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#SUMMERBASH



WELCOME

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone back to Blackpool for the second Summer Bash



The Kingstone Press Championship continues to go from strength to strength and is equalling the First Utility Super League in terms of shock results and competitiveness. Four clubs are now "full time", which is unprecedented at this level of the sport, and with others such as Batley, Dewsbury, Halifax and Featherstone continuing to impress, the league provides great uncertainty of outcome. Newly-promoted Swinton and Oldham also continue to defy expectations, including most memorably the Challenge Cup defeat of Hull KR, while the Cumbrian pair Whitehaven and Workington can always be relied upon to never let anyone down.

Of course, most of the attention is on the top of the table with the race to qualify for the top four and a crack at promotion against the Super League teams. Many respected judges believe Leigh and Bradford will be worthy contestants and London Broncos have a recent Super League pedigree of their own. With the likes of Leeds and Huddersfield currently occupying middle-eight berths, the rewards for the Championship clubs will be significant without factoring in the prize money implications.

With Toulouse playing very well in League 1 and the exciting opportunity that the Toronto club is going to provide, the competitiveness of Championship and League 1 looks likely to increase even further next year.

The fixture list across the two days throws up numerous compelling match-ups, and the closeness of the season so far means that every result from this weekend has real significance.

The iPro Sport Cup Final will once again kick-off proceedings on Saturday. This new knockout competition for League 1 clubs, which also featured two top community teams in the early rounds, has proved a real success. This year's final sees two ambitious clubs, Keighley Cougars and York City Knights, going head-to-head in an effort to land the much-prized silverware.

Sky Sports will be on hand to broadcast all the top-quality action to a wider audience and once again we are indebted to Kingstone Press for supporting this new venture.

So sit back and enjoy the action.

Nigel Wood
RFL Chief Executive

Following the success of the inaugural event last year, this popular seaside resort will once again host a round of Kingstone Press Championship fixtures and the iPro Sport Cup Final.

In 2015, over 15,000 fans flocked to an event that the whole sport should feel proud of. It was a fantastic weekend, showcasing the Kingstone Press Championship and the best of League 1.

Once again Rugby League showed that it is not afraid to innovate. The fans who turned out in their thousands to create a carnival atmosphere, both inside and outside the stadium, really embraced the new concept and helped make it a great success.

“FROM MORE THAN 15,000 SPECTATORS CREATING A CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE OVER THE TWO DAYS, TO ENTHRALLING ON-FIELD ACTION AND SKY SPORTS SCREENING COVERAGE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY – 2015 EXCEEDED THE EXPECTATIONS OF ALL.”

SECOND COMING

After a hugely successful maiden event, Summer Bash returns to Blackpool for a second season

The idea was simple; take the concept of Super League's Magic Weekend and innovate an equivalent for the Kingstone Press Championship.

If there were any doubters as to the logic behind the move from the RFL more than a year ago, they were soon cast away as the inaugural Summer Bash proved an undoubted hit with supporters, players and clubs alike.

From more than 15,000 spectators creating a carnival atmosphere over the two days, to enthralling on-field action and Sky Sports screening coverage all over the country – 2015 exceeded the expectations of all.

Now, we're back again. And it's set to be even bigger than its debut year.

Fans will once again be treated to the iPro Sport Cup Final curtain raiser, where, this year, Keighley Cougars and York City Knights do battle for silverware.

Then, the Championship action begins.

Sheffield Eagles take on highflying London Broncos in Saturday's first match, and that tussle is followed by a bottom-of-the-table Cumbrian derby between Workington Town and Whitehaven – which could have severe implications on which division both feature in next season.

Rounding off the opening day schedule are two of the league's big hitters, Bradford Bulls and Leigh Centurions.

Leigh sit three points clear at the top of the standings having lost just

one game all season, while the Bulls are well placed to join them in The Qualifiers and take on the First Utility Super League clubs in a few months' time.

Dewsbury Rams currently occupy the final Championship Shield play-off place as one of three sides on 10 points going into the weekend, and they come up against Batley Bulldogs, who are fifth and knocking on the door to be involved in The Qualifiers.

It's the clash of the newcomers in Summer Bash's penultimate offering, as Oldham and Swinton Lions take part in their first event as Championship sides. Swinton did, of course, appear here in 2015, in the inaugural iPro Sport Cup Final, when they lost out to North Wales Crusaders, but will be bidding for better memories at Bloomfield Road this time around.

Closing the mammoth schedule are two clubs who sit just two points apart in fourth and sixth – Halifax and Featherstone Rovers. Last year's Championship coach of the year Richard Marshall is seeking to guide 'Fax to another appearance in The Qualifiers, while Rovers – who currently hold the final berth for that honour – continue to build on last season's Shield success.

The stage is set for another cracker. With more to enjoy on and off the field for all involved, Summer Bash makes for the perfect Bank Holiday entertainment. Buckle up, and enjoy the show.

IPro Sport Cup Final



KEIGHLEY COUGARS

Saturday kicks-off with the iPro Sport Cup Final once again, as Keighley Cougars take on York City Knights.

Both teams put their Kingstone Press League 1 promotion push on hold this weekend – where just one point separates them in the standings – to compete for the first silverware of the season.

Keighley sealed their passage to the final courtesy of triumphs against Wath Brow Hornets, Oxford and, most recently, London Skolars.

Amateur outfit Wath Brow gave the Cougars a run for their money when they welcomed them to a mud-soaked pitch in Cumbria back in February, losing by a modest scoreline of 10-4.

Captain James Feather settled the early nerves for the visitors with a try, while Scott Law, on his 150th Keighley appearance, put clear daylight between the two sides with another. Peter Caddy scored a late consolation for the Hornets, as Paul March's men went on to book a quarter-final tie with Oxford.

Back in the familiar surroundings of Cougar Park, Keighley ran riot against a side who currently sit bottom of League 1 without a single victory to their name all season.

They demonstrated why they are operating at the other end of the table too, punishing the Blues with 10 scores.

Rikki Sheriffe, Hamish Barnes, Vinny Finigan, Liam Darville, Darren Hawkyard, Feather, Ross Peltier and Ritchie Hawkyard all touched down

while Paul White grabbed a brace as nine different players claimed tries for the hosts.

Only London Skolars now stood between them and a first-ever iPro Sport Cup Final, in what was a poignant match for the club.

The Cougars returned to the New River Stadium for the first time since the tragic death of Danny Jones at the venue a year ago, but they did the late Wales international proud and booked their place in the showpiece final.

Keighley were fast out of the blocks, with Barnes running in for a try after just six minutes, but the Skolars responded through John Paxton soon after.

Two penalties and a Law try later saw Keighley back in temporary control of the match, before Aaron Small reduced the deficit to just two points for the hosts ahead of the break.

The pair exchanged scores early on in the second half, as Darren Hawkyard's try for the visitors was cancelled out by Ben Pointer, who broke through from dummy half.

Brother Ritchie Hawkyard's try didn't cement the result, either, as Small collected a cross-field kick to touch down for the second time and make for a nervy finish.

But another try from Hawkyard and an Adam Brook drop-goal made sure of the win for Keighley, as they booked a place in today's final.



YORK CITY KNIGHTS

York City Knights' route to a Summer Bash appearance came rather more easily, as they notched up 122 points in their three iPro Sport Cup games.

Their first came back in February at Hunslet Hawks. York had only managed one warm-up match against Castleford prior to that, as the weather caused havoc with their preparation throughout the winter months.

But that wasn't enough to stop them at South Leeds Stadium. Brett Turner, Nev Morrison, Russ Spiers and Richard Wilkinson all scored tries in a comprehensive display that finished 24-4 in their favour.

Things got even better in York's quarter-final tie against Rochdale, when Spiers was on the scoresheet again as one of five try scorers.

Josh Tonks, James Morland, Ben Dent (2) and Brett Turner (2) all joined him – the Knights putting 40 points past the helpless Hornets.

Their biggest victory was yet to come, though, and when Gloucestershire

came to Bootham Crescent in semi-final, tries were on the menu once more.

Ryan Mallinder, Ed Smith, Danny Nicklas, Jonny Presley, Austin Buchanan, Tyler Craig (2), Jordan Crowther, Morland, Turner (2) and Spiers all enjoyed touched down as they crushed the All Golds 58-14 in front of their home support.

Keighley and York have met just the once so far this season, and it was the Knights who came out on top on that occasion.

Back in March, they clashed in the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup, when Mike Emmett and Morland scored quick-fire tries, before Buchanan and Nicklas gave the visitors too much to do in the second half, and prevailed 20-12.

This time, a trophy is on the line as they kick-off the biggest weekend on the Kingstone Press Championship calendar – a league and an event they both have ambitions of competing in this time next year.



DANNY LAWTON, KEIGHLEY COUGARS

Keighley Cougars centre Danny Lawton has returned from injury just in time for the iPro Sport Cup showpiece, and is keen to keep his strong record in finals intact

IT'S BEEN A REALLY FRUSTRATING START TO THE SEASON FOR YOU AS YOU'VE BEEN OUT WITH AN INJURY. HOW IS THE FITNESS?

I wanted to build up a bit of match fitness at the start of the season so I played a game with the second team on a Thursday night and basically just fell awkwardly in a tackle and dislocated my elbow.

X-rays revealed there was no fracture so I just had to rest and let it mend and now I'm just getting back to fitness and am looking to push on.

