

A record of which to be proud - Lymm stats for 11 seasons at National Level 5.

With the RFU's league reorganisation taking effect from the start of next season, it seems like a good time to reflect on Lymm's performance over the past 12 years (11 seasons due to Covid) competing at National Level 5.

By way of background, the 4 higher levels, including the fully professional Premiership, comprise 72 teams. Level 5 comprises 4 regional leagues (North, Midlands, South West and London & South East) of 14 teams each – so 56 in total. Hence, effectively, Level 5 constitutes the teams ranked 73 to 128 in the country.

Lymm competed in the North Division for 10 of these 11 seasons, being required to relocate to the Midlands for the 2013/14 season. Over these 11 seasons only Lymm and Rossendale in the whole country have consistently competed at this level, with all other clubs having spent at least one season at higher or lower levels – to be fair to Rossendale, their participation at this level extends for one season more than Lymm, having achieved promotion a year earlier. What this does mean is that Lymm v Rossendale is almost certainly the most played fixture at Level 5 since September 2010 – more on this later.

With the aid of Jordan Widdrington, Peter Cornelia, the Warrington Guardian archive, the RFU's result system and as many past match reports as could be tracked down, we have pulled together an almost complete record of Lymm's league performances, results, scorers, and players over these 11 seasons – almost complete as we are missing 11 players and 8 try scorers from some of the earlier matches. Set out below are some of the statistics that flow from this analysis.

League performance.

Season	Matches				Bonus points		Match points	Adj	League points	League position	Points scored		
	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Try	Losing					F	A	Diff
2010/11	26	14	1	11	11	1	70		70	7	658	622	36
2011/12	26	13	2	11	6	3	65		65	7	500	542	-42
2012/13	26	14	0	12	9	3	68		68	6	520	591	-71
2013/14	26	13	1	12	7	4	65	-5 a	60	7	606	644	-38
2014/15	26	12	0	14	11	5	64	-5 b	59	9	658	679	-21
2015/16	26	15	1	10	11	6	79		79	3	641	482	159
2016/17	26	12	0	14	9	4	61		61	8	629	632	-3
2017/18	26	17	2	7	11	5	88		88	4	691	382	309
2018/19	26	8	2	16	6	4	46		46	11	501	660	-159
2019/20	22	10	2	10	7	4	55	8 c	63	7	531	535	-4
2021/22	26	17	0	9	15	3	86		86	5	829	543	286
Total	282	145	11	126	103	42	747	-2	745		6,764	6,312	452
Average		13.2	1.0	11.5	9.4	3.8	67.9	-0.2	67.7		615	574	41
	a - 5 point deduction for incorrect player registration, the wrong Boaden was registered												
	b - 5 point deduction for following incorrect postponement procedures, which were different in the Midlands to the North												
	c - 8 points awarded by the RFU "pools panel" for the 4 matches that were Covid casualties												

Opposition

Over these 11 seasons, Lymm has played against 58 different clubs ranging from Alnwick in the North to Bedford Athletic in the South; and from Hull in the East to Birkenhead Park in the West. Longest trips have been to Alnwick, Morpeth, Percy Park, South Shields Westoe, Blaydon and Bedford Athletic whilst the most local derbies have been against Altrincham Kersal, Sale, Wilmslow, Northwich, Burnage and Stockport.

Other than Rossendale (20 matches) the most played fixtures have been Billingham (18), Sandal (18), Wirral (14) and Waterloo (12), whereas the least played fixture was Carlisle – with only one fixture in the 2019/20 season being completed due to the away fixture being a Covid casualty.

In fulfilling these 282 fixtures, Lymm have travelled almost 20,400 miles – pretty much the same as going to Adelaide and back! Indeed, 9 return visits to Billingham alone put almost 2,400 miles on the clock.

Points scoring

The table below shows how the 6,764 points scored over the 11 seasons break down:

Season	Points	Tries	Conversions	Penalties	Conversion success%
2010/11	658	89	48	39	53.9%
2011/12	500	70	33	28	47.1%
2012/13	520	67	37	37	55.2%
2013/14	606	71	43	55	60.6%
2014/15	658	91	58	29	63.7%
2015/16	641	86	59	31	68.6%
2016/17	629	85	51	34	60.0%
2017/18	691	92	72	29	78.3%
2018/19	501	64	47	29	73.4%
2019/20	531	63	45	42	71.4%
2021/22	829	119	84	22	70.6%
Total	6,764	897	577	375	64.3%
Average	615	82	52	34	64.3%

As can be seen the 2021/22 season is notable for delivering the highest try count (27 more than the next best) and the lowest penalty count (only 40% of the highest achieved in 2013/14). Conversion success rate has generally improved over the period too.

