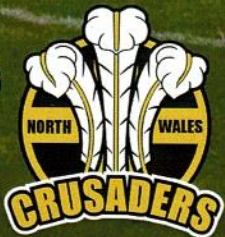


DERBY WEEKEND AT THE GNOLL



Easter Sunday, 31st March, Kick-off 2.30pm

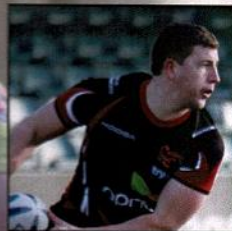


Cardiff Met v Swansea University
Easter Monday, 1st April
Kick-off 5.15pm

Tickets and information - www.neathrugby.co.uk - www.scorpionsrl.com
No.13 Sports and Leisure, 13 Old Market Street, Neath. 01639 636585

SCORPIONS

SOUTH WALES SCORPIONS OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2013 #3



v Oldham Roughyeds
NORTHERN RAIL CUP
Sunday 24th March 2013 - Kick-off 3pm



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From the Chair...



Welcome back to our final group match in this year's Northern Rail Cup.

Forget the first game of the season. I have. Watching the displays in the last two weeks definitely made me feel that we've ironed out the cracks and kicked a few behinds following the Skolars game. The going did get tough in training and I know a few people didn't like what they heard but if it means we'll have a stronger more committed side for the league season, things had to be said.

And the last two weeks' games, as those who will there will vouch were 1000% improvements. There have been some excellent performances too. James Tutuila played his best game for us so far last week, Connor Farrer has done really well starting at hooker and we've made an excellent new signing in Samir Tahraoui, an Algerian born prop who brought up in Widnes! He's played for England and Great Britain Students so I know we have a quality player with us. And we've still Haydn Peacock to come back from injury, and Tom Morgan to get back from his travels, so we're going to have a very strong forward line from next month.

There's a busy few weeks in store for us here at South Wales Scorpions. Easter Monday sees the big Welsh derby between us and North Wales Crusaders. That kicks off at 3pm and it's live on Premier Sports TV. Later that afternoon, at 5.15pm we've got the annual big city South Wales Varsity match between Cardiff Met and Swansea. Please stay on and support the students in what will be a big day for them.

Then, just five days later, on Saturday 6th August, we've another superb double header at The Gnock. At 2.30pm we've an under 16 international between Wales and England, then at 5.30pm we have our first game in this year's Tetley's Challenge Cup when we take on Doncaster. Admission to both games is just £10. All exciting times as the Scorpions continue to support the community and junior game.

For now, it's warm welcome to everyone from Oldham Roughyeds, players, coaches, officials and supporters. We hope you have an enjoyable day here at The Gnock at we'll see you again when we take you on in the league later this season.

Enjoy the match and I'll see you all again on Easter Monday for the double header of derby matches.

Phil Davies (Chairman, South Wales Scorpions)

Ground address: The John Smith's Gnock, Gnock Park Road, Neath. SA11 3NA
Postal Address: South Wales Scorpions, 13 Old Market Street, Neath. SA11 3NA.

Email: info@scorpionsrl.com
Twitter: @ScorpionsRugbyL
Office Phone: 01639 636585
Clubhouse: 01639 643328 / 07795 638186

BEHIND THE SCENES

Chairman: Phil Davies
Commercial Director: Rob Buckley
Directors: John Devereux, Mike Nicholas
General / Media Manager: Ian Golden
Photographer: Ian Lovell
www.ianlovell.com
Team Manager / Timekeeper: Gareth Laugharne

FIRST TEAM

Head Coach: Dave Clark
Assistant Coaches: Stuart Williams, Lee Cullen
Strength and Conditioning Coach: Dean Fouache
Sports Therapist: Paul Davies
Sports Therapist: Rachel Southall
Club Doctor: Richard Johnson

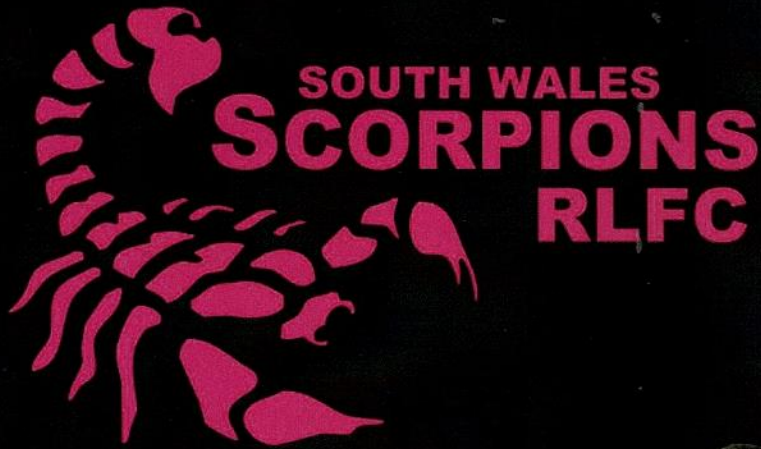
JUNIOR SIDES

Head of Performance: Dan Clements
Scholarship Manager: Wayne Williams
Scholarship Coaches: Lee Cullen, Jason Strange, Leon Green, Llyr Lane, Nathan Holsgrove.

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Coach's Comments...

Welcome to The Gnoll for our final Northern Rail Cup group match of the season as we take on Oldham Roughyeds.

It's not mathematically impossible for us to top this group and get to the Northern Rail Bowl Final where if we do win by a high score today and Rochdale Hornets put a large score on London Skolars, then we'll be playing North Wales Crusaders in the Final. With the Crusaders favourites to beat Hemel Stags at their place, in hopefully better conditions than in our visit last week, a Final place for them looks almost assured. But slip ups do happen and if they lose by a lot then Oldham will know they need to win by a high score today too. It has all the ingredients of a classic game.

