

League1895

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YORKSHIRE DOES WEMBLEY

LEEDS AND CASTLEFORD HIT THE CUP FINAL





SUPER LEAGUE SO FAR ROUND 23

We're only 4 games away from the play-offs, and it's too close to call! Only 4 points separate the top six teams, many of whom still have to play one-another.

The remaining two play-off spots are still up for grabs, almost anyone could wind up in eighth place!

Here's how the table looks!

	Wins	Draws	Losses	Points
1. St Helens	17	0	6	34
2. Wigan Warriors	16	0	7	32
3. Leeds Rhinos	15	2	6	32
4. Castleford Tigers	15	2	6	32
5. Warrington Wolves	15	0	8	30
6. Huddersfield Giants	14	2	7	30
7. Catalans Dragons	11	1	11	23
8. Widnes Vikings	11	1	11	23
9. Hull Kingston Rovers	9	2	12	20
10. Wakefield Wildcats	9	1	13	19
11. Hull FC	8	2	13	18
12. Salford Red Devils	8	1	14	17
13. Bradford Bulls	6	0	17	6
14. London Broncos	0	0	23	0



**Kingstone
Press™**

CHAMPIONSHIP SO FAR ROUND 23

Leigh Centurions officially won the League Leaders' Shield this week, with a win over local rivals Fev. It's dangerously close between the bottom three play-off positions and the last relegation spot, everything's up for grabs! Here's how the table looks!

Sheffield and Rochdale each have a game in hand

	Wins	Draws	Losses	Points
1. Leigh Centurions	22	0	1	67
2. Halifax RLFC	15	2	6	55
3. Featherstone Rovers	16	1	6	54
4. Doncaster RLFC	15	1	7	51
5. Dewsbury Rams	13	0	10	45
6. Sheffield Eagles	12	0	10	42
7. Keighley Cougars	12	0	11	41
8. Workington Town	10	1	12	41
9. Batley Bulldogs	10	1	12	38
10. Whitehaven RLFC	11	0	12	38
11. NW Crusaders	6	0	17	27
12. Swinton Lions	5	0	18	24
13. Rochdale Hornets	7	0	15	24
14. Barrow Raiders	3	0	20	15

LEEDS 24-16 WARRINGTON

CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL REVIEW

MARK STEPHENSON

The Rhinos went into this game with what can be described as inconsistent form whereas the Wolves a couple of blips aside were looking every bit a serious threat to do the double.

Recent CC meetings also show the Wire in dominant form against the Blue 'n' Amber so it was a surprise when some bookies had the Rhinos favourites.

With "Sir Kev" returning from a 2 match ban to lead us & the Machine that is Jamie Peacock taking the battle to the Wolves younger and favoured pack we witnessed a quality performance and a good old fashioned Rugby Lesson in how to strangle your opponents in a big knock out game.

The Wire contributed to their own downfall making error after error and not gaining the field position to make enough threats to the Leeds line, but when the odd chance did come the Rhinos scramble defence was as brilliant as it was desperate.

All things been fair the 14-0 half time Rhinos lead courtesy of 2 Ryan Hall tries, one of which again showed why he is one of the best finishers in world RL and the other from a sublime cut out pass from McGuire, flattered the Wire and had some of the Rhinos faithful questioning if we had got enough points to show for our dominant 1st half efforts.

As expected Tony Smith had his team fired up for the second half and they came out firing and put pressure on the Rhinos line and they got a de-

served reward when they bagged the first try and the warning signs were there that the Wolves meant business.

How would the Rhinos respond now they were the ones under pressure? The answer came with a bang as they blasted the Wire line and eventually the creative McGuire put Moon in on the left to restore a commanding lead.

Ratchford responded again for Wire but as the Wire grew more and more desperate a Myler knock on lead to a quality finish from T.Briscoe who showed pace and a great hand off whilst switching the ball to his other hand to put the game beyond doubt although a fortunate late Westwood try made the final score respectable there was no doubt who had been the better team from start to finish.

There is no doubt with Sinfield ,Burrow & McGuire controlling the pivotal roles and Peacock leading the Charge upfront this Rhinos team can beat anyone especially when the likes of Hardaker ,Watkins ,Moon ,Hall & Briscoe are in form and ready to add the coups de gras.

Special mentions also go out to Ablett ,Jjb and Delaney who despite their hard relentless graft seem to be underrated by many outside the Leeds fan base aren't far behind the old Warrior Peacock in getting the tough stuff done.

Roll on Wembley against Classy Cas!

