


ONE IN, ALL IN





Beware the hidden costs
of sending money home

Past experience shows Frank eXchange that foreign exchange and international payment providers **hide their charges** by offering reduced or no wire or service fees.

At Frank eXchange, we have 3 priorities.

- ✓ **TRANSPARENCY** – We show all the charges including the ones other providers hide in the rate they offer you
- ✓ **SERVICE** – use the online app or call to book, whatever suits you best
- ✓ **EFFICIENCY** – login, quote, book and send in 30 seconds

Our partnership with Rugby League Cares means that you get exceptional exchange rates and they benefit every time you trade.

For a no obligation health check

Call now on 0333 0093 975

Visit www.frank-exchange.com

Or email info@frank-exchange.com



Welcome

Welcome to the Summer 2018 edition of the Rugby League Cares newsletter, **One In, All In...**

Followers of the charity will no doubt have noticed that this edition is slightly delayed: there are a number of very good reasons for this, primarily because our work continues to grow rapidly, as is evidenced by the breadth of articles on what we've been doing that feature in the following pages.

Another extremely important reason is the outstanding work our Media and PR Manager, John Ledger, has dedicated to updating the charity's website www.rugbyleaguecares.org. If you've never visited before, or haven't been to the Rugby League Cares website for a while, it is well worth a visit.

We are delighted with the new look and would like to thank Orange Crush Digital for all their support putting the site together. Please do visit the site regularly to keep up-to-date on our work supporting Rugby League at all levels of the game.

One notable addition to the website is the catchy strapline we have adopted - 'For the players, for the game'. I'm not a marketing expert, but I think these six words sum up the work of Rugby League Cares perfectly, something I hope you will agree with once you've read this magazine.

It's perhaps a bit of a cliché to say this, but it is nonetheless true: without the support we receive from our partners, sponsors and the wider public we could not provide the services we do. We are truly grateful

Our work supporting players is expanding all the time and we are delighted to note the wonderful backing we receive in return from current and former professional players. Evidence of the relationship we have with the players runs from the fantastic Lions Association luncheon in January to the forthcoming UK Red Ride to Wembley, when seven former internationals will jump on their bikes for a gruelling 300-plus mile off-road challenge to Wembley Stadium.

The guys have all signed up to take part because the proceeds from the fundraising all go to our Player Welfare programme. Details of the



ride and how you can support our magnificent seven heroes in their hour - well, five days! - of need can be found in the following pages.

We were delighted earlier this year to support the 50th anniversary of the famous Watersplash final with an outstanding event at the University of Huddersfield's Heritage Quay facility.

The event was driven by lifelong Trinity supporter and former Wakefield MP, David Hinchliffe, and coincided with the broadcast of a wonderful BBC documentary featuring the match and the impact it had on the players who participated in the final. I'm sure many of our readers will have seen the documentary, but if you haven't, we would encourage you to try and get hold of a copy. Needless to say, we were very proud to be associated with the celebration as part of our continued heritage programme.

The final highlight of this edition and the charity's work is the outstanding success of our Offload initiative.

Offload exemplifies how Rugby League Cares is giving back to the broader communities that support and play Rugby League. We feel privileged to be able to work alongside our communities and partners to provide what is proving to be a much-needed service helping men to cope with issues affecting their mental wellbeing.

Offload is improving and saving lives, something which is being recognised by leaders within health services and major funders. We hope to be able to expand the services in the coming months and years and feel very proud of the wonderful difference we have been able to make.

In my day-to-day activities, I find myself thanking so many people for the support they give to the charity. It's a pleasure to have to do this so often, which I feel is a reflection of the enormous goodwill we receive from right across the sport. We can't thank everyone who has supported, and continues to support the charity. It's perhaps a bit of a cliché to say this, but it is nonetheless true: without the support we receive from our partners, sponsors and the wider public we could not provide the services we do. We are truly grateful.

Enjoy the read!

Chris Rostron

Head of Rugby League Cares

ONE IN, ALL IN

Contents



- 5 Making a splash**
Commemorating 50 years since Don Fox missed 'that' kick
- 8 Best of the best**
Exciting plans for the Rugby League Hall of Fame
- 10 Tackling the tough stuff**
How the ManVan is making a difference at major RL events
- 14 The go-to guy**
Meeting the sport's most experienced welfare officer
- 17 In the swing**
Legends line up for the first RL Cares golf day
- 20 Wembley here we come - the hard way**
Our epic off-road fundraiser is bigger and better than ever before
- 24 History in the making**
The story of the game's most coveted trophy, the RL Challenge Cup
- 26 Offload**
The men's health initiative that's saving lives
- 28 Matt's story**
The Warrington Wolves fan whose life has been transformed by Offload
- 30 Bridging the divide**
How RL Cares helped one Super League star make concrete plans
- 34 Legal eagles**
The special relationship between a leading law firm and RL Cares
- 36 Lions roar again**
Memories of the 2018 RL Lions Association annual luncheon
- 38 Senior service**
How RL Cares takes its message to the sport's stars

About Rugby League Cares

Rugby League Cares is an independent charity that plays an important role in the field of player welfare: It supports players at the end of their careers when they make the transition to life after rugby, providing education and training grants that will equip them with the skills and qualifications they need for the next stage of their lives. RL Cares also promotes mental fitness and healthy lifestyle initiatives through projects such as Offload, a Big Lottery-funded project that is transforming the lives of men attending sessions at Widnes, Salford and Warrington.

For all enquiries, please email info@rlcares.org.uk

One In, All In is written and edited by RL Cares Media and PR Manager John Ledger. We would like to thank all our contributors for their support, including SWpix and Matthew Merrick Photography.

Published by:



Printed by:

S&G Print Group



Watersplash makes a splash at Heritage Quay

The 'house full' signs were posted at a special event run by Rugby League Cares marking the 50th anniversary of the famous Watersplash final between Leeds and Wakefield Trinity.

Heritage Quay at Huddersfield University was packed for the celebrations of the 1968 Challenge Cup final which featured special guests and a series of activities and speakers.

Hosted by BBC radio commentator Matt Newsum, the event kicked off with interviews with personalities who were involved in the match in a wide range of roles.

These included Martyn Sadler, the managing editor of League Express who attended the final as a young Wakefield fan: Martyn recalled his memories of a family day out in London and gave some insightful context behind the meeting of the two rival teams from the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Ken Rollin spoke about his unusual role working with an American television company, and his attempts to explain to the incredulous broadcasters what was going on (not that many people inside the stadium or those watching on BBC TV could comprehend what happened on that crazy day!).

Dave 'Nosey' Parker gave a fascinating account of his career as Eddie Waring's right-hand man and how the then voice of Rugby League reacted off-air to the events of the day.

Alan Smith and Ian Brooke, who played for Leeds and Wakefield in that fateful match half a century ago, regaled the audience with their memories, as did former Wakefield MP David Hinchliffe.

Wakefield's 11-10 defeat - and the nature of it - has had a profound influence on David's life, much of which is reflected in his terrific book, 'They Walked on Water', the story of the final and of many of the individuals involved, including Lance Todd Trophy winner Don Fox and referee John Hebblethwaite.

The book has been adapted as a play by Peter Hirst, a member of the Red Shed Players who rounded off a brilliant day with a special



performance featuring RFL Benevolent Fund General Manager Steve Ball doing the best Eddie Waring impression this side of Mike Yarwood.

The audience were also treated to the world premiere of a fantastic BBC TV documentary about the Watersplash final, while a wide range of memorabilia from the match was put on display from the RL Cares archives at Heritage Quay and the collection of Wakefield's club historian Lee Robinson.

"We were delighted to host such a special event commemorating one of the most amazing matches in the history of Rugby League," said RL Cares media officer John Ledger. "It was great to see so many people at Heritage Quay sharing our passion for the game's history and the stories behind the people who make Rugby League so special.

"Our thanks go to everyone who attended and to all the players and officials who took part in the historic final 50 years ago."

RUGBY LEAGUE CARES LATEST NEWS



Lizzie Jones was a speaker at the 2018 Barclays Women in Business Awards

Danny Jones Defibrillator Fund gets cash injection courtesy of Barclays

The Danny Jones Defibrillator Fund has received a massive boost with a £15,000 donation following Lizzie Jones's appearance at the 2018 Barclays Women in Business Awards luncheon.

Donations at the lunch were matched by Barclays to generate a significant sum for the charity, which has so far helped fund the installation of more than 50 potentially life-saving defibrillators at amateur Rugby League clubs across the country.

"It was an amazing and completely unexpected gesture by Barclays and the guests at the awards lunch," said Lizzie.

"A gentleman sat next to me donated an amazing £5,000 after I told him about the defibrillator fund and what we've achieved."

In an important change of focus, the fund has now switched its attentions to helping amateur clubs meet the cost of cardiac screening sessions, at which non-invasive tests can reveal whether a person has a heart defect.

So far, over 600 people at five amateur clubs have benefited from cardiac screening sessions partly-funded by the Danny Jones fund, and more are planned over the coming months. The sessions cost £6,000 each and provide screening to both adults and children.

For more information on the Danny Jones Defibrillator Fund, including details of how to apply for help in organising cardiac screening sessions at your amateur club, visit www.dannyjonesdefibfund.co.uk



Offload shortlisted for prestigious award

Rugby League Cares is delighted to announce that it has been shortlisted for a national award for its mental fitness project, Offload.

Offload has been nominated for the prestigious Royal Society of Public Health's Health and Wellbeing Awards 2018, within the Public Mental Health and Wellbeing category.

This shortlist recognises the work Offload has been doing since April 2017.

Offload, run by Rugby League Cares in partnership with State of Mind, Salford Red Devils Foundation, Widnes Vikings and Warrington Wolves Foundation, is a free programme for men who feel they are currently facing some challenges regarding their mental fitness.

Men come along every week and listen to former players talk about their own experiences of any mental fitness challenges they faced, on and off the pitch. Each fixture is fun and banter filled, yet really helps men get to grips with any struggles or worries they have and learn new practical tools and techniques of how to handle the tough times.

RL Cares Health Programme Manager Emma Goldsmith said: "We are absolutely delighted to be shortlisted for such a fantastic and influential award."

"Our nomination recognises what an incredible job all our Offload presenters and our partner Foundations deliver in Rugby League communities. This programme really is changing, and in some cases, saving lives and the team deserve great credit for that."

The winners will be revealed at the Royal Society Public Health Gala Dinner on Thursday 18th October at the East Wintergarden in London. The ceremony will be jointly hosted by RSPH Vice President, Professor Lord Patel of Bradford OBE, and broadcaster Natasha Kaplinsky, with entertainment from Breathe Arts and The Fizz (the band formerly known as Bucks Fizz).



Oddballs raising valuable funds

The Oddballs Foundation has made a second donation of £15,000 to Rugby League Cares to help fund our men's health and wellbeing projects.

Oddballs will continue to work alongside RL Cares on a range of awareness-raising initiatives throughout 2018, including Movember and Offload, the men's mental fitness project run in partnership with State of Mind and the club foundations at Salford Red Devils, Warrington Wolves and Widnes Vikings.

Our distinctive Rugby League Cares and Oddballs-branded vehicle will also continue to be seen at matches and other major Rugby League events in 2018.

RL Cares Health Programme Manager Emma Goldsmith said: "It's fantastic to have Oddballs on board for another 12 months, they've been a fantastically proactive partner and we're looking forward to working with them throughout 2018 and beyond.

