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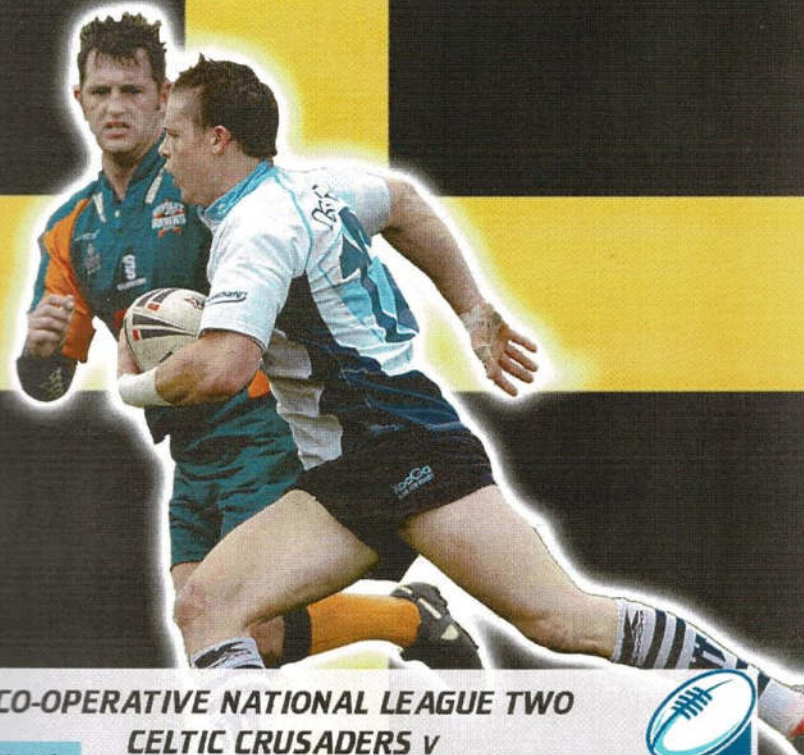
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CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO

**CELTIC CRUSADERS V
OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS**

FRIDAY 4TH MAY 2007 - KICK-OFF 7.30PM

KILSBY & WILLIAMS



**Celebrating 100
years of Rugby
League in Wales**

COLLEGE FIELD, Merthyr.
OLDHAM
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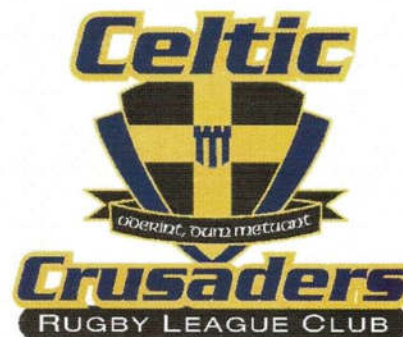
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Email: press@crusadersrfl.com

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Fitness & Conditioning Coach: Thibault Giroud
Assistant Coach: Kevin Ellis
Physiotherapist: Ben Searle
Club Doctor: Dr. Richard Johnson
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Designer: Ian Golden
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Supporters Club Chairman: Andy Burns
Junior Cru: Louise Burns
Club Photographer: Ian Lovell
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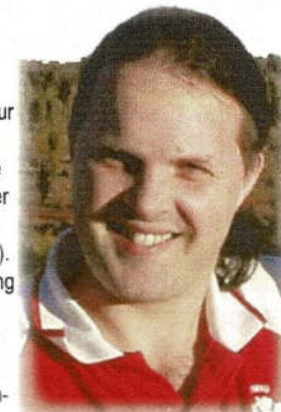
The fact that today's game is actually taking place means that there is a lot to be proud of in Welsh Rugby League.

100 years ago, Oldham were the first ever visitors to Wales to play this new type of rugby. Facing Merthyr Tydfil on September 7th 1907, they won 25-6. This new club in the valleys lasted just a handful of years and the sport could have died in Wales then. But after 100 years of adversity and prejudice from many, I am proud to say that we are still alive and kicking today and in one of the best states of health we've ever been in.

Rugby league is now being played at every level in Wales. We are approaching 100 schools sides, we have eight Co-operative Conference clubs while internationally, we have sides from under 15 level right up to the full international side that are aiming for World Cup 2008 qualification.

Plus of course, we have this club - Celtic Crusaders. I've been a fan of rugby league since Jonathan Davies led Widnes to victory in the 1989 World Club Challenge against Canberra and now the great former dual-code international is President of the club. He is just part of the success story that is Celtic Crusaders - one that I'm certain will grow as we strive for a Super League place in 2009.

It is sheer coincidence that Oldham were chosen to be our visitors today (or perhaps the fixture computer has a soft spot for centenarians). They'll be aiming to replicate the result from 100 years ago so it should be a fantastic contest. Enjoy!



Ian Golden, Programme Editor

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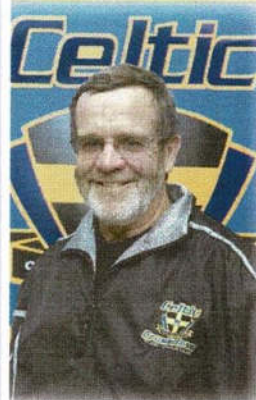
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From the Office



John Dixon
Head Coach

Welcome to the Brewery Field for what is a special night for us as a club and for what is the start of what is huge weekend for the sport of Rugby League in Wales.

Tonight it is us versus the Oldham Roughyeds here in South Wales in what promises to be a quality game from the Co-operative National League 2, broadcast throughout the whole of the UK on Sky

Sports. Then on Saturday and Sunday, the very best of Super League with all the clubs matched in critical fixtures at the Millennium Stadium. Again broadcast nationally and emanating from Wales. For a club and for a sport working hard and currently making a positive imprint throughout our service area, this weekend is a massive boost for us and a massive boost for Rugby League.

Welcome to Oldham, Steve Deakin, his players, support staff and supporters. Oldham is one of the famous club names in Rugby League and it is most appropriate to have a club with such a rich history visiting us. Our own form has been strong leading into this fixture and the same can be said for Oldham. On that basis tonight's game should be a good one.