WIDNES 6-24 CASTLEFORD

CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL REVIEW

TOM LITTLE

The Challenge Cup Semi Final between Castleford Tigers and Widnes Vikings was a one sided affair for the Castleford Tigers, who came on form, with tricks up their sleeves and with no intention of losing the game. The Castleford defence was as good as their attack and without their defence the score would have been a lot different. After the first try Widnes' heads were down, this caused their loss.

From the start Castleford showed that they had their eyes on the prize with an amount of crushing runs from their forwards and twinkling toes from their backs. Great team work by the boys, good work from Clark see's Finn run away with it half way down the pitch and finishes right under the sticks. And Sneyd makes the kick putting them 6-0 up, and from then they showed no sign of stopping until the 80 minuets were up. Unfortunately for Widnes who were on the receiving end of the Castleford attack and couldn't get a try through the Tigers defense. From then on it was no different after the Tigers scored their second try.

Even though Widnes were up against a team in form they did well to not make the score a hammering, with great defense they stopped the Tigers from increasing the score. They're attack wasn't the best but with a late try and conversion from Owen, it didn't mean anything because Widnes had already lost their place in the final.



LEEDS 14-20 BRADFORD

BY @BULLIEVE2013

Seriously what can we say? The win over Wigan was brilliant but, to beat Leeds on their own turf was emphatic! We may be a part of the championship from next season but the bragging rights are ours. We headed over to Leeds with the pride, determination and fighting spirit we knew we could use against our arch rivals to get the win we needed. We used every ounce of each to over power the team everyone wants to beat but this was extra special as the Leeds fans thought it would be a walk in the park and come up with a cricket score, yet, wasn't

they to be eating their own words? We cannot single out a man of the match as, the whole squad pulled together to get the all important (dubbed to some) grand final win.

One stand out player who made a crucial chase and try saving tackle was the young, impressive Elliot Kear. The youngster was all over the field tackling and throwing passes and generally being in the right place at the right time. We hope he will be given a new contract but let's wait and see.



TRANSFER NEWS

01.07.14

Hull FC sign Marc Sneyd on a three-year deal, costing approximately £100,000.

Hull FC sign the Catalans Dragons' play-maker, Leon Pryce on a two-year deal.

Warrington Wolves sign Cowboys' forward, Ashton Sims on a two-year deal

02.07.14

Hull KR sign Wigan centre, Darrell Goulding, who has made over 130 games for the cherry and whites on a 3-year deal.

07.07.14

Castleford Tigers make up for loss of Sneyd and sign Storm play-maker, Ben Roberts on a two-year deal.

08.07.14

St Helens sign London star-forward, Atelea Vea on a two-year deal.

11.07.14

London Broncos sign Italy international Hooker, Ray Nasso on a two-year deal.

14.07.14

James Webster makes his second signing for the Wakefield Wildcats, with Mickael Simon signing on a two-year deal.

15.07.14

Castleford improve backs, with the signing of London back, Denny Solomona on a two-year deal.

21.07.14

Castleford sign London Broncos captain, Matt Cook on a two-year deal.

25.07.14

Bradford Bulls sign Castleford's Dan Fleming on a two-year deal.

London Broncos bring Josh Cordoba out of retirement, signing the forward on a two-year deal for their life in the championship next season.

28.07.14

The Bradford Bulls sign ex-Parramatta Eels and current Salford player, Jake Mullaney on a one-year deal.

01.08.14

Hull KR sign Parramatta Eels star and winger, Ken Sio on a three-year deal. On the movement, he said "It's always been a dream of mine to come over there and play in Super League.

The London Broncos sign Wales international, Rhys Williams on a two-year deal.

04.08.14

Hull KR captain and Hooker, Josh Hodgson confirms that he will be moving to the NRL in 2015, joining the struggling Canberra Raiders on a two-year deal.

Castleford announce the signing of Featherstone Rovers prop, Steve Crossley on a two-year deal.

Wakefield Wildcats sign Salford Red Devils forward, Matty Ashurst on a two-year deal.

Bradford announce the signing of Dave Peterson on a one-year deal, preparing for life in the championship.

St Helens confirm that Sia Soliola will join the Canberra Raiders in 2015, on a two-year deal.

06.08.14

The Bradford Bulls announce the signing of Etu Uaisele on a two-year deal.

07.08.14

The London Broncos sign Wakefield's Richard Mathers, after he announced the club did not try and extend his contract there.

11.08.14

Hull KR sign Italy international Josh Manatellato from Newcastle Knights

Bradford Bulls snap up Mark Offerdahl from North West Crusaders on a one year deal

14.08.14

Hull KR sign James Donaldson from Bradford

15.08.14

Hull FC sign Mark Minichiello from Gold Coast Titans on a two year deal.