It has been a good couple of weeks since the last time we were here. We've had away games to Gloucestershire and Hemel and we won them both. We had a fairly easy victory at Gloucester but we lost our way a bit in the last 20 minutes and knew that we had to improve at Hemel.

And despite it being a closer scoreline at the Stags last week, that's exactly what we did. We were two tries down going into the latter stages of the game and despite some of the worst conditions that I've seen in many a year, it reminded me of the early days at Barrow, we more than held on - we fought back and scored two excellent tries to secure the win. James Tutuila, who isn't used to playing on fields like that, played his best game so far, scoring the penultimate try and creating the final one. But it was a good team effort and hopefully we can keep up the momentum this week as we approach the start of the Championship season.

Next week is a massive game for us as we take on North Wales Crusaders in our first Kingstone Press Championship 1 game of the season. And not only is it a big game, a derby game, the first game, but it's live on Premier Sports. I'm not sure when the last time rugby was transmitted live from The Gnoll but it's something that we're very excited about. Please turn up in your numbers and support the boys.

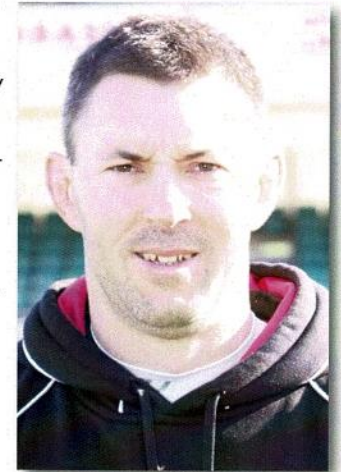
I was really pleased to hear about the Aberystwyth and Glamorgan University sides winning their respective Grand Finals last week. University Rugby League can sometimes be very under-rated but I know it can produce some quality players. I was very proud of them all.

We have a special bond with Glamorgan as Steve Parry coaches the side and four of our young players, Osian Phillips, Mike Connor, Dan Parry and Owain Davies (all pictured left) are playing for them so we couldn't be happier. I hope they all bring this experience and positivity back to the Scorpions. It also bodes well for the Student World Cup later this year.

We have invited both sides to come to the ground today so those who have made it will be introduced to the crowd. Next Monday is also a big day for University Rugby League as after our game against the Crusaders is the second annual South Wales big city Varsity game between Cardiff Met and Swansea. Good luck to both sides there.

Welcome today to everyone from Oldham Roughyeds. As I said above, I'm sure it'll be a good game today and I hope everyone enjoys themselves. See you all next Monday for the big Welsh derby.

Dave Clark (Head Coach)



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23

Supporters Club...

Welcome back to the Gnoll for the final game in our Northern Rail Cup group where we know that we have to pull out all the stops against Oldham if we're to progress any further in this competition.

We have had some good games against Oldham over the past few years, very competitive both home and away. Who could forget the classic at their place last year that opened Magic Weekend up in Manchester? It was 35-30 and competitive throughout.

I would like to think we could progress in the cup but it would need a big win for ourselves and also for Rochdale Hornets to beat Lonsdale Skolars by a big score.

But what ever happens, it's been a good few weeks - winning away against the All Golds and last week beating Hemel in was was probably the worst conditions that the team has played in, rivalling the dreadful pitch at London Skolars.

DERBY DAY THEN CHALLENGE CUP

This is the first of three home games in a row that we have here at The Gnoll. Next at home is on Monday 1st April, a 3pm kick-off against North Wales Crusaders. This is the first game in our Kingstone Press Championship 1 campaign and will be shown live on Premier Sports. Immediately following that game will be the second annual East v West Student Challenge match when Cardiff Met take on Swansea. Make sure you stick around for that.

Then, on Saturday 6th April, we take on Doncaster in the Challenge Cup. This will be a very tough game for us and we will need everyone's support if we're to get

a shock victory and perhaps meet a Super League side for the very first time in our history.

NEW SECRETARY NEEDED

During the closed season the position of secretary for the supporters club has become available and we would welcome anyone interested to please contact Andy Birchall by emailing supporters@scorpionsrl.com.

SIGNED WIGAN SHIRT

Do you want the chance to own a signed framed Wigan shirt? Well today you can. The Supporters Club are selling raffle tickets for this great prize. Tickets are £1 a strip and can be bought from the desk in the club house or from one of the committee members in the ground.



AWAY MATCH TRAVEL

As the league games are closing on us fast now we want to start to arrange away travel. The first game will be against Oxford on Sun, 14 April at the famous Iffley Road ground where Roger Bannister ran his four minute mile. The cost of the bus will be a bargain £15 return. Please see Lorna on the desk to add your name to the list or email supporters@scorpionsrl.com.

Next Away - Oxford - 13/4

Stadium Information

Oxford Rugby League
Jackdaw Lane
Iffley Road
Oxford
OX4 1SR



Website: <http://www.oxfordrl.com/>
E-mail: ryan@oxfordrl.com
Twitter: @Oxford_RL - 367 followers

Directions to Prince of Wales Stadium

By Road:

Exit at J9 on the M40 and take A41/A34 Oxford and head towards Cowley and Henley. At the roundabout,

