

The Official  
Magazine of  
Rugby League Cares  
Spring/Summer 2019



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# WELCOME



IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE LAST EDITION OF ONE IN, ALL IN, OUR NEWSLETTER INFORMING PEOPLE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY AND ITS STAFF. HOPEFULLY, THE NEXT FEW PAGES WILL EXPLAIN WHY!

A lot has happened since last summer and in that time our work has continued to develop and support an ever-increasing number of people involved in the sport at all levels.

We have launched the very successful Back Onside project, which you can read about on pages 10 and 11; and Offload, our massively successful mental fitness programme, has concluded its two-year pilot phase.

We are now working hard to secure additional funding to ensure that this initiative, which was delivered in partnership with State of Mind and the charitable foundations at Warrington Wolves, Widnes Vikings and Salford Red Devils, can continue to be made available to all those in these key Rugby League communities.

By far and away the most significant development for Rugby League Cares is that from January 1, 2019 we have been responsible for delivering player welfare to the professional and semi-professional game.

I would like to express my thanks to the Rugby Football League for leading on this process and for the confidence they have shown in the organisation.

Full details of how this important change came about, including the exciting recruitment process it has inspired, are detailed elsewhere in this edition.

One of our challenges we and the wider sport face in raising the funds needed to support their needs is that Rugby League players aren't necessarily the easiest sell in a charitable context. They certainly don't pull on the heartstrings in the same way as fluffy kittens, children or French medieval churches do!

We are obviously not trying to compete with these very worthy causes. Having said that, we believe that most Rugby League fans do recognise the sacrifices

their heroes make in the pursuit of excellence and success for their favourite teams.

Some of those sacrifices are obvious, such as the toll the sport takes on the bodies of these young men and women, and the knock-on effect that this can have in later life.

It's the hidden challenges where most of our efforts go, helping players leave the sport in a good emotional shape and as confident as they can be as they set out on new career paths.

Equally important is the challenge of helping young men to manage their finances whilst living the dream of being both a professional Rugby League player and a local hero. The truth of the matter is that if these aspects of a player's life are not managed and supported, they can face real difficulties when they leave the sport.

As the players' charity, we are also there for them when things go wrong; by then, the damage done can be lasting which is why we are working hard to equip players with the tools they need to succeed a second time around.

The Rugby League Cares Business Club exists to support players, both during and after their careers, and we are delighted that more companies are coming on board to make their services available to the game's most important stakeholders. Our thanks go out to our partners old and new for their continued support.

Thank you to everyone who picks up this edition of One In, All In: I hope you enjoy reading about our work and ask, if you do like what you read, that you spread the word about Rugby League Cares and help in any way that you can.

**Chris Rostron**  
HEAD OF RUGBY  
LEAGUE CARES

**// BY FAR AND AWAY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT FOR RUGBY LEAGUE CARES IS THAT FROM JANUARY 1, 2019 WE HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING PLAYER WELFARE TO THE PROFESSIONAL AND SEMI-PROFESSIONAL GAME //**



## About Rugby League Cares

Established in 2013, Rugby League Cares is an independent charity that touches on the lives of people involved at every level of the sport.

The charity has responsibility for delivering player welfare programmes to the professional and semi-professional game: 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.

The charity is also there for current and former players who are enduring poor health or hardship by offering practical and financial support.

RL Cares champions the sport's rich heritage and is the custodian of its collections and archives, which are staged in a state-of-the-art facility at the University of Huddersfield, Heritage Quay.

The charity is aiming to open the sport's first-ever National Rugby League Museum within the Grade 1-listed City Hall in Bradford.

RL Cares also promotes mental fitness and healthy lifestyle initiatives through projects such as Offload and Back Outside that are having a positive impact on the lives of men across the UK.

[www.rugbyleaguecares.org](http://www.rugbyleaguecares.org)

@RLCares

Facebook.com/  
RugbyLeagueCares

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# NEWS



## RL CARES WORKING FOR THE PLAYERS, FOR THE GAME

**THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO THE SPORT'S MOST IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS, ITS PLAYERS, HAS REACHED UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS IN 2019 FOLLOWING THE TRANSFER OF FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLAYER WELFARE PROVISION TO RUGBY LEAGUE CARES FROM JANUARY 1.**

Players have been at the heart of everything it does since it was formed in 2013, but the new arrangements have firmly established RL Cares as the players' charity.

The independence of RL Cares means the charity is perfectly positioned to support players, regardless of any contractual dispute they may have with their club, or any other issues involving the governing body or other agencies.

RL Cares Chairman Tim Adams said: "This is a very exciting move for us.

"The handover of responsibility for player welfare follows detailed discussions with the Rugby Football League, who deserve great credit for their commitment to this important field.

"The RFL has done a fantastic job in delivering a player welfare programme in difficult circumstances, without getting the recognition their hard work merits.

"The outcome of those negotiations is that for player welfare to be even more successful, it needs to be delivered by an organisation like RL Cares."

The Player Welfare programme is being led by Emma Rosewarne, who has been seconded to the charity from the RFL, where she has been at the forefront of the governing body's welfare programme.

Within weeks of the move, RL Cares demonstrated its commitment to supporting players with the appointment of Julie Measures as the sport's first full-time Career Coach (see Page 20).

The charity followed up that appointment with the recruitment of Steve McCormack from Wigan Warriors as Transition Manager (see Page 22), in another first for the sport.

Steve will work alongside full-time players as they approach the end of their playing careers to help them prepare for life after rugby.

He will also provide additional support to players across the game alongside the clubs' dedicated Player Welfare Managers, as well as working closely with Julie Measures.

Steve joined the charity in late March from Wigan Warriors, where his work as Player Welfare Manager had seen the Super League champions become recognised as one of the most progressive clubs in British sport in the field of player welfare.

Emma Rosewarne said: "The appointment of Steve and Julie is hugely important for Rugby League and underlines RL Cares's commitment to providing first class levels of service and support to the playing community.

"Steve's role is broad and far-reaching: as well as supporting current players, Steve

will be there for former players who are accessing support from organisations such as Sporting Chance.

"Julie is already well known to many members of the playing community through her consultancy work with the RFL and her appointment in a full-time capacity ensures that many more players will benefit from her expertise."

**// THE RFL HAS DONE A FANTASTIC JOB IN DELIVERING A PLAYER WELFARE PROGRAMME IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, WITHOUT GETTING THE RECOGNITION THEIR HARD WORK MERITS //**

RFL Chief Executive Ralph Rimmer said: "Rugby League Cares is a fantastic organisation and this move is recognition of the outstanding work they were already doing.

"Bringing all the game's welfare provision under their supervision will bring greater consistency of delivery, plus other benefits. This is just a smarter way of working and will help to concentrate further focus and resource in support of the welfare agenda.

"The RFL and the Super League clubs will continue to fund welfare provision through Rugby League Cares, but this also gives the welfare programme more independence as part of a registered charity."



Rugby League Cares has teamed up with one of the country's leading wealth management providers, Mattioli Woods plc, to help players make the most of their income from Rugby League.

The partnership will see the financial planning experts from Mattioli Woods develop a close relationship with the playing community, offering trusted advice, high standards and a personalised service.

Like many young men, players often struggle to manage their finances successfully and miss many opportunities to invest wisely, which can leave them disadvantaged at the end of their playing careers.

The Head of RL Cares, Chris Rostron, said: "I am delighted to welcome Mattioli Woods on board as a member of our Business Club.

"During their playing careers, most

players will earn more than at any other period in their working lives and it is imperative they get the best advice available to allow them to make the right decisions for them and their families.

"Our relationship with Mattioli Woods will allow every player to formulate a financial plan that is unique to their personal circumstances by working with a company that prides itself on putting the best interests of their clients first."

Founded in 1991, Mattioli Woods has offices in Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Buckingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leicester, London, Manchester, Newmarket and Preston.

The company administers over 10,000 clients and hold £8.8 billion of assets and is best known in the sporting world through its sponsorship of Leicester Tigers.

*Above: Adrian Firth (left) and Jody Downes of Mattioli Woods with Chris Rostron and Emma Rosewarne*



*Keith Senior and Amy Derham with Konrad Hurrell and Kallum Watkins*

## ALL SPORT SIGN UP FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS

Rugby League Cares has agreed a three-year extension to its partnership with All Sport Insurance, who continue to be fantastic supporters of both the charity and the sport's players.

Since becoming involved with the charity two years ago, All Sport Insurance have provided cover to hundreds of professional Rugby League players in Super League and the Championships, saving the playing community thousands of pounds when taking out car, home and other insurance policies.

RL Cares Player Support Officer Keith Senior, the former Great Britain centre, said: "All Sport Insurance have become the go-to company for all Rugby League players, both for their competitive rates and for the personal service they offer.

"Players have often found it tough to find affordable cover because insurance companies see them as high risk. All Sport's expertise is seeing players save hundreds, and sometimes thousands of pounds.

"Through our extended partnership, players can continue to benefit from savings on not only just their car insurance but any insurance requirements they may have."

All Sport Relationship Manager Amy Derham said: "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to continue helping Rugby League players save on their insurance premiums and are looking forward to building on our fantastic relationship with Rugby League Cares.

"At All Sport we are committed to securing competitive insurance solutions for players and their families, with the high level of service that we know is required."

## GREAT DEALS FROM ACADEMY LEASING

Rugby League Cares has had a positive response from the playing community to its partnership with Academy Leasing, who joined the charity's Business Club last November.

Based near Warrington, Academy Leasing have been sourcing and funding vehicles throughout the UK for over 30 years and already saving players and their families thousands of pounds on new and used car deals.

Chris Rostron, the Head of Rugby League Cares, said: "Our partnership with Academy Leasing is ensuring players and the wider Rugby League community now have access to the best possible deals when they are in the market for a new car.

"Academy Leasing have given a commitment to at least match any deal: if a player thinks he can find a new or used car at a better price, all he has to do is supply Academy Leasing with the details and they will match or better it."



*Adrian Morley and Michaela Dodd*

The partnership with Academy Leasing has been given the seal of approval by Rugby League Cares ambassador Adrian Morley, the sport's most-capped player.

"I know from experience that players are often given poor advice when they're looking for a new car and often end up paying far too much over too long a period," said Adrian.

"It's fantastic to see that RL Cares are working with Academy Leasing to ensure players get the right car at the right price."



# NEWS

## THE WEMBLEY ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

Rugby League Cares will once again take the long and winding route to the Challenge Cup final in August when 25 hardy cyclists set out from the North of England on the 2019 Ride to Wembley.

Leeds-based UK Red Security and Fire Systems have already signed up as title sponsors of the epic adventure for a third successive year and Wakefield-based specialist engineering company Spec Ltd are again our main partner, having supported the ride in 2018.

Last year's ride raised over £30,000 for the charity (see Pages 26 and 27) with riders covering a weary 315 off-road miles over five gruelling days, concluding at the Wembley Legends statue on the eve of the Cup final.

This year's route is longer and even more challenging

and will be revealed, along with details of another star-studded line-up of riders, at a special launch event at the Brownlee Centre in Leeds in May.

If you would like to sponsor any of the riders on the 2019 UK Red Ride to Wembley for RL Cares please visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ride2wembley2019](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ride2wembley2019)

All proceeds go straight to the charity to help fund our important work across the whole sport.

*Our 2018 riders with their families at the Wembley statue*



## RL LIONS AND ELLIS RUGBY RAISE £20,000 FOR RL CARES

Rugby League Cares was delighted to receive a cheque for £20,690 from the Rugby League Lions at their annual luncheon in Bradford in January.

The magnificent sum is the proceeds of the Lions' hugely successful partnership with Ellis Rugby, who have made a small donation to the Association from every sale of the Great Britain heritage apparel range launched in late-2017.

Ellis Rugby have also sponsored the Lions luncheon for the last two years and have helped make



*Kevin Ellis, John Ledger and Chris Rostron*

the fabulous event one of the sport's must-attend functions for all true Rugby League fans.

The cheque was presented to the Head of RL Cares Chris Rostron by Ellis Rugby Managing Director Kevin Ellis and Lions Association secretary John Ledger.



*Welfare managers at Ward Hadaway*

## PLAYER WELFARE MANAGERS MEETING A SUCCESS

Dedicated Player Welfare Managers from 13 clubs took part in a hugely productive meeting hosted by Rugby League Cares at the Manchester offices of the charity's Business Club partners Ward Hadaway in March.

The meeting was chaired by Head of Welfare Emma Rosewarne and provided an opportunity for the club representatives to share best practice and hear updates on the many tools and resources open to them.

The afternoon session featured a presentation by Sporting Chance on how to recognise and maintain mental fitness in players.

The player welfare managers were also updated on the Rugby Football League's Listening Club initiative, part of which encourages clubs to be responsive to small issues raised by players and thereby create an environment where big issues can be tackled openly and fairly.

## STEVE BALL JOINS THE RFL ROLL OF HONOUR

The sterling work of Steve Ball, the General Manager of the RL Benevolent Fund, was recognised in March when he was inducted on to the Rugby League Roll of Honour.

Established in 2003, the Roll of Honour acknowledges exceptional off-field contributions and complements the RL Hall of Fame for on-field performance.

Steve has had a lifelong involvement in the game, including spells as chairman of Hunslet, Chief Executive of Hull FC, a director of both the RFL and Leeds Rhinos and Chief Executive of Batley.

Since 2006 he has been the driving force behind the development of the RL Benevolent Fund, which offers invaluable support to players and their families when tragedy strikes.

Clare Morrow, who served three terms as a non-executive director with the Rugby Football League, was also inducted onto the Roll of Honour, which now features 37 individuals.

*Ralph Rimmer and Steve Ball*





# NEWS

## MUSEUM PLANS ON TRACK



Rugby League Cares continues to work alongside Bradford Council on plans for a first-ever National Rugby League Museum.

The proposed museum will be housed within the Grade 1-listed Bradford City Hall and would form a major attraction in the heart of the West Yorkshire city, which is undergoing a massive transformation as a destination venue.

A recent restructuring of the Heritage Lottery Fund has meant the process of applying for grant funding has taken longer than expected but all parties remain optimistic of a successful bid.

*Bradford City Hall*



## KEITH HITS THE ROAD

Rugby League legend Keith Senior has been busy on behalf of RL Cares over the last few months by leading a series of presentations about the work of the charity to Super League players.

Keith, who combines his position as assistant coach at Sheffield Eagles with his role as the charity's Player Support Officer, has been joined by representatives of some of our Business Club partners, including All Sport Insurance, Barclays and Ward Hadaway.