Salford have signed former Leeds player Liam Hood from Hunslet Hawks.



SUPER LEAGUE COMING SOON

As we close in on the end of the season, Mark Wilkinson (@wilko2205) previews this week's fixtures!

ST HELENS VS WAKEFIELD WILDCATS

There's a whole lot at stake for both sides. After Hull KR's shock draw with Wigan, the Saints will want to win at Belle Vue in order to boost their lead at the top of the table, and to stop Leeds taking over. Wakefield will need a win for any possibility of a play-off spot. Based on reputation, and current league positions, you'd expect this to be an easy win for Saints, but that only tells half the story.

Saint Helens have got a difficult end to the season coming up. They've been on top of the table for most of the season, but their side is now plagued with injuries. They're missing big names such as Walsh, Wilkin, Hohaia and Lomax, and they've had some questionable performances as of late, crashing out to both Hull sides and getting a 42 point hammering from Les Dragons.

Wakefield, on the other hand, have had some solid performances against the bigger clubs this season, having taken points from Wigan, Leeds and Warrington. They need to tap into that giant-slayer mentality to get a vital result at Langtree Park.. With only four games left, the Wildcats are four points away from a top-eight place. If Widnes and Catalans win three of their next four games, then the play-offs will be out of reach for James Webster's men. If either team drop points, however, then Wakefield will have to beat local rivals Castleford (A), and fellow playoff-challengers Salford (H) and Hull KR (H).

Saints will definitely want to get the two points here, they've got arguably the toughest three games of the season: Leeds (A), Warrington (H) and Huddersfield (A).

SALFORD RED DEVILS VS CATALANS DRAGONS

It's Devils vs Dragons on the outskirts of Manchester this Friday night, with Salford chasing a seemingly out-of-reach play-off spot (or at least trying to avoid ending the season as the lowest-ranked surviving team). The visitors from Perpignan will be going into the match with the hopes of

maintaining their place in the top eight. Based on what we've seen this season, it's difficult to predict how these two inconsistent sides will perform.

Salford have been a mixed bag as of late, they were very close to beating Leeds, and thrashed the Giants in their own back yard, but put in an embarrassing effort against Wigan in round 23.

After a slow start to the season, Catalans seemed to be on the rise, but this proved to be a temporary high. Other than a win over a disappointing Wakefield side, they've not had a decent performance since thrashing St Helens two months ago. This one's too close to call!

WARRINGTON WOLVES VS CASTLEFORD TIGERS

This will be a great match, definitely worth tuning in if you've got Sky Sports. If not, head to your local and get them to turn it on before football takes over again! Once again, there's a lot at stake here. A win for Castleford will surely cement their place in the top four, whereas a Wire victory will open things up allowing themselves and Huddersfield a way in.

Looking at recent form, you have to back Castleford here. Fresh out of a convincing cup semi, they'll be coming in with momentum, and they haven't lost a game in two months (two draws but who's counting?).

Warrington, however, have struggled this season. In contrast with Classy Cas, they'll enter this fixture off the back of a disappointing semi-final loss and a few league losses last month. They'll be swimming against the tide, but the Wolves have a history of bouncing back for the bigger fixtures, and after what we've seen this season, Cas certainly qualify as a big one.

Unfortunately, they're one of many difficult fixtures for Tony Smith's men, potentially having a tougher end to the season than Saints, with Huddersfield (H), Saints (A) and Wigan (A). Cas have it a little easier with Bradford (H), Wakefield (H) & Catalans (A). I'm struggling to see past Cas, but anything could happen!

BRADFORD BULLS VS HULL FC

Can you imagine if Bradford had beaten St Helens or Huddersfield in July? If they hadn't conceded a last-minute match-winning try against Catalans? Since confirming their relegation, they've beaten Leeds and Wigan. If they'd only they'd have survived one of those three matches, they'd now be looking at the possibility of one of the greatest comebacks in sporting history! Sadly, it was not to be, and their sudden return to form seems to be in vain. Still, they'll be welcoming the black and whites to Odsal with the intention of winning for pride, and killing off FC's chances at that final play-off spot.

Hull can't be overly optimistic about an eighth-place finish, it would require a very specific set of results from the four teams above them. But if there's one thing we've seen this season, it's that impossible is very different from improbable. The Airlie Birds will be going into this fixture knowing that the only way to keep hope alive is to get a win against the Bulls.