"The Oddballs brand is instantly recognisable among sports fans and their continued involvement in Rugby League will help us build on the growing success of our health programme."



Oddballs was set up in 2014 as an underwear company to raise money for, and awareness of, testicular cancer. Since then Oddballs has established a national profile through its sporting connections and has enjoyed strong visibility at the Super League Magic Weekends held at St James' Park, Newcastle, in 2016 and 2017.

Oddballs Managing Director Will Cooper said: "Partnering with Rugby League Cares allows us to give something back to the Rugby League community that have been great supporters of what we do. Fans, players and coaches have got behind

our campaign for the last three years and this second donation is our way of saying 'Thank you' and funding something we really believe is important.

"Testicular cancer and the awareness of it is a key part of the Offload project and a key message that we want to get across."



John Ledger (left) and Chris Rostron (right) with Thomas Fattorini at the company's Birmingham workshops

Medal Service

Rugby League Cares is exploring the possibility of creating a medal replacement service for players who have been separated from the treasured souvenirs of the proudest moments of their careers.

Every year the charity is contacted by players who have sadly lost, misplaced or had stolen memorabilia, much of which is sadly irreplaceable.

However, discussions are taking place with Thomas Fattorini Limited, the jewellers who have made many of the sport's medals and rings for more than a century, to determine which medals can be re-made using the original dyes and tooling that the company has retained.

Chris Rostron and John Ledger from RL Cares visited Fattorini's workshops in Birmingham in late June and met staff to discuss the challenges involved, and came away with some positive soundings.

"We had a very constructive meeting with Thomas Fattorini and his team, and what shone through was that they are as passionate about their relationship with Rugby League as we are," said Chris.

"We were also given the rare privilege of a tour around their Birmingham workshops where staff employ many of the skills and techniques that would have been familiar to the men who made Northern Union medals at the end of the 19th century. It was an incredible insight."

RL Cares is hoping to finalise details of the medal replacement service later this year.

RUGBY LEAGUE CARES LATEST NEWS



Hall of Fame dinner on the horizon

They are the best of the best, the greatest players ever to grace a Rugby League field. And on Wednesday 7th November, the 25 members of the Rugby League Hall of Fame will be joined by new inductees at a celebration dinner held at Elland Road, Leeds.

Hosted by Rugby League Cares, the RL Hall of Fame dinner will be a night to remember for all attendees: special guests will include many of the current Hall of Fame legends plus family members of inductees who are sadly no longer with us.

Three years have elapsed since Shaun Edwards and Albert Goldthorpe became the 24th and 25th members of the RL Hall of Fame: the selection panel which considers entry into this most exclusive club will meet in August to decide the identity of the next all-time greats to step up into the game's pantheon.

Chris Rostron, the Head of Rugby League Cares, said: "The Rugby League Hall of Fame is a hugely important concept and we are delighted to have this opportunity to celebrate the exploits of the sport's all-time greats. These are the heroes that every young Rugby League player aspires to be because they embody all that is great and good about the sport.

"Once the selection panel has made its decision, we will commission Thomas Fattorini to produce the bronze Hall of Fame medals that will be presented to the new inductees. Fattorini's link with Rugby League goes back to 1897, when they made the medals for the inaugural Challenge Cup final, and the company has a long and proud relationship with the sport."

Full details of ticket prices and availability for the RL Hall of Fame dinner will be announced in late August.



Hall of Fame inductees Martin Offiah, Lewis Jones, Mick Sullivan, Garry Schofield and Neil Fox

RUGBY LEAGUE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The 25 members of the Rugby League Hall of Fame, with the years they were inducted, are as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| Billy Batten | (1988) | Eric Ashton..... | (2005) |
| Brian Bevan | (1988) | Douglas Clark..... | (2005) |
| Billy Boston | (1988) | Ellery Hanley..... | (2005) |
| Alex Murphy | (1988) | Martin Hodgson..... | (2005) |
| Jonty Parkin | (1988) | Lewis Jones..... | (2013) |
| Gus Risman | (1988) | Martin Offiah | (2013) |
| Albert Rosenfeld | (1988) | Garry Schofield..... | (2013) |
| Jim Sullivan..... | (1988) | Mick Sullivan..... | (2013) |
| Harold Wagstaff..... | (1988) | Willie Horne | (2014) |
| Neil Fox | (1989) | Malcolm Reilly..... | (2014) |
| Vince Karalius | (2000) | Shaun Edwards | (2015) |
| Roger Millward..... | (2000) | Albert Goldthorpe | (2015) |
| Tom van Vollenhoven..... | (2000) | | |

Hall of Fame leisurewear coming soon

Rugby League Cares has teamed up with Ellis Rugby to create a fantastic new range of heritage leisurewear officially licensed by the Rugby League Hall of Fame.

The initial range will be launched in October with apparel celebrating four members of the sport's most exclusive club: Billy Boston MBE, Neil Fox MBE, Malcolm Reilly OBE and the late Roger Millward MBE.

The range comprises polo shirts and club and international jerseys based on the ones worn by the players at the height of their careers. The Malcolm Reilly signature range features two club polos, as well as a Castleford jersey based on the 1969 Wembley kit and a Great Britain jersey from the 1970 Ashes-winning tour.

Roger Millward's range also has two polos, his Hull Kingston Rovers club jersey and a 1970 Ashes tour jersey.

Neil Fox and Billy Boston's 1962 Lions tour jersey features in their range, along with polo shirts and Wakefield Trinity and Wigan jerseys.

Chris Rostron, the Head of Rugby League Cares, said: "The RL Hall of Fame range builds on the success of the recent Rugby League Lions Association range and we have no doubts it will prove to be just as popular among the sport's fans. Ellis Rugby will make a donation from every sale to our player welfare programme, which is yet another wonderful example of the great players of yesteryear helping the players of today."

Ellis Rugby's Managing Director Kevin Ellis said: "The Hall of Fame range is currently in production and we expect to have samples ready to show to the players and their families by mid-August.

"This is a terrific project for us to be involved in and as a lifelong Rugby League fan I'm thrilled to be able to work with some of my heroes on the Hall of Fame range."

The RL Hall of Fame range is being produced with the support of the players, their families and the clubs and will be available from the club shops, Ellis Rugby and online specialists from late October.



Rugby League Cares' State of Mind initiative changing lives

Rugby League fans set a new world record during this year's dedicated Betfred Super League State of Mind round by taking part in the biggest-ever mental health awareness lesson.

The theme of the round was 'Offload', the men's mental fitness programme run by Rugby League Cares in conjunction with State of Mind and the club foundations at Salford Red Devils, Warrington Wolves and Widnes Vikings.

The previous world record was for 688 people and was achieved in Chennai in India earlier this year. But in late June an amazing 849 people actively participated in a session at The Halliwell Jones Stadium.

The participants included many volunteers who gave up their valuable time to help run the ManVan at three Super League fixtures: Salford v Widnes, Hull v Wigan and Castleford v Hull KR.

Members of Parliament gave their support to the State of Mind round and an Early Day Motion was tabled in the House of Commons by Marie Rimmer MP.

The motion hailed "the work that State of Mind does to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Rugby League players and communities, by challenging traditional stereotypes and encouraging young men in particular to open up about their mental health."

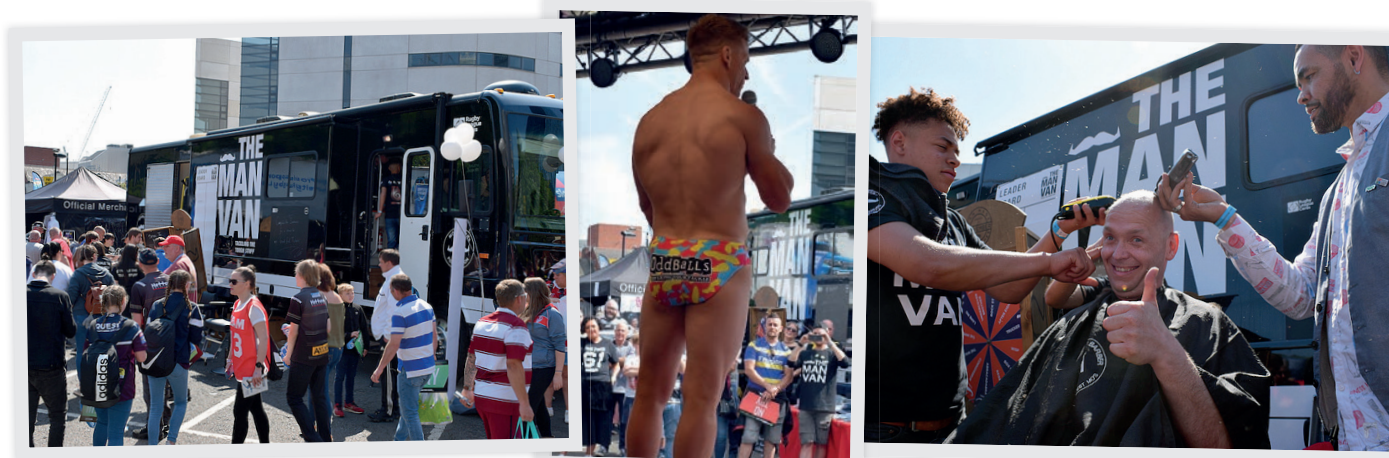
At one of the fixtures, a father stopped off at the ManVan to talk about his experience with a child who had considered taking his own life. He asked about support and spoke to State of Mind and Offload about what help was available as they found the options they were offered unattractive. The person loved Rugby League and wanted to explore options with Offload sessions.

At another game, a fan said they had accessed help from their GP after seeing a tweet from Huddersfield Giants player Leroy Cudjoe before the round.

The State of Mind round build-up included a Twitter campaign supported by over 30 current and former Rugby League players and key people in mental health, including Professor Louis Appleby (National Suicide Prevention Lead), Sue Baker (Head of National Charity Time To Change) and Andy Burnham (Mayor of Manchester) that had a Twitter reach of 14,341,606. Rugby League really does continue to help save lives.

Rugby League Cares Health Programme Manager Emma Goldsmith said: "Many men across the sport are now starting to talk to their mates and 'offload' their issues when times get tough. State of Mind and the Offload programme are here to help men do that and give them practical support in a fun, friendly environment, when they need a mate in their corner."





ManVan drives the men's health agenda across the Rugby League heartland

Tracy Herd, the ManVan Project Manager for Movember UK, outlines how the partnership with RL Cares is making a difference to men's lives...

The Movember Foundation has teamed up with Rugby League Cares to deliver a new and fun approach to helping Rugby League fans tackle the tough stuff and think about their health and wellbeing.

The ManVan is a 38-foot American road home that has been kitted out as a health and wellbeing hub and is touring major RL events and matches in 2018.

Statistics show that men in many of the game's heartland communities face some of the poorest health outcomes in the UK with high rates of suicide, cancer and heart disease.

These startling figures can be changed by investing in research and by giving men the information and the tools to take action on their health.

The evidence shows that going to where men are, and providing a service designed for them, is successful in engaging men in health matters.

In developing the ManVan project, we have taken those principles and made that happen. Going to where men are - and they are at Rugby League events in their thousands - allows us to have conversations about health in a way that is fun, engaging and comfortable for them. It is very much a project that is being delivered in partnership to utilise the expertise of the Movember

Foundation on making a difference to men's health, and the expertise of Rugby League Cares in engaging with Rugby League fans and working with the rugby community.

