed slightly to £9.2 billion in Q1 from £9.4 billion in the previous quarter. The improvement was driven by a 0.6% fall in imports in Q1 which more than offset a 0.5% drop in exports over the same period.

Insolvencies hurt one in four firms

The collapse of Carillion and a number of casualties on the high street meant one in four UK businesses suffered a financial hit on the back of a customer, debtor or suppliers insolvency in the first six

months of this year according to research by the insolvency trade body R23.

The construction industry was the worst hit with 47PC of companies affected. Carillion,

one of the leading contractors for government infrastructure projects including HS2 went under owing billions of pounds including at least £800m to subcontractors in January.

Foreign Investment In UK Technology Firms Doubles

The UK's tech sector is soaring ahead of its competitors in Europe, attracting more venture capital investment last year than Germany, France and Sweden combined.

British tech business attracted £5.8bn of funding last year which was almost double the amount received in 2016.

Economic Growth To Rebound

Britain's economic growth is now forecast to be better than previously expected, with hopes of a quick recovery from a slow start to the year.

GDP should rise by 1.4pc this

year and 1.3pc next year, the OECD believes in an upgrade from March's forecast of 1.3pc and 1.1pc respectively.

Economic sentiment in the UK has also bounced back

rising from 105.5 in April to 107.4 in May on the European Commission's index which counts 100 as a long-run average.

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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

Blue Whale Media Invest in Motion Graphics Design and Video Drone Technology

Warrington-based web developer, Blue Whale Media have begun to add a new dimension to their web-based services with the inclusion of a motion graphics designer to the graphics team.

With websites now becoming increasingly more animated and video-based, Blue Whale Media felt it necessary to bolster the company's editing abilities and services with the addition of Luke Christopher, a 21-year-old motion graphic designer. With Luke on the graphics team, Blue Whale Media now have another video editor who is also accomplished in animation and motion graphics, letting the team explore new avenues like high-quality drone media and animated motion graphics.

While Luke will be using Adobe Photoshop to do static graphics work, he'll mostly be working in Adobe Illustrator, allowing him to edit and prepare images before bringing them into Adobe After Effects to animate. Along with these programs, he'll be using Cinema 4D to do 3D graphics modelling and design, rounding out an impressive set of tools and abilities. Luke's inclusion is an important one going forward as it allows Blue Whale Media to capture and edit a large amount of high definition drone footage for a variety of services. From making title cards or layovers with key information to including Hollywood-level video effects, Luke will be busy expanding Blue Whale

Media's portfolio of drone videos and services.

Luke Christopher began video editing at the young age of eleven, putting together online videos of his favourite video game series, Call of Duty. As Luke progressed, he went from editing gameplay

videos on Youtube to exploring the wide world of motion graphics and 3D graphic design. Luke continued to unite his passions and video editing by building up a portfolio of title sequences for his favourite horror films and tv series, combining 3D editing and designs into his personalised video openings. From working with 3D models to animating 2D images, Luke's passion for motion

graphics design shines through in all his work as he begins animating images and editing videos for Blue Whale Media.

Blue Whale Media is a web design and media company based in Warrington. If you'd like to find out more about our web design work, social media marketing and drone video services, be sure to call at 01925 552 050.



Birchwood Park celebrates 20 years by teaming up with Wolves

LEADING business destination Birchwood Park has announced a partnership with Warrington Wolves as part of the park's milestone 20th anniversary celebrations.

Wolves' first-team player and England international Stefan Ratchford was on hand to officially launch the partnership with Birchwood Park's commercial director Martin O'Rourke and enjoyed a tour of the business park.

As part of the partnership, Birchwood Park will feature across Warrington Wolves' training tops, worn during the pre-match warm up.

Alex Wilson, Wolves' business development manager, said: "It is important to the club that we partner with local businesses and we are delighted to have now established such a strong association with Birchwood Park.

"Their brand works well on the warm-up tops and we look forward to this being the start of a long-term working relationship – growing to the benefit of both parties."