However, even if they get a win at Odsal, they have to host their local rivals, travel to Huddersfield, and then host Leeds. They've lost to KR twice already this season, their last trip to the Giants saw them concede 50 points...by half time. And the Rhinos are never easy visitors.

LONDON BRONCOS VS LEEDS RHINOS

On a personal level, I'd love London to win this. I really want to see them get a win this season before bowing out, and it would be very interesting to see Leeds drop points before facing off against Wigan and Saints. Sadly, it's not looking good. Leeds were on top form against Warrington last weekend, and will more than likely see the win-less Broncos as a warm-up on the road to Wembley. But as I've said before, stranger things have happened this season. Complacency could be an issue for the finalists, underestimating London could be their undoing. It's fair to assume they'll be resting a few key players in time for their big game against Cas, the Broncos thirst for their first win of the season could overpower Leeds.

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS VS WIDNES VIKINGS

By the standards set this time last year, the Giants can't help but be disappointed by some of their performances this year. They found themselves getting results despite not playing their best. Eventually, their luck ran out against Salford, and again against the Tigers. But the team that left Castleford were not the same that welcomed Catalans the following week. They were more organised, they were quicker, and they were back to the sort of plays that won them the League Leaders' Shield last year. This same team turned up to Wakefield, where it was tries all around!

Widnes have been inconsistent throughout the season. Individual performances from the likes of Brown have been widely praised, but it's hard to believe the team that took down Warrington so easily are the same team who lost to Castleford at the weekend. And following the controversy off the pitch, which...in this case took place *on* the pitch...Widnes will be looking to put their disappointing semi final behind them with a win over the Giants. The reverse fixture back in February saw the Vikings win 22-20, so this could be a very close fixture.

I've mentioned this about a few games this week, but this game really does have a lot riding on it! Widnes are currently on form for a play-off place, but need to be very careful if they want to keep it. Their points difference (-104) is dangerously low compared to that of play-off rivals Catalans (-4), Hull KR (-16). A win at the Giants would be just the beginning, as they follow up this fixture with a trip to Wigan.

Despite the fact that the Rugby League community seems to be focused on the 'top 5', the Giants will be well aware that the top 4 is still potentially within reach. If they can beat Widnes, then they travel to Warrington, before hosting Hull FC and St Helens. Four wins could be enough to see them through to the qualifying play offs.

It'll be a big week for Super League, let's be honest, anything could happen. Who predicted a Wigan/KR Draw? But here's my predictions anyway.

St Helens vs **Wakefield Wildcats**

Salford Red Devils vs Catalans Dragons

Warrington Wolves vs **Castleford Tigers**

Bradford Bulls vs Hull FC

London Broncos vs **Leeds Rhinos**

Huddersfield Giants vs Widnes Vikings



CHAMPIONSHIP COMING SOON

As we close in on the end of the season, Dan Fowler previews this week's fixtures!

BATLEY BULLDOGS V DEWSBURY RAMS.

This Heavy Woollen Derby is the most anticipated in quite some time. Batley, who are level on points with tenth placed Whitehaven, host Dewsbury who are seven points clear of relegation. Batley suffered a dismal loss to fellow relegation candidates Whitehaven at the weekend. 28-13 to the Recre based side was the final score and they did all the hard work without try merchant Craig Calvert, who was taken off the field with an injury, soon after scoring. Despite a Calvert score at the start of the game, the first half belonged to the Bulldogs. Miles Greenwood bagged a brace in conjunction with Leatherbarrow nailing both conversions and a field goal. 13-6 to Batley at HT. Unfortunately for the West Yorkshire side, by the end of the game, they'd be in a even more precarious position in the league than they were before the start of the game. Whitehaven were superb, the mental strength of the team was there for all to be seen. Despite being under the pump for most of the first half, they came out all guns blazing and left the Bulldogs in their wake. Tries from Carr, Burns and Parker, with Southernwood adding two extra penalty goals was enough for the Haven army to go home happy.

Dewsbury, on the other hand, cemented their midtable position with a comfortable home victory against already relegated Rochdale Hornets. With Dewsbury six points to the good at half time, Rochdale will have been looking to cause an upset and throw the cat amongst the pigeons in the case of Dewsbury's safety hopes. But the stark reality of the game was that Dewsbury just had too much quality. Austin Buchanan added a brace of tries along with Sam Wood and Karl Pryce who scored one a piece. Langley got the Hornets only second half try after two minutes of restarting. A final score of 38-20 to the Rams, a good day for Glenn

Morrison's side who kept their fifth place despite the attentions of Sheffield in sixth.