The partnership allows us to reach the men we want to engage with in a way that resonates with them. My role has been made a lot easier by the professionalism and expertise that Emma Goldsmith, the Health Programme Manager at Rugby League Cares, brings to the partnership and project.

Her passion for the game and her work is fantastic. We have had a lot of laughs along the way as well!

Getting the ManVan on the road has not been without its challenges! It is a big beast so the logistics of getting it to grounds and events has been interesting. Luckily, we have

the support of ex-players Paul Jackson and Lee Paterson who, armed with their HGV licences and some essential tools, have kept the ManVan on the road.

The ManVan has a dedicated team of volunteers, who include former players and men involved in RL Cares's Offload programme, who invite rugby fans on board the ManVan to have some fun, get a haircut from Barber B, our Mo-rated barber, or just have a cuppa and a chat about ways to improve their health.

Fans can also visit a mini-Rugby League museum and have their photo taken with some of the game's famous retired trophies.

The volunteers who make up Team ManVan have been trained to understand the issues facing men and have conversations about



The volunteers who make up Team ManVan have been trained to understand the issues facing men and have conversations about health. Many of them are men who have overcome their own health issues so know what they are talking about



Hull FC's Josh Griffin gets a trim courtesy of the ManVan

health. Many of them are men who have overcome their own health issues so know what they are talking about.

One of our volunteers, Mark, told me: 'It's an absolute pleasure working on the ManVan, I feel like I'm making a difference in men's lives. If we can make one man check themselves or talk, then its job done!'

We have had fantastic support from Barber B and his team from the Piranha Hair Studio and Academy. Barber B has worked with Rugby League Cares to help current and recently retired players re-train to become barbers and got involved in the project after recognising the importance of men's health and the role barbers can play.

His team have completed online training and joined the global community of

barbers who proactively use the power of conversation that happens in the barber's chair to improve the health of men.

They are offering haircuts and shaves at events and we have had some very special people sit in the barber's chair, including current players and celebrities.

We have already had some fantastic outings: Magic Weekend was brilliant and the Summer Bash in Blackpool allowed us to meet thousands of fans from non-Super League clubs and have great conversations.

The journey continues at Emerald Headingley Stadium on 20th July at the Leeds Rhinos vs Widnes Vikings fixture. We will then be at the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup semi-finals at Bolton before moving on to the three-match Test series against New Zealand

in October and November. Many members of the England team are keen to start growing their Mos and we hope some of you are too!

The ManVan project has had a fantastic start and it has been great seeing the numbers of fans engaging and having important conversations. If we continue across the rest of the season in the same way we can safely say we are making a difference to men's health and doing the job we set out to do.

It is a privilege for me to be part of the experience and I have been humbled by the dedication and commitment of all who are involved.

For more information about the Movember Foundation visit: movember.com/

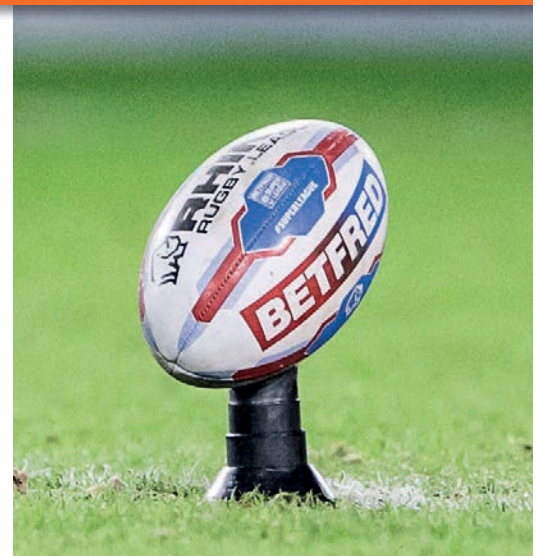
ALL SPORT INSURANCE



Specialist Insurance For Sports Professionals



For excellent rates on your car
and home insurance...*call us today!*



"QUOTE RUGBY LEAGUE CARES"
01803 659121

@AllSportInsure
Visit: www.allsportinsurance.co.uk

SET
OF

6

Tackle the tough stuff

Tackle 1: Move, more

At least three times a week add a bit more activity in to your day, go for a walk, take the stairs, kick a ball around with the kids

UK STAT...

- + 1 in 2 men do not meet recommended guidelines for physical activity

Tackle 2: Talk

If life starts to feel harder than usual, talk to someone you trust or get help from a programme like State of Mind or Offload

UK STATS...

- + 1 man in 8 has experienced a mental health problem
- + 3 out of every 4 suicides are men
- + 12 men take their life each day

Tackle 3: Make time for your mates

Stay connected with your mates and make plans to see them at least once a month

UK STAT...

- + 1 man in 8 report that they do not have a friend they would discuss a serious topic with (e.g. work worries, a health problem, money concerns etc.)

Tackle 4: Understand the numbers for prostate cancer

At 50, have a conversation with your doctor about getting a PSA test (which is a routine blood test). If you are black or have a family history of prostate cancer, do it at 45

UK STATS...

- + 1 man in 8 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime
- + Over 330,000 men are living with prostate cancer

Tackle 5: Know thy nuts

Check your testicles every month or so to know what's normal, and what's not, for you

UK STATS...

- + Testicular cancer is the most common cancer in men under 40
- + The rate of men being diagnosed with testicular cancer has grown by more than 50 per cent over the past 30 years

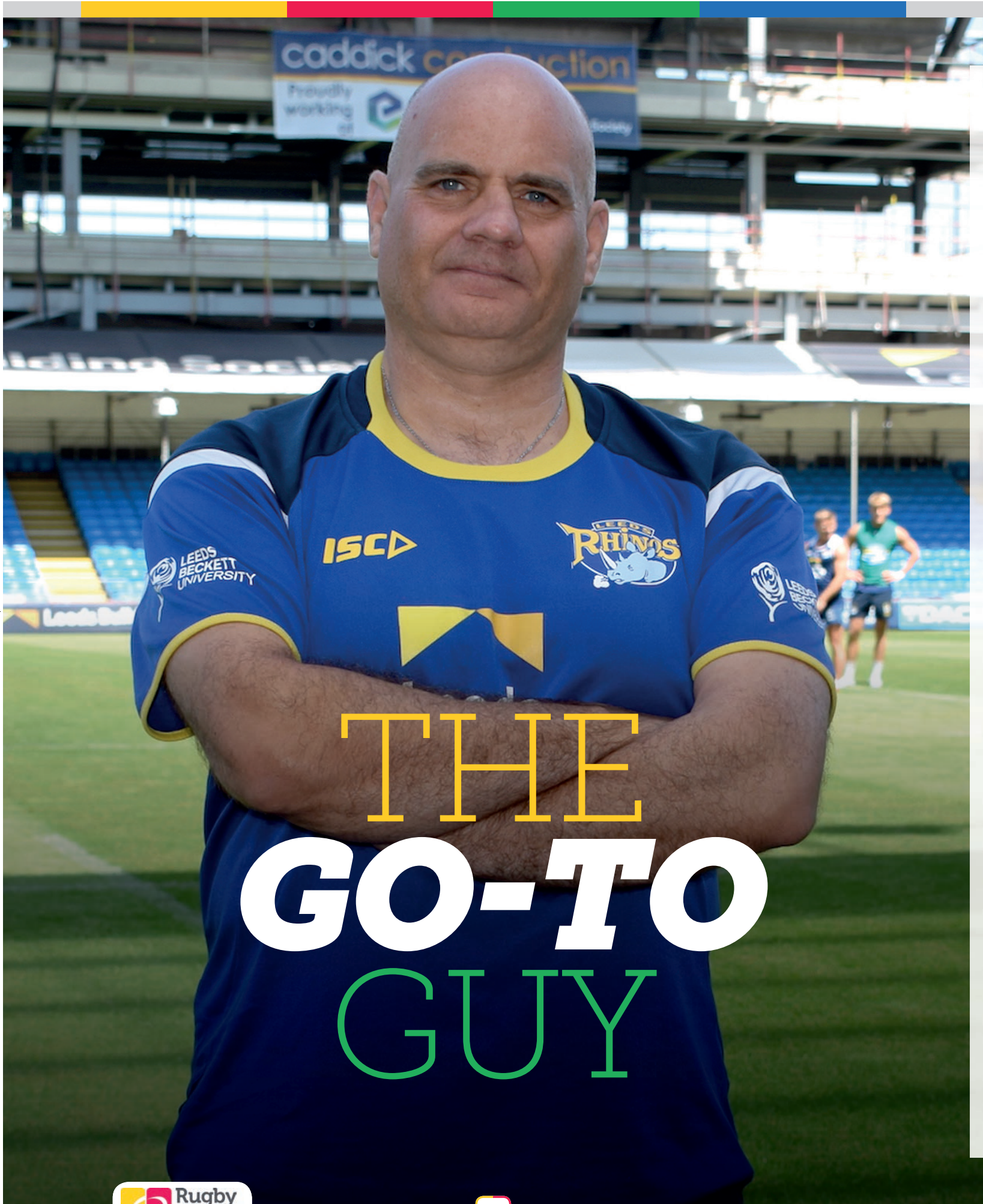
Tackle 6: Ask a mate how he is doing

Talk to a mate who you think might be going through a tough time. Ask how he's doing and listen to what he has to say without judgement

UK STATS...

- + 70 per cent of men say their friends can rely on them for emotional support
- + Only 48 per cent of men say they can rely on their close friends for emotional support





THE
GO-TO
GUY



Does Rugby League care? Yes, it absolutely does, according to Nigel 'Fats' Johnston.

A man who has the sport's welfare coursing through his veins has spent much of the last decade helping enrich the lives of players, coaches and officials in their hour of need.

Nigel is currently the welfare officer at Leeds Rhinos, having previously worked at Warrington Wolves and Bradford Bulls, as well as with Leeds's charitable foundation.

In the course of his work, Nigel has helped countless individuals deal with issues and crises that are impacting on their lives, both on the rugby pitch and off it.

An accredited counselling, coaching, psychotherapy and hypnotherapy practitioner, Nigel is the man players - and other club personnel - turn to in their darkest hour, and for advice and practical help on a wide variety of issues, including transitioning out of the sport and dealing with financial worries.

"If someone has a problem that's bothering them then it has to be dealt with, no matter how trivial or important it might seem from the outside," said Nigel.

"It can be easy for some people to forget that Rugby League players are human beings: they may be supermen when they pull on their club jersey but, like the rest of us, they live lives which sometimes go wrong.

"Rugby League has moved on a long way over the last few years but there's still some way to go. We're in a much better place than most other sports when it comes to player welfare, and a lot of the credit for that goes down to organisations like Rugby League Cares.

"If you go back to my early days at Bradford Bulls when they were winning everything, there was little thought going in to what to do when the bubble burst.

"Few players gave serious thought to life after rugby and there were no 'experts' on hand to lead them. That's certainly not the case anymore, thankfully.

"However, you do have to keep pushing players. Like most young people, retirement seems a long, long way away but unlike people outside professional sport, the end of their careers comes a whole lot sooner.

"When I chat with the younger players I ask them to name me a couple of Super League players who are still doing it at 38 or 39. They can't, of course, because there aren't any.