There are a few injuries in the squad; Hamish Barnes is struggling so that may be a little opportunity for me to get back in there. I'm just trying to get my game sorted first and hopefully everything else will look after itself.

THE IPRO SPORT CUP FINAL IS JUST YOUR SECOND GAME BACK. YOU MUST BE GLAD TO BE HERE?

We struggled in the iPro Sport Cup last year, getting knocked out by Swinton in the quarter-finals and we wanted to put a lick in the box to make it this year, so to get here is one goal. Now we're there, we obviously want to go a step forward and lift the cup.

KEIGHLEY ARE IN GREAT FORM AT THE MOMENT WITH SEVEN WINS FROM EIGHT GAMES. HOW'S THE MORALE WITHIN THE SQUAD?

The morale is great, it always is even if we're not in great form. It just so happens that we are at the minute which is good going into the final.

Training has been good and all the lads are in great spirit. There's a good atmosphere around camp which bodes well for Blackpool this weekend.

HOW MUCH WOULD IT MEAN TO KEIGHLEY COUGARS AND YOUR FANS IF YOU WENT ON TO WIN THE IPRO SPORT CUP?

It would mean so much. It's obviously been well documented what has happened at the club over the last 12 months and I just think that it will be a good way of giving the fans something good to cheer about because they've stuck with us through thick and thin. They stay with us through promotions and relegations so it would be good to give them something back.

YOU PLAYED YORK IN THE LADBROKES CHALLENGE CUP EARLIER IN THE SEASON AND THEY WON ON THAT OCCASION. OBVIOUSLY YOU WEREN'T PLAYING DUE TO THE INJURY, BUT WHAT DID YOU MAKE OF THE GAME?

We were disappointed with that because we went into the match very confident that we could get something out of it. But we didn't really turn up with the right mentality. They started off really well and went 18-0 up. We made a better fight of it in the second half but York were better on the day. Hopefully we can turn that around in the final.

ARE THERE ANY PREVIOUS CUP FINALS FROM YOUR JUNIOR OR SENIOR

CAREER THAT YOU'VE PLAYED IN?

I didn't play in many during my junior career. My first big final was at Leeds Rhinos in the Under-18s against St Helens at Headingley. They had gone undefeated all year and we beat them in the Grand Final.

The 2011 play-off final for Keighley, when we played against Workington at Warrington's ground, was also memorable. We beat them pretty comfortably and that was a good day as a lot of fans travelled up. I actually got on the scoresheet in that game, which is always nice.

"TRAINING HAS BEEN GOOD AND ALL THE LADS ARE IN GREAT SPIRIT. THERE'S A GOOD ATMOSPHERE AROUND CAMP WHICH BODES WELL FOR BLACKPOOL THIS WEEKEND."

They're the two that spring to mind. Obviously you don't remember the ones you lose quite as well. We lost the play-off final against Swinton last year, falling short by a point which was devastating. Apart from that, I've got a pretty good track record in finals.

JONNY PRESLEY, YORK CITY KNIGHTS

York City Knights half back Jonny Presley is relishing a meeting with his old side

HOW HAVE THE EXCITEMENT LEVELS BEEN FOR THE IPRO SPORT CUP WITHIN CAMP?

Ever since we beat Gloucestershire in the semi-final, it's been building, and we're not too far away now. It's getting close to fever pitch so we can't wait.

In that semi-final, we pulled away from them towards the end of the game. It was a tough game because the All Golds are a good team and they've certainly improved from last year. We stuck to the game plan that Fordy [James Ford] prepared for us and we were comfortable winners in the end.

WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO YORK AND YOUR FANS IF YOU WERE TO LIFT THE IPRO SPORT CUP?

The club hasn't been to a final in a knockout competition for many years, which has been spoken about in the local press quite a bit. It gives us a good opportunity to re-write history.

KEIGHLEY ARE IN PRETTY GOOD FORM HEADING INTO THE FINAL, WITH SEVEN WINS FROM THEIR LAST EIGHT GAMES. DO YOU READ INTO THAT OR DOES FORM GO OUT OF THE WINDOW IN A CUP FINAL?

When you realise Keighley are the other finalists, it's only natural to keep an eye on their results and see how they're doing because they have come into some form and they are playing really well. We could be classed as underdogs with our recent results.

We played Keighley earlier this year and managed to beat them but that was a tough game. Both teams have changed since then based on performances and both have probably improved. It's a one-off game and anything can happen.

While Keighley probably are favourites, we're quietly confident that we can go there and win. It's all about maintaining your composure, sticking to your structures and doing what you always should be doing. You shouldn't change things just because it's a cup final.

KEIGHLEY ARE ONE OF YOUR OLD SIDES OF COURSE, SO DOES THAT ADD AN EXTRA INCENTIVE TO THE FINAL FOR YOU?

It's nice to see Keighley doing well because I enjoyed my time there. There are a few players still there who played when I did, but it is a final and it means a lot to me and all the players. We at York will be going out and giving our all to win the game.

ARE THERE ANY CUP FINALS YOU'VE PLAYED IN SINCE YOU FIRST STARTED PLAYING RUGBY LEAGUE THAT ARE PARTICULARLY SPECIAL TO YOU?

I remember playing in the Grand Final with Keighley in 2009 when we got promoted to the Championship. That was a great experience. I think that whatever capacity you're involved, whether it be as a player, referee, coach or fan, and whatever level you're at, they mean a lot to you. That's why I think everyone is looking forward to it so much.

"THE CLUB HASN'T BEEN TO A FINAL IN A KNOCKOUT COMPETITION FOR MANY YEARS, WHICH HAS BEEN SPOKEN ABOUT IN THE LOCAL PRESS QUITE A BIT. IT GIVES US A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO RE-WRITE HISTORY."

I also remember playing in the Under-11s Castleford Cup final, when we played at Castleford Tigers' ground. That was the first final I played in when growing up. My dad was the coach at the time. He played Tina Turner's 'Simply the Best' before the match and after too, so it's something I remember to this day. If we win at Blackpool and I have my way that will be on the playlist after the match.

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SHEFFIELD EAGLES

V

LONDON BRONCOS

KICK-OFF 2.30

WORKINGTON TOWN

V

WHITEHAVEN

KICK-OFF 4.45

BRADFORD BULLS

V

LEIGH CENTURIONS

KICK-OFF 7.00

THE FIXTURES

SATURDAY 28TH MAY 2016



Inconsistency has plagued Sheffield Eagles this term, but they can send a big message to their fellow Kingstone Press Championship Shield play-off contenders when they meet London Broncos in the first of this year's Summer Bash games.

The Eagles have suffered two of their nine campaign defeats in their last few outings, going down 37-30 against bottom club Workington, before being beaten 25-14 by Bradford last weekend.

Results before that were an extension of their mixed form, and they come into the Rugby League festival at Bloomfield Road with just one win from their last five encounters.

Their solitary success in the last month was a victory over Dewsbury, but that was preceded by a heavy 56-24 loss to today's opponents and a one-point defeat at Oldham. Those scorelines have left Mark Aston's men hovering precariously above the relegation places, and just two points better off than second from bottom Whitehaven.

All that came after a highly positive start from the Eagles, when they opened the season with three wins from their first four games. A 42-12 victory over Workington got the new campaign off on the right foot, and they built on those foundations five days later when they beat Halifax 26-6. A minor setback, a 20-8 loss at Batley, didn't halt their charge, and they recorded a comprehensive 48-26 success when they hosted Swinton.

After losing their next two, to Leigh and Dewsbury, the Eagles then secured a 32-28 triumph in their return fixture with Swinton and an 18-point victory over a strong Bradford side, following hiccups against Featherstone and Dewsbury.

Since then, only their second meeting with Dewsbury has provided solace.

If they are to be sure of maintaining Championship status next year, they must now do so without their influential captain Steve Thorpe. The second row is set to miss a chunk of the remaining campaign after sustaining a broken cheekbone against Bradford last weekend.

Thorpe was the Eagles' 2015 Player of the Year, but others must now step up to the plate to ensure a Shield play-offs chase remains alive.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

LONDON BRONCOS

London Broncos are in blistering form ahead of their Summer Bash meeting with Sheffield, and well on course to achieve a place in The Qualifiers come July.

Andrew Henderson's men may have missed out on an immediate return to the First Utility Super League last term, but they are well and truly in the mix this time around.

Sitting second in the Kingstone Press Championship table, just three points shy of leaders Leigh, the Broncos have taken 11 wins from their 14 games, and are yet to suffer back-to-back defeats.

An opening-day shut-out started the campaign off on the right foot as they downed newcomers Oldham 22-0, and that was followed by a sublime attacking display against another newly-promoted club, Swinton, who were swept aside 38-18.

The first loss of the year came in the third week against table-toppers Leigh, after the Centurions nicked a score in the final 10 minutes to secure a 24-20 victory.

No time was wasted in getting back on track, however, and the Broncos won in each of their next three outings. The first was a narrow 16-13 triumph at Workington, before successive home wins against Halifax and Dewsbury.

A 28-20 defeat at Bradford Bulls ended the run but, in true Broncos style, they rebounded, with five consecutive wins. Featherstone were first to fall and they were quickly followed by Batley, Whitehaven, Sheffield and Bradford.