Batley, despite their league position, are rather solid on home ground at their unique Mount Pleasant. If the Bulldogs are to stay up, they will have to win all of their remaining games as the impending decision on a points deduction looms over them. Remaining games - Dewsbury H. Swinton H. Doncaster A.

Dewsbury would love to put one nail in the relegation coffin for the Bulldogs, with the latter really struggling at the wrong end of the season. The Rams, as aforementioned, are seven points clear of tenth, so winning all of their games isn't a must but if they're to solidify a good draw in the playoffs, it'd be a good thing to do. Remaining games - Batley A. Keighley H. Workington A.

HALIFAX V FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

This all West Yorkshire clash could go a long way in deciding who's to clinch that second spot in the league, and the money pot that goes with it. Halifax beat their conquerors from earlier on in the season, North Wales Crusaders, to move up to second place in the league. The game wasn't the most spectacular or easy on the eye for the Fax fans, but they'd have just been glad to return to Halifax with the win. 16-6 down at half-time, if you'd have offered a win to the travelling faithful, they'd have snapped your hand off. Tries from Callum Casey and Luke Ambler, with a lone conversion from Steve Tyrer levelled the scores. Jamie Dallimore put the Cru back in front with a field goal but former Batley winger Gareth Potts got the winner six minutes from time. The win saw Featherstone, this weekend's opposition, move back down to third for the first time since the first half of the season.

Featherstone were totally dominated, primarily in the second half, in their round 23

matchup with, now League Leaders Shield winners, Leigh Centurions. Leigh took a 20-0 lead in the first 24 minutes thanks to tries from Tom Armstrong x2, Sean Penkywicz and three conversions and a penalty goal from kicking pivot Martin Ridyard. The half time score would be 20-12 when Fev got two tries back from Crookes and Ellis. The domination from Leigh would take a firm stance on the game in the second period, out scoring the Rovers four tries to one, Greg Worthington getting the one for the Rovers. The loss would culminate in the Post Office Road side dropping down to 3rd thanks to the Fax win, making this weekend's game all the more important and vital.

Halifax, with a win and denying Rovers a bonus point, would go three points clear but the latter having the better points difference. A tricky second to last game greets Fax but a not so tricky last game awaits. Remaining games - Featherstone H. Doncaster A. Barrow H.

Featherstone's last three fixtures are similar to Halifax's but the last game is more of a toughie, Keighley blow hot and cold and have done for most of the season. The game all depends on which Keighley side turn up to see if the Rovers have a banana skin of a last game. Remaining games - Halifax A. Sheffield H. Keighley A.

KEIGHLEY COUGARS V NORTH WEST CRUSADERS

7th placed Keighley host already relegated North Wales Crusaders in a game where the Cougars could move closer to safety. But the Crusaders, despite relegation, can pull off a shock or two as seen by nearly beating Halifax in round 23.

Keighley come into the game off the back of a win against Bobbie Goulding's Barrow Raiders. A 24-10 victory at Craven Park was just what Paul March would have ordered. The Cougars defence was steely and the Raiders posted their first points of the clash in the 62nd minute. Paul Handforth and Paul White got a try a piece as the half time score resembled a nice two score cushion for the Cougars, at 12-0. Things got better for Keighley when full back James Craven scored, before Max Wiper got the Raiders first points of the day a short four minutes later. Handforth scored again to put the result beyond any doubt, Bradley Goulding got his first senior try to the delight of his father I should imagine. Full time and a good day out for the Cougars, 24-10.

North Wales nearly caused the shock of the round when they come within a score of beating Halifax. At half time, things looked great for the Cru at 16-6 up but good teams find a way to win, and that's what Halifax did. Gareth Potts got the all important score in the dying embers of the game. More about the North Wales v Halifax game can be found in the Halifax v Featherstone preview.

Keighley are still only three points clear of tenth place, so a win this weekend is a must. The attentions of Workington, Batley and Whitehaven below them will more than likely intensify if a loss occurs this weekend. Keighley find themselves in a must win situation because of their league position, as well as their remaining fixtures. Remaining games - North Wales H. Dewsbury A. Featherstone H.

The Crusaders, despite being down, will be looking to cause a bit of a stir in their last few matches. Helping to bring down Keighley, I'm sure, would make the Crusaders fans happy, because it'll show that they're not just there to make the numbers up in the last few matches. After the Keighley game, the Crusaders play two teams who's fates are already sealed for different reasons. Remaining games - Keighley A. Barrow A. Leigh H.

ROCHDALE HORNETS V DONCASTER

Another relegated side meets an outfit who's playoff hopes have been lingering from the start of the season. Rochdale, despite buying talented half back Ryan Millard at the start of the season, have been relegated. This has been whilst Paul Cooke's Dons are wanting to pick up form for the playoff push.