"By the time a player gets to that age he'll be at least a few years into another career, which he could end up doing until he's 70. It can be a bit of a wake-up call to younger players when they realise they've not given any thought at all to what they are going to do for the rest of their lives.

"I've been especially pleased to see what used to be the stigma of mental health breaking down among the players. The issue is being discussed in the public domain and campaigns like State of Mind and RL Cares's Offload programme are chipping away at barriers.

"We can't let our guard down and everyone has a responsibility to tackle poor mental health because it's something that's not going to go away."

Nigel's love affair with Rugby League began as a nine-year-old with Wakefield club Eastmoor, where he was coached by former Grade 1 referee Fred Lindop, who has guided thousands of youngsters into the game over the last 50 years.

At 17 he was signed by Bradford Northern where the young hooker played Colts and A-team rugby for a club which had an abundance of riches at No. 9, including Keith Bridges, Tony Handforth and a young Brian Noble.

After suffering a knee injury, he was advised to retire but 18 months of rest worked wonders and he returned to Eastmoor to play alongside his two older brothers, Stewart and Dale, who had



"When Bradford Bulls were winning everything, little thought was put into what happens when the bubble bursts"

both played professionally with Leeds and Bramley, and Batley, respectively.

"They were happy days, not just for the three of us but for my dad, who got to watch us all every weekend for the first time ever," recalled Nigel.

"Eastmoor played in the West Yorkshire Premier League which was littered with players who had been involved in the pro game at first team and A-team level. The standard was very high and in many ways the sport is poorer now because the opportunities to play A team rugby and return to the amateur game aren't there."

Like a lot of his contemporaries, working life for Nigel meant a job underground in the mining industry but after being made redundant following a raft of pit closures in the early 1990s, he turned his attentions back to Rugby League with a full-time role as National Development Officer for the sport in Ireland.

"I had five very happy years in Ireland, travelling the length and breadth of the country putting in place schools programmes and helping set up amateur clubs," he said.

"While I was there I saw a young lad playing his first-ever game of Rugby League for Dublin Blues. He had pace to burn and there was something special about him so I immediately put him into the Irish Students side for a tournament in Glasgow.

"I got a bit of stick for that but the lad had a sterner and was named Player of the Tournament. The next day Shane Richardson from Gateshead Thunder rang me and said 'How good is this kid Brian Carney?' I told him what I thought and they signed him without seeing him play."

Nigel ran the Ireland operation during the 2000 Rugby League World Cup and returned to England to work with the Leeds Rhinos community department and then the Bradford Bulls foundation.

In between times, he and his partner fostered 23 children over 16 years, providing him with a wealth of life skills and experiences that led to him setting up a dedicated coaching, counselling and mentoring company, Swan.

"I'd worked with a lot of people in very important positions, including social workers and judges and seen that, like swans, they seemed to be calm and in control on the surface but below it they were paddling like crazy," said Nigel.

"There is a lot of commonality when it comes to counselling people who are having problems, whether they're an office worker, a county court judge or a professional Rugby League player.

"To help people they have to trust you implicitly and confidentiality is really important. That's one of the reasons I work for clubs as a consultant, rather than as a member of staff where I could be compromised by having information that individuals share with me.

"At the moment the responsibility for delivering player welfare rests with the governing body and I don't think that's the best model because, rightly or wrongly, many players find it hard to trust the RFL.

"Fortunately, the game seems ready and willing to listen, and to help facilitate positive change."

Premier
Banking

Go beyond everyday banking

Enjoy exclusive access to rewards, benefits
and enhanced products, all at no extra cost.

Search Barclays Premier

Let's go forward

 **BARCLAYS**



Barclays Bank UK PLC. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Financial Services Register No. 759676). Registered in England. Registered No. 9740322. Registered Office: 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP. CS222. July 2018.



Rugby League Cares charity golf day raises £4,000



The inaugural Rugby League Cares annual charity golf day was a huge success, raising over £4,000 for the charity thanks to the support of our partners Ward Hadaway and the St. James's Place Academy.

The event was held at Fixby Hall at Huddersfield Golf Club and featured some of Rugby League's greatest ever players, including Hall of Fame inductee Malcolm Reilly OBE and his fellow Lions Peter Small, Brian Lockwood and Paul Dixon.

Two-time Super League Man of Steel Paul Sculthorpe partnered Sky Sports commentator Eddie Hemmings while other teams featured New Zealand international half-back Robbie Hunter-Paul, former Leeds Rhinos full-back Richard Mathers and ex-Leeds and Hull FC prop Ewan Dowes.

Basked in glorious sunshine, Fixby Hall provided a challenging test for all the golfers, including the winning team from Rugby AM captained by presenter Alex Simmons.

England Rugby League and St. James's Place sponsored the golf balls while the organisation of the special event was led by RL Cares Business Club partners Ward Hadaway, one of the UK's leading law firms.

Chris Rostron, the Head of Rugby League Cares, said: "The golf day was a fantastic success that was the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people, and we are particularly appreciative of the efforts of Jodi Seddon and Martin Karran from Ward Hadaway.

"We would also like to thank Huddersfield Golf Club's professional Alex Keighley for all her help which ensured everyone who took part came away with a very enjoyable experience of a cracking course.

"We will definitely be looking to hold another charity golf day next year based on the strong foundations laid down in 2018 and will be inviting teams to take part over the coming months."

Jodi Seddon, a solicitor in Ward Hadaway's Family team in Manchester, said: "It was great to meet so many people, have some fun and

raise cash for a good cause at the same time. Bringing so many people together for them to spend time with the players and better understand the warmth of the Rugby League welcome was a real privilege."

Martin Karran, head of the Family team in Manchester, added: "The partnership with Rugby League Cares fits perfectly with the ethos and geographical profile of both the firm and the reach of the charity. Jodi has led the way in forging this partnership and it is great that we can help facilitate such worthwhile events.

"As a firm, we provide legal counsel on legal issues to many current and past professional Rugby League players. Legal work ranges from buying property, through to personal and business services that players need during and after their playing careers.

"It also involves the complex charitable governance work needed to support an organisation of this size. The partnership with RL Cares allows the profile of the game and a leading northern law firm to combine to the benefit of both."

PREPARING FOR THE AFTERLIFE

F or a player who made over 400 senior appearances in Super League, the NRL and at international level,

the admission that he still has a lot to learn about Rugby League may seem surprising.

After all, Gareth Ellis's achievements would be the envy of players from any era in the sport's history: 33 caps for England and Great Britain, a Grand Final winner with Leeds, Golden Boot nominee as a player with Wests Tigers, and twice a Challenge Cup final winner at Wembley for Hull FC.

Yet halfway through the first year of a two-year contract as Hull FC's Football Manager, Gareth concedes he has been surprised at how steep a learning curve he has been on.

"This year has been absolutely brilliant: I've learned lots of things about the game from the other side, things I thought I knew but clearly didn't and loads of stuff that's been completely new to me," said Gareth.

"As a player, you concentrate so hard on playing and training that you don't see how hard people in every other department of a club are working to achieve success on and off the pitch.

"I'm incredibly grateful to (club owner) Adam Pearson for giving me this opportunity and to people like (coaches) Lee Radford and Andy Last, and (Chief Executive) James Clark for helping educate me in what goes on at a Rugby League club. They have been really patient with me. Whatever role I end up in, it will be one where I feel I am making a difference and that's largely down to the support of a lot of people over the last few months.

"In some ways, I'm still trying to find that role: something where the club gets the best out of me and I get the best out of the club."

Gareth's career took off in 2000 when he made his first-team

breakthrough at Wakefield Trinity, where he went on to make over 100 appearances before joining Leeds for a six-figure transfer fee five years later.

One of the motives for the move was Gareth's desire to play in major finals, a goal he realised many times at Leeds, where he was a runner-up in the 2005 Challenge Cup final defeat by Hull FC and a Grand Final runner-up in both 2005 and 2006.

Having agreed a deal 'Down Under' with Wests Tigers in early 2008 - a move fuelled by his desire to challenge himself in the world's toughest Rugby League competition - Gareth was a key figure in what proved to be a sensational swansong for the Rhinos, a 24-16 Grand Final victory over St Helens at Old Trafford.

He was named Wests' Player of the Year for three consecutive seasons and at the end of 2012 he and his young family returned to the UK to join Hull FC, where he led the club to their first-ever Wembley win in 2016, a feat he and the Airlie Birds repeated the following season.

In rugby, as in life, all good things come to an end and just a few weeks before the second Wembley win Gareth announced that he would be hanging up his boots at the end of the season.

Even though he was 36, many people felt he still had one more season in him, a view he does not share, even though he concedes he had possibly given over too little of his time to consider the next stage of his life.

"My time had come and I have no regrets," he said. "I was very fortunate in that I got to play until I was almost 37, which is ample time to think about what comes next.

"I had thought about it, but like a lot of players I hadn't done anything about it. Your tendency is to start thinking about what happens next quite early

on in your career and then not do anything about it for a few years.

"Time goes by very quickly and suddenly you're in your late-20s and you realise you have to get things sorted. I never really knew what I wanted to do, I just thought about playing rugby from being very young. Having the chance to do just that made for an easy life for me in many ways because my career path was mapped out.

"Things didn't change even when I got into my early-30s because I just wanted to stay in the game. All I needed to do was find a role that fitted me. There isn't a job for everybody in Rugby League and lots of players never get the opportunity to carve out a different role within the sport once they finish. I was starting to think that I may be one of them."

The news that Hull FC's long-standing Football Manager Motu Tony would be returning to his native New Zealand at the end of the 2017 season proved serendipitous for Gareth and the club.

"I had started to feel like I needed some distance between myself and the game: I'd had enough of the daily grind of training and playing and knew my future didn't lie in coaching," said Gareth.

"Motu's decision provided a great opportunity for me and I was lucky enough to spend the best part of six months making the transition from club captain to Football Manager by working alongside him."

Gareth's time in Australia has allowed him to compare how players in the NRL approach the end of their playing careers with how their Super League counterparts tackle the transition, and the differences he feels are subtle.

"The NRL are possibly a little ahead of the sport in this country, but that's mainly because Rugby League is so



much bigger over there,” he said. “The players’ union is very strong and has big links with the transition programmes that are in place.

“In Super League things have moved on considerably in the last few years. There’s a lot more awareness now of the need to think about life after rugby and, thanks to organisations like Rugby League Cares, a support network is in place to help players find a new career that suits them.”

In late August Gareth will team up with RL Cares on the UK Red Ride to Wembley, helping raise awareness of both the charity and vital funds on the epic 300-mile off-road challenge.

It will be his second major cycling event of the year, having completed an amazing challenge in early July as a member of the Steve Prescott Foundation team that smashed the world record for the Race Across Europe. The eight riders completed the 3,000-mile trek in under seven days, beating the previous record by two days and raising almost £40,000 in the process.

“The Race Across Europe was one of the best things I have ever done,” said Gareth, whose team members included former players Steve Hampson, Ewan Dowes and Steve Hall.

“I didn’t know much about cycling before I was asked to do it but the magnitude of what I was taking on soon hit me.

“The ride itself was unbelievable: some of the scenery as we cycled through the Alps and the Pyrenees was just incredible, something I will remember forever.

“The best thing for me was feeling part of a close-knit team of eight blokes with the same goal and working hard for each other.