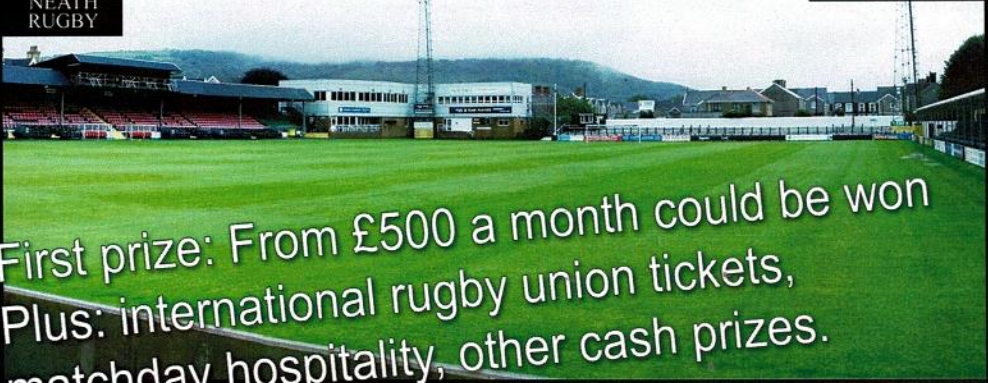
take the first exit onto Southern By-Pass Rd/A423. At the roundabout, take the first exit onto Abingdon Rd/A4144. Turn right onto Weirs Lane /B4495 and continue to follow B4495. Turn left onto Iffley Rd/A4158 and then turn left onto Jackdaw Lane. There are limited car parking facilities available at the ground but alternatively, there is a free council car park near the Riverside Centre that is a 5-10 minute walk along Meadow Lane to the club.

By Train:

Exit the railway station and turn right towards the main road. Catch either the 4A, 4B or 4C bus from the Frideswide Square stop to travel in the direction of Rose Hill. Disembark at the James Street stop on Iffley Road. Information on these services are online.

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TELEPHONE NO:.....

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 TO:.....

SORT CODE ___/___/___ ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

First payment 1st of ___ and monthly thereafter DATE.....

Signature:.....

Oldham Roughyeds

With three League Championships, one First Division title, three Challenge Cup wins, seven Lancashire League triumphs and nine Lancashire Cups to their name, Oldham are one of rugby league's most famous names.

As one of the original 22 clubs to start the Northern Rugby Union in 1895, success arrived quickly for the Lancashire outfit.

They won their first League title by heading the First Division in 1905 and further League success followed in 1910 and 1911, when they twice beat Wigan in the Championship final. Indeed, in 1910 they won three trophies, adding the Lancashire League and Lancashire Cup to their sideboard.

As for the Challenge Cup, though, it was not until 1925 that they followed their 1899 success, finishing runners up three times (in 1907, 1912 and 1924) before laying the ghost to rest when they beat Hull KR 16-3 in the final at Headingley.

They lost in the Challenge Cup final again the following year to Swinton but gained revenge in 1927 when their fourth final appearance in a row ended in a 26-7 romp at Wigan.

It was another 30 years before they enjoyed more glory, the signing of players like Alan Davies, John Etty Sid Little and Derek 'Rocky' Turner leading to their last Championship title in 1957, along with numerous county

honours.

However, that was their last major success, although they have won the Second Division three times in 1964, 1982 and 1988 and the Divisional Premiership twice, in 1988 and 1990.

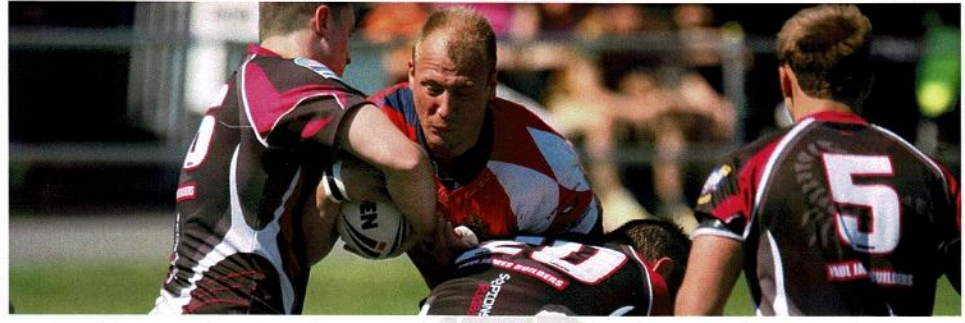
They added Bears to their name as one of the founding members of the Super League in 1996, but they were relegated in 1997 and, to add insult to injury, they went bankrupt as well.

However, they re-formed as Oldham Roughyeds in 1997 and reached the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final in 2001, only to lose to Widnes.

They were relegated in 2006, though, after only one win and have been there since, despite reaching the Grand Final three times.

In 2009, Roughyeds were told they would no longer be able to use Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park. The club went to Oldham Council for help. Oldham Council bought Whitebank Stadium from Oldham Town and sold it to Roughyeds.

The 2010 season saw a transition with the five home games were played out of town at Sedgley Park, Whitefield. Roughyeds' first game at Whitebank took place on 9 May 2010 with the opposition being York City Knights. The first time Oldham had played on their own ground in Oldham borough since 1997.



Twitter: @Roughyeds - 945 followers at the start of the 2013 season.

SCORPIONS v OLDHAM - HEAD TO HEAD

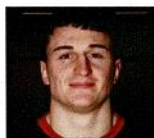
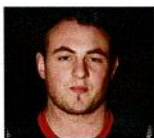
11/4/2010	Home	Lost 16-22	League
1/8/2010	Away	Won 42-24	League
15/5/2011	Home	Won 40-20	League
12/6/2011	Away	Lost 35-18	League
22/8/2011	Away	Lost 48-34	League
19/2/2012	Home	Drew 36-36	NR Cup
26/5/2012	Away	Won 35-30	League
22/7/2012	Home	Lost 44-12	League

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Meet the Squad...