Warm welcomes to our sponsors and regular supporters. Special welcome from the players and from me as coach to anybody new to the ground for tonight's game and in particular welcome to the girls and boys making up the school choirs. As a team we hope our display will be as good as yours. Quality contests generate excitement and crowd noise. I believe all the ingredients are here and this will be a special night for the Crusaders.

Tonight will be our first ever live televised match. Since Sky Sports decided to screen National League fixtures, I haven't missed a game. The coverage is exceptional and full credit to Bill Arthur and his team.

A highlight of tonight's entertainment will be the mass school choir in the Horizon Windows Family Stand. This will be the coming together of 15 primary schools to sing the Welsh National Anthem. In total there are over 600 children here tonight who will be signing - this is further proof of the community development that we have been doing over the last two years. A winning team, cheerleaders and a mass choir all lends itself to a great night's entertainment.

A big thank you to tonight's match sponsors Kilsby and Williams accountants and our ball sponsor AST Print Group. Your support is really appreciated.

Finally a warm welcome to the directors, players and supporters from Oldham and to members of the RFL who are our guests tonight. To all of our fans, we look forward to welcoming you back here in just over four weeks time for our next home game which is against Featherstone Rovers on Saturday 2nd June.

But before that, we have three away matches. Next week we travel to York City Knights who, like Oldham, were relegated last year. We then travel to Workington which will be another tough game, before taking on Martin Hall's Halifax in the Northern Rail Cup. Please go to the Supporters Club page of the programme and book yourself on the buses to follow us as we welcome your support away as much as at home.



Gerald McCarthy
Operations Manager

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Oldham Roughyeds

Oldham Roughyeds were founded in 1876 as Oldham RLFC and moved their famous Watersheddings ground in 1889.

Oldham were one of the 21 clubs that left the Rugby Football Union to form the Northern Union in 1895 and were the second club to win the Challenge Cup after beating 19-9 in 1899. Batley had won the first two finals.

Their record in the League Championship was just as good in their early days. Fourth in the first title race of 1895-96 and second a year later, they finally won their first title in 1904-05 just edging out Bradford by three points.

Two more title successes followed in 1909-10 and 1910-11 beating Wigan in the Championship Final (like today's Grand Final) on each occasion.

But war-time put a halt on their successes. Having lost out in the 1907, 1912 and 1924 Challenge Cup Finals, they finally picked up the famous old trophy again in 1925 when they beat Hull Kingston Rovers 16-3 in the Final at Leeds.

The last time the club appeared in a Challenge Cup Final to date was two years later when they beat Swinton 26-7 at Wigan, their fourth consecutive final and revenge for their 9-3 loss when the same teams met in the previous year's match.

During most of the 20th century until 1970, there were Yorkshire and Lancashire Leagues in addition to and sometimes forming part of the Rugby League Championship. Oldham won the Lancashire League seven times - in 1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58 while they won the Lancashire Cup nine times - in 1906-07, 1909-10, 1912-13, 1918-19, 1923-24, 1932-33, 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58. Oldham's success in the 1950s also included two further Championship titles - in 1954-55 and 1956-57.

Since the 1950s, Oldham have never been much

of a force. More often than not in the lower half of rugby league, they have still won honours. They were Division Two champions in 1963-64, 1981-82 and 1987-88 while also winning the Divisional Premiership in 1987-88 and 1989-90.

When the Super League was proposed, part of the deal was that some traditional clubs would merge. Oldham were supposed to merge with Salford to form a club to be known as Manchester which would compete in Super League. This was resisted and instead they adopted the name Oldham Bears and were founder members of the new league.

In 1997 they went bankrupt, the Watersheddings ground was closed and a new team with the current name was then formed in December to play at a lower level. The Roughyeds tag had been a long accepted nickname for the old club. Last season's relegation from National League One losing every game was the club's lowest point in their history.

Oldham has been a proud bastion of rugby league for well over a hundred years. The town's professional club has produced over one hundred international players, whilst its amateur clubs have nurtured literally thousands of players - many of who have progressed to play at the highest level.

There are many people both in and connected with Oldham that care passionately about Rugby League in the town at all playing levels and care about the sport in the town that has not been the same for the last ten years.

So on July 7th 2005, a public meeting attended by well over 300 people was held with a unanimous vote to form a Trust. Amongst the speakers was Terry Flanagan, ex-Oldham Captain and Great Britain Loose Forward. Terry spoke passionately about how everyone involved in Rugby League in Oldham needs to pull together and spoke about his vision of 'Rugby Oldham'. This caught the public imagination and the concept of 'Rugby Oldham - A Rugby League Community Trust' was born. We wish them every success in their endeavours.

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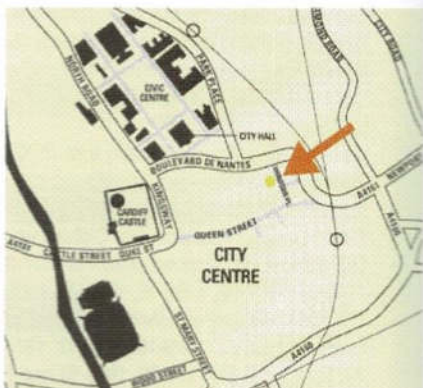
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From the East

Leave M4 at J29A onto A48. Follow signs for city centre, A4161. After passing under railway bridge, take second left into Windsor Lane then right into Windsor Place.

From the West

Leave M4 at J33, taking A4234. Take B4267 to city centre, then right onto A4161. Pass Cardiff Castle on left. Take right onto Boulevard De Nantes, second right into Windsor Lane and right into Windsor Place.



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Support your local side

Throughout the summer, eight Welsh clubs will be playing in the Welsh Division of the Co-operative Rugby League Conference Premier.

The season kicks off next Sunday May 12th when the annual Scott McRorie Nines tournament returns to its traditional home of Greenstars RFC, Port Talbot where Celtic Crusaders are expected to enter an academy side for the very first time.

After that, the sides face each other once before going into the play-offs to see who becomes the fifth Welsh Conference Champions. Can Bridgend Blue Bulls take the title for a fifth successive year?