The penultimate fixture in that impressive streak was a high-scoring victory over today's opponents, Sheffield. The seventh-placed Yorkshire side were overwhelmed in the April meeting, as William Barthau stole the show with a hat-trick. Also crossing the line that day were Rhys Williams and Matt Garside, who both scored braces, while Wes Naiqama, Alex Foster and Andy Ackers capped a convincing 56-24 win.

Featherstone ended the run in rather emphatic style, the team who also toppled the Broncos in Round One of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup earlier in the year. Rovers ran in seven tries as the Championship's capital club were out of sorts.

Once again, that brought a rousing response, and it was the turn of strugglers Whitehaven to fall victim to a drubbing last weekend - 62-4. Braces from Williams, Api Pewhairangi, Naiqama and Ben Hellewell were supplemented by Mark Offerdahl, James Cunningham and Foster scores. The 11-try rout was topped off with another strong defensive display, the Broncos conceded just a solitary try with less than 10 seconds left to play.

The winds in their sails and sights are firmly set on a coveted Qualifiers spot, which holds the key to their ambition of a Super League return.



SHEFFIELD EAGLES

- 1 QUENTIN LAULU-TOGAGAE
- 2 ROB WORRINCY
- 3 MENZIE YERE
- 4 GEORGE TYSON
- 5 BEN BLACKMORE
- 6 CORY ASTON
- 8 STEVE THORPE
- 9 KEALE CARLILE
- 10 MITCHELL STRINGER
- 11 MICHAEL KNOWLES
- 12 DUANE STRAUGHEIR
- 13 MATT JAMES
- 14 MATTY FOZARD
- 15 SCOTT WHEELDON
- 16 ADAM NEAL
- 17 MARK MEXICO
- 18 ELLIOT MINCHELLA
- 19 GARRY LO
- 20 JACK BLAGBROUGH
- 21 DAVID HEWITT
- 22 RYAN MILLAR
- 23 GREG BURNS
- 24 RHYS JACKS



LONDON BRONCOS

- 1 BEN HELLEWELL
- 2 RHYS WILLIAMS
- 3 NATHAN STAPLETON
- 4 WES NAIQAMA
- 5 ILIESS MACANI
- 6 ISRAEL ELIAB
- 7 WILLIAM BARTAU
- 8 NICK SLYNEY
- 9 JAMES CUNNINGHAM
- 10 EDDIE BATTYE
- 11 DANIEL HARRISON
- 12 MATT GARSIDE
- 13 RHYS LOVEGROVE
- 14 ANDY ACKERS
- 15 JACK BUSSEY
- 16 MARK IOANE
- 17 MARK OFFERDAHL
- 18 JAMIE THACKRAY
- 19 JOE KEYES
- 20 SCOTT LEATHERBARROW
- 21 ALEX FOSTER
- 22 MATT DAVIS
- 23 JON MAGRIN
- 24 ALEX WALKER
- 25 TOBY EVERETT
- 26 API PEWHAIRANGI
- 27 BEN POINTER
- 28 BEN GRAY
- 32 ELLIOT KEAR





For Workington, the second Summer Bash weekend is about much more than taking local bragging rights from rivals Whitehaven.

A win for their opposition on Saturday, coupled with results going against them over the next two days, could leave them in serious trouble – six points clear of safety, in fact.

Town are staring down the barrel of relegation to Kingstone Press League 1, after a tough season that has returned just two wins from their opening 14 fixtures.

Cumbrian rivals Whitehaven are right there with them in the battle to avoid the drop, and the result could well have large-scale repercussions.

Town are up against it, but they can take heart from their performances over the course of the last month.

A 37-30 win over Sheffield Eagles two weeks ago was a welcome relief, and narrow losses to Halifax and Batley either side of that result has seen them much improved.

Those games came off the back of three defeats in a miserable April, where Swinton, Featherstone and Bradford put a combined 130 points past them.

That month of woe was similar to the first of the season for Town, where they lost all five of their opening fixtures. Heavy defeats against Sheffield, Dewsbury and Halifax preceded a narrow 16-13 loss to London Broncos, before Batley inflicted a 44-12 defeat upon them in the first week of March.

They finally registered their first win when hosting Oldham thanks, in part, to two tries and a drop-goal from Jarrod Sammut, who starred in a 23-12 triumph.

Two weeks later, they fell to today's opponents Whitehaven despite taking an early lead, and were powerless in halting Leigh's charge three days later over the Easter weekend.

Town will know only too well that those who finish bottom of the regular standings face an uphill battle to turn things around when the season resumes in August, as Hunslet and Doncaster proved last year. This could be their last chance to ignite a comeback, and there's no better stage on which to start it than a Summer Bash derby.

WORKINGTON TOWN

WHITEHAVEN

Relegation is looming large for Whitehaven this season, but a win in their Summer Bash clash with Workington would give their survival hopes a much-needed boost.

After beating the drop to League 1 by four points last term, they're languishing near the foot of the Kingstone Press Championship once again after four wins from 14 fixtures.

And if they are to prevail against their Cumbrian rivals this weekend, they must bounce back from their heaviest loss of the campaign. The floodgates opened last Sunday as they conceded 11 tries in a 62-4 crushing at the hands of London Broncos.

This extended Haven's losing run to four games, having already been swept aside by Dewsbury, Featherstone and Swinton in the weeks before.

They started the campaign in similar style, going down in their opening three outings against Halifax, Bradford and, again, the Rams. In that spell they conceded a combined total of 118 points, whilst scoring only 20.

However, a seven-game stint through March and April will give Whitehaven hope, a period where they notched up four Championship wins.

Their first triumph of the season came in their fourth game when they hosted newcomers Swinton. Tries from Louis Jouffret and Elliot Miller, alongside a stellar performance from John Paul Brocklebank, got Haven off the mark with a long-awaited two points.

Sheffield were their next victims seven days later as they made it two successive wins. Whitehaven ran out 26-24 victors, with Miller on the scoresheet once again, this time with a brace, alongside Craig Calvert, Scott McAvoy and Liam Carberry.

A one-point loss to Batley Bulldogs followed but, in a repeat of today's fixture, Whitehaven took the Cumbrian bragging rights when facing Workington. Tries from Miller, Calvert, Dave Allen and Liam Carberry supplemented four Jouffret goals to ensure the Recreation Ground support returned home the happier.

However, fans were brought back down to earth in the following weeks. The basement dwellers fell narrowly to Batley and Broncos before suffering a resounding 60-6 defeat at Leigh Centurions.

A 14-6 win over Oldham at the end of April eased the pressure, but their current barren run of four consecutive defeats has reignited their relegation fears once again.





The 2016 season has been a strange mix of the sublime and the frustrating for pre-season favourites Bradford Bulls.

After adding experience to the squad in the summer with a raft of high-calibre signings such as Kris Welham, Oscar Thomas, Mitch Clarke, Johnny Campbell, Jonathan Walker and Kurt Haggerty, the Bulls got off to the perfect start.

Featherstone Rovers were dispatched comfortably at home in front of an expectant crowd before convincing wins on the road, against Whitehaven and Swinton, with 46 points on the board on each occasion, made it three out of three.

An entertaining and close-fought draw against fellow promotion hopefuls Leigh followed, suggesting the Bulls were on the right track. But they managed just one win from their next four league games, and suffered defeat in the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup.

Held to a draw at Batley, the Bulls beat London Broncos before losses over a tough Easter weekend at the hands of Halifax and Sheffield Eagles. This saw them lose ground on the early-season pace setters ahead of them.

Kris Welham led by example with five tries during the Bulls' convincing return to form, a 52-18 thumping of Dewsbury Rams. They ran in 10 tries in total and were rampant again a week later, hitting Workington Town with a further 10 tries. Danny Williams celebrated his return to the side with two tries and was joined by maiden scorers Mitch Clark and Oscar Thomas. Just as they had done a week earlier, the Bulls conceded first. On this occasion, it was Chris Murphy's try that proved the catalyst for a dominant display that saw them come from behind to claim two points.

Defeat to London Broncos meant they lost further ground on their rivals, but they returned to winning ways with a convincing win, 54-8 triumph against Swinton Lions, under the watchful eye of new boss Rohan Smith. The Australian coach then took over for a hard-fought win on the road at Sheffield Eagles. Behind once again, this time 10-6 at the break, Smith's half-time team talk worked wonders, as he inspired his players to a deserved victory, courtesy of unanswered tries from Danny Williams, Adam Sidlow and Welham.

Smith has been impressed by the unity and spirit in his side's ranks, particularly among home-grown players such as Adam O'Brien and Joe Lumb. He was also impressed with his side's determination to overturn the deficit against Sheffield, and he will need to draw on those traits for the hard yards ahead, starting at this weekend's Summer Bash in Blackpool.

BRADFORD BULLS

LEIGH CENTURIONS

Top of the Kingstone Press Championship with 12 wins out of a possible 14, you would be forgiven for thinking the staff at Leigh were pretty satisfied with their season so far.

However, the expectation and the pressure to secure First Utility Super League rugby next season has seen all involved demanding even more.

Ominous news for all those hoping to catch them at the top of the table, then.

Coach Neil Jukes recently used the word 'frustrating' to encapsulate how he feels about his side's current form. He believes his players are making too many individual mistakes to achieve the level of consistency he not only wants, but which he feels will be necessary for the club to achieve their goal at the business-end of the season.

The frightening fact of the matter is that while Jukes is craving more, his side have won 11 of their last 12 games in all competitions.