The presentations feature details of how players can access the benefits

that come from being a member of RL Cares such as education and training grants, as well as our broader support network.

Membership for players costs just £20 a year, which represents amazing value given the advantages available for the playing community.

*Above: Keith Senior outlines the benefits of RL Cares membership to the Leeds Rhinos squad.*



*Above: Danny Scott is interviewed by Dave Woods*

## FUNDRAISING BALL A SUCCESS

The 2019 RFL President's Ball held at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, in January raised a magnificent £22,000 for the RL Benevolent Fund. Attendees included RFL President Andy Burnham and guest of honour Danny Scott, whose story of how the charity has supported him since he suffered a serious spinal injury in 2004 is detailed on page 17.

## WOLFPACK TRAVEL OFFER

Rugby League fans making the away trip of the season in 2019 can help support our important work thanks to a new partnership with Divine Sports Travel.

The Manchester-based company are the official travel partners of Toronto Wolfpack and the only agent to work in direct partnership with the Championship club's main sponsors, Canadian Affair and Air Transat.

For every individual booking, Divine Sports Travel will make a small donation to Rugby League Cares to enable the charity to continue doing what it does, for the players, for the game.



For more details of Divine Sports Travel packages to Toronto matches please visit [divinesportstravel.co.uk](http://divinesportstravel.co.uk)





# NEWS



## OFFLOAD SUCCESS CELEBRATED AT GALA LUNCH

The success of our men's mental wellbeing initiative Offload was celebrated in style at a luncheon hosted by the Warrington Wolves Foundation at The Halliwell Jones Stadium in late April.

The two-year pilot project began in 2017 and has had an amazing impact on the lives of hundreds of men who have attended fixtures delivered at Warrington, Salford Red Devils and Widnes Vikings.

Funded by the Big Lottery, Offload was devised by RL Cares with expert clinical support from State of Mind and featured presenters from the world of Rugby League, including former referee Ian

Smith and players Paul Highton, Danny Sculthorpe and Jimmy Gittins.

The luncheon was attended by representatives from RL Cares, the three club foundations, State of Mind and many other stakeholders from the North West and health sector and featured a series of presentations from people involved. For more details about Offload see pages 36, 37 and 39.

## RL HERITAGE TO STAR IN BBC TV SHOW

Rugby League's rich heritage will take centre stage on national television thanks to a collaboration between RL Cares and the BBC.

The story of how the sport was born in 1895 and why it continues to play such an important role in its communities is to be featured in an episode of *Antique Roadtrip* set to be screened early in the New Year.

Filming took place at the John Smith's Stadium in Huddersfield in April when the sport's historian Prof Tony Collins shared his in-depth knowledge of rugby with antiques expert David Harper.

The two men discussed some rare memorabilia from the RL Cares archive, including the original Challenge Cup trophy first awarded in 1897, a turn-of-the-century wooden rattle, a Northern Union jersey from the first-ever international played in 1906 and a pair of boots that belonged to Hall of Fame member Brian Bevan.

David Harper also donned a full Huddersfield Giants kit and was put through his paces on the pitch by two local heroes, Giants legend Eorl Crabtree and our very own Player Support Officer, Huddersfield-born former Great Britain centre Keith Senior.

*David Harper with Eorl Crabtree and Tony Collins*



## CAFFÈ NERO SIGN UP TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY GAME RAFFLE EVEN TASTIER

Rugby League's biggest fundraiser, the Community Game Raffle, is back for 2019 with a new-look, a new partner and an amazing line-up of prizes.

The raffle has already raised over £500,000 for the sport in recent years and the 2019 raffle will provide a massive funding boost to participating clubs and teams.

Rugby League Cares has teamed up with Caffè Nero to make the 2019 Community Game Raffle tastier than ever before by offering a free cup of Caffè Nero's premium award-winning coffee with every ticket purchased.

Fans who buy a £2 ticket for the sport's biggest fundraiser will not only go into the draw to be in with a chance of winning a host of experiential prizes, they can also claim a complimentary coffee from Caffè Nero.

Caffè Nero is Europe's leading independent coffee house brand with over 1,000 coffee houses around the world. Every Community Game Raffle ticket features a unique QR code that can be scanned on the Caffè Nero mobile app for a free coffee at any of the 800 Caffè Nero coffee houses across Europe.

£1 from every ticket is retained by the selling club, with the rest going to Rugby League Cares to cover administrative costs.

The main prize has been donated by Divine Sports Travel and is a VIP trip for two to a Toronto Wolfpack experience in 2020, which includes match tickets, flights, transfers and four night accommodation in a four-star hotel. Other prizes include tickets to major Rugby League events, tickets and hospitality at the 2020 Challenge Cup final and Caffè Nero vouchers.

**Clubs, associations and community groups can order Community Game Raffle tickets by calling 0161 507 2968 or emailing [raffle@rlcares.org.uk](mailto:raffle@rlcares.org.uk)**

# CAFFÈ NERO



**OUR NEW MEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECT, BACK ONSIDE HAS GONE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN OCTOBER 2018.**

Targeting men aged 35-plus, the new National Lottery-funded, Sport England initiative is being delivered at 11 club foundations by current and former professional players with a focus on building men's stamina and fitness in a fun and friendly environment.

Designed to get men back to enjoying exercise, the 10-week multi-sport project emphasises methods such as goal setting and building a positive mindset towards exercise.

Back Onside draws on the experiences of the current and former players to help men build their own tools and techniques to support a healthy lifestyle and change behaviour towards exercise.

Working in partnership with Hull FC, Hull Kingston Rovers, Featherstone Rovers, Castleford Tigers, Wakefield Trinity, Leeds Rhinos, Bradford Bulls, Halifax RLFC, Rochdale Hornets, St Helens and Wigan Warriors, the fixtures focus on engaging men in physical activity by introducing them to sports such as Rugby League, football, dodgeball and many more.

Fixtures are supported by out-of-session resources, including interviews with current and former players about their own goal setting; how they manage nutrition; and suggested exercises men can do out of the sessions. Men are then invited to join established health and wellbeing programmes within the club foundations.



Head of Rugby League Cares Chris Rostron said: "Back Onside is a brilliant way for men to rediscover the benefits of exercise in a safe and familiar environment, and with expert help from experienced Rugby League professionals.

"We all lead busy lives with work and family commitments and it's often the case that men struggle to find the time or the inclination to exercise regularly.

"Once you stop doing something you enjoy, it can be hard to find the motivation to start again, which leads to many men missing out on the health benefits that come from being active.

"Back Onside aims to tackle that trend and provide men with the opportunity to work alongside current and retired Rugby League players in fixtures that combine exercise and activities with fun and banter."

Sport England's research shows that a third of people in lower paid and routine jobs are inactive, meaning they do less than 30 minutes of exercise that gets them slightly out of breath each week. Inactivity in people in lower paid, routine

jobs is twice that of people on a high income in senior and managerial roles.

Rugby League clubs operate within the heart of their local communities, many of which show statistically higher-than-average levels of physical inactivity, especially in men. With many of the sessions taking place at club stadiums, Rugby League has an opportunity to directly reach men who have previously been disengaged with physical activity and offer a unique programme to change the behaviour of men in Rugby League communities towards physical activity.



For more information on Back Onside and how you can become involved, please visit [www.rugbyleaguecares.org](http://www.rugbyleaguecares.org)



# BACK ONSIDE

JOIN THE TEAM. GET BACK TO ENJOYING EXERCISE

## CASE STUDIES

**"I KNEW I'D DONE THE RIGHT THING JUST FIVE MINUTES AFTER I TOOK PART IN MY FIRST BACK ONSIDE FIXTURE AT HEADINGLEY.**

I'm a lifelong Leeds Rhinos fan and signed up for Back Onside in January after the weighing scales tipped 17 stones.

Like many people, it's all too easy to avoid exercise because work and family always come first.

Back Onside is brilliant and coming along is one of the best things I've ever done. It's really fun and is something I look forward to all week.

I joined a gym recently but this is a much better way to get fit. It's a lot more enjoyable.

I've been overweight for some time and wasn't feeling too good about myself. I visited my GP and he diagnosed me with high blood pressure.

Being involved with Back Onside is really helping lower my blood pressure and I've already started losing weight.

My job doesn't help: you don't get much chance to exercise when you're sat behind the steering wheel of a bus all day long.

It's really easy at the end of a long, tiring day to just get home, have your tea and then hit the sofa.

Back Onside fixtures are great and you can really feel the difference for days afterwards. I have a lot more energy and I feel a lot better about myself.

My wife keeps telling me how much happier I seem now and how I'm not as tired as I used to be."

**CHRIS BRADLEY, 34**  
Bus driver



**"BACK ONSIDE IS REALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE, BOTH TO THE WAY I LOOK AND THE WAY I FEEL.**

I started in the first week at Featherstone Rovers and have attended every fixture. It's been really good.

It's encouraged me to get off my backside and do more exercise outside the weekly fixtures.

I didn't feel much difference in the first few weeks but by Week 4 I felt both fitter and healthier. I don't have a dog to walk daily or anything like that but I've started making time for exercise through the week and it's great.

I have also started watching what I eat more: I thought to myself 'what's the point in putting a shift in at Back Onside and then going way and eating the same junk?'

I'm really enjoying the social side of things as well. I live in Featherstone but I'm not from the town and this is a great way to meet up with blokes like me.

Featherstone Rovers is a club that's renowned for its community spirit and Back Onside is a great example of why that is.

My wife is a fitness instructor so I have no excuses really. It's really given me the incentive to lose some weight and get myself fit.

I played football as a kid, I have had gym memberships in the past, and a couple of years ago I swam across Lake Windermere for charity, but I've been out of the habit of exercising.

I am not doing Back Onside to become a gym bunny, I don't aim to get ripped, I just want to keep enjoying getting fitter week by week and having some cracking banter along the way.

I feel sore sometimes the day after, but I also feel good about myself.

I wouldn't have any hesitation in recommending Back Onside to anyone."

**PAUL MITCHELL, 40**  
Contracts director

# ANDY GREGORY

**CLEARLY STRUGGLING TO CONTAIN HIS EMOTIONS, ANDY GREGORY SPOKE FROM THE HEART WHEN HE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE RUGBY LEAGUE HALL OF FAME AT A GALA DINNER IN LEEDS LAST NOVEMBER.**

Over 500 guests were left hanging on his every word as he was welcomed to the sport's most exclusive club by existing Hall of Famers Malcolm Reilly OBE, Neil Fox MBE, Billy Boston MBE and Garry Schofield OBE.

Taking the microphone from host Dave Woods, Andy expressed his gratitude for the support he had received from those closest to him throughout his amazing Rugby League career, many of whom were at the induction dinner as his guests.

They included family and friends who had helped play such a key role in encouraging a young man who would go on to become one of the greatest scrum-halves in the sport's long and illustrious history.

"I enjoyed lots of highs in my career but nothing came close to the pride I felt at entering the Rugby League Hall of Fame," said Andy, who was inducted alongside Johnny Whiteley MBE and the late Derek Turner.

"I've known Johnny from when he was in management and I was playing for Great Britain. What a great player he was. And what can you say about 'Rocky' Turner?

"When I looked around the walls at the dinner and saw the company I was joining it just seemed unbelievable. It's crazy to think of the 28 players who are now in the Hall of Fame I'm only the 11th who is still living.

"I was just made up to have my mam, my wife, my brother and friends there, including one who is especially dear to me - my schoolteacher Mr Birchall.

"I never got picked for Wigan schoolboys, Lancashire Schoolboys or England schoolboys but Mr Birchall told me 'Greg, you've got some talent. Stick with it.' And I did."

In a glittering career, Andy went on to enjoy phenomenal success at Widnes and Wigan, as well as with Great Britain, for whom he gained 26 caps.

He was the first player to play in eight Challenge Cup finals - he collected winners' medals from seven of them and

never lost at the national stadium, having played for Widnes in their drawn final against Hull FC in 1982.

Andy was also awarded the Lance Todd Trophy as player of the match with Wigan in 1988 and 1990 and was a key player in the World Club Challenge win against Manly at Central Park in 1987.

His finest hour came in the third Test of the 1988 Lions tour, when he delivered a masterful display of classic scrum-half play in Sydney to help Great Britain end a 10-year losing streak against Australia.

Towards the end of his playing career Andy had a forgettable spell at Leeds before joining Salford, who he would go on to coach with some success.

He played his last game for Salford within a year of joining them, calling an end to his career in frustration at the impact a series of injuries were having on his game.

"I was only 32 but had lost my pace and that was the most frustrating thing," he recalled. "The week before my last game we were playing St Helens at Knowsley Road and doing OK when I got the ball and spotted a gap. A few years earlier I'd have been away, stepped through it and put a team-mate in for a try between the posts.



Andy Gregory v PNG, Port Moresby 1988



Andy Gregory with Brian Lockwood and Peter Small

"Sadly, that's not what happened: my brain was willing but the legs weren't and I got absolutely smashed in a tackle, much to the delight of the Saints fans who, for some reason, don't like cocky little fellas from Wigan!

"A week later it happened again against Bradford at The Willows. The gap was there, I couldn't go through it and 'Smash!' I was down. At that moment, I made up my mind that I'd finished.

"I still had 18 months of my contract left but I knew I couldn't go on. I spoke to Salford chairman John Wilkinson straight away. He was the best chairman I ever worked for, a smashing bloke, and his first response was to ask me if I was going to another club.

"I told him straight - the only club I was going to from there was Bryn Labour Club!

"I set myself high standards as a player on both sides of the world and I wasn't meeting them. I didn't want to be remembered as the former great who went on too long just to take the money.

"I left my dirty Salford kit and boots on the floor in the dressing room and as I walked out I must have looked back five or six times, more with sadness than regret because I knew I was doing the right thing.

"Strangely, since that day I have never missed playing. Rugby had been my life from being a kid but I always knew one day it would be over and that day had come.

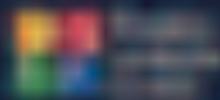


# THE VINTAGE RUGBY LEAGUE CLOTHING RANGE



[www.clothingrugby.com/rugbyleague](http://www.clothingrugby.com/rugbyleague)

[www.clothingrugby.com](http://www.clothingrugby.com)



"Someone in the Labour Club was giving me some stick once about me not getting involved in the sport anymore and I told him straight: I said, look, you used to be a bricklayer, how much of your spare time do you spend sitting looking at walls?"