Martin added: "What better way to mark our 20th anniversary than by joining forces with a club that is truly the heart and soul of Warrington. Over the last 20 years, our ties to the local community have remained an important part of our identity. Now, as we celebrate a key milestone in the growth of the Park, we believe it is the right

time to increase awareness for the Birchwood Park brand across not only the wider business community in Warrington but also across the rest of the North West.

"This is a partnership built on shared values of community, team work and success, and we're looking forward to supporting the

future of both the club and local community."

In 2018, Birchwood Park is celebrating 20 years of growth. The Park has almost tripled in size since 1998, providing 1.1 million sq ft of office and warehouse space and accommodating over 165 businesses.



Accountancy firm Mitchell Charlesworth promotes seven

Warrington accountancy firm Mitchell Charlesworth has made seven promotions, including two partners in its tax and corporate finance teams.

Alison Birch has become a VAT partner in the tax team. Alison joined the firm in 2016 as a senior manager and has worked in VAT for over 17 years, both in professional practice and industry. She has extensive experience in dealing with VAT issues in a variety of sectors including retail, media, manufacturing and healthcare. Alison has also spent time overseas assisting a large business restructure its global supply chain and has recently been assisting businesses with the introduction of VAT in the Middle East.

Jerry Scriven has been promoted to partner at Mitchell Charlesworth's corporate finance arm, MC Vanguard. He is a leading figure within the North West financial community, providing board level advice and support for businesses across the region who are selling, acquiring or extending their businesses or require advice on funding and finance solutions.

Jerry qualified as a chartered accountant in 1990 and completed his MBA at Cranfield in 2002. Before joining MC Vanguard in 2015, Jerry worked in a variety of roles including time in industry acting as commercial director and finance director for different businesses and also as a consultant to the North West Fund for business.

The firm has also promoted

Jamielee Johnston to associate. Having graduated with a degree in maths and finance from the University of Liverpool, Jamielee moved to Scotland where she trained and qualified as a chartered accountant. Jamielee then returned to the North West and joined Mitchell Charlesworth's audit and accounts team in 2016. She has a mixed portfolio of clients, including a variety of owner managed businesses and charities.

In addition, two accountants have been promoted to manager - they are Sarah Guppy and Chris McEnaney. Finally, Emma

Houghton and Amy Taylor have been promoted to the role of assistant manager. All four work in the audit and accounts team.

Paul Wainwright, managing partner at Mitchell Charlesworth, said: "These well deserved promotions recognise the hard work and dedication of individuals who consistently deliver outstanding service to our clients. They also reinforce our commitment to support and invest in our people and provide them with opportunities to develop their careers at the firm."

Brian McCann, partner at MC Vanguard, said: "Jerry Scriven is already a well known figure in the region's financial sector with a solid reputation for completing deals

for ambitious business owners. Following his promotion, he will be instrumental in driving our future growth across the North West and North Wales and will play an important role in helping clients achieve their business goals."

Tim Adcock, partner and head of Mitchell Charlesworth's tax team, added: "Alison plays an important role in working with both existing and new clients to maximise their VAT opportunities and streamline their VAT processes. She has expanded the firm's VAT services, taking on additional staff to support growth, and has demonstrated her ability to provide the highest standard of service and client care."



Tim Adcock, Brian McCann, Alison Birch, Jerry Scriven, Paul Wainwright

Will your team be up to par this year?

St. Rocco's Golf Day is a great way to spend some time in the company of friends or colleagues and support our patients and families too.

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We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support this prestigious event.

Vicky Hewitt,
Rybrook Jaguar.

Young Warrington seafood chefs strike gold!

TWO talented chefs from Warrington are continuing on their mission of success after taking home the gold medal at the regional heat of the UK Young Seafood Chef of the Year competition.

Warrington & Vale Royal College students Mikolaj Mozul and Daniel Jones competed against colleges and universities from across the region, the talented duo didn't make things easy for themselves, with Dan having to go to hospital part way through the competition after cutting his finger.

But their hard work and dedication in the lead up to the event paid off, with their 50 hours of preparation allowing Mikolaj to go on alone, serving up food of an incredibly high standard that bowled the judges away.

Andy Macleod, Curriculum Leader for Hospitality & Catering at Warrington & Vale Royal College, said: "I am so incredibly proud of Mikolaj and Dan. They have done such an amazing job and to come first and take home the gold medal when they had to compete against teams from professional catering colleges – it's just incredible.