Don't forget that the Wales A side will also be in action throughout 2007 in the annual Home Nations Championship while the full Wales side will take on Papua New Guinea and Scotland at the end of the year. There's a lot to look forward to in Wales Rugby League in 2007 and we'll bring you all the latest fixtures and results every week here in the match programme but for now, go to www.cymrurl.com for contact details on all the clubs.

2007 WELSH RUGBY LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sunday 13th May

Scott McRorie 9s (Greenstars RFC, Port Talbot)

Round 1 - Saturday 19th May

Cardiff Demons v NPT Steelers
Torfaen Tigers v Bridgend Blue Bulls
West Wales Sharks v Valley Cougars
Blackwood Bulldogs v Newport Titans

Round 2 - Saturday 26th May

Bridgend Blue Bulls v West Wales Sharks
Valley Cougars v Torfaen Tigers
NPT Steelers v Newport Titans
Blackwood Bulldogs v Cardiff Demons

Round 3 - Saturday 2nd June

Bridgend Blue Bulls v Blackwood Bulldogs
NPT Steelers v Valley Cougars
Newport Titans v Torfaen Tigers
West Wales Sharks v Cardiff Demons

Round 4 - Saturday 9th June

Cardiff Demons v Newport Titans
Valley Cougars v Bridgend Blue Bulls
Torfaen Tigers v West Wales Sharks
Blackwood Bulldogs v NPT Steelers

Saturday 16th June

Wales A v Scotland A

Round 5 - Saturday 23rd June

Bridgend Blue Bulls v Cardiff Demons
Newport Titans v Valley Cougars
Torfaen Tigers v Blackwood Bulldogs
West Wales Sharks v NPT Steelers

Round 6 - Saturday 30th June

Cardiff Demons v Torfaen Tigers
NPT Steelers v Bridgend Blue Bulls
Newport Titans v West Wales Sharks
Blackwood Bulldogs v Valley Cougars

Round 7 - Saturday 7th July

Bridgend Blue Bulls v Newport Titans
Valley Cougars v Cardiff Demons
NPT Steelers v Torfaen Tigers
West Wales Sharks v Blackwood Bulldogs

Saturday 14th June - Ireland A v Wales A

Saturday 21st July

Match 1- 2nd place v 7th place 1
Match 2- 3rd place v 6th place 2
Match 3- 4th place v 5th place 3
1st place has weeks rest - 8th place drops out

Saturday 28th July

1st place v Winner of Match 3
Winner of Match 1 v Winner of Match 2

Saturday 4th August - Welsh Grand Final

Saturday 18th August - Wales A v England A

Sunday 2nd September - National Semi-Final

Sunday 9th September - National Grand Final

Sunday 28th October - Wales v Papua New Guinea

Sunday 4th November - Scotland v Wales



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In the Community with David McNally



Celtic Crusaders are pleased to announce the appointment of David McNally who has taken up the new position of Community Manager at the club.

David, who hails from Dublin, previously attended UWIC and has been the Head of a Sports Development Department in his home county of Dublin

for the last number of years. He has recently returned to Wales with his family to take up this position which he sees as a huge opportunity to develop rugby league in South Wales and set up a quality community development programme that will be positive and accessible for all the community. In his first programme article, David explains about what his job involves...

Celtic Crusaders are keen to get involved in developing partnerships with all organisations that we can help in meeting our objectives in terms of the broad issues outlined below.



The role of the Celtic Crusaders Community Development Programme will have two broad aims - the development of rugby league and sport in the communities, and the development of communities through contact with the Club.

The Development of Rugby League and Sport in Communities

The main aim will be sporting inclusion. The outcomes of projects can include:

- Removal of barriers to rugby/sport participation in the community among the general

population or target groups.

- Provision of opportunities to progress and to develop rugby skills/ expertise.
- Provision of opportunities to move from recreational participation to competition or excellence.
- Training and support of leaders and coaches.
- Establishment of links between school, sports clubs and the wider community.

The Development of Communities through contact with the Club

The main aim of this programme is social inclusion. The aim to reduce barriers and increase participation and to use rugby / sport as a means to an end. Our projects will be based on the needs of our partner organisations and will use rugby / sport to address broader aspects of social inclusion and as a means to promote aspects of personal, social and community development.

These projects aim to use rugby/sport to achieve social outcomes such as:

- Improving the fitness and health of specific social groups.
- Addressing issues of community safety and reducing levels of vandalism and crime.
- Contributing to improved school attendance/ educational performance.
- Developing social and technical skills and increasing employability.
- Contributing to community development and regeneration.

If you would like to contact the Club with any queries regarding Community Development please contact David McNally, Community Manager on dmcnally@crusadersrfl.com or call 01656 640794.

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Hi-Q

Crusaders Lottery with Hannah Liddiard

As the new lottery manager, I am very pleased to announce that we are re-launching our lottery today as the new 'Crusaders Lottery'.

It is a fresh new start for the Celtic Crusaders and the lottery is a great opportunity to develop rugby league in Wales. I have visited various rugby league clubs throughout the UK to gain knowledge of how the lottery can benefit the club, and I am extremely enthusiastic that with a professional management of the lottery and the support of the public this lottery will be a complete success.

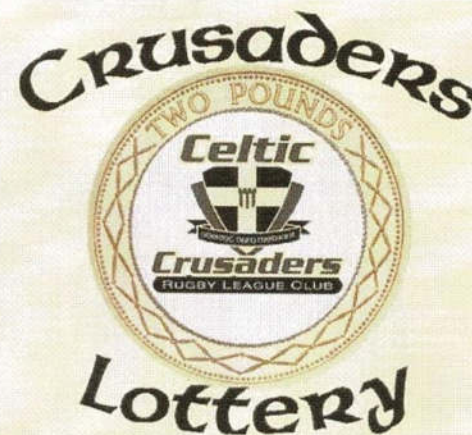
By you joining the lottery, you will not only have the chance to win cash and bonus prizes but you will also be contributing to the development of rugby league in our area. We need you to play a role in building a promising future for the Celtic Crusaders and help secure the talent of the club and its quest for success.

We are very excited with the new brand of the lottery and I guarantee that you will be pleased with the changes and opportunities for you to take advantage of.