Leigh started the current campaign slowly. After a narrow defeat on the opening day at Batley Bulldogs, they won twice before a pulsating draw with Bradford Bulls. Leigh looked to have secured a famous victory at the home of their rivals before Omari Caro scored a try in the last minute of the game and Danny Addy levelled the scores as the hooter sounded.

The disappointment sparked Leigh's current run of form which, punctured only by defeat in the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup against Toulouse Olympique, has seen them climb to the top of the table.

Narrow wins against Sheffield Eagles and Halifax preceded an epic 68-14 thrashing of Workington Town in the Challenge Cup, a win that gave the side momentum in the league. Twelve tries, including four from new captain Cory Paterson, was the perfect tonic ahead of convincing wins against Swinton, Workington again and Dewsbury Rams.

Then came the highlight of the season so far, a 60-6 annihilation of Whitehaven. Paterson was in free-scoring form once again, this time registering a hat-trick in the first half to extend Leigh's unbeaten run to 10 matches and open up a three-point lead at the top of the table.

After defeat against Toulouse, when Jukes admitted he 'wasn't happy', Leigh returned to winning ways at Featherstone Rovers. A close win at Batley's expense has recently been followed by convincing wins on the road against new boys Oldham and Swinton. Three tries towards the end of the first half at Swinton impressed Jukes, but he'll know his side face a war of attrition when they face a Bradford side intent on closing the gap at the summit.



BRADFORD BULLS

- 1 OSCAR THOMAS
- 2 OMARI CARO
- 3 ADRIAN PURTELL
- 4 KRIS WELHAM
- 5 DANNY WILLIAMS
- 6 LEE GASKELL
- 8 PAUL CLOUGH
- 9 ADAM O'BRIEN
- 10 ADAM SIDLOW
- 11 TOM OLBISON
- 12 DALE FERGUSON
- 13 DANNY ADDY
- 14 JAY PITTS
- 15 MATT BLYTHE
- 16 DANIEL FLEMING
- 17 JEAN-PHILLIPE BAILE
- 19 STEVE CROSSLEY
- 20 MITCH CLARK
- 21 EPALAHAME LAUAKI
- 22 JAMES CLARE
- 23 ALEX MELLOR
- 24 LUCAS WALSHAW
- 25 BEN KAVANAGH
- 28 KURT HAGGERTY
- 29 ETHAN RYAN
- 30 JOE LUMB
- 31 JAMES MENDEIKA
- 32 JOHNNY CAMPBELL
- 34 RICHIE MATHERS
- 35 RHYS LOVEGROVE



LEIGH CENTURIONS

- 1 GREGG MCNALLY
- 2 ADAM HIGSON
- 3 GREG WORTHINGTON
- 4 WILLIE TONGA
- 5 LIAM KAY
- 6 MARTIN RIDYARD
- 7 BEN REYNOLDS
- 8 FUIFUI MOIMOI
- 9 BOB BESWICK
- 10 DAYNE WESTON
- 11 HARRISON HANSEN
- 12 GARETH HOCK
- 13 CORY PATERSON
- 14 MICKEY HIGHAM
- 15 JONATHAN POWNALL
- 16 RENI MAITUA
- 17 JAMIE ACTON
- 19 LEWIS FOSTER
- 20 SAM HOPKINS
- 21 ANDREW DIXON
- 24 TOM ARMSTRONG
- 25 EZE HARPER
- 26 LEE SMITH
- 28 JOSH DRINKWATER
- 28 BRAD FASH
- 29 JACOB EMMITT
- 30 RICHARD WHITING
- 32 LIAM HOOD
- 33 SAM BARLOW





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**DEWSBURY RAMS
V
BATLEY BULLDOGS**

KICK-OFF 12.45

**OLDHAM
V
SWINTON LIONS**

KICK-OFF 3.00

**HALIFAX
V
FEATHERSTONE ROVERS**

KICK-OFF 5.15

THE FIXTURES
SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2016



Dewsbury's 2016 Kingstone Press Championship season got off to an encouraging start, but their form since hasn't been quite as promising ahead of Summer Bash.

Three wins in their first four matches marked an impressive February for the Rams, who saw off Swinton, Workington and Whitehaven, with a defeat at new boys Oldham the only blemish.

Since then, though, last year's Championship Club of the Year have found it tough going.

With two away games at the start of March, the Rams went to Featherstone Rovers and London Broncos, and were narrowly edged out in both. That was despite going in at the break in both games with a lead; a 14-10 advantage at Featherstone turned in a 21-20 defeat, while a 12-10 half-time scoreline at the Broncos was reversed into a 22-18 loss.

A third successive league defeat was inflicted by their opponents this Sunday, local rivals, Batley Bulldogs. The 44-30 loss on Good Friday was arguably decided within six minutes, by which time the Bulldogs were 12 points up. Injuries to three Rams players hindered the fightback, meaning revenge is very much on the cards in the North West this weekend.

Three days later, on Eater Monday, the Rams recovered from their derby defeat to ease past Sheffield Eagles by an 18-point margin, but four consecutive losses followed in a forgettable April.

An impressive 36-16 victory at Whitehaven a fortnight ago briefly arrested their slump, but the Rams couldn't sustain that last week and so head to Blackpool on the back of a 31-0 home drubbing by Featherstone Rovers.

That loss made it eight in the past 10 league games for Glenn Morrison's side, but it's not been all doom and gloom, having reached the last 16 of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup.

To get there, the West Yorkshire outfit edged out Bradford Bulls in front of more than 2,000 spectators at Tetley's Stadium, winning 31-30 thanks to a late drop-goal from utility back Paul Sykes, in what proved an enthralling encounter.

After a Round Five triumph over York City Knights, Dewsbury's run in the competition was eventually halted by a powerful Wigan Warriors side, who raced away to a 50-point victory.

One of three sides on 10 points coming into Summer Bash, the focus is now very much on securing another Kingstone Press Championship Shield play-off for Morrison and his men.

DEWSBURY RAMS

BATLEY BULLDOGS

Batley go into their Summer Bash fixture against local rivals Dewsbury with plenty of reasons to be confident, having secured local bragging rights and currently riding the wave of two recent victories.

Not only did the Bulldogs beat the Rams earlier this season, 44-30 on Good Friday, but wins over Halifax and Workington have lifted them into the top half of the Kingstone Press Championship table following an April slump.

A tight, two-point victory at home to current table-toppers Leigh on the opening day in February was countered by an equally narrow defeat at Featherstone a week later, but what followed was a wonderful run of form that has shown the whole division what the team is capable of.

A seven-match unbeaten run across February and March saw the Bulldogs dispatch Sheffield, Halifax, Workington, Dewsbury and Whitehaven in the Championship, with a mesmerising 24-24 draw at home to Bradford Bulls wedged between.

It also included progression into Round Five of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup for John Kear and his players, who edged a 13-try, 73-point classic against Whitehaven, 37-36.

But then came a run of injuries that decimated Kear's options on the field.

At one stage last month, Batley were without seven first-team players, with James Brown, Danny Cowling, Brad Day, Sam Scott, Chris Ulugia, Alex Rowe and Patch Walker all suffering various knocks, leaving the squad stripped to its bare bones.

It forced Kear to sign a couple of loan players, but the rhythm of the Bulldogs momentum had understandably been disrupted, echoed by a four-match losing sequence, against Oldham, London Broncos, Swinton and Leigh.

It did include, a 28-10 success over Featherstone in the Cup, though, but First Utility Super League side Catalan Dragons comprehensively halted that challenge in Round Six.

During that losing league run, coach Kear was left to rue what he called "problems with how the side started halves", and while those back-to-back victories over Halifax and Workington have put them back on track, that was still evident last week as Workington scored first in both periods.

With the injury crisis now starting to ease slightly, the Bulldogs will be hoping to reverse the scoreline from 12 months ago in Blackpool – when Dewsbury departed the North West with two points in the bag – and maintain their ambitions of reaching July's Qualifiers.



DMR

DEWSBURY RAMS

- 1 JOSH GUZDEK
- 2 DALE MORTON
- 3 KARL PRYCE
- 4 SHANE GRADY
- 5 DALTON GRANT
- 6 PAUL SYKES
- 7 BEN REYNOLDS
- 8 MATT GROAT
- 9 TOM HEMINGWAY
- 10 RYAN HEPWORTH
- 11 ROB SPICER
- 12 SCOTT HALE
- 13 AARON BROWN
- 14 LUKE ADAMSON
- 15 JASON CROOKES
- 16 TOBY ADAMSON
- 17 DOM SPEAKMAN
- 18 TONY TONKS
- 19 NATHAN CONROY
- 20 JAMES DELANEY
- 21 SAM BATES
- 22 ANDY KAIN
- 23 JAMES GLOVER
- 24 JACK TEANBY
- 25 JOEL FARRELL
- 26 BRAD DELANEY
- 27 JASON MURANKA
- 28 ZACH JOHNSON
- 29 WILL FORSYTH
- 30 SAM DUNN
- 31 RYAN WRIGHT
- 32 KYLE TROUT
- 33 PAUL JACKSON



BATLEY BULLDOGS

- 2 WAYNE REITTIE
- 3 CHRIS ULUGIA
- 4 SHAUN SQUIRES
- 5 SHAUN AINSCOUGH
- 6 CAIN SOUTHERNWOOD
- 7 DOMINIC BRAMBANI
- 8 KEEGAN HIRST
- 9 LUKE BLAKE
- 10 ALEX ROWE
- 11 BRAD DAY
- 11 CALLUM CASEY
- 12 SAM SCOTT
- 13 PAT WALKER
- 14 JAMES DAVEY
- 15 ADAM GLEDHILL
- 16 SEAN HESKETH
- 17 JOE CHANDLER
- 18 TOM LILLYCROP
- 19 ALEX BRETHERTON
- 20 ALASTAIR LEAK
- 20 DAVE PETERSEN
- 21 RYAN BOYLE
- 21 JAMES BROWN
- 22 DAVID SCOTT
- 23 DANNY COWLING
- 24 GREG MINIKIN
- 24 JAMES HARRISON
- 25 ZACK MCCOMB
- 31 ALEX BROWN





Kingstone Press Championship new boys Oldham look like they are finally getting used to life in this division after a difficult start, and there is no doubt that they have caused one of the biggest upsets in recent Rugby League history already this term.