Ashley Bateman
Wing / Centre
DOB: 11/02/1990
Height: 173cm
Weight: 86kg

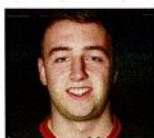
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and Julie
Laugharne



Sponsor:
The
Hawkes
Family

Joe Burke
Prop
DOB: 18/05/1990
Height: 193cm
Weight: 105kg

TJ Collin
Centre / Second Row
DOB: 06/04/1994
Height: 184cm
Weight: 88kg



James Greenwood
Prop
DOB: 07/06/1991
Height: 188cm
Weight: 110kg

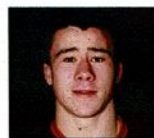
Mike Connor
Prop
DOB: 27/03/1994
Height: 175cm
Weight: 100kg



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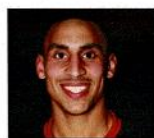
Courtney Davies
Half-back
DOB: 01/07/1994
Height: 175cm
Weight: 75kg

Rhodri Lloyd
Second Row
DOB: 22/07/1993
Height: 190cm
Weight: 98kg



Connor Farrer
Hooker
DOB: 06/06/1995
Height: 167cm
Weight: 73kg

Dalton Grant
Wing / Centre
DOB: 21/04/1990
Height: 183cm
Weight: 89kg



Sponsor:
Mark
Hawkes

Kristian Hawkes
Half-back
DOB: 11/12/1990
Height: 176cm
Weight: 91kg

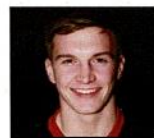
David James
Full-back / Wing
DOB: 01/09/1985
Height: 183cm
Weight: 89kg



Alex Jones
Wing
DOB: 28/09/1993
Height: 177cm
Weight: 88kg

Chris Leyshon
Centre
DOB: 24/12/1994
Height:
Weight:

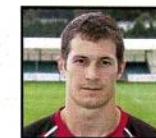
Sponsor:
Dai Morris



Sponsor:
Baglan
Safety Ltd

Shae Lyon Fraser
Centre
DOB: 06/02/1993
Height: 184cm
Weight: 84kg

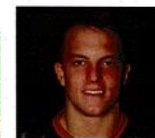
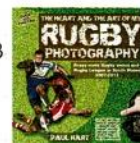
If you would like to sponsor a South Wales Scorpions player for the 2013 season, then email info@scorpionsrl.com or go to www.scorpionsrl.com. Price is just £100 and for that you will receive a shirt at the end of the season, have your name and weblink if applicable on the website and your name and logo if applicable in the match programme (like you see here).



Thomas Gwyn Morgan
Second Row
DOB: 03/01/1990
Height:
Weight:

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(Buffboy)

Ollie Olds
Scrum Half
DOB: 14/08/1993
Height: 170cm
Weight: 73kg

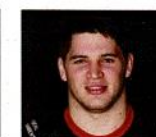
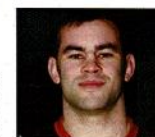


Sponsor:
Dennis and
Carol

Shaun Owens
Hooker
DOB: 29/11/1988
Height: 175cm
Weight: 88kg

Steve Parry
Stand-off / Hooker
DOB: 19/10/1988
Height: 173cm
Weight: 80kg

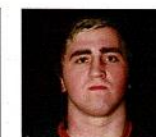
Sponsor:
Keep it Klean
(Wales)



Sponsor:
Lewis, Vicky
and Ffion
Clark

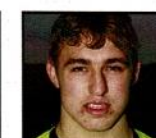
Haydn Peacock
Second Row
DOB: 15/02/1990
Height: 182cm
Weight: 90kg

Kyle Perry
Prop
DOB: 19/05/1990
Height: 182cm
Weight: 96kg



Osian Phillips
Prop
DOB: 02/05/1994
Height: 180cm
Weight: 91kg

Jack Pring
Centre
DOB: 25/01/1993
Height: 178cm
Weight: 83kg



Sam Powell
Scrum Half
DOB: 03/07/1992
Height: 178cm
Weight: 84kg

James Tutuila
Loose Forward
DOB: 19/06/1990
Height: 180cm
Weight: 97kg

Sponsor:
Gareth
and Julie
Laugharne

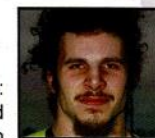


Sponsor:
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Harris and
Ozzie

Chris Vitalini
Loose Forward
DOB: 05/05/1987
Height: 185cm
Weight: 101kg

Samir Tahraoui
Prop
DOB: 28/12/1990
Height: 198cm
Weight: 101kg

Sponsor:
Sian and
Alys Golden



Sam Wellings
Second Row
DOB: 13/12/1989
Height:
Weight:

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Wish South Wales Scorpions every
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World Cup Update...

BY JAMES GORDON OF LOVERUGBYLEAGUE.COM

London Broncos centre Michael Channing has admitted that it'd be a dream come true to play for Wales at the Millennium Stadium this Autumn.

Channing qualifies to play for Wales through Welsh grandparents on his mother's and father's side and has already represented the Dragons on two occasions, featuring in defeats to France and Wales in last year's Autumn Internationals series.

And now, having played an integral role in the Broncos' 12-26 victory away at Castleford Tigers on Sunday afternoon, the 20-year-old says he is desperate to take his representation to the next level and play for Wales at Rugby League World Cup 2013.

"I've never been fortunate enough to play at the Millennium Stadium, but hopefully I can realise that ambition this year," Channing told LoveRugbyLeague.com.

"I've watched a few union games there as a youngster so I know how fantastic the venue is, and I knew right from the start that I always wanted to play there."

Wales' clash with Italy forms part of the double header Opening Ceremony at the stadium, alongside England's mammoth showdown with Australia, on Saturday October 26.

"It doesn't get much bigger than being a part of an Opening Ceremony for such an important tournament. It'd be mad if I was able to take that chance.

"I can't really imagine what it'd feel like, but I know that I want to be a part of it."

Wales have been drawn alongside USA and Cook Islands in Group C and the three teams will battle for

the solitary qualification spot available for the knock-out stages.

"I rate our chances of progression to the next stage of the competition," said Channing.

"I'm not for a second suggesting that our group stage opponents won't be competitive because they'll be fired up, but I think we've got a great side together.