"Of course, there are things in my career I wish I'd done differently but retiring when I did isn't one of them."

Sanford's coach was Australian Garry Jack, who had played full-back for the Kangaroos in the 1988 Test series and who enjoyed a strained relationship with Andy. When the club's form slid, Jack was relieved of duties and Andy was brought in for his first taste of coaching.

It proved to be an inspired move by John Wilkinson, as Salford rose from the Second Division to become a real force in Super League.

They were promoted at the end of the first Super League season, a year which also saw Salford end Andy's old club Wigan's 42-match unbeaten run in the Challenge Cup.

Salford reached the Cup semi-finals in 1997, losing 50-20 to St Helens, and again in 1998 when a 22-18 defeat by eventual winners Sheffield Eagles had a profound and lasting impact on Andy.

"The nature of that defeat soured my love of the game and my desire to be involved began to fade," he said.

"I wasn't in a good place away from Salford and things slowly spiraled to a point where I knew I had to leave the club."

Andy admits his personal demons were threatening to control his life, especially his long-standing battle with drink.

"I've never smoked a cigarette in my life and I've never done drugs but alcohol has been my weakness," he said.



"I started playing the sport in an era when having a drink was an integral part of being a professional player. I'd train alongside people like Mick Adams, Keith Elwell, Les Gorley and Stuart Wright at Widnes from 6pm and we'd all be in the bar at 9pm.

"It was the same at Wigan, where we'd all end up having a few beers on a Thursday night after training. It was part of your preparation for the game on Sunday.

"It got to the point where I needed help and that's when I turned to Rugby League Cares, who put me in touch with Sporting Chance. I will forever be grateful for the support both organisations have given me.

"I am full of admiration for all the things RL Cares does for current players. It's a

different game now to when I first started but a lot of the same issues are still there.

"Some clubs have never done the right thing by players. They're seen by some club chairmen as commodities, pieces of meat to be used and thrown away.

"I played in one Challenge Cup final for Wigan when I shouldn't have because the club made me delay the groin operation I badly needed. They gave me painkilling injections for weeks which they knew would make things worse but getting me on the pitch at Wembley was all they cared about.

"That took its toll. When I came back early from the 1992 tour because of injury Wigan didn't want to know me. We'd shaken hands on a new contract before I left but an injured Andy Gregory was no good to them.

"The game has moved on, thankfully, and it's great to see organisations like RL Cares championing the cause of player welfare. Players need support, both during their careers and when it comes to deciding what they want to do next.

"I wish RL Cares had been around when I stopped playing."

Andy trained as a chef as a teenager and had combined his playing role at Widnes and Wigan by running a scrap metal business in partnership with his then father-in-law Tony Karalius.

Over the last 20 years, he has drifted between dozens of different jobs and is now combining a role as business development manager for Wigan-based Expert Roofing and earlier this year launched a sporting events company, Andy Gregory Associates with business partner Tony Baldwin.

"I have found a life outside Rugby League but it's not been as smooth as it could have been because I never really prepared for it," said Andy.

"I look at what RL Cares does for players now and wonder what I would be up to if I had access to the same quality of advice and support.

"Many youngsters think they are going to go on playing forever but anything can happen and my advice to any player would be to start preparing for the next stage of your life as early as possible.

"I'd also advise them to listen to the right people and make the most of the time they have. Being a professional sportsman comes with many demands and needs a lot of sacrifices but it also has many advantages.

"One of those is time: the time to learn a new skill, to get the qualifications you need to do something else that you're going to love doing for the rest of your life."



Andy Gregory with John Whiteley MBE



Graham Steadman and Paul Loughlin



Henderson Gill, Alan Smith and Des Drummond



Neil Fox MBE

# THE MAN VAN

**OVER 30,000 MEN TACKLED THE TOUGH STUFF AROUND IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH, PROSTATE CANCER AND TESTICULAR CANCER IN 2018 BY VISITING THE MANVAN, OUR MOBILE HEALTH AND WELLBEING HUB.**

The ManVan is a 38-foot converted American recreational vehicle operated by Rugby League Cares in partnership with the Movember Foundation that featured at major matches up and down the country.

Featuring a mobile Rugby League heritage exhibition and a host of activities for fans to engage with, including fun games and free haircuts from a team of trained barbers, the ManVan proved to be a huge hit.

A total of 20,000 leaflets promoting men's health messages were also distributed and more than 500 men chatted about health topics while having a trim.

The visitors to the ManVan included some of Rugby League's biggest stars such as Man of Steel winner James Roby, Kiwi Robbie Hunter-Paul, RL Lions Neil Fox MBE, Henderson Gill, Des Drummond, and boxer Josh Warrington, the IBF featherweight boxing champion.

As well as attending Magic Weekend, Summer Bash, the Challenge Cup semi-finals at Bolton and all three England

internationals against New Zealand, the ManVan was also a big attraction at Super League fixtures at Hull FC, Castleford, Leeds, Salford and Warrington.

"The aim of the ManVan via the partnership with Movember was to reach out to men in Rugby League communities, raising awareness of key health issues and delivering health messages," said RL Cares Health Manager Liam Parker.

"The ManVan also helped grow the Movember community by delivering remarkable experiences that have a big impact on men's health and empowered men to change behaviours for the better.

"We would like to thank Movember for their fantastic support for the project and thank everyone who came along to the ManVan to help us tackle the tough stuff."

The ManVan was insured by our Business Club partners All Sport Insurance and driven by former Rugby League players Paul Jackson and Lee Paterson.



# RUGBY LEAGUE BENEVOLENT FUND

## THE RUGBY LEAGUE BENEVOLENT FUND HAD NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED WHEN DANNY SCOTT SUFFERED A LIFE-CHANGING INJURY PLAYING FOR MOLDGREEN 15 YEARS AGO.

But the devastating impact an innocuous tackle had on the talented young Rugby League player from Huddersfield has had far-reaching consequences, both for Danny and others like him.

It was the recognition that the game had to do the right thing by Danny and another young man injured on the field of play, Matt King that led to the creation of a charity that does so much good work in the sport.

Now 37, Danny continues to be supported by the RL Benevolent Fund, which has made a life-long commitment to do what it can to make his life as comfortable as possible.

As a youngster, Danny was a self-confessed 'Rugby League nut', playing for his school, All Saints Bradley Bar and local amateur club Moldgreen, where his team-mates included Andy Raleigh, who would go on to enjoy a long professional career with Sheffield Eagles, Huddersfield Giants, Wakefield Trinity and Hull KR.

Danny made his open age debut for Moldgreen at just 16, playing on the wing before moving up to the pack, where he was the club's first choice loose forward.

On January 10, 2004, 22-year-old Danny played his last-ever game, a fixture against Sowerby Spartans. Things were going well for Moldgreen until Danny took the ball in at first receiver and was stopped by a regulation tackle that left him paralysed from the neck down.

Lying face down on the turf, Danny had a sensation of pins and needles but could not move his arms or legs. He was transferred by ambulance to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and spent the next 10 months in a series of hospitals, undergoing intensive physiotherapy and treatment having been advised there was only a one per cent chance of recovery.

Danny went home in October that year and though he was supported emotionally and practically by his devoted parents, Terry and Martha, and his two older brothers, life was tough.

Just a week before his accident, Danny had taken out his own personal accident insurance and that policy has enabled him to buy his own home in Huddersfield and receive round-the-clock care from specialist workers.

The RL Benevolent Fund has helped Danny adapt his kitchen and recently provided a grant to purchase a state-of-the-art electronic sports bike that he uses daily to maintain muscle mass in his legs and arms.

Danny and his family remain hopeful of a medical breakthrough that could see him walk again: there have been some major advances in stem-cell research in recent years and the sports bike is ensuring Danny is in the best physical condition he can be when science comes up trumps.



Danny Scott with his father Terry

For now, the RL Benevolent are maintaining their support of Danny and his family, who were guests of honour at the RFL President's Ball in January, having attended every Ball since the inaugural event in 2005.



To make a donation to the RL Benevolent Fund please visit [www.justgiving.com/rfluk](http://www.justgiving.com/rfluk)

|| **PLAYER WELFARE** ||

# SPORTING CHANCE

**IMAGINE GOING TO WORK TOMORROW GETTING PAID TO DO THE ONE THING YOU'VE DREAMED OF SINCE CHILDHOOD.**

Then imagine not knowing whether you'll be physically able to get in the car and drive home at the end of your shift because of the pain your job causes.

Think what it's like being the most popular person in the supermarket as other shoppers ask for selfies and autographs with their new 'best friend' when you pop in for a box of cereal.

Then think what it must be like needing a pain-killing injection at breakfast just to get to your desk.

Imagine how the 25-year-old you would feel knowing you're earning four times as much as your best mates from school.

Then imagine how the 35-year-old you would feel having to go to the same best mates asking for a job after your last employer made you redundant because you're deemed to be too old.

Welcome to the world of the professional Rugby League player.

The stars of Super League and the Championship are our modern-day gladiators, young men who live the cliché of putting their bodies on the line for the entertainment of the fanatical public and television viewers on a weekly basis.

Young men who, whilst living their dream, are all too aware of the fleeting nature of their chosen career and who, throughout much of Rugby League's history, have simply been expected to get on with and get over it.

Thankfully, we now live in more enlightened times and, led by the hard work of Rugby League Cares, the sport's heroes can call on a widening network of services to help them when things go wrong.

One of the services utilised by RL Cares is Sporting Chance, a charity that has delivered counselling and other support to more than 400 Rugby League players since it linked with the sport in 2011.

Sporting Chance was founded in 2000 by Tony Adams, the former Arsenal and England footballer who later this year will become President of the Rugby Football League.

The organisation's set-up costs were funded by the proceeds of Tony's book, 'Addicted' which told of his long battle against alcohol dependency and the struggle he faced as a high-profile sportsman to tame his demons.

Over the last 19 years, Sporting Chance has gone on to make a dramatic difference to the lives of thousands of players from across a wide range of sports by recognising the unique pressures they face and shaping treatment strategies accordingly.

Sporting Chance runs the only residential clinic in the world for professional sportsmen and women with addiction disorders such as gambling, substance abuse and alcohol.

It has a national network of 200 therapists that enable players to access confidential therapy and other services to help with things like anxiety, depression, career changes and relationship problems.

"Tony found it difficult to get help as a footballer: he felt he couldn't confide in anyone at Arsenal, not even the club doctor, because he was concerned it



*Sporting Chance founder Tony Adams*



would change the way he was perceived," explained Sporting Chance chief executive Colin Bland.

"He also felt conscious about walking into a GP surgery and seeking help because of his position as captain of Arsenal and England.

"It was a really difficult time for him, as you can imagine, and his experience helped shape the birth of Sporting Chance."

Much has changed in the intervening two decades, although the problems athletes face largely remain the same.



"The whole landscape around the issues professional athletes face and the impact of poor mental health have changed," added Colin.

"Some of the perception we see now from the general public were not there when Sporting Chance was established.

"We don't know if players are more susceptible to suffering from mental health issues now than they were back then: what we do know is that people are more willing to seek help.

"It's increasingly OK to talk about mental health.

"We find that the work other people in Rugby League, such as RL Cares, State of Mind and the Rugby Football League, have done has really paved the way for players to seek help when they need it.

"There is a healthy acceptance among Rugby League players that they need to talk about things that aren't right and get help.

Sporting Chance works with between 750 and 800 individuals every year, including around 60 Rugby League players – 10 per cent of the 600 or so playing their trade in Super League and the Championships.

"Some of those will want just one-to-one sessions in a place where they are comfortable to talk about how they are feeling and what is going on in their lives," added Colin.

"We also support retired players and, on occasion, have stepped in to lend our expertise to people involved in the amateur game following tragedies such as loss of life."

So, are the problems endured by the stars of Super League the same as those faced by the country's top footballers and cricketers?

*Sporting Chance CEO Colin Bland*

"We find that different sports have different 'flavours': our experience in Rugby League is that it's a very physical contact sport that leaves some players struggling to cope with the emotional impact of injury, in particular reoccurring injury," said Colin.

"Rugby League players are more likely to suffer career-ending injuries than players in most other sports."

Colin is keen to stress that the services offered by Sporting Chance are designed to complement what is available within the NHS, not that the NHS can always deliver to sportsmen when they need it most.



*The Duke of Cambridge has visited Sporting Chance at their residential centre in Liphook, Hampshire*

"We will never replace the NHS, we are not an emergency service and we do not have the capacity to become one," he said.

"Many of the services provided by the NHS are incredibly wonderful. However, they have to cope with huge demand.

"There is an immediacy to our service. When a player reaches out, we can put a support network in place for them very quickly.

"Professional Rugby League players are a very unique client group."

Sporting Chance will continue to play a key role in helping players recover when their dream turns into a nightmare, enabling them to get back to enjoying the game or better equipped to prepare for the next stage of their life.

RL Cares Head of Welfare Emma Rosewarne said: "Our relationship with Sporting Chance has been key to so much of what we've achieved over the last eight years. Sporting Chance has revolutionised the lives of so many players in that time.

"The expertise of Colin and his team is an invaluable resource, not just for players but for the club welfare staff who can always count on Sporting Chance for help and advice."



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 0870 220 0714

|| **PLAYER WELFARE** ||

# JULIE MEASURES

**RUGBY LEAGUE CARES UNDERLINED ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING AN UNPARALLELED LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE SPORT'S PLAYING COMMUNITY IN FEBRUARY WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF CAREER COACH JULIE MEASURES.**

Julie is already familiar to many players, having fulfilled a similar role as a consultant from 2011 with the Rugby Football League, where she lent her considerable experience as a careers advisor across Super League and the Championships.

Just a few weeks after taking on full responsibility for player welfare across the professional and semi-professional game, RL Cares moved swiftly to secure Julie's expertise on a full-time basis as a staff member with the charity.

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to join RL Cares at such an exciting time for the sport," said Julie.

"We have made some great strides over the last few years and players are now more aware than ever of the need to begin planning for their next career move as early as they can.

"Joining RL Cares allows me to be completely focused on the role and co-ordinate what I do with the other fantastic work of the charity."

Julie's work alongside Emma Rosewarne over the past seven years has been a contributory factor to the growing acknowledgement from players of the need to begin preparing for life after rugby at the earliest opportunity.

"Players do recognise that their rugby careers won't last forever and are aware there is a support network here to help them make the next step in their lives," said Julie.