As you entered the ground this evening you will notice that you were handed a lottery leaflet, this will give you details of how to become a lottery member and the benefits you will receive. At today's game to celebrate the launch we have a promotions team which you will find around the ground. If you have any questions or would like to join today then please see one of our lottery girls and they will be happy to help.

I am also here today and would be more than happy to answer any questions. I look forward to speaking with you soon and I thank you in advance for your support.

Don't forget to fill in your applications today.



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Join the Crusade

Celtic Crusaders Supporters Club are running coaches to all away matches.

The cost for travelling is just £20 per trip for Supporters Club and Junior Cru members and £25 for non-members. However, children will travel free if accompanied by a paying parent or guardian with a maximum of two children free per parent or guardian

Junior Cru members wanting to travel without a parent or guardian will need a signed parental consent form in order to do so. These are available on request. To book transport or to join the Supporters Club, call Andy Burns on 07944 713716 or email supportcrusaders@googlemail.com.

 MATCHES & DATES	York City Knights Sunday 13th May	Workington Town Sunday 20th May	Halifax Saturday 26th May
PICK UP POINTS			
Brewery Field, Bridgend	07:30	07:00	07:30
Cardiff West Services	07:50	07:20	07:50
Quality Hotel, Cardiff	07:55	07:25	07:55
Malpas Roundabout	08:05	07:35	08:05
Magor Services	08:15	07:45	08:15

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The Junior Cru



What is the Glamorgan Gazette Junior Cru?

The "Glamorgan Gazette Junior Cru" is the official junior supporters club of the Celtic Crusaders - Wales' only professional rugby league club who play at the Brewery Field in Bridgend. The Crusaders are hoping to play in Super League by 2009.

What do I get for joining the Junior Cru?

- A free season ticket (if you join by today) that will get you into every home and away

TODAY'S MASCOT IS..

Chloe Nash from Carmarthenshire who goes to Llandysul Primary School. Her favourite player is Mark Dalle Cort. She is 10 years old.



Northern Rail Cup group match and National League Two match.

- A birthday card signed by the Celtic Crusaders squad.
- A photograph taken with your favourite player at some point during the season.
- An opportunity to be a home game mascot.
- A membership card and key ring.

How much does it cost?

Only £10 which will enrol you in the Cru for the whole of 2007.

How can I join the Junior Cru?

There are a few different ways. Either ask a parent or guardian to...

- Send a cheque made payable to "Celtic Crusaders" to "Celtic Crusaders, Dekor Building, Brocastle Avenue, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3XR"
- Pick up a form at the club shop on matchdays
- Pay online at www.crusadersrfl.com/junior.htm
- Call the club on 01656 658535 and pay with their credit card over the phone.

WELCOME TO THE SCHOOLS CHOIR...

Singing the National Anthem today before the match will be children from the following schools -

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- Blaengarw Primary
- Garth Primary
- Maes yr Haul Primary
- Mynydd Cynffig Junior
- Nantymoel Primary
- Pencoeed Junior
- Plasnewydd Primary
- Porthcawl Primary
- St. Robert's R / C Primary
- Tondur Primary
- Trelales Primary
- West Park Primary
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr

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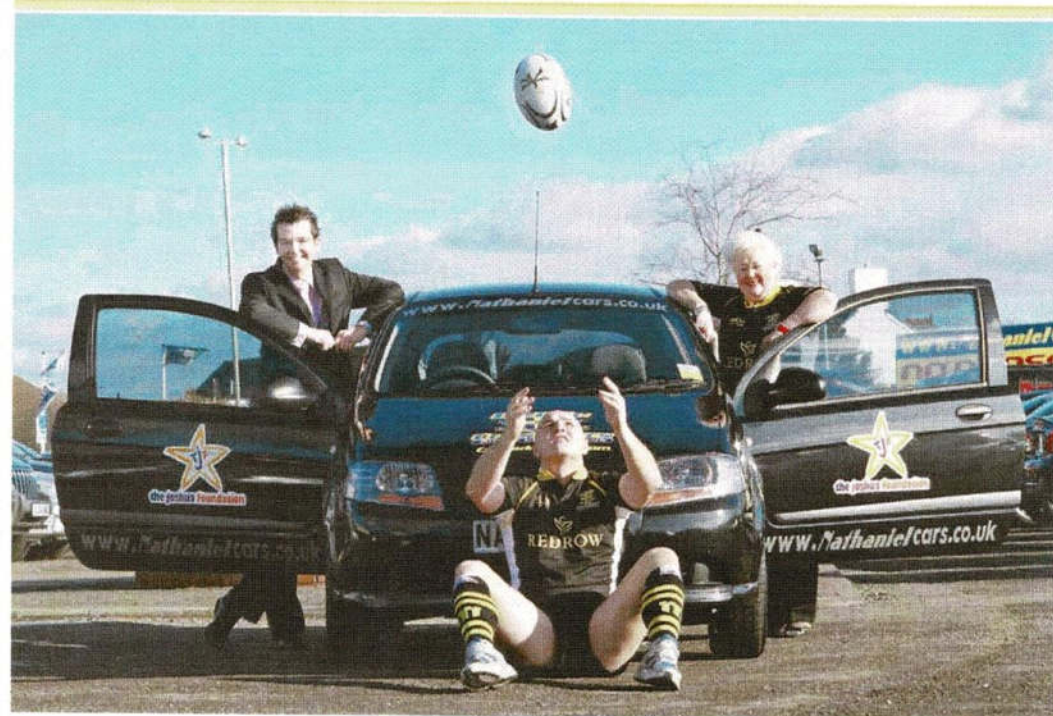