"We just want to win our group, but beyond that I think it's difficult to speak too much about targets. We can't get too carried away with what's in the long term, and risk overlooking what's in front of us."

And Channing believes that this year's Wales squad has the potential to be stronger than it's been in a number of years.

"There's some decent competition for places in that squad so I know I'll have to be playing regularly and playing well for London to secure my spot.

"Consistency will very important and I know that I need to impress Iestyn Harris in the Super League this season.

"We've got a lot of people coming through, so the standard is going to be high, which is what you need in your squad if you want to be successful.

"It's an exciting year for me as a Welsh international and it's a big goal of mine to play at Rugby League World Cup 2013."

Tickets are now on sale for RLWC2013, with 55% of tickets priced £20 or less. To make sure you will BE THERE buy now at www.rlwc2013.com or call the 24 Hour Ticket Hotline on 0844 847 2013.



Wales v Cook Islands
The Gnoll, Neath
Sunday 10th November
Tickets from £10 at
www.rlwc2013.com

Week 1 Pictures



Welcome to day two of the South Wales Scorpions / South Wales Evening Post Primary Schools Cup.

Pictured left are some highlights from the first week's play. There will be more photos in the official programme on April 28th so check to see if you are featured next time. Enjoy yourselves today, shout for your schools and the Scorpions!

TIME / PITCH 3rd March
 • Cardiff Demons 0 Gnoll Tigers 1
 • MN Crimson Crusaders 0 Crynallt Crusaders 3
 • Team Tonnau 0 Gnoll Tigers 1
 • Cardiff Demons 0 MN Crimson Crusaders 0
 • Crynallt Crusaders 2 Team Tonnau 1

TIME / PITCH Today
 1.25pm - 1 Team Tonnau v Waunceirch Warriors
 1.40pm - 1 Crimson Crusaders v Waunceirch Warriors
 1.50pm - 1 Gnoll Tigers v Waunceirch Warriors
 1.50pm - 2 Crynallt Crusaders v Team Tonnau
 3.40pm - 1 Gnoll Tigers v MN Crimson Crusaders
 3.40pm - 2 Crynallt Crusaders v Waunceirch Warriors

TIME / PITCH 28th April
 1.25pm - 1 Cardiff Demons v Team Tonnau
 1.40pm - 1 Cardiff Demons v Crynallt Crusaders

1.40pm - 2 Crimson Crusaders v Waunceirch Warriors
 1.50pm - 1 Cardiff Demons v Crynallt Crusaders
 1.50pm - 2 Gnoll Tigers v Team Tonnau
 3.40pm - 1 Cardiff Demons v MN Crimson Crusaders
 3.40pm - 2 Gnoll Tigers v Waunceirch Warriors

TIME / PITCH 16th June
 1.40pm - 1 Team Tonnau v Waunceirch Warriors
 1.40pm - 2 MN Crimson Crusaders v Crynallt Crusaders
 1.50pm - 1 Cardiff Demons v Waunceirch Warriors
 1.50pm - 2 Gnoll Tigers v Crynallt Crusaders
 3.40pm - 1 MN Crimson Crusaders v Team Tonnau
 3.40pm - 2 Cardiff Demons v Gnoll Tigers

TIME / PITCH 23rd June
 1.40pm - 1 Gnoll Tigers v MN Crimson Crusaders
 1.40pm - 2 Cardiff Demons v Waunceirch Warriors
 1.50pm - 1 MN Crimson Crusaders v Team Tonnau
 1.50pm - 2 Gnoll Tigers v Crynallt Crusaders
 3.40pm - 1 Cardiff Demons v Team Tonnau
 3.40pm - 2 Crynallt Crusaders v Waunceirch Warriors

TIME / PITCH 7th July
 1.40pm - 1 Fifth v Sixth play-off challenge match
 1.50pm - 1 Semi-Final 1st v 4th
 1.50pm - 2 Semi-Final 2nd v 3rd
 3.40pm - 1 Final

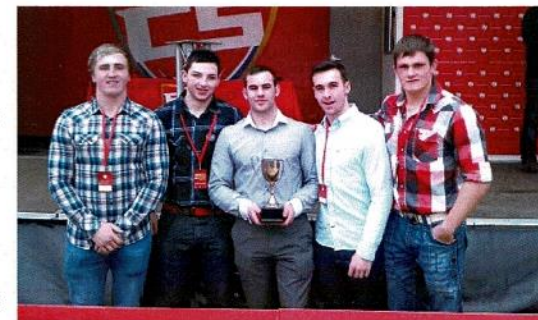
CONGRATULATIONS TO GLAMORGAN AND ABERYSTWYTH

Well done to two of our local universities, University of Glamorgan and Aberystwyth University for winning their respective Student Rugby League Grand Finals last Wednesday. Glamorgan won the Shield Final, the third ranked competition in the UK, beating Leeds University by a whopping 58-10. Then Aberystwyth won the Plate Final, the fourth ranked student competition, beating Chester 32-12.

Glamorgan's side was coached by Steve Parry and the side contained four of our young players, Osian Phillips, Mike Connor, Dan Parry and Owain Davies (pictured below).

Both universities have been invited to parade their respective trophies at half-time today.

The Scorpions have been following the fortunes of all four of the South Wales based universities this season and are hosting the annual Welsh big city Challenge match between Cardiff Met and Swansea University for the second season in a row. This year's game is taking place on Monday 1st April at The Gnoll, kick-off 5.15pm, immediately following the big derby match between the Scorpions and North Wales Crusaders.



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Gareth Walker's



CHAMPIONSHIP TALK

in association with RUGBY LEAGUE'S **League Express**

WITH the start of Kingstone Press Championship One just a week away, North Wales Crusaders have set down a couple of impressive markers already.

Clive Griffiths' team have taken on the two sides expected to be their nearest rivals during the Northern Rail Cup – and have beaten both Oldham and Rochdale without conceding a bonus point.