"There are still a few players who have their heads buried in the sand but most players now know they



need to be proactive and access all the opportunities that exist to help them prepare for the future."

Few players will get to stay in the sport as coaches because the opportunities simply aren't available, but gone are the days when playing rugby full time meant sacrificing their education.

More and more players are now studying on further and higher education courses and many others are working towards vocational qualifications, often with support from a grant from Rugby League Cares.

It can be difficult for young men to identify what they want to do and Julie's experience is helping many players identify and forge new career pathways across a wide spectrum of trades and professions.

Julie spends much of the working week making herself available

**|| JOINING RL CARES ALLOWS ME TO BE COMPLETELY FOCUSED ON THE ROLE AND CO-ORDINATE WHAT I DO WITH THE OTHER FANTASTIC WORK OF THE CHARITY ||**

to players in-between training sessions and fitting in around the clubs' schedules.

"My relationship with the club Player Welfare Managers is really important and together we are able to make an important difference," said Julie.

"It's not just a case of bombarding all the players with lots of information because everyone is different and I conduct a lot of one-to-one sessions.

"I feel very fortunate to do what I do: it's fantastic to be able to help young people who have proven themselves in one career go on to forge successful careers once they stop playing."

## || PLAYER WELFARE ||

# KEVIN LARROYER

**FOR ALL THE EXCITEMENT AND SENSE OF JEOPARDY THEY BRING TO RUGBY LEAGUE, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION IS NOT WITHOUT ITS DRAWBACKS.**

**In a sport where only one division operates on a fully professional basis, the prospect of dropping down into the Championship creates considerable uncertainty for many players.**

That uncertainty is compounded by the financial fragility of those clubs who are overly-reliant on the largesse of wealthy benefactors.

Some players have become victims of Rugby League's hunger games on more than one occasion: Kevin Larroyer is one such player.

A product of the successful Toulouse Olympique club in France, Kevin made his Super League debut with Catalans Dragons in 2012 before joining Hull Kingston Rovers on loan for the 2014 season.

The move brought out the best in the young Frenchman, who stayed on in east Hull for 2015 before agreeing a three-year contract. Sadly, at the end of 2016, Rovers were relegated in dramatic fashion with a 19-18 Golden Point defeat to Salford in the Million Pound Game and Kevin's contract was voided.

Determined to continue to forge his life in England, Kevin had short spells at Castleford and Bradford before joining Leigh for the 2018 season, when the second row scored nine tries in 26 appearances.

Leigh's failure to win promotion back to Super League at the first attempt saw their squad break up when the club's owner scaled back his financial commitments, and Kevin was forced to look for another club again.

However, his experience at Hull KR meant that Kevin was able to approach the future more confidently thanks to the support of Rugby League Cares.

"Losing my contract at Hull KR was devastating for me and I was in a critical situation," said Kevin.

"I didn't know what I was going to do or where to turn. That's when I was put in contact with Career Coach Julie Measures and we began to put a plan together to help me prepare for life after rugby.



"After a series of meeting where she got to know me, Julie suggested I should consider doing a degree here in England. It's something that had never occurred to me.

"I went along to Leeds Beckett University and after meeting the course tutors signed up for a degree in Sports Business Management.

"At first I didn't think I'd be able to afford the fees but Julie helped me apply for an education grant from Rugby League Cares and that's been a massive help."

Kevin joined Halifax at the end of last year and is enjoying life with the Championship club, where his semi-professional status gives him more time to study.

"I was full time at Leigh and it was difficult combining playing rugby and doing academic work," he said.

"The university have been really good and I get a lot of support from the course leaders. Because I'm doing it on a part-time basis, I have five years to get my degree rather than three.

**/// AT FIRST I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE FEES BUT JULIE HELPED ME APPLY FOR AN EDUCATION GRANT FROM RUGBY LEAGUE CARES AND THAT'S BEEN A MASSIVE HELP ///**

"I must admit that as a French speaker, doing a degree in English is a challenge and I have to work twice as hard because of the language. Sometimes I have to read things two or three times to understand and have to double check my grammar when submitting work to ensure it's correct.

"I love it, though, and if I can do it, so can lots of players.

"I'm really thankful for the support of Julie and Rugby League Cares. Thanks to them I now have a Plan B."

After graduating, Kevin is hoping to become a players' agent focusing on French players and providing a support network for any of his clients who secure contracts with English clubs.

RL Cares awards education and training grants to players on a sliding scale based on their earnings and age to cover a percentage of any fees: players who wish to apply for a grant should contact their Player Welfare Manager or email [info@rlcares.org.uk](mailto:info@rlcares.org.uk)



|| **PLAYER WELFARE** ||

# STEVE McCORMACK

**STEVE McCORMACK IS NO STRANGER TO LONG-HAUL TRAVEL. AS NATIONAL COACH, HE LED SCOTLAND INTO THREE WORLD CUPS, INCLUDING THE 2008 AND 2017 TOURNAMENTS HELD DOWN UNDER.**

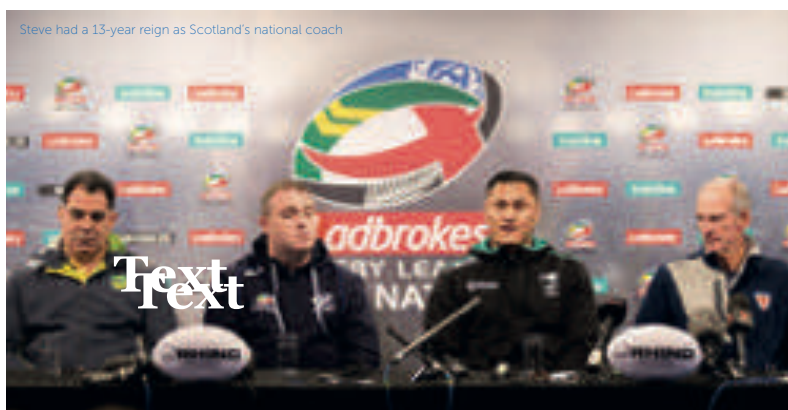
However, none of those trips had consequences that were as far-reaching as the ones from his most recent visit to Australia in April, when he spent a week on the Gold Coast alongside 100 other delegates at the NRL's annual player welfare conference.

Just a few weeks after leaving Wigan Warriors, where he had built an enviable reputation as a leader in the field of player welfare, Steve stepped onto an Airbus at Manchester in his new position as Transition Manager with Rugby League Cares.

His appointment very much represents a marquee signing by the charity, which assumed full responsibility for delivering player welfare in January this year, and his presence at the keynote conference in Queensland helps signal how seriously RL Cares takes this new role.

"It was fantastic to have the opportunity to attend the conference and see at first-hand how a competition whose player welfare systems are regarded as the best in Australian sport actually work," said Steve.

"I was hugely impressed, not just by what they do but by just how good our own systems are in comparison.



**/// TRANSITION ISN'T JUST ABOUT FINDING THE RIGHT JOB IT'S ABOUT MAKING SURE PLAYERS ARE PREPARED FOR ALL THAT AWAITS THEM IN THEIR LIFE AFTER SPORT ///**

"Rugby League is a much bigger sport in Australia than the UK: it has a higher profile, for one thing, there are a lot more people playing the game and its geographical footprint is enormous.

"Some of the challenges they face are bigger than ours but many of the issues are comparable, as are the way we both tackle them by providing solutions that work best for players."

Steve also delivered a presentation to the conference outlining the player welfare programme in operation in Super League, which raised more than a few eyebrows.

"Many people were very curious about what we offer our players in terms of support and they were pleasantly surprised," said Steve.

"It shows what a good job Emma Rosewarne has been doing over the course of the last decade with the RFL and, more recently, RL Cares.

"The NRL have more resources than we do but sometimes throwing money at player welfare isn't what's needed.

"We are miles ahead of them in some areas. For example, the minimum standards around qualifications that exist for our player welfare managers are exemplary.

"Our player welfare is well managed, we are very good at educating players and staff and there are excellent CPD opportunities available."



Steve also took the opportunity during his time Down Under to catch-up with some of the NRL's English players and their families to outline the support RL Cares offers for them.

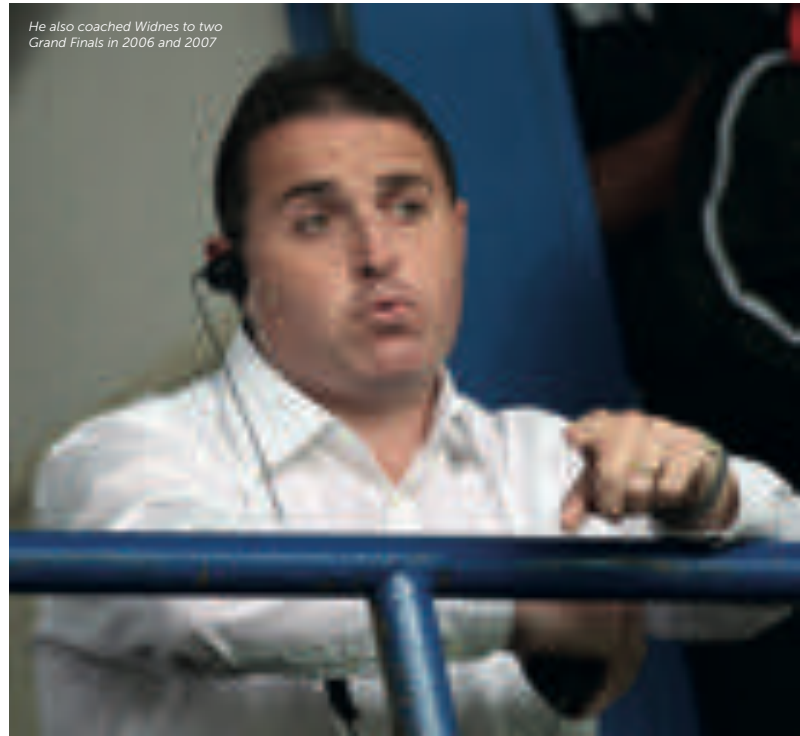
Steve himself transitioned out of the sport exceptionally early in his career when his playing ambitions were ended by a serious shoulder injury as a teenager.

The former England junior international went on to enjoy a hugely-successful coaching career at both club and international level: he was twice named Championship coach of the year while at Whitehaven in 2004 and 2005 and coached Salford, Widnes, Gateshead Thunder, Barrow, Swinton and Gloucestershire All Golds, as well as Scotland between 2004 and 2017.

His role within RL Cares sees him working closely with the dedicated player welfare managers at club level, who he has already met both as a group and at one-to-one level.

"I've also got around to meeting a lot of players, some of whom I already knew but more who were new to me," said Steve.

"I spoke at the Head Coaches' meeting in early May to outline what my role involves. It was a great first month in the job and couldn't have gone better, really."



*He also coached Widnes to two Grand Finals in 2006 and 2007*



*Steve also provides support to England's NRL-based players*

Steve's work complements that of colleague Julie Measures, the charity's Career Coach whose vast experience of the job and education sectors is helping players forge new careers or gain the qualifications they need to move on when their playing days are over.

"I've known Julie for a few years now and the work she does is brilliant," said Steve.

"My main focus is the players aged 27 and over. Transition isn't just about finding the right job – although clearly that's a big part of it – it's about making sure players are prepared for all that awaits them in their life after sport.

"That could be their general wellbeing, the support they have within their family or their financial planning. Players often need someone to talk to as they begin to think about what life after rugby is going to feel like for them.

"Players also need support when they transition from being full-time to part-time, when they enter a dual-registration arrangement, and when they step up to the first team environment from an Academy contract.

"I'm here to support the Player Welfare Managers when they're helping a player, or the player can come straight to me knowing that the independence of RL Cares means anything we discuss will be 100 per cent confidential.

"Player welfare has made huge strides in the last few years. There's still a lot of work to do and I'm loving being part of a team that is working hard to make sure that players receive the support they deserve when they most need it."


 Wardhadyay  
 ANNUAL  
**GOLF DAY**


WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2019

Wardhadyay Golf Club, Trillick Park, Hill Top, Hill Top, Lancashire

£250 for a team of 4


 Wardhadyay is a charity that provides support and funding for people with learning disabilities. We are looking for people to help us raise money for our projects.

To book your team please contact our fundraising department on 01524 822222.

Please note we are a charity and we are not responsible for the completion of business projects, contracts, projects, and the sharing of information.





# NATIONAL PROGRAMME ARCHIVE

**AS THE DIGITAL AGE MATURES AND THE VIRTUAL WORLD BECOMES INCREASINGLY PIVOTAL TO PEOPLE'S LIVES, ONE OF RUGBY LEAGUE'S OLDEST TRADITIONS IS SADLY FADING.**

In response to falling sales, many clubs have stopped producing programmes, those once integral features of the Rugby League matchday experience that informed and entertained in equal measure

Like cigarette cards before them, programmes look to have had their day and their demise, for all the instant gratification offered by social media and the internet, leaves the sporting world somewhat poorer.

It may be that, like vinyl records, programmes will make a comeback should future generations realise their value, not least for the important part they play in telling the story of Rugby League, its clubs and the heroes who have thrilled millions of fans down the years.

Many supporters will have their own programme collection stashed away, a few hundred mini-magazines that represent a time capsule of memories uniquely important to their owner.

However, few collections are as comprehensive as that amassed by Nigel Wood, the former Rugby Football League chief executive whose passion for programmes over almost half a century shows no sign of diminishing.

Nigel, who is now chief executive of the Rugby League International Federation, has collected almost 25,000 programmes since attending his first game of Rugby League at Odsal as a small boy.

That collection now forms the basis of a National Programme Archive that is housed by Rugby League Cares at Heritage Quay, the state-of-the-art storage facility at the University of Huddersfield which is home to the sport's wider collections.

Nigel has set himself the monumental task of collating and cataloguing all the matchday programmes from the professional arm of the sport since the Second World War, and for that matter, as many as possible pre-war.

He has so far deposited 23,000 programmes in the archive, most of which have been catalogued and are available to view online.

Nigel, who played at Colts level at Halifax and for the A-team at Bradford Northern before injury dashed his on-field dream, said: "I started collecting programmes as



**// I STARTED COLLECTING PROGRAMMES AS A BOY, FROM ALL CLUBS, AND GOT UP TO ABOUT 5-6,000 BEFORE I CONCLUDED IT WASN'T A PARTICULARLY COOL ACTIVITY FOR AN ASPIRING YOUNG PLAYER //**

a boy, from all clubs, and got up to about 5-6,000 before I concluded it wasn't a particularly cool activity for an aspiring young player to be nipping off to the club shop before heading to the dressing rooms.