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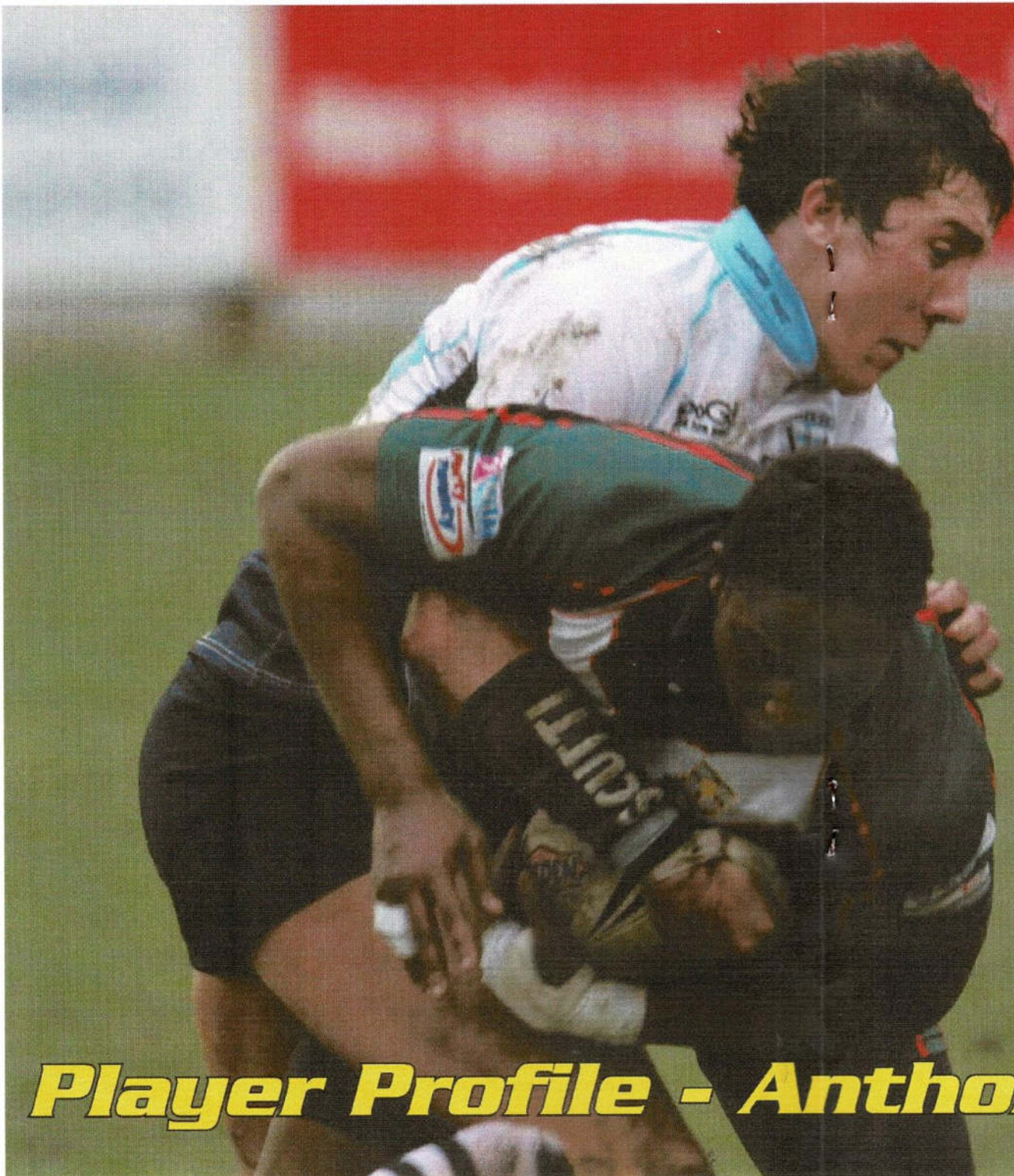
Yes it's true, you really can win this car, the "Nathaniel Crusader" for just a pound by entering the Celtic Crusaders 2007 season raffle.

This car is a brand new three-door **Chevrolet Kalos 1.2S** Pearlescent metallic black, it has tinted windows for extra privacy, 15 inch alloy wheels, an upgraded CD player, three years warranty and servicing and lots more qualities that makes this car an essential to own.

Tickets, cost **just £1 each** and will be on sale from the club shop at every home game. There's no limit to the amount of tickets you can buy!

The draw will be made at half-time on our last home league match of the season which is against Keighley Cougars on Saturday 18th August 2007.

The car sponsored by Nathaniel Garages. All proceeds from the raffle will be split between the Joshua Foundation and Celtic Crusaders development.



Name – Anthony James Blackwood
Position – Centre
Date of Birth – 13/09/82
Place of Birth – Wigan
Nicknames – Blackie or Bananaman
Marital Status / children – Single / none
Previous Clubs (in order) – Leigh, Halifax
What year did you make your pro debut and for which club – Leigh in 2001
How old were you when you first played rugby league – aged 11
Best Moment in rugby – Winning my first cap for Wales and scoring against Ireland in 2005.
Worst Opponent and why – Chris Morley because I've played both with and against him and we always try to get one over on each other.
Representative Honours – Four caps for Wales.
Favourite Holiday Location - Australia
Favourite Food - Italian
Favourite Drink - Cider and black
Favourite Movie – Anchorman
Favourite Band / Song – Funky Ice
Hobbies – Cheating, fishing, golf.
All Time Sports Legend – Lance Armstrong
Which League Player did you look up to when you were growing up – Adrian Morley
What's the best thing about Rugby League - Brings people together. It's not like football, there's no animosity in the crowd.
What are your goals for the 2007 season – Promotion and to get a spot next year.
Name three people you would like to invite to dinner – My best mate, Stevenson, Mohammed Ali and Will Farrell.
Favourite Computer Game – Duck Hunt
Person you would like to meet – My great-grandad as I've heard a lot about him.

Player Profile - Anthony Blackwood

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

100 Years of Welsh RL

2007 is the centenary year for rugby league in Wales. Throughout this season's Crusaders' programmes, Ian Golden looks at the history of Welsh Rugby League from 1907-2007.

PART 3 - PONTYPRIDD AND THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The success of the Wales v England match at Taff Vale Park in Pontypridd in April 1926 led to a new Welsh club being formed - Pontypridd RLFC who entered the league in the 1926-27 season.

Just like 19 years earlier, when Merthyr played the first game of rugby league in Wales, Oldham were the initial visitors. The match was described by many as "one of the most exhilarating games seen on this ground for a long time" as Oldham ran out 33-15 winners in front of 10,000 fans. Seven of the Ponty side were playing their first ever rugby league match.