“I played with Steve Prescott briefly when I was at Wakefield and it was an honour to be able to raise cash for his Foundation. It also rekindled a sense of purpose in me.”

It’s hard to imagine that sense of purpose not enduring and seeing Gareth Ellis become as important a figure off the Rugby League pitch as he was on it.

● Gareth is one of 27 riders taking part in the UK Red Ride to Wembley for RL Cares, please sponsor any of the riders by visiting www.justgiving.com/teams/ride2wembley2018





ON YER BIKE!

An all-star cast will saddle up and take the road less travelled this summer on the 2018 UK Red Ride to Wembley for Rugby League Cares.

Seven Rugby League internationals will be among the 27 riders who set out from Old Trafford on Monday 20th August bound for the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup final via the toughest route imaginable.

Gareth Ellis, the man who lifted the cup as captain of Hull FC in the last two Wembley finals, is joined by ex-Castleford prop Andy Lynch, former New Zealand half-back Robbie Hunter-Paul, Great Britain back row Mick Cassidy, ex-England three-quarters Nathan McAvoy and Chev Walker and former Wales forward Paul Highton.

An eighth international, Keith Senior, will also be part of the ride for the full week driving one of the support vehicles on the epic five-day ride, which avoids roads wherever possible by following canal towpaths, bridleways, forest trails and the occasional ploughed field over its 300-mile course.

The other riders include the Head of Rugby League for Sky Sports, Neville Smith, sponsors, Rugby League fans and RL Cares staff who are together hoping to raise over £30,000 to help fund the charity's essential work which touches on the lives of people involved at every level of the game.

The presence of so many former players provides a telling indication of the high esteem in which RL Cares is held by the

playing community, many members of which benefit from important support, both at the end of their playing careers and on the occasions when they face testing crises.

"We are delighted that so many players have put their hands up and are supporting the ride, which is our most important fundraiser of the year," said the Head of RL Cares, Chris Rostron.

"The players are the sport's most important stakeholders but for many years their needs have been overlooked: RL Cares is here when they need us and we are committed to doing what we can to help."

Robbie Hunter-Paul, who will be working as part of the BBC TV commentary team on the day of the final, said: "I've been involved in charity work since I retired and have done a



Gareth Ellis



Andy Lynch, Robbie Hunter-Paul and Keith Senior



Nathan McAvoy



Neville Smith



James Elston



Mick Cassidy



Paul Highton

few challenges but never an endurance event like the UK Red Ride to Wembley and I know it's going to be tough.

"There is some apprehension but also a lot of excitement. I'm looking forward to spending a week with some people I know very well: I was a team-mate of Lynchy's at Bradford and I've played with Keith in the Legends games a few times.

"I've also worked with Chev in the last few years and still have some bruises from playing against Gareth: it's going to be fun, there's a real commonality between us all, we understand each other.

"The main reason I'm involved, though, is not to test myself or enjoy the challenge but to raise funds for Rugby League Cares, a charity that's very close to my heart.

"The support it provides for players is really important and I want to do what I can to engage that community in the fundraising. The more we raise, the more help Rugby League Cares can give to people involved at every level of the sport."

Paul Highton was one of 12 riders who completed the inaugural Ride to Wembley from Headingley to the national stadium last year, just 12 months after he cycled 3,000

miles from London's Olympic Stadium to Rio de Janeiro on behalf of RL Cares.

He said: "I had a bit of a Steve Redgrave moment last year when we reached the Wembley Legends statue after five gruelling days because I would have given permission for someone to shoot me if they saw me get back on a bike again! However, I'm really looking forward to doing it all again.

"We raised over £20,000 for Rugby League Cares last year and I'm sure we're going to smash that total this year, which will be brilliant.

"As well as my role as Player Welfare Manager at Salford, I help deliver fixtures for RL Cares on their hugely successful Offload men's wellbeing project and I see at first hand the amazing difference the charity is making.

"Rugby League Cares is not just changing men's lives, it's saving lives as well, and to keep doing what it does it needs as many people as possible to get behind the Ride to Wembley.

"If I'm honest, there's also a purely selfish motive for taking part again: as tough as it was last year, the banter was bang on and I can't wait for another week of non-stop

laughter, despite the saddle soreness and all the nettle stings!"

Neville Smith, who has led Sky Sports' Rugby League coverage for almost three decades, said: "It's a huge challenge for me, even though I'm a regular cyclist, and I'm looking forward to testing myself on what should prove to be the experience of a lifetime.

"I spend a lot of time travelling up and down the country every week between my home in Buckinghamshire and Super League games but I've never done a journey like this!

"To be able to ride alongside so many Rugby League legends for the week is a great privilege, as is the chance to raise funds for RL Cares, a charity that does so much good work at every level of our great game."

The UK Red Ride to Wembley is scheduled to arrive at the Rugby League Legends statue on the Wembley concourse around 2.00pm on Friday 24th August, the eve of the Challenge Cup Final.

You can support the RL legends on the 2018 UK Red Ride to Wembley for RL Cares by sponsoring them through the event's Justgiving page - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ride2wembley2018



Strong Northern Roots

As Ward Hadaway enters its 30th year, we continue to support charities and good causes. Our partnership with Rugby League Cares allows us to provide advice on a range of legal issues that players need during and after their playing careers. Here's to the next 30 years.

www.wardhadaway.com

wardhadaway
lawfirm

30 YEARS
TOGETHER

2018 UK RED RIDE TO WEMBLEY SPONSORS



RL Cares indebted to our ride sponsors

Rugby League Cares is hugely grateful for the support it has received from some brilliant sponsors on the 2018 UK Red Ride to Wembley.

As well as UK Red Fire and Security, who are the headline sponsors for a second successive year, the charity is delighted to have welcomed on board Wakefield-based specialist engineering company Spec Ltd as principal ride partners.

Spec directors Mike Middleton and Ian Needham have also signed up to do the epic 300-mile off-road ride, joining UK Red directors Kevin Walton and Dean Bettison on the forest trails, Peak District green lanes and canal towpaths between Old Trafford and Wembley Stadium.

"We are huge Rugby League fans and when the chance to be involved in the Ride to Wembley came along we didn't give it a second thought," said Spec's Engineering Director Mike Middleton.

"Rugby League Cares is such a great cause and it's fantastic that we have this opportunity to help the charity raise the funds it needs to do all it does.

"300 miles, most of them off-road, in just five days is going to be a massive challenge for the three of us but we're looking forward to riding alongside some real Rugby League legends."

UK Red Managing Director Kevin Walton said: "UK Red were privileged to be able to cycle to Wembley from the Rugby League heartland last year and raise money for a charity which does so much good in the sport.

"What's more, we raised the profile of our company and had a whale of a time doing the ride, creating memories that will last forever. We are thrilled to be able to do it all again!"

RL Cares Business Club partners, All Sport Insurance, are also involved as sponsors of the ride for the second year and will have two members of staff saddling up to support the charity: Business Development Executive Amy Derham is doing the full route while her father Geoff, the company's Business Development Director, will join the ride for the final day from Tring to Wembley.

James Elston is also back for more, having cycled 330 miles between Headingley and Wembley on the inaugural ride. James's company, Yorkshire Boilers, are an associate sponsor of the 2018 ride.

Three other companies who supported the ride in 2017 have renewed their backing for the charity's biggest fundraising venture: NL Van, Truck and Car Hire, Halfords and Infinity Works have all signed up as associate sponsors.

NL Van, Truck and Car Hire have also loaned a support vehicle for the week, Infinity Works have provided a generous cash donation and the Kirkstall, Leeds branch of Halfords are kindly supplying spares and equipment to keep the 27 riders on the road - well, off the road! - for the week.

In addition, RL Cares's partners the Oddballs Foundation are again providing logistical support.

Chris Rostron, the Head of Rugby League Cares, said: "On behalf of everyone whose lives have been changed for the better by the charity I would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all our sponsors, especially UK Red Fire and Security and Spec Ltd.

"Without the support of all the companies involved we simply wouldn't be able to put together this incredible adventure which is critical to raising the funds we need to keep doing what we do."



CHALLENGE CUP *revelation*

As attentions turn to Wembley and Rugby League's traditional day of celebration, historian **Graham Morris** reveals the lost story of the sport's most coveted trophy, the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup...



Gareth Ellis holds aloft the famous trophy at the 2017 edition of the Challenge Cup final

Here's a sentence that will surprise and indeed shock many people: *the original Rugby League Challenge Cup was manufactured in Manchester!*

'So what?' I hear you say. Well for an anorak such as myself who likes to delve into the history of our beloved sport, it was something of a surprise discovery. The perceived wisdom was that it had been a product of the famous jewellers Fattorini and Sons Ltd of Kirkgate, Bradford, and several publications on the history of Rugby League have suggested as much. But it turns out not to be the case.

I was alerted to the probability at Batley library whilst undertaking some research on the Challenge Cup competition. An 1897 edition of the Batley News (published at the time when Batley became the inaugural winners) informed its readers that, whereas the medals for both winners and runners-up had 'been designed and struck by Messrs Fattorini and Sons of Bradford,' an accompanying feature stated the Cup 'has

been made by Messrs Lloyd, Payne and Amiel, jewellers, Manchester'. It went on to say: 'It is a beautiful work of art, and is well worth the 60 guineas which the Northern Union have paid for it.'

Feeling slightly sceptical after reading this, and having spoken to a few fellow 'historians' who were also unconvinced, I thought I could obtain conclusive proof through some neat detective work.

All I had to do was inspect the trophy itself and identify the manufacturers markings. Simple - or so I misguidedly thought!

I duly arranged a visit to the RFL's headquarters at Red Hall in Leeds where the trophy is securely stored, but was then frustrated in my endeavour. The magnificent trophy's intricate but now faded design made it extremely difficult to discover any obvious clues.

The Cup - now looking the worse for wear after a century of mishaps and regular repairs and polishing - was replaced in 2001.

My efforts were also hampered by the fact that the lid is now stuck down, no doubt to avoid its loss (so I could not look inside), and there was also a green circular base stuck to its underside (so I could not look beneath the Cup either). However, having seen other trophies at close hand, I imagine the markings would be tucked away somewhere in its external artwork in any case and had simply worn away.

I then made an interesting discovery through contacting Fattorini's themselves who are now based in Birmingham. To my joy, Thomas Fattorini turned out to be something of an historian himself when it came to the family business and proved very helpful.

I learnt the Fattorini dynasty began with the arrival from Italy of Antonio Fattorini during the 1820s. After initially travelling around Yorkshire as a 'peddler' he built up a modest jewellery and hardware business in Leeds, plus a jewellery and bric-a-brac outlet in Harrogate.

He then moved to Bradford and set up Fattorini and Sons which led, in the 1830s, to three separate businesses being operated by his sons at Skipton, Harrogate and Bradford. The business in Bradford evolved into running retail jewellery shops in the town and designing articles for 'special' orders such as sport-related items.

Incidentally one of Antonio's sons, also Antonio but known as 'Tony' Fattorini, was a leading light of the Manningham club and a major figure in the 1895 split from the Rugby Union, subsequently serving on the Northern Union committee.

Before 1915, it seems that the Bradford 'stem' of Fattorini and Sons used to 'sub-let' the manufacturing of some of the more

substantial specialised items. One of the arts associated with being a silversmith is that of a 'chaser', a person who possesses the skill to produce any detailed intricate patterns that might be required.