The signs are that the Crusaders will be the team to beat in 2013 and they certainly boast an impressive squad.

Griffiths has retained the key figures from last year's debut campaign, which means we will get to see more of eye-catching amateur converts like Jono Smith and Leon Brennan.

He then signed a host of players with extensive Championship One and above experience, most notably from rivals Rochdale in the shape of Gary Middlehurst, Phil Braddish, Stephen Bannister and others.

Add to that the arrival of the competition's most high profile player, former Great Britain three-quarter Stuart Rardon, and it's not difficult to see why some observers feel that North Wales will have the strongest squad in Championship One.

And they have managed to do that without the assistance of a Super League partner – a hugely admirable achievement for a club that is effectively just over a year old.

Crusaders held talks with potential Super League clubs during the close season but

eventually decided to go it alone.

I can remember the club's chief executive Jamie Thomas asking on Twitter whether people thought it would be a risk to stand on their own when all of their expected main rivals would have access to Super League players.

But Griffiths actually feels that it will prove to be a strength, and made his feelings clear after Sunday's 30-16 win over Rochdale.

"We decided to stand alone and I think it will be the right decision in the long term," Griffiths said.

There is definitely rich potential in North Wales.

The club has already shown that it can attract attendances to compare with any rival at this level, and the Crusaders traveling support have found friends wherever they've visited.

They are now likely to start Championship One as competition favourites following their impressive Northern Rail Cup campaign, and they will be there to be shot at by the likes of Oldham, Rochdale and London Skolars, who should also come into promotion contention.

The way the Crusaders have risen from the ashes of the ill-fated Super League club is a genuine feel-good rugby league story, and one that should be applauded.

Now Griffiths and Thomas will be looking to take the club to the next level over the course of the league campaign.

Follow Gareth on Twitter at www.twitter.com/garethwalker13

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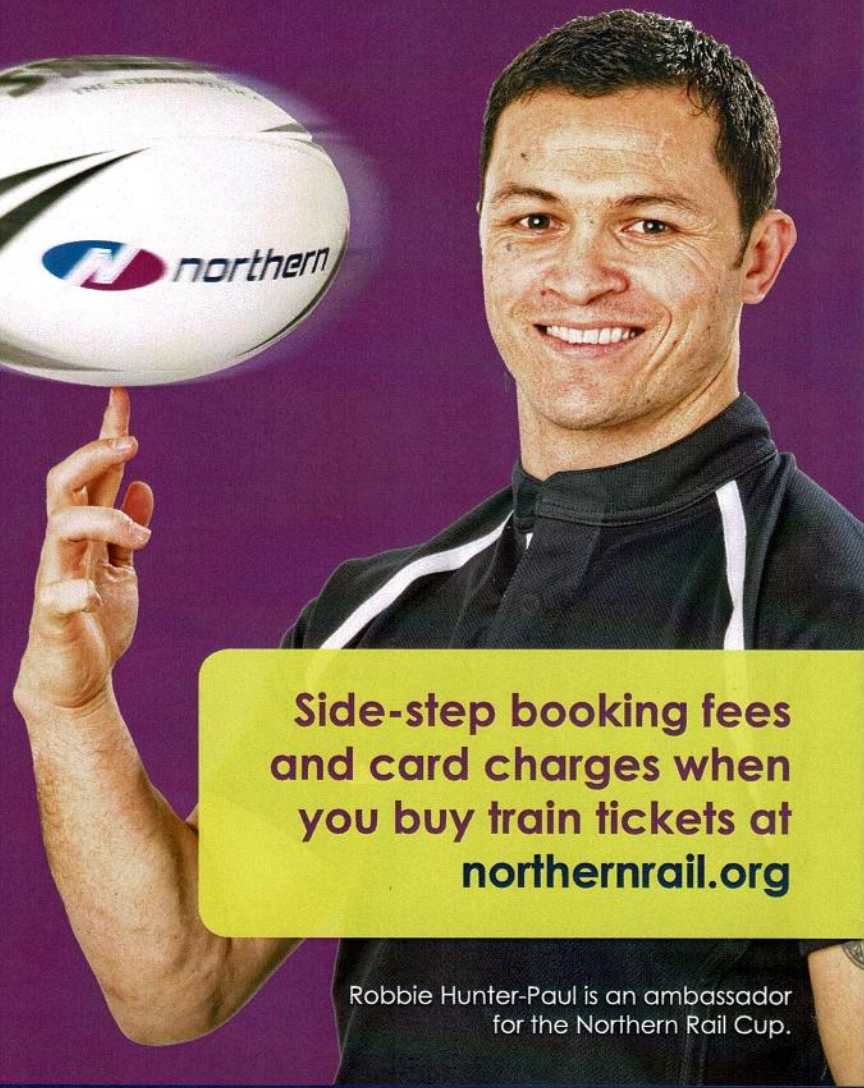
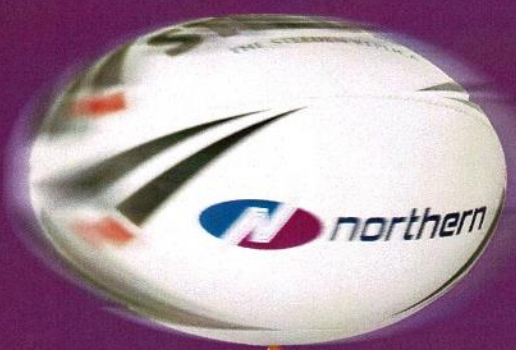
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Ahead of the Game...

WITH REBECCA SMITH OF LEAGUE WEEKLY

BEFORE this weekend's games there had already been five draws in Super League this season and one in the Championship.

That has led some to question whether we should follow the NRL and introduce the golden point. It has been a staple of the Aussie competition for a decade now as a means of avoiding games ending in a draw.