Rochdale were defeated at the weekend by Dewsbury Rams, it ended up an empathic 38-20 for the latter despite only being six points up at the break. Plus points from the Rochdale side of things include Stuart Littler who got another try to his vast collection, Chris Baines who also scored along with winger Gareth Langley. All the tries were converted by goal kicking maestro Paul Crook, and he even added a penalty goal for his troubles too. The man of the match for Rochdale, picked in the League Express, was Hornets full back Wayne English. More about the Rams v Hornets game can be found in the Batley v Dewsbury preview.

Doncaster bounced back from their defeat to local neighbours Sheffield with a terrific home victory against in form Workington. The Dons

showed their guile, class and superb instinct to score near to 40 points against a side who look unstoppable as of recent weeks. Jacob Miller was magnificent for the Dons, looking dangerous every time he got the ball. The man dual registered from Hull got the first two tries, and he created more as the day went along. Two Miller tries, and two conversions from Sanderson was all that separated the side at the break. After the interval, the Dons really turned up the gears, going 30-0 up after 62 minutes. Steve Snitch, Pasquale Dunn and Liam Cunningham all got four pointers before Kris Coward and Liam McAvoy responded for Worky in the 71st and 76th minute respectively. The last try of the game came from Donny centre Shaun Leaf. A good day for Doncaster, a spectacular 36-10 win over the Phil Veivers coached Town side.

Rochdale, as previously mentioned, have been relegated but they'll still be wanting to make a statement about how good they can be. A win against Workington would prove that, as Town will be fighting for their lives as they near the relegation drop zone. Remaining games - Doncaster H. Whitehaven A. Sheffield H + A.

Doncaster may face a points deduction for their use of a illegible player. Ben Crooks v Keighley is the alleged player, a fine and a points deduction is the biggest penalty. Despite this, they've cemented their place in the Championship next season but will be disappointed to not have capitalised on home victories against Featherstone and Leigh earlier on in the season, and progressed further up the table. Remaining games - Rochdale A. Halifax H. Batley H.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES V WHITEHAVEN

Both teams are facing the prospect of life in Championship 1 if the back end of their seasons go pear shaped. Sheffield have racked up back to back wins to stake their claim to safety. Doncaster away and Swinton at home being the wins in question, and ones that have helped the club climb to a lofty sixth position. Whitehaven come into the game off the back of a massively vital victory against fellow safety strugglers Batley Bulldogs.

Sheffield managed to just scrape over the line in their last game, despite going into the sheds 18-16 down to already relegated Swinton Lions. The Lions took the lead three times in the first 40, and despite not having as much ball as their opponents, found themselves in front. Burke, Dwyer and Atkin all scored for Swinton whilst Yere, Lulu-Togagae and Uaisale all replied for the Eagles. Three Eagles

tries in the opening 11 minutes of the second half put the Champions in a comfy looking position. QLT started the scoring spree two minutes after the restart. Uaisale then bagged his hat-trick when he scored a further two to go with his lone score in the first stanza. The tries would put the Eagles two scores in front at 30-18, but the Lions would roar back. Dwyer would complete his hat-trick in the 64th and 69th minute. The scores wouldn't be tied though as Michael Knowles notched a field goal in between Dwyer's second half brace, in the 67th minute. The Eagles held on for a big win, Mark Aston would have been inevitably furious with his players for letting their relegated counterparts back into the game. Whitehaven have big forwards and scoring power on the edges so Sheffield will have to improve on their performance to beat the Cumbrians, and secure safety.

Whitehaven will be coming into the game with a barrel load of confidence and belief after beating John Kear's lacklustre Batley side. The 28-13 win was greeted with celebrations on the Recre terraces, some fans said before the game that the match was the most important in the club's recent history. The players didn't disappoint the fans, that's for certain, although the Haven players went into the sheds at HT down by two scores. More about the Whitehaven v Batley game can be found in the Batley v Dewsbury preview.

Two teams going at it hammer and tongs to get the win, doing all they can to try and secure their Championship status. This game is not to be missed as Eagles will be looking to avenge their midseason loss to Whitehaven. The Eagles have a game in hand of the teams above and below them bar one, that could come in very handy if the next few games don't go to plan. A tasty trip to Featherstone awaits the Eagles in the next round, I'm sure Mark Aston and his team would love to put second place beyond the flatcappers. Remaining games - Whitehaven H. Featherstone A. Rochdale H+A.