Back in Round Five of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup, last season's League 1 champions were drawn away at the 2015 runners-up, Hull Kingstone Rovers. Given a minimal chance of victory in the build-up, the Roughyeds led the First Utility Super League side 24-6 courtesy of a stunning first half, before holding firm to see out a famous 36-22 win.

But it had been far from plain sailing up until that now-famous day in April.

Handed a rude awakening at the start of the season – beaten 22-0 at home to London Broncos before a 48-18 mauling by Leigh – Oldham eased that pain slightly with a clinical 38-16 victory over Dewsbury at Bower Fold.

The recovery was short-lived, however.

What followed was a run of four straight losses, the last of which came against this weekend's opponents and fellow newcomers, Swinton. The 28-18 defeat on Easter Monday led coach Scott Naylor to call the game the "biggest disappointment" in his three-and-a-half years at the club, and triggered what was described as a "lengthy" talk in training.

It certainly worked. A defeat at Whitehaven at the end of April could understandably be attributed to fatigue from that Hull KR success, but wrapped around those results were three straight home wins, against Batley, Sheffield and Featherstone.

Those six points ensured they had reason to be positive heading into May, but the Roughyeds arrive in Blackpool this weekend in tenth place following back-to-back losses.

One of those was a 54-16 drubbing by Championship table-toppers Leigh, the other a narrow 12-6 reverse at Halifax, having been 10-0 down after 40 minutes.

A return of 211 points represents the joint-lowest in the division this season alongside Whitehaven, but the Roughyeds do have a game in hand, and remain just two points adrift of a Shield play-off position.

On the contrary, with the best defensive record in the bottom half, they know they have the ability to keep it tight against Swinton, and leapfrog their opponents at Summer Bash.

OLDHAM

SWINTON LIONS

Like their opponents in Blackpool, this is Swinton's first appearance at Summer Bash, following promotion alongside Oldham last season.

The Lions finished third in Kingstone Press League 1 in 2015, and later confirmed their place in the Championship after a dramatic 29-28 play-off final win over Keighley.

But after the highs of that day in October and the anticipation surrounding the winter months, their campaign began with a run of seven losses, including some hefty defeats – 38-18 at Broncos, 48-16 against Bradford and 48-26 versus Sheffield.

Combined with the opening-day reverse at home to Dewsbury, plus defeats by Whitehaven, Featherstone and Leigh, the campaign was well into its second month by the time John Duffy's side registered two points.

They had also been dumped out of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup during that run – beaten 32-28 in a tense game against the Eagles.

Their first victory in the Championship didn't arrive until Easter Monday but, in a way, it was worth waiting for.

In front of over 800 spectators at Heywood Road, the Lions raced into a 24-0 lead against Oldham, going on to seal a 28-18 victory thanks to tries from Rhodri Lloyd, Chris Atkin, Corbyn Kilday and two from Connor Dwyer.

The conviction had clearly returned to Duffy's charges, who showed resolve to produce four further wins, by a combined margin of just 21 points.

Three of those five successes were by just one score, 26-22 against Workington, 38-35 at Halifax and 32-26 versus Whitehaven.

That confidence-boosting run has since been extinguished by a couple of resounding defeats, a 48-6 scoreline against Leigh last weekend arriving seven days after a 54-8 loss at Bradford.

Add those scores to the poor run at the start of the year, and it's hardly surprising that the Lions have conceded a league-high 477 points.

But there's plenty of reason for optimism. They already boast one victory over Oldham this season, and currently sit in ninth place, with only points' difference denying them a place in the Kingstone Press Championship Shield play-offs as it stands.

They can also call on Bloomfield Road experience, after contesting last year's iPro Sport Cup Final against North Wales Crusaders. The Lions might not have come out on top that day, but they have every reason to believe they can send their support home happy at their second appearance at Summer Bash.



OLDHAM

- 1 RICHARD LEPORI
- 2 ADAM CLAY
- 3 JON FORD
- 4 JACK HOLMES
- 5 JAMEL CHISHOLM
- 6 LEWIS PALFREY
- 7 STEVEN ROPER
- 8 PHIL JOY
- 9 SAM GEE
- 10 JACK SPENCER
- 11 JOSH CROWLEY
- 12 DANNY LANGTREE
- 12 GARY MIDDLEHURST
- 13 LIAM THOMPSON
- 15 GARETH OWEN
- 16 JOE BURKE
- 16 CRAIG BRISCOE
- 18 TOM SPENCER
- 19 ADAM FILES
- 20 DANNY GRIMSHAW
- 21 KENNY HUGHES
- 24 WILL HOPE
- 25 JAKE BIBBY
- 25 TOM ASHTON
- 25 TYLER DICKINSON
- 26 MICHAEL WARD
- 26 LIAM JOHNSON

SWINTON

- 1 CHRIS ATKIN
- 2 SHAUN ROBINSON
- 3 STUART LITTLER
- 4 MACAULEY HALLETT
- 5 GREG SCOTT
- 6 BEN WHITE
- 7 MATTY BEHARRELL
- 8 MIKE MORRISON
- 9 ANTHONY NICHOLSON
- 10 JORDAN HAND
- 11 CONNOR DWYER
- 12 ANDREW THORNLEY
- 13 ROB LEVER
- 14 KIERAN HYDE
- 15 CORBYN KILDAY
- 16 BEN AUSTIN
- 17 STEPHEN NASH
- 18 AARON LLOYD
- 19 JOSH BARLOW
- 20 MIKE BUTT
- 21 MATT BRADLEY
- 22 HARRY AARONSON
- 23 SAM PEET
- 23 CARL FORSTER
- 24 RHODRI LLOYD
- 24 GREG WILDE
- 24 ANDY BRACEK
- 25 SAM BAGGLEY
- 26 VILA HALAFIHI
- 28 ZACH JOHNSON



HALIFAX

- 1 BEN JOHNSTON
- 2 WILL SHARP
- 3 STEVEN TYRER
- 4 BEN HEATON
- 5 JAMES SALTONSTALL
- 6 SCOTT MURRELL
- 7 GARETH MOORE
- 8 MITCH CAHALANE
- 9 BEN KAYE
- 10 LUKE AMBLER
- 11 DANE MANNING
- 12 SIMON GRIX
- 13 JACOB FAIRBANK
- 14 ADAM TANGATA
- 15 RYAN MANEELY
- 16 RICHARD MOORE
- 17 GAVIN BENNION
- 18 MILES GREENWOOD
- 19 TOMMY SAXTON
- 20 SAM SMEATON
- 21 ADAM ROBINSON
- 22 CONNOR ROBINSON
- 22 MATT SARSFIELD
- 23 GARETH POTTS
- 25 JAKE ECCLESTON
- 26 ED BARBER
- 27 ROSS DIVORTY
- 28 JOE MARTIN
- 29 CHESTER BUTLER
- 30 BRANDON MOORE
- 31 ELLIOT MORRIS
- 32 JORDAN ANDRADE



FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

- 1 DANNY CRAVEN
- 2 KYRAN JOHNSON
- 3 MICHAEL CHANNING
- 4 MISI TAULAPAPA
- 5 SCOTT TURNER
- 6 KYLE BRIGGS
- 7 ANTHONY THACKERAY
- 8 DARRELL GRIFFIN
- 9 MATTHEW WILDIE
- 10 ANDY BOSTOCK
- 11 STEVE SNITCH
- 12 JOHN DAVIES
- 13 TIM SPEARS
- 14 WILL MILNER
- 15 IAN HARDMAN
- 16 COLTON ROCHE
- 17 JACK ORMONDROYD
- 18 JAMIE CORDING
- 19 SAM DAY
- 20 LUKE COOPER
- 21 BRADLEY KNOWLES-TAGG
- 22 JACK COVENTRY
- 24 JORDAN BALDWINSON
- 28 JORDAN ABDUL
- 29 JAMIE FOSTER





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KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

POS		PLD	W	L	D	PF	PA	DIFF	PTS
1	LEIGH CENTURIONS	14	12	1	1	541	274	267	25
2	LONDON BRONCOS	14	11	3	0	401	241	160	22
3	BRADFORD BULLS	13	8	3	2	437	260	177	18
4	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	14	9	5	0	363	218	145	18
5	BATLEY BULLDOGS	14	8	5	1	346	314	32	17
6	HALIFAX RLFC	14	8	6	0	328	283	45	16
7	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	14	5	9	0	374	383	-9	10
8	DEWSBURY RAMS	14	5	9	0	316	379	-63	10
9	SWINTON LIONS	14	5	9	0	288	477	-189	10
10	OLDHAM RLFC	13	4	9	0	211	327	-116	8
11	WHITEHAVEN RLFC	14	4	10	0	211	450	-239	8
12	WORKINGTON TOWN	14	2	12	0	253	463	-210	4