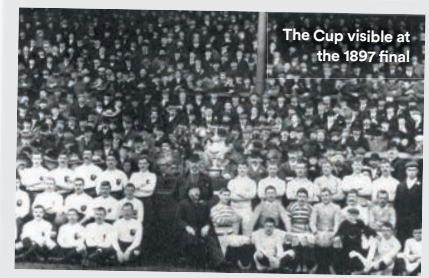
With Fattorini's apparently being short of this particular expertise at the time, it was a key factor in some of the work being done elsewhere. For example, Fattorini's provided the design (they still have the drawing) for the third version of the FA Cup, although it was actually made by a company in Sheffield and delivered in 1911.

The first FA Cup was stolen in 1895, and the second given to Lord Kinnaird in 1911 for services to the game. Similarly, the design for the 'The Northern Rugby Football Union Challenge Cup' submitted by Fattorini was approved by the Northern Union committee but manufactured in Manchester.

Confirmation of the latter fact appeared when I looked up the Manchester-based Athletic News for 26th April, 1897. It said of the new Challenge Cup: 'It has been supplied by Messrs Lloyd, Payne and Amiel, of Manchester and reflects the highest credit upon that firm.'

The article reiterated that Fattorini and Sons had produced the medals. Interestingly, an advert placed by Fattorini's in 1905 celebrated the fact that they had produced the Lancashire Cup (competed for from 1905 until 1992, as was the Yorkshire Cup) but did not refer to the more prestigious Challenge Cup and Championship trophy.

Lloyd, Payne and Amiel - who no longer exist as far as I can ascertain - had an address of 8 and 10 Thomas Street, Manchester, a building that still survives in all its glory. The premises are substantial for a 'shop', being situated at the corner of Thomas Street and



The Cup visible at the 1897 final

High Street in what is now Manchester's 'Northern Quarter' where cafes, restaurants, bars and a jazz club attract a youthful clientele.

The latest version of the Challenge Cup, as stated earlier, arrived on the scene in 2001 and is an exact replica of the original and, therefore, retains 'Northern Union' in its engraved title. Made in Sheffield by Jack Spencer Limited, a particularly pleasing feature is the reinstatement of its ornate neck, removed from the original following the 1968 final due to its instability.

Fattorini and Sons also provided a trophy for the first Northern Union tour of 1910, one that survives today. On the occasion of the Test match against New Zealand on 30th July at Auckland, the tourists presented a trophy to their hosts. Brought from England, the New Zealand Herald wrote: 'It is of solid silver of beautiful design and bears the arms of England and New Zealand.'

Reminiscent of the design for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Cups, it is 18 inches tall and bears the marking of Fattorini. Competed for in New Zealand as an inter-provincial competition, it was known as The Northern Union Cup from 1911 until 1969, following which it was renamed The Rugby League Cup.

There is one more splendid trophy that boasts the famous 'F&S' markings of Fattorini and Sons. Securely housed at Salford Civic Centre (which is actually in Swinton) its inscription tells us that it is the 'Manchester and District Rugby League Championship Cup' and first saw the light of day in the 1902-03 season, the winners being Egerton (Salford).

It was destined to become more popularly known as the Valentine Cup and has been won over the years by some of the most famous amateur clubs of the Salford and Swinton area (past and present) such as Pendlebury, Seedley Rangers, Swinton Juniors, Salford Juniors, Langworthy, Folly Lane and Irlam Hornets.

A version of this article first appeared in Rugby League Journal in 2009.

Rugby League Journal celebrates the history of the sport and is published quarterly. For more information or to subscribe please visit www.rugbyleaguejournal.com



The Challenge Cup has created memories throughout its history, including for winners Castleford in 1969

OFFLOAD WITH RUGBY LEAGUE CARES



Rugby League Cares's celebrated Offload initiative has continued to grow and is supporting more and more Rugby League fans in Salford, Warrington and

Widnes.

Offload is for men aged 16 and over who are finding times tough and are looking for some practical, supportive ways to build a strong mindset to get them through any challenging patches in their life.

Offload, which has been nominated for a prestigious national award (see page 6), is run by RL Cares in partnership with State of Mind Sport, Salford Red Devils Foundation, Widnes Vikings and Warrington Wolves.

Men are invited to come along to their local club and hear from current and former professional players on how they handled any mindset challenges on and off the field. All these challenges can be relatable to our own day to day lives: for example, players



Offload fixtures at Warrington are held in the home dressing room at The Halliwell Jones Stadium



Offload squad members at Widnes

talk about how tough they found it mentally when they got injured. This is similar to men struggling with an illness who are off work.

In each of the 10 fixtures which make up the Offload programme, players work with men to find practical tools and techniques that help them overcome these struggles.

So far, Offload has helped over 800 men. The men who come along to Offload come from a whole range of backgrounds; young, older, in work, out of work, rugby fans and non-rugby fans.

Emma Goldsmith, the Health Projects Manager for RL Cares, said: "Offload is having a significant impact on the lives of men across the North West and we have been delighted with the way the project has developed.

"The feedback we receive on a daily basis from the men who attend Offload fixtures is just fantastic. It's great to see so many men engaging with Offload and blowing away the myths and stigmas that have traditionally framed attitudes to mental fitness."

RL Cares is working in partnership with Edge Hill University to complete an independent evaluation of the programme. So far, they have found that men leave the programme with;

- A better understanding of how to look after their mental and physical fitness
- Have more positive and effective strategies to cope in tough times
- Are more resilient and more able to handle setbacks
- Have a stronger and bigger support network
- Have better relationships at home
- Have increased aspirations about being in work and/or training
- Have started volunteering more

"What men really like about the programme is its informal structure, and that although it is dealing with some pretty serious and tough topics, each fixture is always a laugh and good fun," added Emma.

Offload will continue to run at the three Super League clubs until the New Year.

We're encouraging everyone to come along, give it a go and see what they think.

If you are feeling down, or maybe have a mate or family member who is struggling a little, Offload will equip you with the tools to help each another and feel a lot more positive day to day.

For more information, contact info@rlcares.org.uk, or to book your place at an Offload fixture call;

Warrington Wolves:

James Howes - 01925 248894

Widnes Vikings:

Sean Mellor - 0151 495 2250 (Option 4)

Salford Red Devils:

Joanne Shepherd - 0161 7861591



ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I'VE EVER MADE...

Ian Houghton reveals how Offload is helping him manage his mental health...

"I've been suffering from depression for a few years now and though it's been manageable with medication and support from people around me, there's rarely been a time when I have felt in complete control of it.

Like a lot of people with long-term illness, I have good days and bad: my medication usually works but there are times when I feel really low.

My depression leaves me feeling physically and mentally exhausted and it is only with wonderful support from my family, friends and work that I have been able to cope.

As a lifelong Rugby League fan, I was really interested to hear more when my daughter, who had been involved in 'Fit to Tackle' at Warrington Wolves, said the club was getting involved in a new men's fitness project called Offload.

I'd heard nothing but good things about Rugby League Cares and knew a bit about the great work that State of Mind do, and after speaking to James Howes at Warrington, I signed up straight away.

That was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Offload has made a huge difference to my life, it's been inspirational and given me new coping mechanisms to deal with my illness and live my life to the full.

The 'fixtures' on Tuesday nights have been the highlight of my week and I know from speaking to the other men at the sessions that I'm not alone: we all love it and have benefited immensely.

People can contribute or get involved as much as they like: some people are happy to talk openly about their situation whilst others like to sit back and listen.

The presentations from people like (former Super League referee) Ian Smith, Phil Veivers, Paul Highton and Jimmy Gittins, who have all spoken about their own coping mechanisms, have been brilliant. The professionalism of James Howes has been exemplary.

In my working career, I have attended a lot of seminars and courses down the years but Offload is by far the best. It's a revelation, especially when you consider the project is in its infancy. It's shown me that depression affects people on so many different levels and that it is possible not to let it control your life.

The big first step is having the confidence to be able to speak to someone about it: I'm fortunate in that I know my family and friends are there for me but there are people who feel they don't have anyone.

Offload is a great way to begin to tackle depression or, for people like me, to better handle the illness.

All the team members look forward to the Offload fixture every Tuesday: we have learned so much about ourselves and each other through the power of Rugby League.

It's been an absolute pleasure to be involved and I hope it becomes a permanent fixture across the whole sport."

CASE STUDY: MATT PRITCHARD

“There are families who still have a dad because they’ve been involved in Offload”



Warrington Wolves fan **Matt Pritchard** details how his involvement with Offload has helped turn his life around...

When my best mate, Will, noticed that I was struggling and just not myself, he suggested I speak to someone at Warrington Wolves

about Offload.

He’s a good lad is Will, but I thought people my age don’t suffer from poor mental health. People like me don’t get depression.

I’m 23, I have loads of mates, I like a laugh, I’m popular, how could I be depressed?

Now I sit back and think how naïve must I have been? And how fortunate I am to be involved with something that is really making a difference to my life.

I’m normally smiling and laughing but Will noticed a change. I was letting everything build up, instead of talking about what was going on in my head. I had a few money issues because of my job and was struggling to pay for the rent and buy food; my relationship with my then girlfriend was on the rocks; it was all getting on top of me.

I didn’t initially know about Offload, but after speaking to James Howes from the Wolves Foundation he said come down on Tuesday night and see what you think. That was the hardest thing: I parked the car outside the stadium at six o’clock and just sat there for half an hour.

I didn’t want to go through with it: I thought I’d walk in and people would judge me. I was worried they’d look at me and start thinking ‘there’s something wrong with him’ but that didn’t happen.

Within a few minutes of entering the dressing room at The Halliwell Jones Stadium, I realised that everyone was there for their own reason and had pretty much felt like I felt.

I joined midway through a set of Offload ‘fixtures’ but after my first session I knew I’d done the right thing.

The guys who’d been there from the start had begun to open up and I sat there for a



Paul Highton delivers an Offload fixture at Warrington



few weeks listening to the 'coaches' and to what my new 'team-mates' had to say and I was in awe.

I hadn't really accepted I had problems, I just assumed I was a bit down and that was that but after the second week it really started to sink in what was happening to me.

Without even realising it, I was going home and thinking about what had been said and how I might make my own life better through the other guys' experiences.

The symptoms of my depression were classic: I didn't want to get up and go to work, I didn't want to go out and see my mates, I couldn't see the funny side of anything and when a mate laughed I just wanted to hit him.

I had no self-worth, there just didn't see a point to anything. That's how depression makes a lot of people feel and the longer you leave it, the worse it becomes.

Before I got involved with Offload I had a completely different outlook on mental health. I used to think that people just said they were depressed because they felt a bit down and that it wasn't as bad as they were making out; that they just needed to get over it.

As I said, how naive is that?

I have been on medication, it does help, but I sometimes struggle to go down to the pharmacy to collect it because I start to think I don't need it anymore, that I'm alright. My girlfriend knows straight away

that I'm not taking my medication but I don't get it because it feels to me that there's no difference in me.

That's really why I keep taking them: because it makes a positive difference in that me feeling better makes other people feel better. Sometimes you need a bit of extra help.

The 'fixtures' are delivered by some brilliant people from the world of Rugby League. I'm a lifelong Warrington fan and it's great to sit and listen to former players, coaches and match officials talk about how they managed their own mental health.