"I stopped but my programmes went with me from house to house, much to the annoyance of my wife, especially when eventually the ceiling started to bow a little. By then I'd rescued plenty more from recent years that were heading for landfill after being deposited at the RFL."

There are some important gaps in the collection, including club programmes from Batley, Dewsbury, Featherstone and the Cumbrian clubs, as well as Bramley, whose entire collection was lost to water damage.

Details of the National Rugby League Programme Archive and the sport's official collections can be accessed by visiting [heritagequay.org/archives/rfl/](http://heritagequay.org/archives/rfl/)

Anyone who would like to donate programmes to the archive that they feel are missing from the collection should contact Stuart Sheard at [stuartsheard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stuartsheard@hotmail.co.uk)

\* Programme image for illustrative purposes only

*Nigel Wood, Chief Executive of Rugby League International Federation*





# RIDE TO WEMBLEY 2018

**OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR, THE UK RED RIDE TO WEMBLEY, SCALED NEW HEIGHTS – OFTEN LITERALLY! – IN 2018 BY RAISING A MAGNIFICENT £30,000 FOR THE CHARITY.**

The five-day off-road cycling challenge involved 25 riders pedalling their way along an incredibly challenging route between MediaCityUK in Salford and Wembley Stadium.

The Grand Depart was broadcast live on BBC Breakfast television with presenter Sally Nugent joining the riders to talk about the week ahead.

Over the course of five gruelling days, the Rugby League peloton covered 314 miles and tackled 13,500 feet of ascent as it wended its way south on a testing course that avoided tarmac at every turn.

The riders included former Rugby League internationals Gareth Ellis, Robbie Hunter-Paul, Nathan McAvoy, Paul Highton, Andy Lynch and Mick Cassidy, all of whom sparked a sporting 'diplomatic incident' when they inadvertently cycled up the driveway leading to Chequers, the country home of Prime Minister Theresa May.

Robbie said: "The gates to the estate were open and it seemed the best route at the time. As we rode in we were approached at high speed by a police car so we pulled over to let it pass.

"The car screeched to a halt in front of us and two armed officers jumped out and demanded that we turn around and leave. We asked where we were and they said they couldn't tell us.

"When we explained what we were doing they softened a little but we still had to turn around. Andy Lynch asked if a selfie was out of the question and they didn't see the funny side..."

The route had earlier passed through the Peak District and featured a tortuous walk up unrideable inclines in the Macclesfield Forest and passed through the centre of Birmingham along the city's extensive canal network before heading through the Cotswolds via Stratford-upon-Avon.

The adventure climaxed with a ride up Wembley Way and champagne, tears and big smiles all around at the base of the Rugby League Legends statue on the stadium concourse.

Chris Rostron, the Head of RL Cares, said: "We knew the ride was going to be a tough one but few of us realised quite how big a challenge it would prove to be, and it's a credit to everyone involved that all 25 riders who set off from Salford on

the Monday were there at the end as we rode up Wembley Way.

"The total raised was absolutely fantastic and will enable the charity to make a huge difference to the lives of people involved at every level of Rugby League.

"We would like to thank all the riders, sponsors and partners for the important part they played in making the ride such a huge success, and thank everyone who sponsored the riders on what proved to be the adventure of a lifetime."

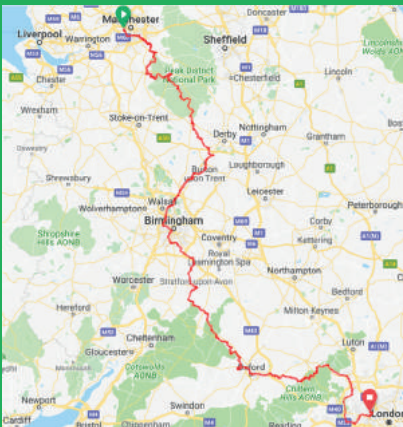
The ride once again had UK Red Fire and Security as title sponsors with specialist engineering company Spec Ltd as main partners. Other sponsors and partners were Yorkshire Boilers, Infinity Works, Halfords, NL Van, Truck and Car Hire, All Sport Insurance and MSC Nutrition.

The full line-up of riders on the 2018 UK Red Ride to Wembley were: Robbie Hunter-Paul, Tracy Herd, Kevin Walton, Gareth Ellis, Ian Needham, Suzanne James, Nathan McAvoy, Dean Bettison, Julia Lee, Paul Highton, Mick Cassidy, Emily Colbourne, Andy Lynch, Neville Smith, James Elton, Mike Middleton, Matthew Middleton, Simon Lewis-Pierpoint, Amy Derham, John Johnson, Kevin Ferriby, Kerry Walker, Adam Farrar, Chris Rostron and John Ledger.

Geoff Derham and Brigid Power both joined the ride for a day, and the support staff were Keith Senior, Emma Goldsmith and Nick Goldsmith.



**// WE KNEW THE RIDE WAS GOING TO BE A TOUGH ONE BUT FEW OF US REALISED QUITE HOW BIG A CHALLENGE IT WOULD PROVE TO BE, AND IT'S A CREDIT TO EVERYONE INVOLVED THAT ALL 25 RIDERS WHO SET OFF FROM SALFORD ON THE MONDAY WERE THERE AT THE END AS WE RODE UP WEMBLEY WAY //**



# TIM ADAMS

**IF TIM ADAMS MBE HAD ANY THOUGHTS OF A QUIET RETIREMENT, A CHANCE ENCOUNTER IN A CARDIFF ELEVATOR IN 2004 DASHED ANY PROSPECT OF LEISURELY DAYS PURSUING HIS LOVE OF SPORT.**

**The man whose finest hour had come six years earlier when he led Sheffield Eagles out at Wembley Stadium as chairman of a club that would spring the biggest surprise in Challenge Cup history, could not have imagined the impact that fateful meeting at the Millennium Stadium would have.**

Fifteen years on, the lives of countless people across Rugby League have been changed for the better by Tim's continued involvement in the sport through his position as chairman of both the RFL Benevolent Fund and Rugby League Cares.

"I had only gone to the Cup final in Cardiff as a guest of (then RL chief executive) Nigel Wood and was looking forward to the game," recalls Tim.

"Nigel, Gary Hetherington, David Hinchliffe and myself were in a lift when a young woman entered holding a bucket asking for donations for a collection for two players, Matt King and Danny Scott, who had suffered serious spinal injuries earlier that year.

"We looked at each other and all had the same thought: it was clearly wrong that the game was reliant on bucket collections to help players who were in need of help.

"Nigel came up with the idea of the Benevolent Fund and within a few short weeks we had trustees in place: all that was needed was a chairman. As everyone else was very busy (Gary was RFL President as well as chief executive at Leeds and David was the MP for Wakefield) and I had time on my hands, they asked me and I duly accepted."

He had more to offer the sport and the newly-formed RL Benevolent

Fund than time: through his passion for horse racing, and involvement in the charitable Injured Jockeys Fund, Tim had helped generate considerable sums through fundraising events.

Tim also had a deeply personal interest in the welfare of victims of spinal trauma: his wife, Sue has been confined to a wheelchair since a car crash in Zambia in 1975 when the couple were living and working in Africa.

"I have a lot of empathy for people in wheelchairs: it's over 43 years since the accident and I'm acutely aware of the challenges they face on a daily basis.

"To live with a wheelchair takes a lot of mental toughness and I never cease to be impressed by their 'can-do' attitude and determination to do something about their situation."

A chartered accountant by profession, Tim worked for

industrial giant Lonrho during the 1970s and 1980s before leading a management buy-out of one of their steel processing and engineering group in 1992.

Five years later, he sold the Firststeel Group to British Steel and took early retirement before joining Sheffield Eagles as chairman at the invitation of the club's new owner, Paul Thompson.

"I knew Paul through having mutual lawyers and it was a great opportunity for me to become involved in Rugby League," said Tim.

"I'd had a lifelong love of the sport and had grown up with Lewis Jones and Colin Evans at Leeds as my sporting heroes.

"My mum had polio so at eight I was despatched to boarding school, St Peter's at York.

"My best friend at school, Martin Sutcliffe's sister married Wakefield

*Matt King with Gethin Jones*



Trinity great Gerry Round. We were always getting into trouble for playing to league rules in practise games of union!

"I've gone on to make some great friends in Rugby League and met some real heroes."

As well as his role at Sheffield Eagles, Tim lent his experience as a captain of industry to the fledgling Super League (Europe) as a director and as a member of the Implementation Board that helped save the Rugby Football League from financial ruin in the aftermath of the commercially disastrous 2000 World Cup.

Prior to the establishment of the Benevolent Fund in 2004, Rugby League's charitable function was performed by the long-standing RL Foundation, a forerunner of Rugby League Cares, which was set up in 2013.

For a long time, Tim remained convinced that the two charities should remain entirely separate, an opinion he has come to revisit in recent years, not least since he succeeded Terry Flanagan as chairman of Rugby League Cares in 2016.

"It was, and remains important that the resources of the Benevolent Fund are ring-fenced because they are there purely for the benefit of the charity's beneficiaries, many of whom require our lifelong support," he said.

"The Benevolent Fund's expenditure will only grow because it is an inescapable fact of life that accidents do happen in sport and players will continue to suffer serious, life-changing injuries.

"I have always taken a keen interest in the fantastic work that Rugby League Cares does and when Terry stood down because of the demands of his business interests, I was pleased to be asked to be temporary chairman. That was two and a half years ago!

"RL Cares has proved it can prove operate successfully on its own and does not need access to the funds of the RFL Benevolent Fund. It's only a matter of time before the two charities come together: in fact, that is already happening with Francis Stephenson and David Hinchliffe becoming trustees of both.

"Francis and David were already trustees of the Benevolent Fund



Above:  
Tim Adams MBE

Top right:  
Emma Rosewarne

and are long-standing admirers of the work that RL Cares does: Francis has a very keen interest in player welfare and David has a strong passion for the sport's heritage, as well as understanding how important the health of players is."

The announcement in January that Rugby League Cares has taken on full responsibility for delivering player welfare across the professional and semi-professional competitions, with financial support from the RFL and the Super League clubs, is seeing the charity playing an increasingly important role within the sport.

To facilitate the change, RFL director Emma Rosewarne has been seconded to RL Cares as Head of Welfare, a move Tim feels was essential.

"It was vital that Emma join us: she is respected throughout the game



for what she has done in the field of player welfare over many years.

"Ralph Rimmer deserves a lot of recognition for his commitment to making this happen: RL Cares is the best organisation to deliver player welfare and Ralph recognises that.

"The amount the game spends on player welfare will increase significantly now that it is the responsibility of the charity: as well as the funds we receive from the RFL and Super League we can generate additional money through our growing Business Club partnership and the successful events we run.

"The independence of RL Cares also means that players can have complete trust in what we do. I would encourage all players to become members of RL Cares because the charity really is for the players, for the game.

"RL Cares is growing as an organisation and we are assembling a fantastic team of staff alongside an experienced board of trustees who will allow us to fulfil our increasingly important role.

"I feel very proud to be involved with such a dedicated group of people who are so committed to the charity."

Tim's sterling work in both Rugby League and horse racing – he remains a trustee of the Northern Racing College, which trains young people from deprived background as stable staff and jockeys was recognised in 2016 when he was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list.

"I'm just glad that I'm in a position to help people, whether they be Rugby League players or jockeys, and I feel privileged to be involved in so many great charities," added Tim who, 22 years after supposedly closing his briefcase for the last time, shows no sign of taking it easy.

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# RL CARES WORKS CLOSELY WITH WARD HADAWAY

**AS WE ENTER THE SECOND YEAR OF OUR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP, WARD HADAWAY AND RL CARES' RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES TO FLOURISH.**

Ward Hadaway, an award-winning law firm with offices in Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle, first partnered with the charity in February 2018. In that short space of time the relationship has grown and become a hugely-valuable part of what both the law firm and the charity offer.

The partnership not only promotes and supports the charity through the skills, profile and contacts associated with Ward Hadaway, but is also central to the vision of responsibility and community that underpins Ward Hadaway as a law firm.

Jodi Tuson, a solicitor in the Manchester family team, witnessed first-hand the charity's work after her husband, Chris was forced to retire early from his Rugby League career following an injury to his neck. She was instrumental in bringing Ward Hadaway and RL Cares together seeing how the ethos of Ward Hadaway would fit so well that of Rugby League Cares.

Ward Hadaway now provides expert and clear sighted advice to current and ex-players and their families in all manner of legal areas. This may involve day to day transactions like buying and selling properties or family estate planning but also includes more complex matters like charitable foundations and all manner of business and employment advice. However, it is much more than about offering our expert advice. It is the opportunity to help the charity with its governance and help raise its profile and fund raising through our joint projects.

Jodi Tuson said: "It is a great feeling to know that we are here should any of the

**// IT IS GREAT TO BE ABLE TO HELP RL CARES IN TAKING A PROACTIVE STANCE ON PREPARING PLAYERS FOR A LIFE AFTER RUGBY //**



players, or anyone in the Rugby League community need any assistance.

"Rugby League is not just a sport, it is a family and one that I am proud to be part of. I am thrilled that our vision of supporting the charity has been so beneficial to all of us. It has been wonderful to introduce our clients and contacts to the welcoming world of Rugby League and it is a testament to RL Cares that so many of our friends and contacts have built new connections in the Rugby League world."

Ward Hadaway's values mirror that of the charity. RL Cares are continually available to offer help to players both during and after their career.

Jodi added: "It is great to be able to help RL Cares in taking a proactive stance on preparing players for a life after rugby. The appointment of Steve McCormack as the new transition manager is a fantastic and really astute step."

As part of the project, Jodi has been attending club visits with other business

club partners during pre-season training, headed up by ex-Leeds and Great Britain international Keith Senior. The visits inform and educate the players about the services available to them, the life decisions ahead of them, how the charity can help with grants for education and training, and the benevolent resources the charity provide for those who face hard times.

With the supportive work RL Cares offers to players in a number of areas, Ward Hadaway are proud to work with such an amazing organisation and are excited to see what the partnership will offer in the coming years.