If games are tied at full-time an extra period is played with the first team to score declared the winner.

Like penalty shoot-outs in football it undeniably creates excitement.

It ensures some epic, tense finishes to games and guarantees a victor.

Broadcasters and advertisers like it as figures show it is popular with viewers.

Audience figures tend to spike in the golden point phase.

There are few innovations that happen in the Aussie game that don't eventually make their way to the British game - just look at the recent banning of the shoulder charge.

The only reason we haven't followed suit and brought in two referees is that we haven't the cash, quantity and probably even quality to staff it.

Golden point already exists in this county in knock-out games like in the Challenge Cup.

But if draws are going to become a more and more regular occurrence then could the controversial concept make an appearance in our regular rounds too? I certainly hope not.

In cup games and the play-offs one team has to progress so there has to be a way of getting a definitive winner.

But that is not the case in the league.

And what is wrong with a match ending all square anyway? A draw IS a result.

There can be beauty in a draw. It can be a fair result for all concerned and I for one have never felt short-changed by a game because it didn't deliver one winner and one loser.

I think I would be wound up to lose a game in golden point however as, from what I have seen from the NRL experience, the extra time period is unjust and bares little resemblance to real rugby league.

The game is almost always decided with a drop-goal.

So, in terms of play - it turns into a mere drop-goal shoot out,

As soon as any side is in the opposition half they'll have a pot shot.

That means the team that has possession first has an enormous advantage.

The extra time spell isn't a spectacle - it is a lottery. The other problem is that extra time puts too much pressure on the referee.

With a kickable penalty almost certain to decide the outcome they are terrified of penalising teams.

That means things that would haven't been allowed in regular time suddenly go unpunished. So you are essentially playing to a different set of rules to those that have applied to the previous 80 minutes.

The pressure it places on the players must be taken into account as well.

There are already too many demands on players, without having extra-time in league games.

Call me a cynic, but I suspect the golden point exists in Oz for one master - betting companies.

It isn't for the good of fans, coaches or players so let's hope this is one area we remain distinct from our southern hemisphere colleagues.

For more from League Weekly including our columnists John Kear, Steve Prescott, Ray French and our outspoken publisher, Danny Lockwood, why not subscribe? It costs from just £40 for six months. For details call Michaela on 01924 666 433.



LEAGUEWEEKLY

Rebecca Smith, Editor

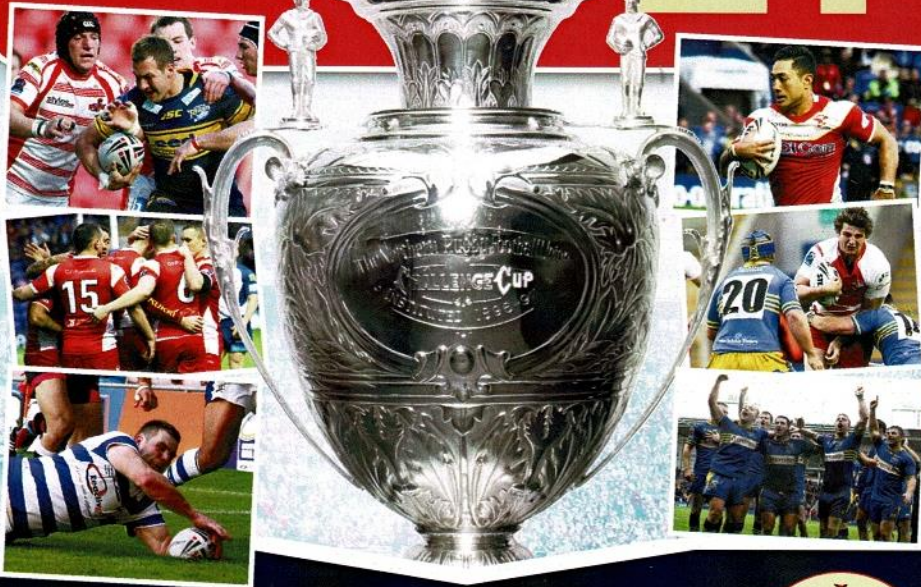
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League Tables...



	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	BP	Pts
Gateshead Thunder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire All Golds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hemel Hempstead Stags	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London Skolars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales Crusaders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oldham Roughyeds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochdale Hornets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales Scorpions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	BP	Pts
London Skolars	3	3	0	0	100	16	0	9
South Wales Scorpions	3	2	0	1	76	94	0	6
Hemel Hempstead Stags	3	1	0	2	60	66	0	4
Gloucestershire All Golds	3	0	0	3	38	98	0	0

CHAMPIONSHIP UNDER 20s

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Pts	%
Leigh Centurions	3	3	0	0	148	30	6	100
Keighley Cougars	2	2	0	0	70	40	4	100
Salford City Reds	2	2	0	0	68	40	4	100
Featherstone Rovers	3	2	0	1	134	84	4	67
Rochdale Hornets	2	1	0	1	38	54	2	50
Halifax RLFC	3	1	0	2	76	86	2	33
York City Knights	2	0	0	2	40	64	0	0
Oldham Roughyeds	2	0	0	2	26	54	0	0
South Wales Scorpions	3	0	0	3	38	186	0	0
Hemel Hempstead Stags	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



	P	W	D	L	Tries	TA
Crynant Crusaders	2	2	0	0	5	1
Gnoll Tigers	2	2	0	0	2	0
Team Tonnau	2	0	0	2	1	3
Cardiff Demons	2	0	1	1	0	1
MN Crimson Crusaders	2	0	1	1	0	3
Wauceirch Warriors	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Academy Sides 2013