"They worked so hard in preparation for the event, coming into college as early as 5am to give themselves extra time before class. Both Mikolaj and Dan are an absolute credit to the catering

department and to the college."

The winning team of UK Young Seafood Chef of the Year will take home more than £4,000 worth of prizes, including £500 for each team member, a £1,000 Russums Voucher for the college and a Robot Cook Professional Heating Food Processor, worth close to £2,000.

Andy added: "Mikolaj and Dan are both absolutely over the moon to win the gold medals. They thought it was all over when Dan had to go to hospital but it's such a testament to their talent and passion for the industry that they still went on to win.

"As a college, we have had such incredible support not only from other members of staff, but also from companies including M&J

seafood, who provided us with amazing fresh produce.

"The next step for Mikolaj and Dan now is to get ready for the final in June. It's a fantastic opportunity for them and even to come this far is a wonderful achievement. Having taken part in such a prestigious competition will put them one step ahead of the competition when it comes to seeking work within the industry."



New Master's launched by Institute of Policing

A new Master's programme in Policing and Security has been launched at the University of Chester.

The Institute of Policing at the University has developed an MSc programme, which will provide graduates with an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the complexities of policing, law enforcement and security in contemporary society. The MSc has been designed following consultation with policing, law enforcement and security agencies, so that the content delivers the key knowledge requirements of professionals currently working in that field.

Course leader and former senior police officer Mike Blakeley, said: "We are very excited to be launching this Master's at the Institute of Policing. The Institute was only established five years ago, so this is the perfect next step – and it also allows our first graduates to take that post graduate move with us. The MSc in Policing, Law Enforcement and Security is suitable for students with an academic or professional background in policing, law enforcement and security, who wish to pursue further study and research into topics of contemporary interest. We recognise that people have busy lives, so the course has been developed to be studied either on a full-time basis over one year, or on a part-time basis over two years. This will allow students to plan their attendance in advance and minimise any disruption to family and professional life."

The Master's will be based at the Institute of Policing, which is on the Warrington Campus. There are five compulsory core modules over the course, including: risk management and public protection; culture, values and ethics in policing; law enforcement and security. Students will then choose optional modules from a range of specialised subjects, including: cyber security and investigation; counter terrorism and serious and complex organised crime; and intelligence and covert policing management.

The course will consist of lectures, seminars, workshops and presentations, and these will be supplemented by private study. It will be delivered over one day each week over three short semesters of six weeks, with an induction in September. The teaching hours will normally be six hours per week, depending on whether you choose to study the course on a full-time or part-time basis. Assessment will be by written coursework, as well as group or individual presentations. There are no written examinations. A Master's qualification will be awarded on successful completion of all seven modules, including a dissertation.

Further information, including entry criteria, can be found at:

www1.chester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/policing-law-enforcement-and-security/201810

Or contact Mike Blakeley at michael.blakeley@chester.ac.uk or by calling 01925 535020.



Guinness World Record for Mental Health Awareness broken in Warrington

A GUINNESS World Record for Mental Health Awareness was broken at the Halliwell Jones Stadium in Warrington.

North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, State of Mind Sport, Offload Rugby League and Warrington Wolves joined forces to break the record and raise awareness of mental health by hosting the world's largest mental health awareness lesson.

The four organisations now officially hold the new world record, with a total of 857 people turning up to support the challenge. The previous world record was 688 people and was achieved in Chennai in India, earlier this year.

The mental health lesson was led by Dr Phil Cooper (MBE), a nurse consultant from North West Boroughs Healthcare, along with a variety of former and current rugby league players.

During the lesson, Dr Phil Cooper asked a series of thought-provoking questions relating to mental health, encouraging participants to lift up either a 'yes' or 'no' card with their response.

In between these sessions, ambassadors from State of Mind Sport shared their personal mental health experiences and practical tips on how to manage mental fitness, with the evening drawing to a close at 7pm.

Dr Cooper said: "What a fantastic night! The weather was brilliant, and the former players spoke from the heart about their own mental health and overcoming their problems. Sharing real life experiences to raise awareness of mental health was really powerful and brought the lesson to life."