Paul Highton has had a big impact on me through his delivery of Offload sessions. His story is like mine: he was the big drinker, the joker at the party who would do crazy things to make people laugh, but then making people laugh becomes harder and harder so you drink more and turn into a bit of a clown.

Everything he said completely resonated with me. Since then I have changed: I don't go out every weekend, I don't get smashed every time I do go out. I can go out now and have just a few drinks, have a really good time and remember having a good time.

Offload has really made me a better person. I have more empathy with other people and the situation they're in. I'm also more aware of the signs of depression in other people.

I can see people and know they're struggling. Offload has made me more open

and more ready to go and talk to someone who is having a bad time, even if they're a complete stranger.

I've also made loads of mates at Offload. It's mad - I now have mates who are three times my age who I can text at any time to ask about their holidays, how work was, how they're doing or simply to tell them I'm not so good.

That's a connection I don't have with mates I've known since I was a kid because you just don't talk with them about things like depression.

It would be great to have more young people getting involved with Offload. One of the guys said that if he'd been to Offload when he was at school his whole life would have been different.

Kids are under so much pressure nowadays and far too many end up taking their own lives. That's tragic because so much suffering could be avoided if Offload sessions were made available in schools.

A few of my Offload team-mates have had suicidal thoughts in the past but they're now coming out into the light at the end of a long, dark tunnel.

There are families out there who still have a dad or a husband because they've been involved in Offload. That's just amazing and I can't thank all the people behind Offload enough.



Bridging the career gap

Having gained his HGV licence with help from RL Cares, **Chris Bridge** outlines how he is building a new life outside Rugby League on concrete foundations...

After a slight pause, Chris Bridge smiles wryly as he replies “No, not really” when asked if he misses being involved in Rugby League.

Less than a year after he took off his boots for the last time, life is looking good for the former Bradford Bulls, Warrington Wolves and Widnes Vikings utility back.

Chris is now working in the construction industry as a concrete pumper, delivering and pouring concrete across the North West and South Yorkshire, a job he clearly loves.

“Don’t get me wrong, I really enjoyed my rugby career and I’m very grateful for the opportunities it provided but I’m very happy in this new chapter in my life,” said Chris.

“I thought I’d find it harder than it has been, to be honest. I was lucky in that I left the game on my own terms: I did have a few injuries but it was ultimately me who decided when I retired.

“The main thing I miss is the hours. Now I’m working full-time I don’t often get the chance to take the kids to school or pick them up. My hours are crazy now, and the job takes me away on sites a lot of the time, but I’m loving it. When you’re a professional Rugby League player you find yourself with a lot of spare time on your hands, and that’s not always a good thing.

“It certainly wasn’t good for me as it left me battling my own demons on too many occasions down the years.”

Chris’s issues off the field, together with some poor luck with injuries, led to him struggling to realise his potential early on in a career which began in the Huddersfield Giants Academy before Bradford offered him a Super League contract.

Things barely improved following his move to Warrington in 2005 but the arrival of coach Tony Smith, together with his new-found status as a father, saw him mature as a person and as a player.

He represented England in the 2009 Four Nations and 2010 international against France, and became a key figure in the most successful Warrington team of modern times, twice helping the Wolves savour Challenge Cup final success at Wembley in 2009 and 2010.

At the end of 2015 Chris signed a two-year contract at Widnes, where his career reached the end of the road two seasons later.

“I had some great times but I always knew they wouldn’t last forever and towards the end of my career I began to think about what I would do next,” he said.

“A lot of players don’t get to choose when they finish but you don’t really worry about that when you’re young.

“Maybe I should have started to look at career options earlier, I don’t know, but it’s something I’d definitely advise younger players to do. Don’t leave it too late.

“There is some good advice out there and I was really helped during my time at Widnes by Julie Measures, a careers advisor who does consultancy work for Rugby League Cares.

“She helped me put my CV together and passed it on to a few companies, one of which contacted me straight away offering me a job, not realising I was still full-time at Widnes.

“I was supported by grants from Rugby League Cares to get my Class 1 and Class 2 HGV licence, and from there I went and did some unpaid work experience. I knew that with my HGV licence I’d never struggle to find work.

“At the end of last season, I got this job straight away and I’ve never looked back.”

RL Cares offers grants to all professional Rugby League players to help them gain academic and vocational qualifications before the end of their playing careers. Players interested in finding out more should contact their Player Welfare Manager in the first instance.



Community projects flourish through dance

RL Cares Dance Programme manager Sarah Elston rounds up what has been a busy few months for our Cultural Partnership programme...

Leight Community Trust have welcomed back Community Dance Practitioner Michelle Mahoney following maternity leave to jump straight into Rugby League Cares's Cultural Partnership activity in schools across Leigh.

Michelle is a lady of many talents and has also become our official photographer: she will be visiting club foundations over the next few months to capture photos and videos to share with Curious Minds.

Led by Warrington Wolves Cultural Partnership manager Leah Biddle, we were thrilled to support the Boys Dance Expo.

The WOW Boys dance expo was held at The Pyramid as part of Culture Warrington's Contemporary Arts Festival. The event saw 75 male dancers from throughout the north west join together to participate within energetic dance workshops led by the Lowry and male dance company EdgeFWD from Edge Hill University.

Male dance groups and individuals from Warrington, Cumbria, Manchester, Cheshire and Lancashire took to the pyramid stage in a high-quality performance platform celebrating male dance and inspiring other boys to join.

In the north east, young people from across the region took part in the first phase of Newcastle Rugby Foundation's Cultural Partnership programme with two performances.

Seven schools came together at Kingston Park to perform pre-match to the Gateshead Thunder vs Bradford Bulls game before meeting again on the Saturday to step up and perform at St James's Park for Magic Weekend.

Newcastle-based Dance City are set to support further activity over the summer holidays and plans are now underway to launch the Newcastle Rugby Foundation Dance Academy. Watch this space!

This summer, Hull KR Community Trust dancers will be stepping out of their comfort zone as they embark on their Silver Arts Award journey. Led by their Arts Award mentor, Amelia Lewis, they'll be taking part in theatre workshops involving the Red Ladder Theatre Company and also

working 'behind the scenes' with Join the Momentum in preparation for the Autumn International Series dance programme.

Widnes Vikings Community Coach Leah Cash has launched the first Vikings Dance Academy through her Arts Award programme in schools. As well as taking the dancers through their Explore Arts Awards, Lydia also supports the young people to perform on match days and at other local events.

Ninety dancers from St Johns Hindley Green, Hindley Green Primary School, Ince CE Primary School and St Patricks Primary school in Wigan came together in early July to perform and celebrate their hard work on the pitch at the DW stadium.

Supported by Wigan Warriors Foundation and WigLe Dance, the dancers have taken part in the Arts Award Dance programme and over 12 weeks have completed the Explore Arts Award as well as working towards the big performance.

The performance incorporated street dance, contemporary dance and the children's own choreography. The highlight for both performers and the audience was the finale where all the children danced their favourite Fortnite moves together - especially the floss.

Many of the children involved have now expressed an interest in continuing to dance and will be taking part in community classes with WigLe dance and Warriors Foundation over the summer.

Family, friends and teachers came together to recognise the achievements of Gold Arts Award students from Co-op Academy Priesthorpe. The students, who have been mentored by Roxy Gallagher were full of thanks and utmost respect for the Rugby AM Academy team who have given them countless opportunities to put their media skills and talent to practical use through 'on the job' work experience.

The event, which was held at Weetwood Hall in Leeds, was also attended by dancers from Hull KR who opened the event with a piece choreographed by Phoenix Dance Theatre and Alsihia Schofield from Leeds Rhinos Foundation presented to the audience her experience of delivering the Arts Award programme.

THE VINTAGE GREAT BRITAIN RUGBY LEAGUE COLLECTION BY ELLIS RUGBY



OFFICIAL PARTNER OF
RUGBY LEAGUE CARES



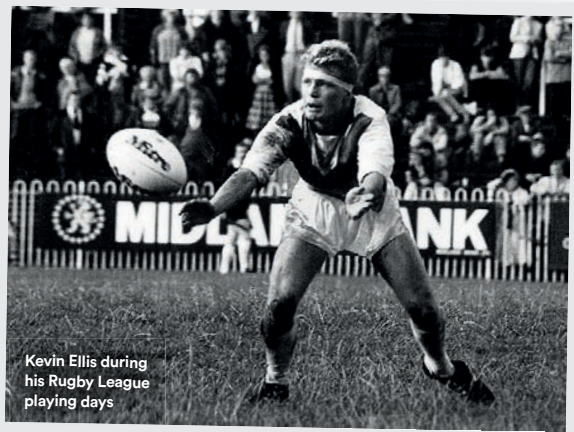
COMING SOON!
THE 'HALL OF FAME' RANGE.

(PIC: ADRIAN MORLEY WHO
WON 30 GB & 23 ENG CAPS).



www.ellisrugby.com

A BRAND BORN IN LEAGUE



Kevin Ellis during his Rugby League playing days



When Kevin Ellis leafs through a colourful selection of samples for forthcoming clothing collections, proudly pulling out examples he is particularly pleased with to inspect more closely, it's clear that this is a man who loves rugby.

And Rugby League in particular.

As appealing as the garments sporting the badges of Wasps RUFC, Harlequins and Leicester Tigers look, it is the international and club Rugby League jerseys that most animate the 58-year-old.

The founder of Ellis Rugby is passionate about the sport he grew up playing as a boy at Hunslet Parkside, when his contemporaries included a precocious youngster at nearby Corpus Christie called Ellery Hanley.

"I got sick of playing against Ellery, to be honest, he was impossible to stop!" says Kevin, whose rugby career may not have followed the same stellar path as Hanley's but

who nonetheless did go on to represent his country as a student international.

"I played for England Students against France at Villeneuve and after that signed professional forms with Keighley before having spells at Doncaster and Dewsbury over the next 10 years," he adds.

A career in marketing working for companies in Leeds followed but five years ago he realised that by marrying his design flair with his love of rugby he could have the dream job. Ellis Rugby was born.

His ranges of high-end garments using natural fabrics and with a quality finish and strong attention to detail quickly became popular in rugby union, but Kevin could not resist his league urges and a range based on the 1932 Great Britain Lions tour jersey proved to be a popular seller.

"There's a big market for my products in rugby union but I think the market in Rugby League is probably better for me because

what we do is such a great fit with the sport," said Kevin.

Last year, Kevin was approached on behalf of the Rugby League Lions Association to discuss the possibility of creating a range of heritage apparel celebrating the sport's touring heroes.

From those initial conversations, Ellis Rugby were awarded the contract to produce the first-ever officially licensed Rugby League Lions apparel, which has proved to be a huge hit since being launched in late 2017.

Sales of the range, which is based on the designs of the 1988 Great Britain Lions jersey, have so far generated almost £10,000 in commission for the RL Lions Association, who has donated the proceeds to Rugby League Cares's player welfare programme.

Stockists of the Lions range include Leeds Rhinos, Featherstone Rovers, Warrington Wolves, Wigan Warriors and Hull Kingston Rovers, as well as online specialists such as Lovell Rugby. The full range is also available directly from Ellis Rugby via their website.

"There has been a fantastic response to the Lions range," said Kevin. "I don't think any of us knew how successful it was going to be and it's great that we've almost sold out of many items in the range. What's more, it's still got legs and our future plans with Rugby League Cares will complement the Lions range perfectly."