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lawfirm

**If you are a professional player who wishes to access Ward Hadaway's services, please speak to your Player Welfare Manager or contact Jodi Tuson directly on 0161 837 3971.**



David Ward



Henderson Gill and Neil Holding



Jimmy Thompson and Phil Lowe



Denis Betts



# LIONS LEGENDS ROAR WITH PRIDE AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON

**SOME OF THE GREATEST PLAYERS OF ALL TIME CAME TOGETHER IN JANUARY TO MAINTAIN ONE OF THE SPORT'S FINEST TRADITIONS AT THE 2019 RUGBY LEAGUE LIONS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LUNCHEON.**

The Cedar Court Hotel in Bradford was packed, with almost 400 guests, including 62 Lions, attending an event that has taken place every year since 1945.

The Association brings together players and staff who have been involved in southern hemisphere tours or tournaments with Great Britain and England, plus the Wales 1975 World Championship team.

The luncheon was again sponsored by our partners Ellis Rugby, who did brisk business at their stall showcasing the fantastic Lions and Hall of Fame ranges they have produced in association with the charity.

The guests of honour were Lions Andy Gregory and Johnny Whiteley MBE, who recalled some of their tour memories just a few months after they were inducted into the Rugby League Hall of Fame.

Andy and Johnny were interviewed by fellow Lion Jamie Jones Buchanan, with Andy speaking of his pride at being elevated to the game's most exclusive club.

Johnny regaled the audience with stories of how the Luftwaffe couldn't prevent him from training after his family were bombed out of their home in Hull during World War II.

The lunch opened with a moving video paying tribute to the seven Lions who

had sadly passed away in the previous 12 months: Cliff Watson, Harold Poynton, Geoff Gunney, Les Pearce, John Mantle, Laurie Gilfedder and Roy Haggerty.

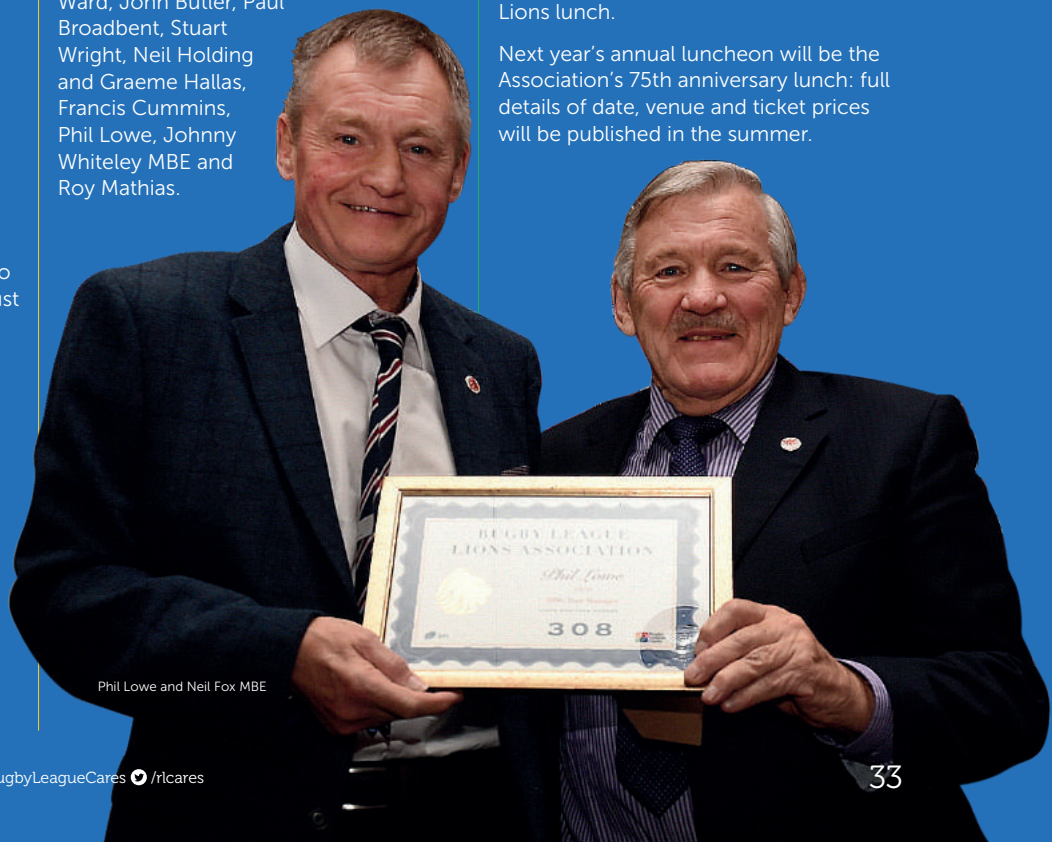
Heritage certificates featuring each player's unique Lions numbers were also presented to those attending for the first time since the initiative was begun three years ago: the Lions included David Ward, John Butler, Paul Broadbent, Stuart Wright, Neil Holding and Graeme Hallas, Francis Cummins, Phil Lowe, Johnny Whiteley MBE and Roy Mathias.

The certificates were presented by Hall of Fame inductee Neil Fox MBE, who found he had an unexpected connection with one of the recipients: Neil Holding revealed that his parents were such big fans of the Lions legend they named their son after him.

Neil Fox also presented a heritage certificate to the family of Jim Sullivan, the player whose world points-scoring record he broke during his incredible career.

Master of Ceremonies for the day was Pete Emmett, who did a brilliant job on his debut behind the microphone at the Lions lunch.

Next year's annual luncheon will be the Association's 75th anniversary lunch: full details of date, venue and ticket prices will be published in the summer.



Phil Lowe and Neil Fox MBE



# HERITAGE QUAY

**RL CARES VOLUNTEER STUART SHEARD HAS SPENT MANY HOURS ENGROSSSED IN THE SPORT'S ARCHIVE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD. HERE, HE OUTLINES HOW FANS CAN MAKE THE MOST OF THE RESOURCES AT HERITAGE QUAY.**

I first used the Rugby League Archives shortly after they had been moved to the University of Huddersfield from a Portakabin at Red Hall in Leeds, before Heritage Quay was built.

The material in the Archives hadn't been catalogued and, in fact, nobody was really sure what was in many of the unmarked brown cardboard boxes. In those days, it was necessary to talk to the archivists and volunteers who were working on the collection about your particular area of research and hope that they had some idea of where any relevant documents might be found.

My first visits to the archives were mainly to undertake research on topics that supported books and articles I was writing. The time spent at the University always seemed to fly by and initially I had to stop myself from being distracted from my research when I found an interesting item in a minute book or an article from a newspaper that was fascinating but not relevant to the area I was researching.

As the material I was accessing was often fairly randomly organised, the temptation to be distracted was great, and I suppose the odd deviation from the subject in order to reminisce was probably part of the reason why I often spent longer at the university than I had intended.

These days, accessing the Rugby League Archive is very different, but no less enjoyable. The searchroom is a pleasant place to work and because the collection is now catalogued it is much easier to find the items that are the relevant to your research.

My visits in recent years have been much more focused but there is still an opportunity for a 'wander down memory lane', particularly if you are looking for specific information in one of the many scrapbooks in the collection and suddenly spot a report from a match you attended or an article on a player you remember watching. The same opportunity for reminiscing is also there if you are reading minute books or Rugby Football League documents.



As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, my own visits to the archives were usually in connection with something I was writing, but writing a book or magazine article doesn't have to be the reason for a visit. I am sure many people reading this article will have memories of games they attended as a child and players they always enjoyed watching.

Finding the report of a match you attended or articles about a player you enjoyed watching are for me good enough reasons for spending a few hours at Heritage Quay. In fact, one of my favourite visits to the Rugby League Archives involved researching a player called Jock McAvoy, a Cumbrian who had a short spell as the Bradford Northern player-coach towards the end of the 1961-62 season.

Northern, as was usual at the time, were having a terrible season, bottom of the league with just two wins and a draw, and with three games to play in only seven days against clubs much higher up the table they looked likely to end the season without another victory.

I attended all three games and although only a child I can vividly remember the euphoria at the end of the third game when, to everyone's surprise, Northern won in the last few minutes and ended the season with three wins in a row - unfortunately, despite those three surprising victories, Northern remained stuck at the bottom of the table, but reading the reports of the games and articles on the impact Jock had on the team brought back some great memories. A month after the season ended, the bad news for Northern fans that Jock had resigned because the club didn't offer him the coach's job for the following season made me realise the power that sport has to trigger such highs and lows in a relatively short space of time.

You can visit Heritage Quay and access the Rugby League Archives to look at the many artefacts they have there; medals, trophies and playing shirts are just some examples, but I would argue that the stories behind those artefacts are what captures your imagination.

The letter to a player telling him he had been selected for a Great Britain tour or the match programme and report from one of the games he played in brings the artefact, perhaps the player's Great Britain shirt, to life.

People often visit Heritage Quay to find out more about a family member who played Rugby League, when he signed professional forms, how many games he played and to look at photographs of him in action, but the archive is open to everyone. The player you might be interested in doesn't have to be a family member and finding out more about his career can bring your memories to life. Similarly finding out more



about the history of the club you support or even one that has gone out of existence can be a fascinating journey into the past.

I have always enjoyed spending time researching Rugby League, its origins, personalities and events and if you haven't visited Heritage Quay yet but have an interest in the story of our sport then browse the catalogue, book a few hours in the searchroom and I am sure you will enjoy your own 'trip down memory lane'.



Stuart Sheard

Check out the Heritage Quay website at [www.heritagequay.org](http://www.heritagequay.org) where the searchroom opening times, the catalogue and details on how to book a visit can be found.

# OFFLOAD



## MEN'S MENTAL WELLBEING PROJECT OFFLOAD CELEBRATES ITS TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN APRIL, A MILESTONE WHICH IS A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

The Big Lottery-funded pilot project aimed at men aged 16 and over has equipped more than 1,000 participants with the practical tools and techniques to support their own mental fitness.

Over the last couple of years, Rugby League Cares, in partnership with Salford Red Devils, Warrington Wolves, Widnes Vikings and State of Mind, has successfully delivered Offload to help break the stigma around men's mental health.

Offload sessions have been delivered at Rugby League stadiums, prisons, schools, colleges and a variety of workplaces, including local councils, power stations and construction sites to help support men improve and maintain their own mental fitness.

Men who have attended the free 10-fixtured programme have heard from current and former Rugby League players, coaches and officials, who have talked about the mental fitness challenges they encountered both during their career and in retirement. A strong focus has been topics such as resilience, anger and stress



Offload at Warrington

management, mindfulness and many more - all challenges our presenters have faced at some point in their lives.

In October 2018, the incredible work that has been done by Rugby League Cares, the presenters and all its partner organisations was celebrated at a national level at the Royal Society of Public Health's Health and Wellbeing awards, when the project finished runner-up in the highly competitive Public Mental Health and Wellbeing award category.

This showpiece event gave Offload a national platform to shout about the fantastic work that has been done in co-designing the project alongside the same men it aims to support, with particular focus given to the way Offload is breaking down barriers to hard-to-reach men by using non-clinical, relatable language to help men break down the stigma around mental health.

Through the partnership with Edge Hill University, Rugby League Cares has been able to demonstrate the impact the project is having within its communities and produce an independent evaluation of the project.

Rugby League Cares Health Programme Manager Emma Goldsmith said: "This evaluation found that men who have gone through the project have not only gained a better understanding of tools and techniques to improve their own mental fitness, become more resilient and more able to handle setbacks and challenges, and improved their relationships at home, they have also developed stronger and bigger support networks and had the opportunity to give back to the project to help it's growth and development."

"This could be seen with the fantastic support Offload participants gave both Rugby League Cares and the Movember Foundation for the ManVan project, with many of the current participants helping to raise awareness of men's health at some of the sport's biggest events and support the continuing relationship between Rugby League Cares and Movember.

"Despite the amazing work done across the project, we still recognise there is a massive amount of work to do, to help support the promotion of positive mental fitness in some of Rugby League's core areas, and through the support of Big Lottery and other partner organisations, we are looking forward to continuing the Offload story."



Offload at Widnes



# CASE STUDY

## OFFLOAD

**DAVE BIRD ADMITS HE FELT SCEPTICAL ON FIRST HEARING ABOUT OFFLOAD, THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL MEN'S MENTAL FITNESS AND WELLBEING PROGRAMME RUN BY RUGBY LEAGUE CARES AND DELIVERED BY THE CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS AT THREE RUGBY LEAGUE CLUBS IN THE NORTH WEST.**

Previous experience had taught Dave not to have too high an expectation of workplace-led health schemes, some of which often seem to be little more than box-ticking exercises by well-meaning employers.

But after just one Offload 'fixture', the 36-year-old Communications Officer with Salford City Council found himself won over by an initiative that has since gone on to change his outlook on life forever.

"Offload has made a big difference to my life and I'm a much better person because of it," said Dave.

"Salford Red Devils approached the Council and asked if they could put on an Offload session for staff to see what impact it would have.

"Few of us were rugby fans and we didn't know what to expect: my scepticism proved unfounded as very quickly I came to realise how amazing Offload is."

Dave had been diagnosed with depression in his late teens and was prescribed a course of anti-depressants which did little to improve his life, leaving him feeling 'neither happy or sad, just numb.' He came off his medication after six months and managed his depression as best he could until relationship issues prompted him to seek counselling.

"That worked for a while but pretty soon I slipped back into being a miserable sod," said Dave. "In 2017, my daughter was born and that was the best thing that's ever happened to me.

"However, I had a difficult time adjusting to life as a parent and the stress that comes with a baby, which left me struggling to handle the ordinary pressures you face at work and elsewhere. And then Offload came along."

Dave attended nine of the 10 Offload fixtures delivered by Salford's Paul Highton, former referee Ian Smith and Danny Sculthorpe, the ex-Wigan, Castleford and Huddersfield prop, and was surprised by how quickly his self-awareness changed.

"I may not be a rugby fan but I found myself relating to so much of what I heard from people like Paul and Ian," he said.

"It wasn't prescriptive at all, and at no time did I feel I was being lectured or preached to: instead, it was just like being down the pub with a mate.

**// FEW OF US WERE RUGBY FANS AND WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT: MY SCEPTICISM PROVED UNFOUNDED AS VERY QUICKLY I CAME TO REALISE HOW AMAZING OFFLOAD IS //**

"I've picked up so many good techniques to manage my mental health, techniques that will last me a lifetime.

"The fact that Offload is aimed at a male audience made it more relatable. The information was delivered in a very blokey manner, which went down very well.

"Offload has made a lasting impression on me: you don't come out of it thinking you're changed for the better and forever, rather it's a case of being armed with the tools you need to manage your own health.