"I feel proud to work for North West Boroughs Healthcare and State of Mind Sport, and to have the opportunity to use rugby league to reach people, raise awareness of mental health and help save lives."

Karl Fitzpatrick, CEO at Warrington Wolves, said: "We are proud and

honoured to have been part of such a ground-breaking achievement. To have broken a world record here at The Halliwell Jones Stadium means a lot to this club especially

with it raising awareness of such an important cause. It was fantastic to see so many people from across the town gathering to show their support and take such an interest in learning more about mental fitness."

Emma Goldsmith from Rugby League Cares, who co-ordinates the Offload

programme running from Warrington Wolves, Widnes Vikings and Salford Red Devils said:

"It was great night and brilliant to break a world record while helping people learn more about mental health issues in a fun session, in a great location."



Priestley to provide new 'gold standard' qualification

YOUNG people in Warrington will be some of the first in the country to study T-Levels – the new 'gold standard' in technical education.

Priestley College has been selected to teach the qualifications from 2020, it is the only centre in Cheshire to be chosen and one of just a handful in the North West.

T-Levels will provide a high-quality, technical alternative to A-Levels ensuring thousands of people across the country have the skills to help the UK compete globally in industry.

Principal Matthew Grant said the decision would mean Priestley continued to provide the widest possible range of courses that would also include A-Levels and BTECs.

"This is incredible news for young people in Warrington," he said.

"T-Levels will be on a par with A-Levels and provide young people with a choice between technical and academic education after they turn 16.

"One of the reasons we've been chosen is because of our track record for delivering high quality, academic and vocational programmes and our professional expertise in Childcare and Digital Technologies so it is something of which we are extremely proud."

The Government has named less than 60 colleges and post-16 providers that will teach T-Levels nationwide.

Education Secretary Damian Hinds

said it was part of his vision for a world-class technical education system.

From 2020 Priestley College – a part of The Challenge Academy Trust – will offer T-Levels in 'Digital' as well as 'Education & Childcare'.

Prime Minister Theresa May said: "Everyone should be able to have access to an education that suits them, but we know that for those that don't choose to go to university, the routes into further technical and vocational training can be hard to navigate.

"That's why we're making the most significant reform to advanced technical education in 70 years to ensure young people have gold standard qualifications open to them whichever route they

choose."

On Monday, three representatives from Priestley College will meet Government ministers in London to discuss how T-Levels will be implemented.

Leading employers including Lloyds, IBM and Skanska have offered strong support for the new qualification.

"This is an exciting moment in the history of Priestley College and for the futures of Warrington's young people," said Matthew Grant.

"To be able to provide the academic, vocational and technical routes at Priestley means our students will continue to have the widest choice possible as they make decisions that could set them up for life."



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Wire players honour Priestley's rising stars

TWO Warrington Wolves players honoured some of the stars of the future at Priestley College's annual Sports Awards.

Toby King and Jack Johnson presented the awards, which recognised the achievements of Priestley students on pitches, courts and in pools including at international level.

"It was great to spend time at Priestley and meet some of the college's dedicated sportsmen and women," said Toby.

"Not only is there a lot of talent, but they are also young people committed to achieving their academic goals as well, which is so important for people going into sport."

Among those to receive honours on the day were Harry Wilkinson and Annabel Rodgers who were named Priestley's Sports Personalities of the Year.

Harry, who attended Helsby High School, and former Hope Academy pupil Annabel were shortlisted by tutors then voted for by their peers.

Among Harry's achievements in rugby over the past year was a first England cap while Annabel impressed on the football pitch.

"I have played well this year and have always tried my best, but

most of all I have enjoyed it," said Annabel, who studies BTEC Sport and A-Level English Literature and Language.

Priestley's Team of the Year was its rugby players who were crowned North West champions, but competition was fierce.

In a year of unparalleled success for the college, its basketball, volleyball, ladies' football and swimming teams were all regional champions.

It was also a good year for the college's footballers, several of whom have received offers to study at American universities after they went on a US tour in February.

During the ceremony awards were handed out to students competing in sports as varied as judo, athletics and netball.