Players and appearances

Over the 11 seasons, 161 different players have pulled on the Lymm shirt, making 5,068 appearances between them. In the 2021/22 season 52 different players were used, more than any other season – with 2010/11 being the least at 35.

The players with the most appearances are:

Player	TOTAL
Adam Bray	263
Jordan Widdrington	227
Tom Bray	200
Cormac Nolan	191
Oli Higginson	179
Joe Knowles	137
Jake Ashall	136
Richard McEvoy	123
Tom Baker	109
Nick Ashton	106
Aaron Rasheed	105
Matty Connolly	103
Dan Horton	103
David Williamson	100
Sion Williams	100
Tom Shard	87
Scott Redfern	86
James Yates	86
Gav Woods	85
Sam Mullarkey	84
Joe Watson	84
Tim Oakes	75
James Kimber	71
Tom Darbyshire	71
Matty Hand	66

17 players have played just one match.

Lymm prides itself on the number of senior players who have progressed through the ranks of its mini, junior and colts rugby. Of the 161 players referenced above, 99 (or 61%) are “homegrown”, with these players accounting for 77% (3,900) of all appearances – suggesting that, on average, over this 11-season period Lymm’s match day 18 has included c14 homegrown players.

Scorers

Inevitably, the kickers lead the way in terms of overall points scored – albeit, as the following table which lists the players scoring 100 points or more shows, it is Cormac Nolan first and daylight second!

Player	Points
TOTAL	
Cormac Nolan	1,753
Richard McEvoy	482
Joe Knowles	293
Oli Higginson	275
Andy Rowley	257
Adam Bray	235
Luke Emmitt	221
Tom Shard	213
Tom Bray	185
David Williamson	170
Aaron Rasheed	150
Tom Baker	145
Scott Redfern	107
Jake Ashall	100
Nathan Beesley	100

Cormac has exceeded 200 points in 6 out of 9 seasons since making his debut in 2012/13. His highest haul was in 2013/14 when he played in all 26 matches, accumulating 270 points. The only other player to exceed 200 points in a season was Rich McEvoy, which he did in 2015/16.

Lymm players have exceeded 20 points in a match on 19 different occasions. Cormac has done this 14 times, Rich 3 times and Andy Rowley and Joe Knowles once each. The most points scored by one player in a single match was 29, which Cormac achieved in the 2016/17 home match against Doncaster Phoenix.

The list of players who have scored 10 or more tries is:

Player	Tries
Richard McEvoy	65
Cormac Nolan	61
Oli Higginson	55
Adam Bray	47
Joe Knowles	45
Tom Bray	37
David Williamson	34
Aaron Rasheed	30
Tom Baker	29
Andy Rowley	24
Jake Ashall	20
Nathan Beesley	20
Rick Halford	18
Jordan Widdrington	17
James Kimber	17
Sam Mullarkey	14
Jack Johnstone	14
Scott Redfern	13
Steve Pilkington	13
Joe Watson	12
Sion Williams	11
Gregor Watson	11
Matthew Barnes Smith	10
Tim Oakes	10
Ali Sutherland	10
Sam Wadsworth	10

Players have scored 10 or more tries in a season on 14 occasions, the most tries scored being 15 - a feat achieved by both Dave Williamson and Rich McEvoy in the 2010/11 and 2015/16 seasons respectively. Especially notable on this list are Aaron Rasheed (10 in 2018/19) and Oli Higginson (11 in 2021/22) as the only forwards to reach this mark; and Nathan Beesley (14 in 2019/20), Gregor Watson (11 in 2021/22) and Sam Wadsworth (10 in 2021/22) who did this in their first season. Sam actually scored his 10 tries in just 10 appearances – a strike rate only matched by Alex Mitchell who scored one try in his only appearance – exactly mirroring his current record for England!

No Lymm player scored 4 tries in a match, but there have been 18 hat-tricks registered by 15 different players – Cormac Nolan, Dave Williamson and Nathan Beesley claiming 2 each. Most of these, as would be expected, were by backs albeit 4 forwards – Adam Bray, Sam Mullarkey, Aaron Rasheed and Josh Hadland – made the list. The first hat-trick was scored by Andy Rowley in the home fixture against Sandal in 2010/11; whilst the most recent was in 2021/22 when Scott Redfern dotted down three times - also against Sandal at home. The 2021/22 season was the most prolific with 4 hat-tricks scored by Gregor Watson, Ste Pilkington, Sam Wadsworth and Scott Redfern.