Under 20s

Date	KO/Score	Opponent	Venue	Comp
Sat 2nd Mar	12-82	Featherstone Rovers	AWAY	U20
Sat 9th Mar	4-64	Leigh Centurions	HOME	U20
Fri 15th Mar	22-40	Salford City Reds	AWAY	U20
Sat 23rd Mar	14:30	Oldham RLFC	AWAY	U20
Sat 6th Apr	14:30	Featherstone Rovers	HOME	U20
Fri 12th Apr	19:30	Salford City Reds	HOME	U20
Sat 20th Apr	14:30	Halifax RLFC	HOME	U20
Sat 27th Apr	14:30	Rochdale Hornets	AWAY	U20
Sat 11th May	14:30	Leigh Centurions	AWAY	U20
Sat 18th May	14:30	Keighley Cougars	HOME	U20
Sun 26th May	12:30	Hemel Stags	AWAY	U20
Sat 1st Jun	14:30	Leigh Centurions	HOME	U20
Sat 15th Jun	14:30	Keighley Cougars	AWAY	U20
Sat 22nd Jun	14:30	Featherstone Rovers	AWAY	U20
Sun 30th Jun	12:30	Hemel Stags	HOME	U20
Sat 13th Jul	14:30	York City Knights	AWAY	U20
Sat 27th Jul	14:30	Halifax RLFC	AWAY	U20
Sat 3rd Aug	14:30	Halifax RLFC	HOME	U20
Sat 10th Aug	14:30	Keighley Cougars	HOME	U20
Sat 17th Aug	14:30	Salford City Reds	HOME	U20

Under 16s

Date	Kick-off	Opponent	Venue	Comp
Sat 30th Mar	14:30	Salford City Reds	AWAY	U16
Sat 20th Apr	14:30	Widnes Vikings	HOME	U16
Sat 4th May	16:00	Huddersfield Giants	AWAY	U16
Sat 11th May	19:30	London Broncos	AWAY	U16
Sat 25th May	14:30	Wakefield T Wildcats	HOME	U16
Sat 15th Jun	TBC	Midlands Regional Academy	HOME	U16
Thu 25th Jul	19:30	Wigan Warriors	HOME	U16
Thu 8th Aug	19:30	Featherstone Rovers	AWAY	U16

Fixtures are subject to change. Please check www.scorpionsrl.com for updates.
Please check www.scorpionsrl.com for the venues for home matches.

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Fixtures and Results 2013



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Date	KO/Score	Opponent	Venue	Comp
Sun 03 March	12-54	London Skolars	HOME	NR Cup
Sun 10 March	42-20	Gloucestershire All Golds	AWAY	NR Cup
Sun 17 March	22-20	Hemel Stags	AWAY	NR Cup
Sun 24 March	3pm	Oldham Roughyeds	HOME	NR Cup
Mon 01 April	3pm	North Wales Crusaders	HOME	Champ
Sat 06 April	5.30pm	Doncaster	HOME	TC Cup
Sat 13 April	2.30pm	Oxford	AWAY	Champ
Sun 28 April	3pm	Rochdale Hornets	HOME	Champ
Sun 05 May	3pm	London Skolars	AWAY	Champ
Sun 12 May	1pm	Gateshead Thunder	AWAY	Champ
Sun 26 May	3pm	Hemel Stags	AWAY	Champ
Sun 09 June	3pm	Gloucestershire All Golds	AWAY	Champ
Sun 16 June	3pm	Oldham Roughyeds	HOME	Champ
Sun 23 June	3pm	Oxford	HOME	Champ
Sun 30 June	3pm	Hemel Stags	HOME	Champ
Sun 07 July	3pm	Gloucestershire All Golds	HOME	Champ
Sun 14 July	3pm	Oldham Roughyeds	AWAY	Champ
Sun 28 July	1pm	Gateshead Thunder	HOME	Champ
Sun 04 August	3pm	Rochdale Hornets	AWAY	Champ
Sun 11 August	3pm	London Skolars	HOME	Champ
Sun 01 Sept	2:30pm	North Wales Crusaders	AWAY	Champ

KNOCKOUT CUP DATES NORTHERN RAIL CUP

19 May -	Last 16
16 June -	Quarter-Final
30 June -	Semi-Final
20 July -	Final

TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP

21 April -	Fourth Round
12 May -	Fifth Round
14 July -	Quarter-Final
28 July -	Semi-Final
25 August -	Final

We will also be running sides at under 20 and under 16 levels this season, both of which will be administered by Wales Rugby League.. Please see page 17 for their fixtures.

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All Twitter figures in this guide are correct on 20th February 2012 between 4-5pm.

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Today's Squads...



1. David James
2. Alex Jones
3. Shae Lyon Fraser
4. Jack Pring
5. Dalton Grant
6. Sam Powell
7. Ollie Olds
8. Joe Burke
9. Steve Parry
10. James Greenwood
11. Rhodri Lloyd
12. Haydn Peacock
13. James Tutuila
14. Sam Wellings
15. Ashley Bateman
16. Connor Farrer
17. Chris Vitalini
18. Kristian Hawkes
19. Courtney Davies
20. Samir Tahraoui
- TJ Collin
- Mike Connor
- Chris Leyshon
- Thomas Morgan
- Shawn Owens
- Kyle Perry
- Osian Philips

1. Richard Lepori
2. Mo Agoro
3. Danny Samuel
4. Steven Nield
5. Dale Bloomfield
6. Lewis Palfrey
7. Neil Roden
8. Liam Gilchrist
9. Sam Gee
10. Jason Boults
11. Josh Crowley
12. Danny Langtree
13. Mark Hobson
14. Adam Files
15. Chris Tyrer
16. Kenny Hughes
17. Callum Marriott
18. Phil Joy
19. Michael Ward
20. Jamie Dallimore
21. David Cookson
22. Liam Thompson

REFEREE - Peter Brooke **TJ** - B Logan **TJ** - I Curzon
RESERVE - I Scott **MATCH COMMISSIONER** - Alan Smith

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