Whitehaven need a win as much as the Eagles, it'd be a brilliant double on the Eagles and great back to back victories on the Grand Finalists of yesteryear. Haven are still in the last relegation spot despite their brilliant win on Sunday, a win against the Eagles in round 24 would be another cat amongst the pigeons job. The two fixtures after the Sheffield tie are all against teams already relegated, there's still major hope for the Recre side! Remaining fixtures - Sheffield A. Rochdale H. Swinton A.

SWINTON LIONS V LEIGH CENTURIONS

Both teams who reside at the Leigh Sports Village for the last time this season, both having nothing to play for. Swinton's relegation was confirmed two rounds ago, and they come into the game against Leigh off the back of an agonising one point defeat against the Sheffield Eagles. There's not many compliments left to say about the Leigh Centurions. League Leaders Shield winners after their win against Featherstone on Friday night, quarter finals of the Challenge Cup, lost one game all league season. Unbelievable effort by Paul Rowley and his men and they'll be wanting to finish the season with only one loss to their name.

Swinton, as previously mentioned, lost by one point to a team who's Championship status can be described as iffy. Sheffield Eagles triumphed in a nail biting game against the Lions on Sunday, a 31-30 win for the current back to back Champions. The encounter proved to be an uncomfortable watch for the Eagles fans, and an entertaining watch for the Swinton fans who's team nearly caused a big upset. There's more about the Sheffield v Swinton game in the Sheffield v Whitehaven preview. Let's just say it'd be a good read for Etu Uaisale and Brad Dwyer.

Leigh Centurions capped off their inevitable League Leaders Shield glory with a win against second placed Featherstone Rovers at Leigh Sports Village. The top team in the Championship simply had too much for the Rovers as the Centurions ran them ragged in the second half, victorious by 48-18. There's more about the Leigh v Featherstone game in the Halifax v Featherstone Rovers preview.

Swinton will be hoping that the Centurions have partied too hard over the last week, and that they can capitalise on some indiscipline that may creep into the Leigh game. But with the way Paul Rowley and his Leigh side have conducted themselves over the season, it may be wishful thinking. Swinton will want to enjoy their last few games in the Championship and hope to add to their five wins they've gained over the season. Remaining fixtures - Leigh H. Batley A. Whitehaven H.

Leigh will be wanting to finish the regular season with a 25-1 record, a team hasn't dominated this much in the second tier in my memory. The teams they face will put up a challenge but you'd thoroughly expect the Centurions to win them all. Remaining fixtures - Swinton A. Workington H. North Wales A.

WORKINGTON TOWN V BARROW RAIDERS

An all Cumbrian clash greets Workington as they return to home base after a disappointing result at Doncaster on Sunday. Barrow are already relegated but Bobbie Goulding's side will be wanting to show a bit of life and give the fans some hope about next season, even though the current coach won't be in charge.

Workington's super winning run came to an abrupt halt as Doncaster had too much for a Town side who were high on confidence coming into the game. Dual registered Hull FC man Jacob Miller tore the Cumbrians to pieces and showed just why he's employed by a Super League club. A 36-10 loss was what Workington deserved as the Dons dominated from start to finish at the Keepmoat Stadium. More about the Dons v Workington game can be found in the Rochdale v Doncaster preview.

Barrow will be without their coach Bobbie Goulding next season as he moves on to greener pastures. His side couldn't quite kick into gear against Keighley at the weekend, going down 24-10 to Paul March's men. Despite only winning three games out of a possible twenty three, Barrow will still be up for upsetting their fellow Cumbrian counterparts in what is a massive game for Workington. The good points from the Keighley game come from the try scorers, Max Wiper and Bradley Goulding, his first senior try. More about the Barrow v Keighley match can be found in the Keighley v North Wales preview. The Raiders have a young outfit and the talismanic figure of Liam Harrison down the middle of the park is integral. The retainment and signing of experience will be exactly what the Raiders need for life in Championship 1, the quality of youngsters are there and they'll only get better with game time.

Workington will be wanting to bounce back at the first time of asking, and get another three points on the board and go into the last two games with a bit of confidence. Remaining games. Barrow H. Leigh A. Dewsbury H.

Barrow will be wanting to put one over their fellow Cumbrians and I'm sure Goulding will have his troops fired up to the end a dismal season on a high. Remaining fixtures. Workington A. North Wales H. Halifax A.



MITCH ACHURCH

A NEW FAN FAVOURITE

OLIVER ROBY

When rookie Australian forward Mitch Achurch arrived on these shores to play for Leeds Rhinos, the news was met with excitement at what the promising Aussie could produce.