There was also recognition for academic achievements including Mick Mitchell in Sport and Exercise Science as well as Beth Cox in BTEC Sport.

Nigel Howells, Head of Sport at Priestley, said: "The awards are the result of years of dedication by students to their sport and not just their achievements over the past 12 months.

"It is a proud moment for us, their families, but mostly for the students themselves."

Pakistani PhD student hopes to help solve her country's energy crisis

A student from Pakistan, who is studying for her PhD at the University of Chester, has made it her career goal to play her part in helping to solve her country's energy crisis.

Mubashra Latif, who is 30 and from Lahore in Pakistan, is based at Thornton Science Park in Cheshire, within the Faculty of Science and Engineering, where she is investigating alternative feedstocks to turn into energy.

She is being supported by the University of Chester's Eco-Innovation Cheshire and Warrington project, which is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The Eco-Innovation project is led by the University, with Lancaster University as a partner institution, to work with local SMEs in the innovation and adoption of Low Carbon Technologies. Through this programme Mubashra is also supported by the UK's leading distributed biomass company Arensis (through its sister company, Green Growth Power Ltd).

During her three year PhD studies, Mubashra will be exploring how businesses could use special on-site biomass energy converters (units)

to generate clean power, cut their power bills and heat their own premises.

She will be trialling a range of feedstocks, including animal and agricultural matter, to generate combined heat and power (CHP), with the aim of discovering which feedstocks work best to create electricity and heat (and therefore redirecting it from landfill).

Mubashra hopes that she can also eventually use her research and energy expertise to benefit her home country Pakistan, where one third of the population lacks the access to electricity which has become a basic life necessity in the 21st century. The Entrade biomass energy units are modular, and can be easily transported, and rapidly installed, so that they can be ready to use within hours. This makes them an attractive future option for agricultural countries like Pakistan, which produces more than 50 million tons of agricultural biomass annually. This feedstock has the potential to be converted into electrical power via small scale gasification power plants that could help resolve Pakistan's energy crisis.



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For further information please contact Warrington Chamber of Commerce on 01925-715150 or info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

Isabella inspires Oxbridge to publish her words



ONE of the world's leading educational institutions has published the work of a Warrington student.

Isabella Odogu, who studies A-Levels at Priestley College, wrote an essay about the lack of women in key positions in STEM industries.

Her carefully-crafted words won Oxbridge Inspires' STEM Writers' Competition and the prize was to be published on their website.

"It has always interested me why there are lots of girls taking STEM subjects, but there are not many women in the industries," said Isabella, who lives in Great Sankey.

Isabella, a former pupil at Tower College in Rainhill, studies A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Spanish at Priestley College and hopes to become a dentist.

She has also completed the Extended Project at Priestley, which, she says, helped prepare her for writing the essay for Oxbridge.

In her assignment she asked 'why is the topic of women in STEM still an issue today' and gave her theory as to the answer.

She wrote: "Perhaps these women

believe that they would be discriminated against in industry and so are deterred from entering certain jobs, or maybe a job such as a research post would be interrupted by life events such as having a child, so they think that it isn't worth pursuing a career like this.

"Whatever their reasons, a large proportion of women who have studied STEM subjects are not transferring their skills into industry, but instead are focusing on education."

The Oxbridge competition attempts to introduce students to advanced STEM topics that go well beyond the curriculum and support applications for STEM subjects at top universities.

Isabella hopes winning the competition will bolster her CV as she bids for places on competitive Dental Surgery degree courses.

"The good thing is the girls in my generation are being encouraged to aim high and believe we can achieve anything," she said.

"That's why I want to go into dentistry and I don't think a lot of people realise what a difference a dentist can make to someone's life."

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The copy deadline for the next edition of Insight magazine is

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Wire capture Clark from Sydney Rabbitohs

WARRINGTON Wolves have swooped to sign Sydney Rabbitohs forward Jason Clark on a two-year deal for the start of next season.

Clark, 28, who was signing on the dotted line for Warrington as they were beating Wigan at the weekend, has been a one-club man of the NRL side since his first-grade debut in the Red and Green in August 2009. He celebrated his 150th club appearance back in April this year.