*CORRECT PRIOR TO SUMMER BASH FIXTURES

THE STORY SO FAR

The stats from an enthralling Kingstone Press Championship season ahead of its biggest weekend

PLAYERS

16

MOST TRIES
ROB WORRINCY
SHEFFIELD EAGLES

141

MOST POINTS
MARTIN RIDYARD
LEIGH CENTURIONS

2

MOST DROP-GOALS
JARROD SAMMUT
WORKINGTON TOWN

4

MOST YELLOW CARDS
GARETH HOCK
LEIGH CENTURIONS

CLUBS

94

MOST TRIES
LEIGH CENTURIONS

39

BEST AVERAGE POINTS PER GAME
LEIGH CENTURIONS

12

MOST YELLOW CARDS
LEIGH CENTURIONS

477

MOST POINTS CONCEDED
SWINTON LIONS

3

BRADFORD BULLS HAVE SCORED
IN EXCESS OF 50 POINTS ON
THREE OCCASIONS THIS SEASON

7

BEST HOME RECORD
LONDON BRONCOS
PLAYED 7, WON 7

11

LEIGH CENTURIONS ARE ON AN 11-
GAME CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING
STREAK COMING INTO SUMMER BASH

8

BEST AWAY RECORD
LEIGH CENTURIONS
PLAYED 8, WON 6

1

LONDON BRONCOS WOULD BE
TOP OF THE KINGSTONE PRESS
CHAMPIONSHIP IF ONLY SECOND-
HALVES COUNTED THIS SEASON

0

BEST DISCIPLINE
OLDHAM AND
WHITEHAVEN
NO YELLOW OR RED CARDS

Twelve teams, one Super League



Castleford Tigers



Catalans Dragons



Huddersfield Giants



Hull FC



Hull Kingston Rovers



Leeds Rhinos



Salford Red Devils



St Helens



Wakefield Wildcats



Warrington Wolves



Widnes Vikings



Wigan Warriors

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RUGBY LEAGUE CARES DANNY JONES



Danny Jones was a Keighley Cougars and Wales international half-back who collapsed and died from an undiagnosed heart condition while playing against London Skolars in May 2015. He left behind a wife and five-month old twins.

His wife Lizzie Jones is spearheading a campaign to raise funds for equipment that could prove the difference between life and death at Rugby League clubs across the UK.

Lizzie, who reduced a Wembley crowd to tears and moved millions of TV viewers with an emotional performance at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award, has launched the Danny Jones Defibrillator Fund named in honour of her late husband. Its aim is to provide defibrillators in every Rugby League club in the UK.

Defibrillators cost around £1,000 each and provide potentially life-saving treatment to anyone suffering a cardiac arrest.

This fund aims to give community clubs grants towards the purchase of a defibrillator.

The campaign has set a fund-raising target of £50,000.

To make a donation please text DJDF86 to 70070 to give £5 today or visit www.justgiving.com/danny-jones-defibrillator-fund

The fund is administered jointly by the RFL Benevolent Fund in partnership with Rugby League Cares, and supported by the WellMed Group.

Lizzie Jones said: "£1,000 doesn't seem like a lot of money but as anyone

"Lizzie, who reduced a Wembley crowd to tears and moved millions of TV viewers with an emotional performance at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award, has launched the Danny Jones Defibrillator Fund named in honour of her late husband."

who's been involved with grassroots sport will know, every penny matters and I am proud to be associated with another project which means Danny's death will not have been in vain."

For further details or to apply, please email: info@rlcares.org.uk

A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

GARETH WALKER, RUGBY LEAGUE CORRESPONDENT FOR THE DAILY MIRROR, LOOKS BACK ON THE KEY MOMENTS FROM LAST YEAR'S SUMMER BASH



North Wales Crusaders

NORTH WALES CRUSADERS 14-8 SWINTON LIONS IPRO SPORT CUP FINAL

Jamie Dallimore's 65th-minute try saw North Wales Crusaders lift the inaugural iPro Sport Cup in the first game at last year's Summer Bash.

There had been little to separate the two well-matched teams until then, with Shaun Robinson's opening try being cancelled out by Scott Turner's response.

The sides were level going into the final quarter when man of the match Dallimore stepped forward.

The half-back twisted and turned to ground the ball out wide, with Tommy Johnson's touchline conversion adding the cherry to the Crusaders' cake.



Workington players celebrate Jack Murphy's try

WHITEHAVEN 20-26 WORKINGTON TOWN

Workington Town looked dead and buried when they trailed local rivals Whitehaven 18-0 at last year's inaugural Summer Bash.

But two tries by Australian back rower Jarrad Stack dragged Town back into the contest, and the sides were level at 20-20 when Carl Forber booted a penalty.

It was then that the decisive moment of the match played out.

After moving upfield with a penalty, Phil Veivers's side moved the ball right, when Kurt Horton found full-back Jack Murphy and he sliced through in front of the jubilant Town contingent at Bloomfield Road.

LONDON BRONCOS 46-6 SHEFFIELD EAGLES

In terms of the biggest shock at last year's event, there was no competition – London Broncos' demolition of eventual top-four finishers Sheffield won hands down.

With former Eagle Andrew Henderson guiding his side in a player-coach role from hooker, the Broncos pulled their opponents apart with a clinical display of attacking rugby.

The star of the show was undoubtedly Oscar Thomas, who finished with a hat-trick to his name.

The crowning moment came as he raced over for his third try on the hour mark, providing the Broncos with a home-grown star to headline their superb display.



Wes Naiqama



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**BRADFORD BULLS
18-4 HALIFAX**

The two Yorkshire rivals played out a terrific contest that remained scoreless for the opening 35 minutes.

Bradford looked to have then taken a grip on proceedings when Ryan Shaw and Adrian Purtell scored before the break to give them a 12-0 interval lead.

But Ben Heaton's try got Fax back in it, before the Bulls won it with a well-worked try.

Purtell was the scorer again, finishing off some delightful handling involving Lee Gaskell, Jay Pitts and Paul Clough to seal a crucial win for the Bulls.



Adrian Purtell

**BATLEY BULLDOGS 12-
19 DEWSBURY RAMS**

The Heavy Woollen rivals were locked together at 12-12 after a fascinating derby on the second day of last year's Summer Bash.

Tries from Rams' Scott Hale and Aaron Brown, both converted by Brett Seymour, were countered by touchdowns from Brad Day and Alex Brown and two goals to Scott Leatherbarrow.

The defining moment was a stroke of luck.

Seymour hit the post with a penalty, but Dewsbury managed to retain possession and seconds later Dalton Grant touched down. A late Anthony Thackeray drop goal sealed matters.



Matty Wildie

SUMMER BASH 2015

THE FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE INAUGURAL SUMMER BASH IN BLACKPOOL LAST SEASON

SUMMER BASH TABLE

BASED ON LAST YEAR'S KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AT BLOOMFIELD ROAD

POS		PLD	W	D	L	F	A	DIFF	PTS
1	LONDON BRONCOS	1	1	0	0	46	6	40	2
2	LEIGH CENTURIONS	1	1	0	0	31	12	19	2
3	BRADFORD BULLS	1	1	0	0	18	4	14	2
4	HUNSLET HAWKS	1	1	0	0	25	12	13	2
5	DEWSBURY RAMS	1	1	0	0	19	12	7	2
6	WORKINGTON TOWN	1	1	0	0	26	20	6	2
7	WHITEHAVEN	1	0	0	1	20	26	-6	0
8	BATLEY BULLDOGS	1	0	0	1	12	19	-7	0
9	DONCASTER	1	0	0	1	12	25	-13	0
10	HALIFAX	1	0	0	1	4	18	-14	0
11	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	1	0	0	1	12	31	-19	0
12	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	1	0	0	1	6	46	-40	0

15,671

LAST SEASON'S SUMMER BASH WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

8,650

HIGHEST DAILY SUMMER BASH ATTENDANCE (SATURDAY, 2015)

251

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF POINTS SCORED AT SUMMER BASH 2015 (INCLUDING THE IPRO SPORT CUP FINAL)

40

BIGGEST WINNING MARGIN AT SUMMER BASH LONDON BRONCOS 46-6 SHEFFIELD EAGLES

3

MOST TRIES SCORED AT SUMMER BASH OSCAR THOMAS (LONDON BRONCOS, NOW BRADFORD BULLS) AND GREGG McNALLY (LEIGH CENTURIONS)

560

KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP AND LEAGUE 1 FANS CAN ENJOY UP 560 MINUTES OF RUGBY LEAGUE THIS WEEKEND, A TOTAL OF SEVEN GAMES

SUMMER BASH HERE TO STAY

**JON DUTTON, DIRECTOR OF
PROJECTS AND PLANNING
AT THE RUGBY FOOTBALL
LEAGUE, DISCUSSES ALL
THINGS SUMMER BASH AFTER
A HIGHLY-SUCCESSFUL MAIDEN
EVENT IN 2015**





“WE HAD GOOD CROWDS, WHO REALLY BOUGHT INTO THE FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE AND THE ACTION ON THE PITCH WAS COMPELLING.”