"I can now spot behaviour triggers and react accordingly: I also find I don't dwell on minor problems and stresses which previously would have escalated in my own mind.

"Through my involvement with Offload it feels like a cloud has lifted. I'm now more confident and learning more about myself on a daily basis."



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# OFFLOAD IN THE WORKPLACE



## ON OCTOBER 28, ON THE BACK OF THE SUCCESS OF OFFLOAD, RUGBY LEAGUE CARES MADE A SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENT WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE OFFLOAD IN THE WORKPLACE PROGRAMME.

Throughout the two-year Big Lottery-funded pilot project, Rugby League Cares, with the support of State of Mind Sport, Warrington Wolves, Widnes Vikings and Salford Red Devils, has helped over 1,000 men to build their own tools and techniques to build positive mental fitness coping strategies.

Offload in the Workplace builds on that success to take the project into offices, factories and other places of work across the UK.

Mental fitness and wellbeing in the workplace have never been more important: life is getting tougher and the latest figures show that more than three out of five employees in the UK have experienced mental health issues due to work, or where work was a related factor.

In 2017, the impact of poor mental health in the workplace cost UK employers upwards of £42 billion. Over half the costs resulted from staff being less

productive due to poor mental health at work; additional costs included absenteeism and staff turnover.

Within the six-fixture offer, employers are offered the opportunity to choose six topics focusing on promoting positive mental fitness, including building resilience, maintaining mental fitness, workplace stress and mindfulness.

Delivered by former Rugby League coaches, players and officials, presenters talk about their own mental fitness challenges during their career in some of the most highly stressful environments and discuss their own tools and techniques for dealing with these, helping employers and employees to promote positive mental health in the workplace.

Head of Rugby League Cares Chris Rostron said: "It's fantastic that major companies are recognising the work we do and are now asking us to take Offload

into their places of work to help their employees become healthier, happier and more productive.

"The experience of our presenters is helping staff build resilience, find a good work-life balance, challenge negative thinking and develop coping strategies for the pressures they face, both at work and at home.

"I would like to congratulate companies like SSE and the Environment Agency for their enlightened attitude towards health and wellbeing.

"We are looking forward to working with more organisations and delivering Offload fixtures to their staff."

SSE were so impressed with the impact of their Offload sessions that they made a fantastic donation to RL Cares of £5,770 from the proceeds of their charity golf day as a 'thank you' from their staff.

**If you are interested in Offload in the Workplace for your company, please contact Chris Rostron via [chris.rostron@rlcares.org.uk](mailto:chris.rostron@rlcares.org.uk)**

Above: RL Cares Health Projects Manager Emma Goldsmith receives a cheque for £5,770 from SSE raised by the energy giants at their golf day.



# HALL OF FAME

**THREE OF THE GREATEST PLAYERS OF ALL TIME JOINED THE SPORT'S MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUB IN NOVEMBER WHEN ANDY GREGORY, DEREK TURNER AND JOHNNY WHITELEY MBE WERE INDUCTED INTO THE RUGBY LEAGUE HALL OF FAME.**

On a fantastic night in the Banqueting Suite at Elland Road, Leeds, the three legends were elevated alongside the 25 other members of the Hall of Fame at a dinner hosted by Rugby League Cares and sponsored by Ellis Rugby.

Johnny and Andy were surrounded by their family and friends while Derek, who sadly passed away in July 2015, was represented by his brother, Keith and niece, Janet Quinn, as they were welcomed into the Hall of Fame by fellow inductees Malcolm Reilly OBE, Billy Boston MBE, Neil Fox MBE and Garry Schofield OBE.

Established in 1988, the Rugby League Hall of Fame features the greatest professional rugby league players of all time. Each player must have a record of outstanding achievement at the very highest levels of the game; a reputation that transcends the era in which they played; and have made a contribution to the game that will last as long as rugby league is played.

To be eligible for nomination to the RL Hall of Fame, players must have played professional rugby league in the UK for at least 10 years, and played their last professional match in the UK at least 10 years before the date of the Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Andy said: "This award means so much to me. I won almost everything at club level and was very fortunate to play alongside good players and under good coaches.

"I played in six Ashes series against Australia and my one regret is that I didn't win, as many other members of the Hall of Fame had done before me.

"This accolade is the biggest I've ever had and I'm so, so proud. It puts the icing on the cake for me. You can't get bigger than this."

Johnny paid tribute to the team-mates at Hull FC and Great Britain who had played such an important role in his journey into the Hall of Fame.

"To be inducted into the Rugby League Hall of Fame is absolutely magnificent but I wouldn't be here without the support I received from the special players I had around me," he said.

"I am just an individual who owes everything to the greatest team game there is. I am honoured to join the Hall

of Fame and do so on behalf of my old team-mates.

"Rugby League has opened many doors for me and I owe it everything.

"I will take my Hall of Fame medal back to Hull and show the youngsters what can happen to a fishdock lad from Hessle Road if they apply themselves and work hard.

"Hopefully, this medal will inspire some of them to emulate Johnny Whiteley."

The dinner also saw the presentation of the Rugby League International Federation Golden Boot to international player of the year Tommy Makinson, the England and St Helens winger.

The RLIF also awarded 'Golden Caps' to seven players who have made 50 or more international appearances: Great Britain trio Adrian Morley, Mick Sullivan and Jim Sullivan; Australians Petero Cioniceva, Darren Lockyer and Cameron Smith; and Ruben Wiki of New Zealand.







## DEREK TURNER

For a player who was written off as a junior by Wakefield Trinity as being neither good enough or big enough to play for his home-town club, Derek 'Rocky' Turner did alright.

In an era where Rugby League was a sport often played without compromise, Derek would establish a reputation as a hard man who commanded the respect of everyone he played with and against.

After being rejected by Wakefield, Derek signed for Hull Kingston Rovers in 1951 as an 18-year-old centre, standing 5ft 11in tall and weighing 12st 4lbs. Rarely has so much power been captured within such an athletic frame.

He joined Oldham in 1955 and over the next four years helped the club to a Championship win, three Lancashire Cups and two Lancashire League Championship medals.

Derek pulled on a Trinity jersey for the first time in March 1959: the 28-16 win at Batley would prove to be the start of a golden era in Wakefield's proud history.

Over the next five years, Derek steered the Belle Vue club to seven trophy wins and established a reputation as one of the game's greatest-ever leaders.

The loose forward was named vice-captain of the Ashes-winning Great Britain tour team of 1962, five years after making his tour debut in the 1957 World Cup.

Derek set himself high standards and expected those around him to meet them, too: with Derek at the helm, Wakefield took few prisoners and lit up the game with both flair and brute force.

He made 24 appearances for Great Britain, including 11 successive Tests at loose forward after making his debut in the second Test versus the 1956 Kangaroos.

Derek Turner retired in 1966 and left Wakefield two years later to begin a successful coaching career with Castleford and Leeds.

He sadly passed away on July 31, 2015. He was 82.

## ANDY GREGORY

If it were possible to clone the definitive, classic British scrum-half, the finished product would closely resemble Andy Gregory. For what a finished product he was.

Standing just 5ft 5in tall, Andy strode through his 15-year career as a giant among men. He gained 26 caps for Great Britain, played in six Ashes series against Australia, toured as a Rugby League Lion on three occasions and graced the famous Wembley turf a remarkable nine times, never finishing on the losing side.

Andy's professional career began at Widnes in 1980-81, a season which ended with him collecting a Challenge Cup winners' medal in the Chemics' 18-9 victory over Hull KR. He was at scrum-half for Widnes again in the drawn Wembley final of 1982 and collected a second winners' medal in 1984 before joining Warrington.

In 1986 Andy moved to his hometown club to become a pivotal member of the most successful Wigan team of all time. He won the Lance Todd Trophy in 1988 and repeated the feat against his old club Warrington two years later during an era when Wembley became Wigan's second home.

In the hallmark of a truly great player, Andy revelled in the cut and thrust of the Test arena.

His finest hour as a Lion came in the third Test of the 1988 tour, when Great Britain upset the odds to stun Australia in Sydney, largely through the brilliance of Andy.

After a short spell at Leeds, Andy joined Salford in 1994 and became coach the following year.

## JOHNNY WHITELEY

Johnny Whiteley played all his club rugby in the black and white of Hull FC, for whom he is regarded as the club's greatest servant in its 153-year history.

Be it as a player, captain, coach or president, Johnny has never given less than 100 per cent to the club he grew up living in the shadow of as a young boy in West Hull.

It says much about the nature of the man that in Yorkshire's most divided city, Johnny commands respect on both sides of the River Hull, having coached Hull Kingston Rovers for two years from 1970, the year he led Great Britain to what remains their last Ashes series victory over Australia.

Johnny made 15 appearances for Great Britain, most at loose forward where he faced stiff competition for selection from his fellow Hall of Fame members Derek Turner and Vince Karalius.

He enjoyed that special quality possessed by so many great players, that of timing. As well as a phenomenal workrate, Johnny was a ball-handling loose forward of the highest order and a man whose game management was simply peerless.

Johnny made his debut for Hull in 1950 and went on to play more than 400 games for the Airlie Birds

until his retirement in 1965, when he succeeded Roy Francis as coach.

In 1956, he was appointed club captain and that season led Hull to Championship final success against Halifax at Maine Road, Manchester.


Having been a non-playing member of Great Britain's 1954 World Cup squad, Johnny made his Test debut in 1957 in a 31-6 World Cup defeat to Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground, where he played much of the match at centre.

He played in all three Ashes Tests of the 1958 tour, including the famous Battle of Brisbane where captain Alan Prescott led the Lions to victory by playing on with a broken arm. Johnny was a try-scorer in the third Test decider as Great Britain clinched the series 40-17.

He was a key figure in Great Britain's last home Ashes series win in 1959, scoring a try and playing an influential role as in the series-clinching 11-10 second Test victory.

Back at home, Johnny led Hull FC to Wembley finals in both 1959 and 1960.

He was awarded an MBE for service to Rugby League in 2005.



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# BRIGID'S NEW ROLE

**SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2013, RUGBY LEAGUE CARES HAS A SPECIFIC REMIT TO PRESERVE, CHAMPION AND MAKE ACCESSIBLE THE HISTORY OF THE GAME.**

Housed in Heritage Quay at the University of Huddersfield, the archives and key collections of the sport document and bring to life Rugby League since 1895.

In the past few years, activities have included a touring exhibition seen by over 50,000 people, a play 'It's in the Blood!', oral history interviews, archive events, the acquisition of the Nigel Wood Collection (see page 25) and the support of several other heritage projects that are going on all over the Rugby League heartlands.

But as of October last year, a different type of activity has commenced, looking into the impact that engaging in heritage projects has on individuals, communities and societies.

Brigid Power, Heritage Manager at Rugby League Cares, has been given the opportunity to undertake a PhD looking into just that.

A unique partnership between RL Cares and the International Centre for Sports History and Culture at De Montford University will look in depth into all the heritage projects linked to Rugby League and analyse what benefit they bring to their communities in the North.

"So much research has been undertaken into the power of museums, their use as a way to connect their communities and as a force for social good," said Brigid.

"But very little research has gone on into looking at sports heritage, in particular Rugby League. Rugby League is a sport that is proud of its history and most clubs have run some form of heritage project over the last 20 years and this activity has a real opportunity to impact positively on people's lives."

The Tigers Trust heritage project is a great example of this activity. Started in 2015, the project brought together a group of volunteers to create a virtual museum to preserve the heritage of Castleford Tigers. As the project progressed, the



**// RUGBY LEAGUE IS A SPORT THAT IS PROUD OF ITS HISTORY AND MOST CLUBS HAVE RUN SOME FORM OF HERITAGE PROJECT OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS AND THIS ACTIVITY HAS A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT POSITIVELY ON PEOPLE'S LIVES //**

group became tighter and have created some fantastic resources for use in the community – in care homes and in schools.

This is an under-developed area of research and it is difficult to attach value to heritage. The PhD will attempt to redress this and could have wide implications for funding and policy. If engaging in sporting heritage can prove that it can contribute to well-being and combatting social isolation, there may be more funds available for continuing this important work."

Brigid is supervised by Dr Neil Carter at ICSHC and Prof Tony Collins, a Rugby League historian and a former trustee of RL Cares.

Dr Carter said: "De Montfort University's International Centre for Sports History and Culture is delighted to be working in collaboration with Rugby League Cares on this project.

"The study of sports heritage is a burgeoning area and Brigid's PhD will make an original contribution to our knowledge of its understanding and build on Rugby League Cares's long-standing

reputation for successfully running and implementing heritage projects.

"Brigid brings great experience with her from the sector and this will only add to her research. Her work will also open up new ways in which museums can not only become repositories of the past through their exhibitions, but also assets for their local communities.

"Sport is the national obsession. It is one of the few activities that can bring people together from a wide range of social backgrounds.

"Museums can change lives and Brigid's research on the role of Britain's sporting heritage will ultimately offer great scope for how these institutions can engage with their communities on the widest possible basis, not just in terms of culture, but also through their ability to enable social inclusion and for the improvement of health and well-being."

As part of her research, Brigid is interested in talking to anyone who has run a Rugby League heritage project, so please get in touch!



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# CHALLENGE WEMBLEY 2019



TEN YEARS AFTER STEVE PRESCOTT COMPLETED A GRUELLING JOURNEY FROM PERPIGNAN TO WEMBLEY, **TAYLOR PRESCOTT** IS SET TO FOLLOW IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS IN AUGUST BY REPLICATING THE MADCAP 900-MILE CHALLENGE.

The 17-year-old will be one of up to 30 heroic participants in a copycat adventure of the one that set the tone for the amazing fundraising exploits of Steve Prescott and the foundation set up in his name.

Taylor will be joined by some of the same familiar faces who rode, rowed and ran with his dad in 2009 – including Steve's former St Helens team-mates Chris Joynt and Chris Smith.

Two former players who suffered life-changing spinal injuries playing Rugby League, and who continue to be supported by the RL Benevolent Fund, Pete Stephenson and Jimmy Gittins, are also taking part in Challenge Wembley 2019.'

The challenge involves an 865-mile bike ride from the south of France, followed by a punishing 26-mile journey up the River Thames from Windsor Castle to Teddington Lock in a Dragon Boat and then a half-marathon from RAF Uxbridge to Wembley on Saturday August 24th for the Coral Challenge Cup final.

Taylor will complete 'Challenge Wembley 2019' by delivering the matchball and placing it down in time for kick-off – exactly as Steve did before the Warrington Wolves v Huddersfield Giants final 10 years earlier.