Ponty signed a few well known players of the day including dual-coder internationals Jerry Shea, "Buller" Loveluck and Bryn Williams. Williams played just once for the Wales RU side but had to wait 57 years before receiving his cap as WRU officials refused to give it to him when he signed for rugby league.

The club's first win came against Widnes at Taff Vale park in their sixth game. The close 17-15 victory was one of seven in their first season.

There were high hopes for Ponty in their second season but after just eight games, they suddenly resigned because of financial problems due to the distances they had to travel to away matches.

However, a month before Ponty played their last match, a brand new side was formed in South Wales. Not a club this time, but a county side.

Representative rugby had been popular for a long time up north with "War of the Roses" matches being played between Lancashire and Yorkshire

every season since the great split of 1895. Cheshire also played matches up until 1905 while Cumberland formed a side in 1898. All these teams formed a County Championship, and it was a side named "Glamorgan and Monmouthshire" that participated between 1927 and 1931.

All players were eligible to play for the county of their birth so the Welsh rep side had plenty of talent to choose from as many Welsh players were still going up north to earn a living by playing rugby.

Glamorgan and Monmouthshire finished second on points difference in the four-team championship that year. After losing their first two games, 12-20 to Yorkshire at Hunslet, then 12-18 to Cumberland in Pontypridd, the Welsh recorded a 12-7 win over bottom side Lancashire to leap over Yorkshire in the table. Jim Sullivan kicked three goals to help Glamorgan and Monmouthshire to their win.

The 1928-29 season saw the Welsh finish bottom of the table after losing all three matches. But following a representative match against Australia in December 1929 where the tourists ran out 39-9 winners, they beat Yorkshire 13-6 in their only win of that season.

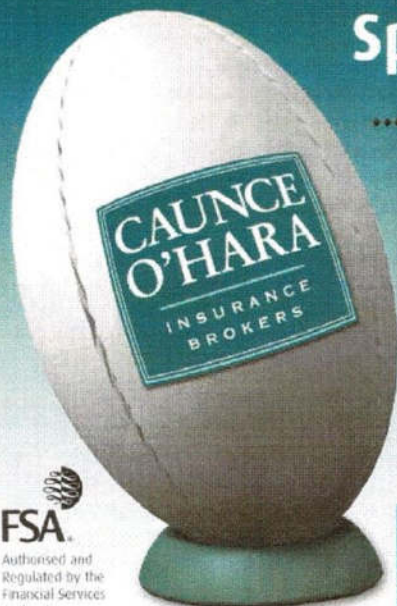
The final matches for Glamorgan and Monmouthshire were in the 1930-31 season - all away from home. This season was the closest that the Welshmen got to winning the title. Beating Lancashire 14-10 in Salford and Cumberland 19-12 in Whitehaven set them up for a winner takes all clash against the also-unbeaten Yorkshire. Unfortunately it would be no fairy tale ending as the white rose county won 33-12 in Halifax. County Championship rugby league had ended for the Welsh but the national side was to live on.

NEXT ISSUE: The great Welsh sides of the 1930s and 1940s.

References: "Tries in the Valleys" edited by Peter Lush and Dave Farrar (1998), London League Publications

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National League Talk **with Gareth Walker of Rugby** **Leaguer & League Express**



SHOULD followers of Rugby League at NL1 and NL2 level be concerned about the recent financial difficulties of several clubs?

The short answer to the question is yes. News that Doncaster are to enter a CVA, Swinton have been in administration, and Widnes Vikings require a significant input from directors to cover the next two months, are stark reminders of how difficult it can be to survive.

When you consider that several other member clubs have hit financial hardship in the recent past, it is remarkable in many ways that more clubs haven't gone out of existence.

With the uncertainty still surrounding how the proposed new franchise system will work from 2009, now is the time for the game's administrators to publicly outline a clear plan of how they see the National Leagues developing after that date.

There are going to be some big clubs outside of those chosen for Super League franchises, even given the planned move to 14 top flight teams.

Even if, for example, the two currently most successful NL1 clubs - Castleford and Widnes - find themselves in that 14, there will be some big hitters left behind.

They may have to wait three years to apply for a franchise - so how can they sustain and grow their businesses during that period?

With Leigh and Halifax having had positive news on their stadiums of late - the Centurions will move to a new facility and Fax are set to complete the Shay - both have the potential to attract

the kind of crowds that Salford and Huddersfield do, for example.

Whitehaven have made no secret of their desire to provide a Cumbrian presence in Super League, and Celtic Crusaders come into that category in Wales.

But how would they all fare in NL1, with no prospect of progression for at least three seasons?

While crowds have increased almost year on year in Super League during the summer era, the exact opposite has occurred in NL1 and NL2.

And if you take time to read almost any supporters message boards on the hot topic that is the franchise system, more fans could become disillusioned after 2009.

Then there are the clubs in NL1 who readily admit they are not ready for Super League at present - what should their long-term aims be?

One coach said off the record recently: "What are we all actually aiming for at the moment?"

Outlining a clear vision for the National Leagues after 2009 might ease a few worries.

It's something that needs to be done, and quickly, for the long-term good of the game outside of Super League.



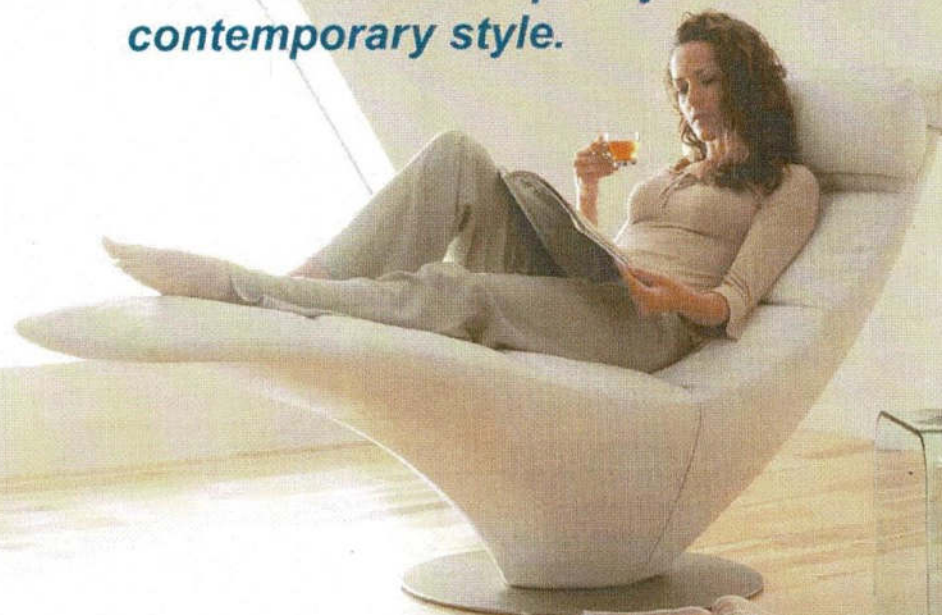
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Ahead of the Game ***with Paul Bennett*** ***of League Weekly***