When did the idea of Summer Bash first hatch?

The idea is a very similar to the concept of Magic Weekend. It was always an aspiration of the RFL's for the Kingstone Press Championship clubs to have their own celebration.

When we started planning the new season structure and the new television rights agreement with Sky in 2014, it was the perfect opportunity to implement a Magic Weekend-style event for the Championship, with the name of Summer Bash.

It had been discussed for many years, but in terms of planning, 2014 is when it began gathering momentum.

What was the initial reaction from fans and clubs to the idea?

The reaction was always very positive. Finding the right time in the year to stage it was key, and I think the Bank Holiday weekend in May works extremely well.

Selecting the right venue with a suitable capacity was the other challenge. It needed to be accessible above anything else, and to be able to sell Championship Rugby League positively. Blackpool did that last year, and I'm sure it will again this time. Afterwards, we'll have a review and see where we go from here.

Why did Blackpool get chosen as the venue?

Blackpool is synonymous with festivals and fun, and that's the kind of atmosphere we wanted to create around the event.

It was also important that we embedded the iPro Sport Cup final, to ensure that it was a celebration of both the Kingstone Press Championship and League 1.

Was Blackpool the only location considered for the event?

No, we worked with the clubs and presented a few options, gathering their input along the way. We secured a one-year deal to play in Blackpool, and people were really happy with the timing and the venue, so that's why we decided to come back.

There are other options for the future and, like Magic Weekend, we want to make it an event that goes on the road. The more it is consolidated on the Rugby League calendar, the more it will grow in value, which could lead it to other locations.

How successful do you feel Summer Bash was in its maiden year?

It was a really successful inaugural event. We had a target of attracting 15,000 spectators to the event, and we hit that figure.

The television viewing figures were also extremely strong. The Leigh

Centurions versus Featherstone Rovers clash was particularly popular, and a real highlight of the weekend.

We had good crowds, who really bought into the festival atmosphere and the action on the pitch was compelling.

Having North Wales Crusaders kick-off the weekend with an iPro Sport Cup win set the tone for a great few days. We're hoping it's even better this year.

How important was it to get ticket pricing right for the event?

As ever, we strive to make our events affordable and accessible for supporters, with plenty of opportunity to bring along family. Being able to provide great value in our weekend pass was crucial, and it allows people to come and watch seven great games.

This year, fans are getting even more for their money, aren't they?

Our marketing team have worked hard to allow the fans several benefits around Blackpool with their tickets. Fans attending will be able to use their Summer Bash ticket as a pass for special offers at places like Walkabout and the Adrenaline Zone on the South Pier.

The town has a variety of things for people to do, and we've been able to articulate that well this year and make sure people can enjoy their time away from the games.

How does the fixture schedule alter from last year?

We've had a slight change this year. Bradford and Leigh will close out Saturday, with Halifax and Featherstone rounding off the Sunday action. We've got a great derby in Workington versus Whitehaven, too. It's something the fans will look forward to seeing.

Sky Sports will be screening all six Championship games live again, which can only be good for the event?

It was really important to have a whole weekend of Kingstone Press Championship fixtures live on Sky Sports. The viewing figures were great in 2015, especially considering that Summer Bash takes place at a very busy time in the sporting calendar. Sky Sports delivered some great coverage last year.

Finally, what does the future hold for Summer Bash?

Summer Bash is here to stay as a concept. We'll conduct a review afterwards to see what more we can do with it. The stakeholders will all have their input, and a decision will be made on next year in due course.

We surveyed the fans, the club chief executives and owners, and they were all very positive last time around. As with every event, though, there's room for improvement and further growth to come yet.



#SUMMERBASH

THE RUGBY LEAGUE FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT RETURNS TO ENGLISH SHORES THIS AUTUMN

At the conclusion of the club season this October, the Rugby League Four Nations will return to England for the first time since 2011. The hosts welcome fellow tournament mainstays New Zealand and Australia to a number of venues across the country, while Scotland become the latest outfit to make their debut in the world's second-biggest global competition.

NEW ERA FOR ENGLAND

England will enter the tournament under a new regime this year, as head coach Wayne Bennett embarks on his first venture with the national side.

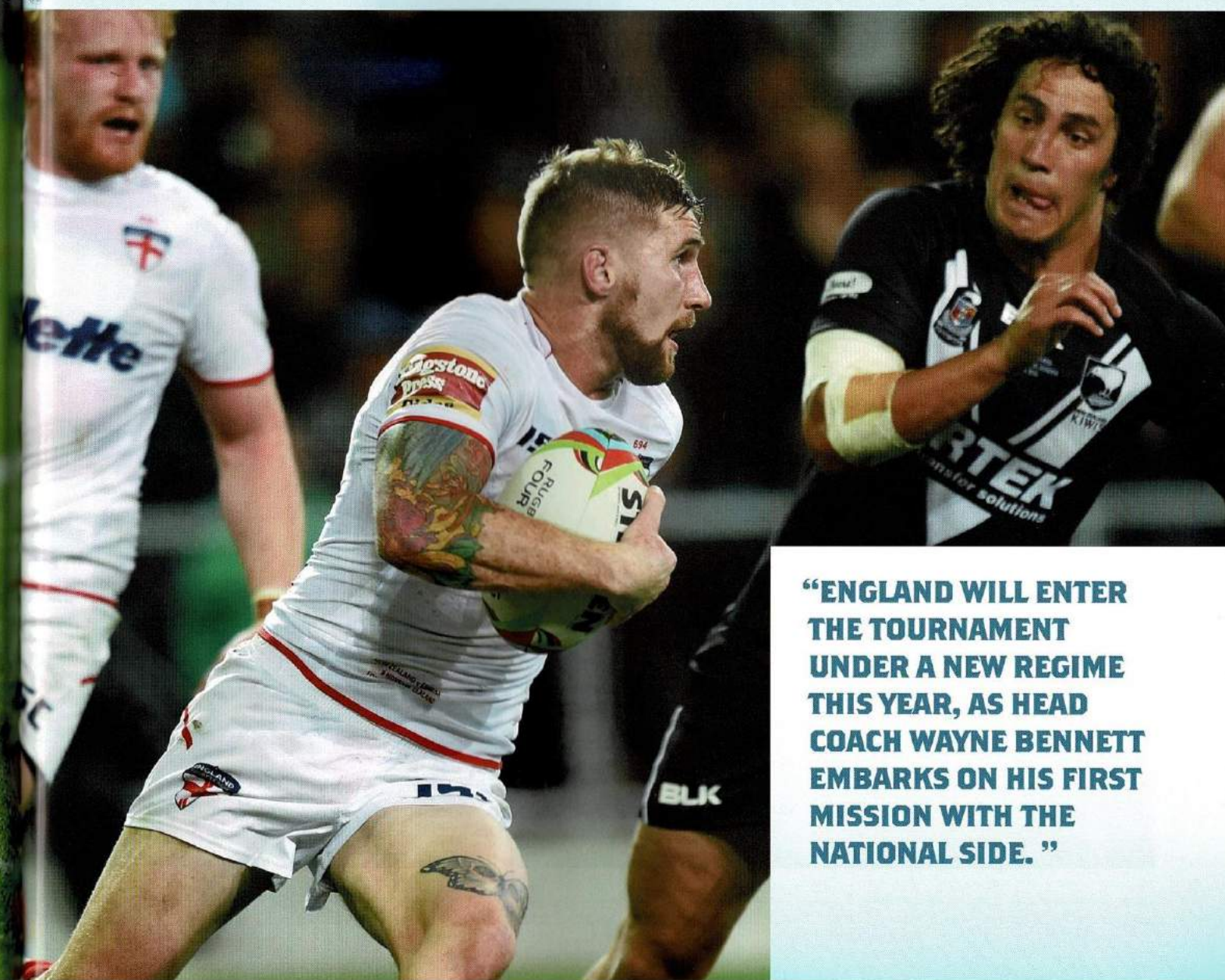
The 66-year-old, who alongside his seven NRL Grand Final wins has taken charge of his native Australia across two separate spells, brings with him a reputation as one of the most successful coaches the sport has ever seen, and is an appointment that will no doubt get the pulse of all England fans racing.

"I'm excited to begin work with this England team," he said as tournament details were confirmed in April.

"The venues selected for our games in the Four Nations tournament are world class and I hope that the English fans will be out in force to support us and that we can do them proud on the field."

Bennett's first task will be to try and negotiate a maiden Four Nations triumph. The men in white have come close to success several times since the competition reformed in 2009 – making the final on that occasion and in 2011 – but fell to defeat at the hands of Australia on both occasions.

New Zealand present their first challenge in late October, before they face Scotland in Coventry and Australia in London one week before the final.



2016 RUGBY LEAGUE FOUR NATIONS

"ENGLAND WILL ENTER THE TOURNAMENT UNDER A NEW REGIME THIS YEAR, AS HEAD COACH WAYNE BENNETT EMBARKS ON HIS FIRST MISSION WITH THE NATIONAL SIDE."

NZ KIWIS RETURN FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL SERIES DEFEAT

New Zealand are back in the northern hemisphere for the first time since last year's international series loss to England. They will be in search of revenge and will also be defending their Four Nations title.