"I am honoured to be in a position to continue my dad's legacy," said Taylor.

"My dad was passionate about everything he did and the charity was extremely important to him. I have seen my mum and incredible supporters of the charity continue the great work and helping those less fortunate – and I want to do my bit.



"My dad told me the 'Carnegie Challenge' of 2009 was the hardest but best

challenge he took on. I have a lot of work to do on strengthening my legs, improving my cycling and learning how to paddle in a dragon boat – but I am looking forward to that challenge.

"I would like to thank everyone involved with the Coral Challenge Cup for allowing me to take to the Wembley pitch and place the matchball."

Steve Prescott MBE was diagnosed with a rare abdominal cancer, pseudomyxoma peritonei in 2006 and formed the Steve Prescott Foundation in 2007 to raise funds for, and awareness of, the RFL Benevolent Fund and The Christie in Manchester.

Steve undertook many physically and mentally exhausting challenges during his illness to raise funds and awareness of the charities close to his heart. In October 2013, he underwent a pioneering multi visceral transplant of the small bowel, pancreas, stomach, duodenum and abdominal wall at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford and although this procedure eradicated the cancer, Steve passed away a few weeks later due to post-operation complications.

The Steve Prescott Foundation has donated just short of £1.5m to the RFL Benevolent Fund and the Christie Cancer Hospital in Manchester over the last decade.

A limited number of places on Challenge Wembley 2019 are still available: for more information, including details of how you can sponsor the participants, please visit [www.steveprescottfoundation.co.uk](http://www.steveprescottfoundation.co.uk)

# 1958 AND ALL THAT...

## RUGBY LEAGUE HISTORIAN TONY COLLINS REVEALS THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE 1958 LIONS TOUR

The 1958 Great Britain tour to Australia has gone down in history as one of the greatest Lions' tours of all time.

'Prescott's Epic', the second Test in Brisbane when an injury-ravaged British side defeated Australia, is the most heroic victory of the post-War era. It was a tour where immortals such as Alex Murphy, Vince Karalius and Mick Sullivan emerged on the world stage.

But behind the scenes, there was a monumental clash between the tour managers. A player rebellion broke out. And one man emerged as one of Rugby League's most important administrators.

The managers of the 1958 tour could not have been more different. Team manager Tom Mitchell, a farmer from Cumberland, had been a key figure in the formation of Workington Town. He was the youngest of the tour officials, just 44, with a natural rapport with players.

Bennett, 'Barney' Manson, Swinton's representative on the RFL council, was the tour's business manager. At 69 years old, he was the oldest official ever to take a team Down Under.

Coach Jim Brough had been one of the game's great full-backs. Born in Silloth, he played union for England before signing for Leeds in 1925. When he retired, he coached Workington to Wembley, twice, and to a Championship final.



1958 matchday programme

However, even before the tourists arrived in Australia, Mitchell and Manson fell out and barely spoke to each other on the trip out.

Brough's rigid training regime was very unpopular with players who had just finished a long club season.

Manson, despite only being the tour's business manager, began to send his opinions about the merits of players back to the RFL. Johnny Whiteley, Manson claimed, was 'a good player but not robust enough' for Test football. Alex Murphy was 'certainly not Test standard'.

In fact, Manson was speaking for Jim Brough. Unfortunately, relations between the coach and the players became strained in Australia and got much worse on the New Zealand leg of the tour.

Jim Brough (right) with fellow Lion Douglas Clarke in Sydney in 1936

"There is too much boozing, too many late nights," the coach told the players after they had lost the first Test 15-8 to Australia, an accusation strongly disputed by the players and Tom Mitchell.

Manson also refused to allow players to call him as anything other than Mr Manson. For the generation of players that had grown up in the post-War years, such formality was patronising and insulting. In contrast, Tom Mitchell was always 'Tom' to the players.

On the New Zealand leg of the tour, the players passed a vote of no confidence in Brough and Manson.

When the tourists arrived home, the RFL held a commission of inquiry. Manson claimed that he and Brough had done nothing wrong and that their methods had led to a successful tour.

When the inquiry reported in December 1958, it recommended that future tours should have only one manager. Manson was criticised for being 'contemptuous' of players and severely reprimanded. Jim Brough had his tour bonus halved and would never coach at the highest levels again.

In contrast, Tom Mitchell was completely exonerated and would be forever linked with the 1958 tour. He became chairman of the RFL in 1961 and until his death in 1998 was seen as one of the game's visionaries.

There was one final act in this drama. In February 1970, a motion was proposed to the RFL Council that Barney Manson, now aged 80, should be made a life member of the RFL.

The proposer was Tom Mitchell.

# WELSH CHARITABLES RFC HONOURS JONATHAN DAVIES

THE STELLAR CAREER OF ONE OF THE GREATEST DUAL-CODE INTERNATIONALS OF ALL TIME WAS CELEBRATED IN FINE STYLE IN EARLY MAY WHEN JONATHAN DAVIES OBE WAS GUEST OF HONOUR AT A SPECIAL TRIBUTE DINNER IN CARDIFF.

Organised by the charity Welsh Charitables RFC, the dinner was attended by over 350 guests, including John Devereux, Allan Bateman, Rowland Phillips, Adrian Hadley and Kevin Ellis, as well as Jonathan and his family.

The circumstances of Jonathan 'going North' were regaled by guest speaker Jim Mills, who turned his back on rugby union by turning professional in 1965 and who went on to play almost 370 games of Rugby League.

"I was on the board at Widnes at the time and Dougie rang me to say he'd spoke to Jonathan on the phone and he was considering signing," recalled Jim.

"I told him not to be daft. Jiffy was captain of Llanelli and Wales and there was no way he'd come North. But Dougie being Dougie, he wouldn't let it go.

"They kept in contact on the phone and one day Dougie rang me again to ask if I'd go down to Wales with him because Jonathan was ready to put pen to paper.

"I still didn't believe it but I went anyway. We sat with Jiffy for an hour and a half and he signed. Wow!

"Me and Dougie left and decided to stop off for a beer at a local pub, which was

run by Norman Gale, the former Wales hooker.

"Norman came across to us to say hello and bought us a pint. He asked if we'd come down to sign anyone and we said of course not...

"He told us his son was now playing for Llanelli and showed us a framed photo on the wall in the bar.

"I asked Norman if he was involved with Llanelli in any way and he informed us he was club chairman. I looked at Dougie, who took a deep drag on his cigarette and said we had a long drive ahead of us so we ought to make a move.

"We'd just signed Llanelli's greatest player and their chairman had bought us a drink!"

Jonathan is now a member of BBC Sport's commentary teams for both codes of rugby, which have reached an entente cordiale since union embraced open professionalism in 1995.

That move has seen the tide of talent from the Welsh valleys into Rugby League all but dry up, a situation that Jim feels has left the sport poorer.

"Throughout its history, Wales players have played a huge part in the story of



Jonathan Davies OBE with his Welsh Charitables cap

Rugby League and it's sad that those days are now over," said Jim.

"When Widnes signed Jiffy we put a couple of thousand on our own gate and every time we played away there were hundreds of people who weren't Rugby League fans turning up just to see him play.

"The top Wales players can earn far more by staying in union now. However, the Wales RL are doing a fine job and there are now more league clubs and players in Wales than there have ever been.

"It's good that the two codes get on so well now. I'm proud to be a Vice-President of the Welsh Charitables, who do some fantastic work raising fund for charities like RL Cares."

The dinner in tribute to Jonathan Davies follows another hugely successful event in 2017 celebrating the career of RL Hall of Fame member Billy Boston, which raised over £3,000 for RL Cares.

"We have raised more than £180,000 for various charities since we were re-formed in 2000 and are delighted to help RL Cares," said David Power, the Honorary Secretary of the Welsh Charitables.

For more information on the generous fundraising activities of the Welsh Charitables please visit [www.welshcharitablesrfc.com](http://www.welshcharitablesrfc.com)



Guests at the Welsh Charitables RFC dinner

# 2019 LONDON MARATHON

**THE RUGBY LEAGUE FAMILY ONCE AGAIN PUT ITS BEST FOOT FORWARD TO RAISE AN AMAZING AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR GREAT CAUSES WITH SOME TRULY HEROIC FEATS IN THE 2019 LONDON MARATHON.**

Former Great Britain captain Jamie Peacock MBE completed the gruelling 26 miles and 385-yard course through the capital's streets in an impressive three hours and 35 minutes on behalf of the Sue Ryder Wheatfields Hospice in Leeds.

Jamie's father, Darryl spent a lot of time at the hospice prior to his death from lung cancer in September 2013, prompting his son to do his dad proud by raising over £3,500 for the hospice.

"Given the amount of pain my dad went through with his cancer and he didn't moan once, the marathon was one of the closest acts I could put myself through to walk one footstep on the difficult journey he went on before passing away," said Jamie.

Marathons are adept at finding a participant's weak spot, as RL Cares's Player Support Officer Keith Senior found out!

Keith was representing the Laura Crane Youth Cancer Trust in his sixth marathon and recorded a time of 4:31.53, much of which saw him have to run through the pain barrier.



Jamie Peacock MBE and Keith Senior

"I've never had hamstring cramp like it," said the former Leeds Rhinos and Great Britain centre. "I was going well until the halfway mark and then it struck.

"London is such a great event that it drags me back and I am going to try to do them until I'm 50, which means there are hopefully seven more left for me."

Ann-Marie Barrow, the wife of ex-Oldham and Swinton player Tony Barrow Jnr, who died aged 45 in 2017, ran the marathon in 4:51.37 and raised more than £7,000 for Brain Tumour Research.



Ann-Marie Barrow

"The marathon was an incredibly tough challenge but I was determined to cross the finish line for Tony and I was thinking about him every step of the way," said Ann-Marie, a 36-year-old mother of two from Windle.

Simon Brindle, the Rugby Football League's Content and Resource Lead, put in a time of 4:05.34 and raised £700 for the Oddballs Foundation, while former RFL Events Executive Sophie Macnay raised over £600 for the Movember Foundation, completing her first London Marathon in 6:19.34.



Above: Ben Allen



Right: Oliver Roby

**TWO MEMBERS OF STAFF FROM THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE TOGETHER RAISED MORE THAN £1,000 FOR RUGBY LEAGUE CARES AFTER SECURING PLACES IN THE LONDON MARATHON WITH THE GOVERNING BODY'S SUPPORT.**

Ben Allen, a Data Analyst with England Rugby League, ran the marathon in four hours, 30 minutes and 10 seconds to raise £835 for RL Cares.

"It was a brilliant day and something I'll never, ever forget," said Ben, who only found out he was running four months before taking his place at the start.

"I wasn't in terrible shape but I'm not a runner and it took a lot of hard work to get ready for it.

"The crowds were just amazing. On the last few miles when your body is telling you to stop, the crowds were 10-deep on the Embankment and roaring everyone on with encouragement.

"I'd love to do it again and it was a privilege to run the marathon for RL Cares."

Communications Officer Oliver Roby described his experience in the marathon simply as "mad" after crossing the finishing line in a time of 4:54.29.

"I have no idea how I managed it, to be honest!" added Oliver.

Please show your support for Ben and Oliver by donating to their Justgiving pages:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ben-allen-rfl](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ben-allen-rfl) and [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oliver-robby](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oliver-robby)





Barrie McDermott and Terry O'Connor with Lizzie at the Waterhead ARLFC screening session



Danny Jones

# DANNY JONES DEFIBRILLATOR FUND

## THE DANNY JONES DEFIBRILLATOR FUND CONTINUES TO MAKE A MASSIVE DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE INVOLVED AT ALL LEVELS OF RUGBY LEAGUE – AND IS NOW TAKING ITS BRILLIANT WORK INTO OTHER SPORTS.

The fund, set up in the aftermath of the tragic death of Keighley Cougars and Wales half-back Danny Jones in May 2015, has installed more than 80 life-saving defibrillators in community Rugby League clubs over the last four years.

In addition, almost 500 players of all ages have undergone cardiac screening through the fund, with further sessions scheduled to take place over the next few months.

The success of the 'DJ Defib Fund' has not gone unnoticed across the country and over the summer cricket clubs throughout the UK will be fundraising, with the support of Danny's wife, Lizzie, to help village cricket teams purchase their own defibrillators.

"I am going to be performing at a couple of T-20 matches at Trent Bridge to help them raise awareness of the importance of having a defibrillator," explained Lizzie.

"Cricket have taken a lot of interest in what we have achieved and have asked us for advice. It's fantastic that more and more people are taking this issue so seriously."

Any funds raised to install defibrillators in cricket clubs, village halls and schools will be kept separate from the main DJ Defib Fund, whose focus remains very much on Rugby League.

The fund has so far raised £90,000 and has extended its work to help meet the cost of cardiac screening sessions for community clubs and other groups within the sport.

So far, screening has taken place at Wath Brow Hornets, Leigh East and Waterhead, with further sessions taking place at Thatto Heath and in Hull this summer.

"There continues to be a strong demand for defibrillators and I would urge anyone with a club that hasn't yet got one to get in touch," added Lizzie. "Full training is provided with every defibrillator we supply."



Scott Grix and his family

"We would also like to do more screening to help save lives. Screening is painless and provides peace of mind for all players and their families."

All the players at Bradford-based amateur club Birkenshaw Bulldogs following the death of 32-year-old player Max Blakeley, who collapsed playing against Heworth last July.

Twelve months earlier, tragedy also struck at North West Counties club Culcheth Eagles when 31-year-old Adam Cooper collapsed and died from a previously undetected heart condition.

In 2015, 43-year-old David Batchelor died after playing in a Masters fixture at Oulton near Leeds, again from a cardiac condition that would probably have been revealed had he gone through the screening process.

Since that tragedy, a defibrillator has been present at every Masters game.

Masters Rugby League are great supporters of the sport's charities, including RL Cares, the RL Benevolent Fund and the DJ Defib Fund, all of whom require more funds to keep doing what they do so well.

Lizzie's next big fundraiser is the 2019 Danny Jones Defibrillator Ball, which takes place at Emerald Headingley Stadium on Saturday September 14. For more details please visit [www.dannyjonesdefibfund.co.uk](http://www.dannyjonesdefibfund.co.uk)

If you would like to make a donation to the Danny Jones Defibrillator Fund please visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/danny-jones-defibrillator-fund](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/danny-jones-defibrillator-fund)

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# Rugby League Cares