IT'S A SORRY tale that's unfolding right now at Doncaster Lakers. I don't think many of us truly believed chairman John Wright's Super League dream would ever

become a reality, as much as many of us may have hoped it would do.

There's no denying the Keepmoat Stadium is a wonderful facility, certainly worthy of Super League. Actually, it wouldn't have been far off being the best stadium to grace the top flight had they made the step up (probably only bettered by the KC and the JJB).

But I have to be honest, I've never seen much evidence of wide support for rugby league in south Yorkshire. Having lived in Sheffield for three years, I've experienced the trials of an RL fan first hand.

When Our Lord proclaimed it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven, he should have added 'or for a punter to get the rugby switched on in the Broomhill Tavern'.

'Rugby League?!? Don't think so duck!'

And this in a city that had seen its team win the Challenge Cup less than five years earlier!

I can only speculate that all memory of our game has been erased from the Sheffield public's consciousness to blank out the betrayal of the Huddersfield-Sheffield 'merger' farce.

Of course there are the militant few who continue to follow their beloved Eagles at the Don Valley Stadium and all credit to them. But I don't think many of them ever expect their club to reach their former heights.

Over in Doncaster, the Lakers have been get-

ting some decent crowds. But there's only so far you can go handing out free tickets.

Sadly, it seems Doncaster just don't have the funds or the support to make a genuine play for the big time, and now the battle's on to make sure they can just stay afloat.

But we should at least congratulate the enthusiasm of John Wright and his team. They certainly talked the talk, didn't they? And they constantly make an effort to get the Lakers brand out into the public and the media.

Every week we were told the Lakers WOULD be part of Super League and WOULD become a significant player in the game ... as if it were only a matter of time.

There's a similar feeling down in Bridgend with the Celtic Crusaders right now. They're slowly but surely building their base and I'd be surprised if we didn't see them providing a Welsh presence in Super League in the future. I'd at least suggest they have a larger rugby (if not league) market to exploit and fingers crossed they'll be the success story the Lakers wished they could have been.

But it would also be nice to see some of our more traditional clubs making the same noises. Or is it the reality that, with the Super League franchise system on the horizon, some former giants of our game have given up and accepted their fate ... that of eternal slumber?

LEAGUE **WEEKLY**

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CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Damien Quinn for winning the National League Two Player of the Month award as announced in this month's Rugby League World magazine. We've printed the full team and form guide here in the programme for the very first time as we've a lot to shout about this month. Gareth Dean and Rob Toshack also made the fictional side while Tony Duggan and Craig Richards just missed out. Well done to all and here's to a successful May.

Damien Quinn

CELTIC CRUSADERS

CELTIC Crusaders are determined to go one better than last season and secure automatic promotion to NLI - and Australian utility Damien Quinn looks set for a key role in that.

Crusaders coach John Dixon reckons Quinn - who is usually a fullback but who played at both stand-off and loose forward in April - has been his side's most consistent player to date this term.

"Damian has great versatility, and is defensively strong," Dixon says.

"He has a good catch and pass in him, kicks good goals, and he's been outstanding of late."



NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO TEAM OF THE MONTH

1	Khamel Ganley	Barrow Raiders
2	Nick Beach	Barrow Raiders
3	Rob Toshack	Celtic Crusaders
4	Andrew Beattie	Workington Town
5	Desi Williams	Swinton Lions
6	Damien Quinn	Celtic Crusaders
7	Liam Campbell	Workington Town
8	Gareth Dean	Celtic Crusaders
9	Phil Wood	Swinton Lions
10	Danny Ekis	Hunslet Hawks
11	Jamie Field	Featherstone Rovers
12	Ryan Esders	York City Knights
13	Kris Smith	Oldham