Stephen Kearney's players beat England in the first-ever game of Rugby League at the Olympic Stadium last November, but that victory was sandwiched between two defeats in Hull and Wigan, as Sean O'Loughlin captained the hosts to a long overdue series win.

The Kiwis do, though, remain top of the international Rugby League rankings – a position they'll look to maintain when they pay another visit in five months' time.



AUSTRALIA BID TO RECLAIM TITLE

Like England, the Kangaroos have had a shake up of their own for 2016, appointing head coach Mal Meninga to succeed the outgoing Tim Sheens.

The 55-year-old joins after 10 seasons with the Queensland Maroons, where he led them to a remarkable nine State of Origin victories over New South Wales.

His tenure began in style three weeks ago when Australia took on New Zealand for the right to lift the Bill Kelly Memorial Trophy, with Meninga's side inflicting a 16-0 defeat on their rivals.

They haven't claimed the Four Nations title since beating England 30-8 in the final at Elland Road in 2011, and will be hungry to add a third success alongside their status as world champions.

2016 FOUR NATIONS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 28
AUSTRALIA V SCOTLAND
KC LIGHTSTREAM STADIUM,
HULL
8.00PM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29
ENGLAND V NEW ZEALAND
JOHN SMITH'S STADIUM,
HUDDERSFIELD
2.30PM

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5
ENGLAND V SCOTLAND
RICOH ARENA,
COVENTRY
5.30PM

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5
NEW ZEALAND V AUSTRALIA
RICOH ARENA,
COVENTRY
8.00PM

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11
NEW ZEALAND V SCOTLAND
THE ZEBRA CLAIMS STADIUM,
WORKINGTON
8.00PM

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13
ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA
THE STADIUM,
QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK,
LONDON
3.30PM

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20
FOUR NATIONS FINAL
ANFIELD,
LIVERPOOL
2.30PM

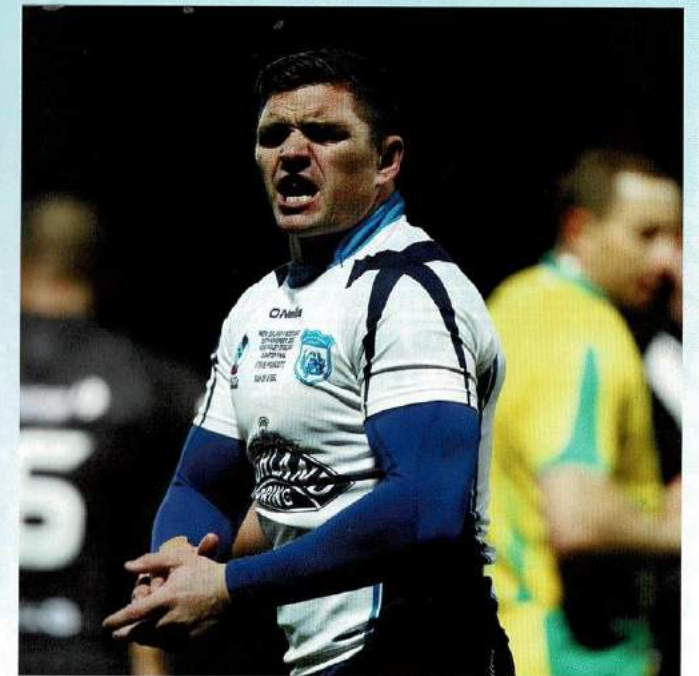
SCOTLAND SET FOR DEBUT APPEARANCE

Joining the party for the first time in their history are Scotland, who qualified for the Four Nations courtesy of their European Championship success in 2014, where wins over Wales and Ireland guaranteed their place.

Steve McCormack's side, who reached the quarter-finals of the Rugby League World Cup back in 2013, haven't tasted victory since booking their spot, but will be able to test themselves against the best the world has to offer come the autumn.

The Bravehearts have never faced Australia at full international level, but will have the honour of kicking off the tournament against them in Hull on Friday, October 28.

Scotland have also met New Zealand just the once in their 22-year history – in the aforementioned World Cup quarter-final – and will go head-to-head with more new opposition in the form of England, as a famous rivalry is launched in the sport of Rugby League.



ANFIELD TO HOST FOUR NATIONS FINAL

Venues and dates for the tournament were confirmed last month, with the news that Liverpool's Anfield stadium will host the Four Nations final grabbing the majority of the headlines.

There are also games being staged at regular international grounds, the KC Lightstream Stadium in Hull, John Smith's Stadium in Huddersfield and Workington's Zebra Claims Stadium.

England will once again play at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, for their match against Australia while, a week earlier, all four countries will clash in a double-header at Coventry's Ricoh Arena on Bonfire Night, for Rugby League's maiden showing at the stadium.

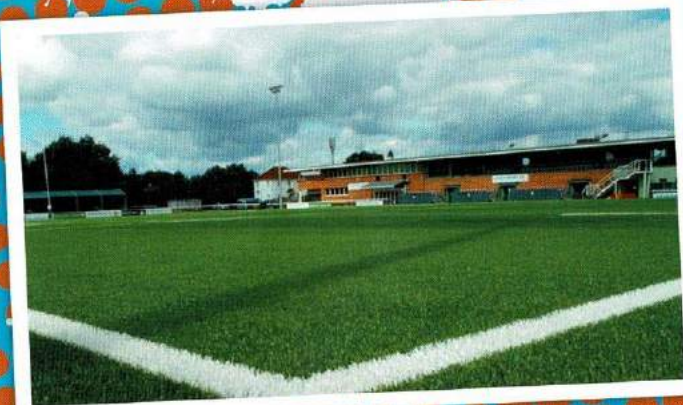
Anfield will then host the showpiece in what is sure to be a thrilling finale, and the first Rugby League contest at the iconic Merseyside venue for almost 20 years.

TICKETS

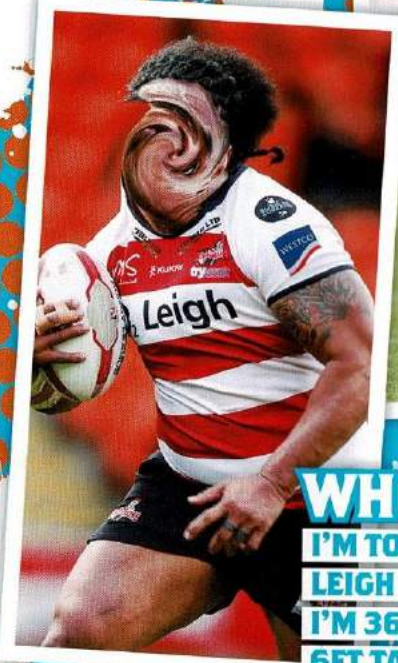
MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF TICKETS FOR THE FOUR NATIONS ARE PRICED AT £25 OR LESS.
TO PURCHASE, GO TO RUGBY-LEAGUE.COM/TICKETS/ OR CALL THE RUGBY LEAGUE TICKET HOTLINE ON 0844 856 1113.

JUNIOR SUPPORTERS FUN+GAMES

SPOT THE BALL?
CAN YOU GUESS WHICH IS THE CORRECT BALL IN THE PICTURE BELOW?



GUESS THE GROUND
CAN YOU GUESS THE NAME OF THE GROUND PICTURED ABOVE AND WHICH TEAM CURRENTLY PLAY THERE?



WHO AM I?
I'M TONGAN, I PLAY FOR LEIGH CENTURIONS, I'M 36-YEARS-OLD AND 6FT TALL, WHO AM I?

ALL MIXED UP?
CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS AND WORK OUT WHICH THREE TEAMS ARE NAMED BELOW?

**ALL FOB BRR DUDS
TONSIL IN SNOW
BASE DRUMS WRY**

NUMBERS GAME?

1. HOW MANY TIMES HAS THE SUMMER BASH BEEN HELD?
2. WHAT WAS THE ATTENDANCE FOR LAST YEAR'S SUMMER BASH WEEKEND?
3. HOW MANY TEAMS TAKE PART IN THE WEEKEND?
4. HOW MANY VENUES HAVE HOSTED THE MAGIC WEEKEND?
6. HOW MANY PLAYERS MAKE UP THE TEAMS ON THE FIELD?

M E T L D S S J S T P K B O S
S P A N E R G G W O M C L Z H
W D U G E I O R W W U D Z F E
I F E V L D G F Z N H N E X F
N K O W L E W H D A W A G R F
T R M L S Z S G M A T W R N I
O J U F P B W Z G H R B V E E
N B U L L S U K E K W B Y V L
L O N D O N B R O N C O S A D
I M S I Q J S W Y Z T F Y H B
O A T V M T Q S B R P U R E A
N U R C O H A L I F A X L T T
S C E N T U R I O N S M V I L
S D E Y H G U O R Z F G S H E
I V N O T G N I K R O W W Y

WORDSEARCH

CAN YOU FIND ALL OF THESE WORDS IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW? SHEFFIELD EAGLES, LONDON BRONCOS, WORKINGTON TOWN, WHITEHAVEN, BRADFORD BULLS, LEIGH CENTURIONS, DEWSBURY RAMS, BATLEY BULLDOGS, OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS, SWINTON LIONS, HALIFAX, FEATHERSTONE ROVERS



Answers: Guess the Ground: Featherstone Rovers. Who Am I: Fuluji Moinoi. Spot the Ball: B. Numbers Game: 1 - 2, 2 - 15,671, 3 - 12, 4 - 1, 5 - 26.