RL Cares is currently working with Ellis Rugby on an exciting new range of officially licensed Rugby League Hall of Fame apparel that will celebrate the careers of some of the greatest players ever to play the sport (see page 8). The initial Hall of Fame collection will be launched in the autumn with designs celebrating the exploits of Billy Boston, Malcolm Reilly, Roger Millward and Neil Fox at both club and international level.

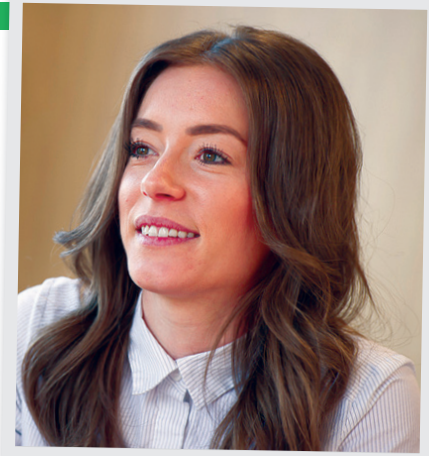
"I'm really pleased with the designs for the Hall of Fame range and looking forward to working with RL Cares, the players, their families and the clubs on this great project," added Kevin.

"Rugby League players have always been my heroes: it's fantastic to have this opportunity to work with RL Cares to celebrate some true legends of the game."

Chris Tuson celebrates Wigan's 2013 Challenge Cup win with team-mate Ben Flower



Giving back to the game with Ward Hadaway



When her partner Chris Tuson suffered a career-ending injury playing for Hull FC four years ago, Jodi Seddon's life was suddenly filled with uncertainty.

A product of the hugely successful Wigan Academy, Chris had made over 80 first-team appearances in the famous cherry and white - including playing for Wigan against Hull at Wembley in the Warriors' 2013 Challenge Cup final win - before moving to East Yorkshire at the end of that season.

Seventy five minutes into only his 12th game for Hull in July 2014, Chris twisted his neck in a tackle and was left temporarily paralysed. Doctors later diagnosed a second bulging disc, having sustained the first in a pre-season training incident at Hull, and informed the then 26-year-old that he would not play rugby again.

The news was devastating not just for Chris but for Jodi, who was then a law student at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston.

Jodi, her own and Chris's family rallied to his support and once the initial shock had subsided, the young couple realised they had to completely reassess their lives.

"The circumstances weren't great, it was a really stressful time for both of us," said Jodi. "Chris was living in Hull at the time and I was studying at Preston, as well as working part-time.

"He hadn't considered what might happen if something like this happened - no player ever does - and that's when I first heard about Rugby League Cares.

"The charity was brilliant for Chris, providing valuable physical and emotional support, as well as helping him with advice on training courses and gaining the life skills he needed for a life outside rugby. You could say Chris is the prime example of why RL Cares exists. I thought at the time that if I could ever do anything to help RL Cares, I would."

Jodi graduated from UCLAN in 2013 and joined Ward Hadaway in early 2016 as a member of their legal team having completed her Legal Practice Course in 2014. She

qualified as a solicitor specialising in family law in March 2018.

Ward Hadaway is one of the UK's Top 100 law firms and a major player in the north of England, with offices in Newcastle, Leeds and Manchester. They have a substantial client base of regional, national and international clients from the private and public sectors, as well as looking after the personal interests of a range of private individuals.

"Ward Hadaway are very keen on supporting local communities and charities that their staff are interested in," said Jodi. "Having seen at first hand what a huge difference RL Cares makes, I was keen to bring Ward Hadaway and the charity together if I could.

"There's also a great geographical fit between RL Cares and Ward Hadaway."

In February, Ward Hadaway became a member of the RL Cares Business Club, which was set up last year to make a range of products and services available to professional Rugby League players who can often be left disadvantaged by the unique nature of their job.

As well as access to the legal expertise of Ward Hadaway, players can obtain world class banking services from Barclays via the Business Club, plus market-leading prices on BMW car ownership, expert advice on insurance from All Sport Insurance, and preferential rates when they move currency to the UK, or from abroad.

In recent months, Jodi has joined RL Cares player ambassador Keith Senior on a series of club visits where she has been able to detail the range of services Ward Hadaway offer to the playing community.



"I am really enjoying being involved, the club visits are great," said Jodi. "We have already helped a number of players with property transactions and other issues, and the specialists at our Newcastle office are helping RL Cares with a few governance matters.

"It's nice to be able to build connections and establish relationships that allow RL Cares and Ward Hadaway to grow as a team. It's also great for me to have this as my own project."

Jodi and her colleague Martin Karran from Ward Hadaway helped organize and run the inaugural RL Cares charity golf day staged at Fixby Hall, Huddersfield, earlier this year that raised over £4,000 for the charity.

Jodi's next 'project' is the small matter of her wedding to Chris in September, when the groom will greet his new bride at the altar having forged a successful career as a client manager at The Sports Office, a company run by brothers Phil and Andy Clarke. As a Client Manager Chris supports and manages a number of professional sports clubs with the use of The Sports Office software.

In late June Chris passed a BTEC Higher National Diploma in Business Managing with assistance and funding from RL Cares and is looking to complete further study next year to gain his degree.

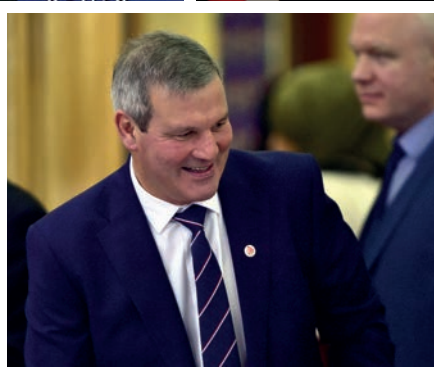
"We will always be grateful to RL Cares for the support they gave us both at the lowest point in Chris's life and in the months and years afterwards," said Jodi.

"RL Cares does some fantastic work and I feel proud and privileged to be able to help the charity through this exciting partnership with Ward Hadaway."

wardhadaway
lawfirm



You could say Chris is the prime example of why RL Cares exists. I thought at the time that if I could ever do anything to help RL Cares, I would





LIONS THAT LUNCH

The Rugby League Lions Association held its annual luncheon in January when over 60 Lions attended a hugely successful function at the Cedar Court Hotel in Bradford.

The luncheon was attended by 415 guests and sponsored by Ellis Rugby, the company which last year launched a range of Lions heritage apparel that is selling well in shops and online.

The theme of the luncheon was a celebration of the 1988 Lions, who were represented by eight members of the tour that featured a memorable third Test victory over Australia in Sydney: Andy Gregory, Henderson Gill, Paul Hulme, David Hulme, Paul Loughlin, John Joyner, Paul Dixon, Karl Fairbank and business manager David Howes.

This year's lunch once again saw heritage certificates featuring their unique Lions number presented to Lions attending

for the first time since the scheme was introduced: 19 certificates were presented to players and staff.

In addition, Lions heritage certificates were also presented to family members and family representatives of those who have passed away. These included seven players from the historic 1946 tour, which reached Australia aboard the aircraft carrier HMS Indomitable: Bob Nicholson, Les White, Ernest Ward, Frank Whitcombe, Joe Egan, Harry Murphy and Doug Phillips.

The more recent Lions included Paul Wellens, Jamie Peacock, David Lyon, Chris Joynt, Alan Hunte, Brian Noble, Gareth Ellis and the game's most capped international, Adrian Morley, who received his heritage certificate from Alex Murphy OBE.

The Lions paid their traditional respects to the Association members who had died since the last luncheon. The 10 Lions who passed away in 2017 were featured in a moving video tribute.





Keith Senior outlines the benefits of RL Cares membership to the Hull FC players

SENIOR SERVICE

He retired seven years ago and is currently assistant coach at Sheffield Eagles but Keith Senior has been spending a lot of time with Super League players over the last few months.

As a Player Ambassador for Rugby League Cares, the former Sheffield, Leeds Rhinos and Great Britain centre is helping the charity communicate the services it offers to the playing community.

Keith still cuts an imposing figure when he stands before a squad of current players - even at the grand old age of 42! - and has a strong connection with the young men who thrill and delight Super League crowds on a weekly basis.

"The club visits have been going really well and it's good to be able to pass on some of my experience to the players, as well as advising on how Rugby League Cares is here to help them," said Keith.

"A big focus of the visits is a presentation about the partners we have in the RL Cares Business Club, which was set up in recognition of the fact that being a professional Rugby League player isn't like any other job.

"Yes, it has its benefits, but players are under unique pressures and can be left disadvantaged by the nature of what they do.

"Take car insurance, for example. Many insurance companies won't touch

professional sports people and some of the ones that do charge an absolute fortune.

"One of the early companies to join the Business Club were All Sport Insurance, who specialise in sourcing affordable insurance for people across a range of sports, and they've done a brilliant job.

"There has been a massive uptake in policies from All Sport and I estimate that RL Cares has helped more than half of all Super League players find cheaper insurance, often with massive savings.

"We also have a great partner in Barclays, who offer exclusive deals to players through their Premier Banking service. The perception among a lot of people, players included, is that changing banks is a difficult process but that's not the case and the players who have switched to Barclays all tell me it's the best move they've made."

The other partners of the RL Cares Business Club include Frank Exchange, who provide special rates for players moving currency overseas or back into the UK, and top 100 law firm Ward Hadaway, who offer a wide range of professional legal services to players.

Keith added: "The game has changed massively since I started out in 1994, when it was very much part-time everywhere except at Leeds and Wigan, and when the money you got from playing rugby was a bit of a bonus. Many players are more switched on

nowadays, and they have to be. Younger players, in particular, are much smarter than I was at the same age. They realise that few of them will ever get a marquee player contract and that they're unlikely to be in a position when they retire where they don't have to work again.

"The reality of life as a Rugby League professional isn't lost on many players. There is an acceptance that not all of them will have the 'luxury' of retiring in their early-30s and that they need to sort out their futures long before they get to that age, and that there is a risk of career-ending injury when they're still young.

"The availability of training and education grants through RL Cares makes it even more appealing for players to prepare for life after rugby at a younger age.

"Professional sportsmen are employable in all walks of life because of the disciplines and structures we work under during our playing careers.

"By taking advantage of a grant from RL Cares, players are increasingly opting to enhance their employment prospects and making themselves more attractive to potential employers while they still have the profile that comes from playing."

Players are encouraged to join RL Cares for just £20 a year to enjoy the full benefits and allow the charity to continue to live up to its motto, 'For the players, for the game'.



ST. JAMES'S PLACE
ACADEMY

FOCUS, TENACITY & DEDICATION

We're confident you have what it takes – are you?

The St. James's Place Academy provides a unique career-change programme that offers high calibre, driven and diverse individuals, with no previous experience, an exciting opportunity to build a career in wealth management. Whether seeking a new career with an experienced practice, or the opportunity to establish your own business, our structured and financed development programmes offer security and flexibility.

www.sjpacademy.co.uk

Phone: Simon Andrews on 07825 696899

Email: simon.andrews@sjp.co.uk



Rugby League Cares

ALL SPORT
INSURANCE

BARCLAYS




ST. JAMES'S PLACE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

UKRed
SECURITY & FIRE SYSTEMS

wardhadaway
lawfirm