He was part of the NRL premiership winning team of 2014 when the Rabbitohs defeated Canterbury Bulldogs at the ANZ Stadium in the Grand Final. He also represented City Origin on one occasion in 2015.

Warrington head coach Steve Price said: "Having coached against Jason for a number of years he typifies what we are building here at our club. He's a grand final winner and understands what a winning culture is. He is selfless; everything is about the team on and off the field. He understands hard work and it's players like Jason who help to make a team a success. He's the type of player who players love playing with and Sam Burgess recently classed him as one of his greatest ever team mates. There's a lot to his game as he has ball-playing ability and an offload in there too. We feel he can bring us something different and he's a first-class guy to go with it.

"We are very pleased to have

signed Jason to our club from next season and he's going to be a great acquisition."

Clark added: "I'm glad to have my contract organised with Warrington and I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my career over in England. The past 11 seasons have been a young boy's dream come true. All I've done is wear the red and green, and following discussions with Steve Price, Simon Moran and Karl Fitzpatrick, I'll be able to extend my career in the

primrose and blue of Warrington.

"Warrington is a similar club to Souths. They have a long and rich history which is something that attracted me to the club. Everyone I've spoken to says Warrington is a great club. They are very well organised, well coached and have a great playing squad. I've been watching them play over the past few months and they are playing an enjoyable style of football. They beat Wigan in the Challenge Cup as I was agreeing to join the club and success like that is a massive positive for me."



Chamber luncheon

GUEST speakers at the Chamber luncheon held at the Hallmark Hotel, Grappenhall, Warrington, were Leah Goodhind & Chris Connor from the British Heart Foundation and Annie Brown, GM

at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, who are all pictured with Chamber Chief Executive Colin Daniels.

Also pictured are Chamber Director Gary Skentelbery, who gave an

update to members on the new Chamber website which should be coming online soon and Susan Creswell, who is doing a Fab, Fit and 50 challenge to raise money for local charities.



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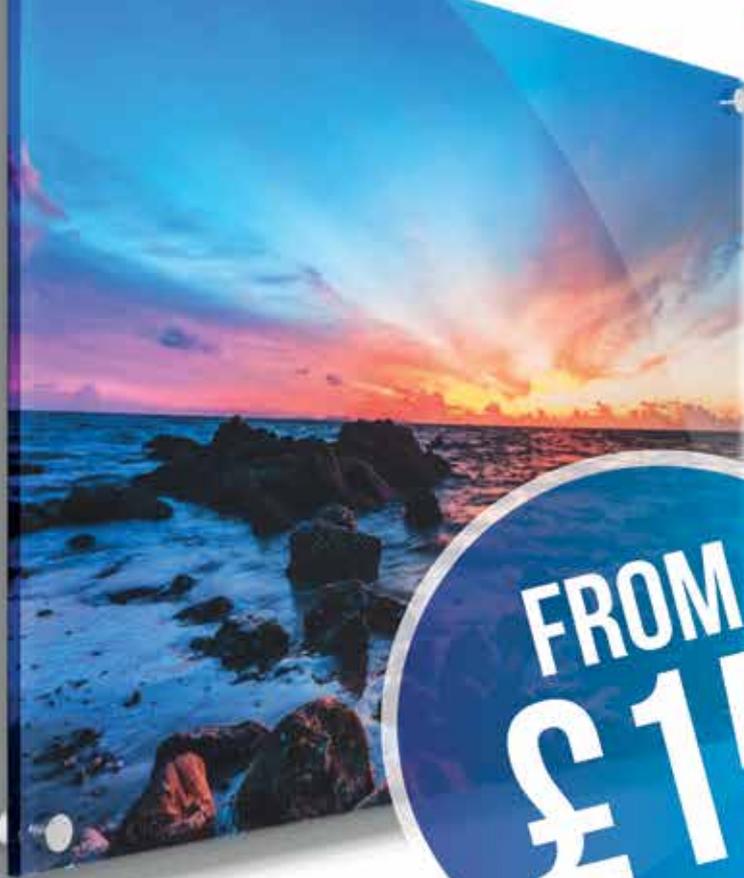
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