CO-OPERATIVE NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 FORM GUIDE

FULLBACKS

1	Khamel Ganley	Barrow Raiders
2	Tony Duggan	Celtic Crusaders
3	Rob Lunt	Workington Town

STAND-OFFS

1	Damien Quinn	Celtic Crusaders
2	Neil Roden	Oldham
3	Scott Rhodes	York City Knights

HOOKERS

1	Phil Wood	Swinton Lions
2	Jamaine Wray	York City Knights
3	Phil Cantillon	Blackpool Panthers

WINGS

1	Nick Beach	Barrow Raiders
2	Desi Williams	Swinton Lions
3	Craig Richards	Celtic Crusaders

SCRUM-HALVES

1	Liam Campbell	Workington Town
2	Darren Holt	Barrow Raiders
3	Matt Firth	Hunslet Hawks

SECOND ROWS

1	Jamie Field	Featherstone Rovers
2	Ryan Esders	York City Knights
3	Brian Sutton	Keighley Cougars

CENTRES

1	Rob Toshack	Celtic Crusaders
2	Andrew Beattie	Workington Town
3	Graham Stephenson	Gateshead Thunder

PROP FORWARDS

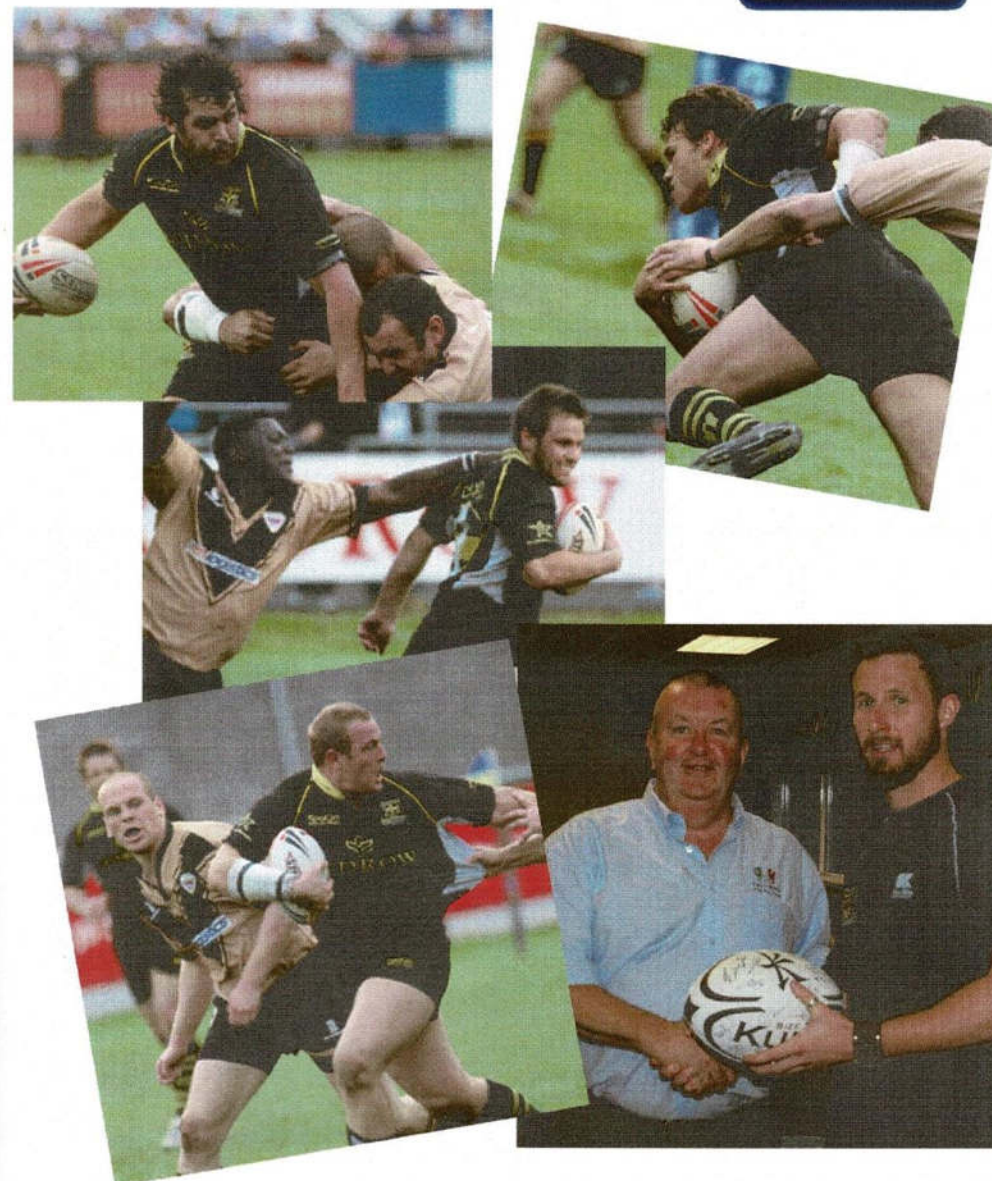
1	Gareth Dean	Celtic Crusaders
2	Danny Ekis	Hunslet Hawks
3	Lee Dutton	Barrow Raiders

LOOSE FORWARDS

1	Kris Smith	Oldham
2	Jermaine Coleman	London Skolars
3	Craig Walsh	Workington Town

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Celtic Crusaders 82 Swinton Lions 4



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Cheerleader of the Week

Name: Emma Louise Partington

Birthdate: 08/10/1986

Hometown: Plymouth

Favourite Activity: Cheerleading

Next Risk I Want To Take: Moving to London by myself to do my post-grad degree. I'd also like to go abroad in the summer by myself to work.

Places I Want To Visit And Why: Australia - I went to Western Australia over Christmas and I would love to go back and travel the rest. I'd also like to go anywhere in America.

How did you become a Cheerleader? I tried out for the university squad then from that got involved with the Crusaders.

What do you like about being a Cheerleader? Everything the fun of it, the stunts especially also competitions.

Do you have an interest in rugby league?

Yeah my dad coaches rugby back home so I've grown up with it.

Who do you most admire? Many people with courage and aspiration.

Favourite Films and Why: Psychological thrillers and comedy.

Favourite Music and Why: Everything and anything - I like all sorts of music.

One misconception about cheerleaders:

That we use pom poms, which I've never used and that we were not a real sport when all the stunts are hard work and we practice a lot. Also that we're air heads when lots of us are at university.

My favourite sport is: Cheerleading because it is a sport. I also love watching it at competitions. My favourite teams are Swansea Sirens and Liverpool Foxes... and Celtic Crusaders of course.

I like to spend my weekends:

Going out in lovely Swansea.

If I Had More Time I Would:

I have lots of free time as a student but I'd like to travel.

Favourite Foods: Sushi and salmon.

Five People I'd Like To Have Dinner With (Living or Dead):

Just one for me - Seth Adam Brody - an actor from The OC.



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Today's Squads

Celtic Crusaders

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Chris Beasley	CC West Wales Supporters Club
Anthony Blackwood	Albmaleaf
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Lee Williams	TBA
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Luke Young	TBA

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 Chris Baines
 Jason Boults
 Geno Costin
 Andy Crabtree
 Andy Gorey
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 Ian Hodson
 John Hough
 Drew Houston
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 Gareth Langley
 Craig Littler
 Richard Mervill
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 Stuart Oldham
 Lucas Onyango
 Neil Roden
 Wes Rogers
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 Ian Sinfield
 Kris Smith
 Michael Stout
 Said Tamghart
 Tony Tonks
 Alex Wilkinson
 Lee Wingfield

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