Just 12 months earlier when he was on the verge of quitting the game after he felt his career had become 'stagnant,' but the former Penrith Panthers man was handed a lifeline in August 2012 as Leeds offered him a four-year deal.

His first campaign in Super League was tinged with disappointment form-wise, while the 25-year-old was hampered by injury meaning the second rower enjoyed just four starts while also playing a number of games on dual registration with Hunslet Hawks.

Despite a promising conclusion to his 2013 campaign, the opening weeks of current season saw Achurch in and out of the squad due to the fine form of his fellow Rhinos forwards. This season seemed destined for a repeat of last year after the Aussie was an unused substitute in Leeds' 12-12 away draw with Huddersfield.

But, Achurch remained determined to make his mark.

A long term injury suffered by Jamie Jones-Buchanan in the defeat against St. Helens in March saw an opportunity open up for Achurch ahead of the notoriously tough Easter period – he

took his chance with both hands and has not looked back since.

His first start of an extended run in the first team came in a convincing derby win over Wakefield Wildcats and the Penrith-born forward impressed enough to keep his spot and he performed well once again as Leeds demolished Bradford 46-6 the following week.

The trust Achurch had earned from the coaching staff in a short space of time was perhaps epitomised by him earning a starting berth in arguably Leeds' biggest game of the season – a Challenge Cup tie against St. Helens.

Once again, he was impressive as Leeds put in one of their best performances of the season to win 32-12 over their Lancashire rivals.

Achurch has continued to go from strength to strength and his form saw him pick up his first Man of the Match award in the Rhinos' home victory over Hull FC.

And there could still be more to come from the 25-year-old, who's Man of the Match award marks a remarkable turnaround in just over two years - going from the brink of quitting the game, to becoming a key member of a squad which, despite a dip in form which has coincided with his absence through injury, sits a point off top spot in Super League.

GETTING TO KNOW MITCH ACHURCH @RLLATEST

No doubt Mitch Achurch has become a new star at the Leeds Rhinos, and I was lucky enough to ask him more than a few questions on him, his career and Leeds' current season so far!

I always like to start off an interview by asking about the player's childhood, so, talk to me about rugby while growing up. Did anyone inspire you to play rugby league?

Rugby to me was just a part of my life from a very young age. My dad played Rugby League and Union and I have fond memories of being at his games late in his career and all my friends being the sons of other players. We would kick the ball around and tackle each other for hours. My Dad is my biggest inspiration. I still to this day, play to impress him and I'm not satisfied until I do.

You started your career at the North Queensland Cowboys over in the NRL, if I'm right? How were you picked up by the North Queensland Cowboys?

The under 20s competition in Australia started when I was 19. I played the inaugural year for the Wests Tigers where I'd been for 4 years in the juniors. We had an unbelievably talented team that year and my rugby benefitted from it. The Cowboys approached my agent during the year and offered me what the Tigers were not willing to. A chance to play first grade and train alongside players like Johnathon Thurston, Matt Bowen and Luke O'Donnell, and that was all I needed to make my decision.

You then signed on for Panthers before making a transfer to Leeds Rhinos for the 2013 season, if I'm right. How did the transfer to Leeds come about?

After an extremely disappointing 2 years at the Cowboys, plagued by injury, poor form, lack of confidence and home sickness. I was lucky enough to earn myself a lifeline contract for one season at Penrith where I took the chance at a new position in the front row. Thankfully, things went better than I had expected and by round 4 I made my first grade debut. Finding my feet as a front rower and new first grade player I eventually found some good form and played 10 games that season.

I'm just reading an article on your move to Leeds, and it says that you were close to quitting Rugby League? Was this a difficult time in your life and a hard decision to come across?

At the end of the Cowboys debacle, I was left broken and without any self confidence. After 2 major shoulder surgeries I had no faith in my ability to overcome them or handle the physicality that comes with rugby league. I made the decision to stop because I wasn't sure I could handle the recovery again if I was to get another major injury. But I missed it too much. All my friends were training together and it was always the main topic of conversation. So eventually I gave in and went back to it just to be with my friends and with no expectations.

Time started to improve again though, as you went to Leeds. What was it like moving to the UK and settling into the Leeds Rhinos camp?

Yes you're right. Things have definitely continued to improve. After a slow first season I'm feeling really settled at Leeds. It was a little daunting coming into an already successful team that was looking to add quality of the team for that success to continue. Because of that I admittedly put a lot of pressure on myself and I think that's what had the most negative effect last season. I'm really proud of myself, leaving my family and friends at home to chase the dream. Being completely alone and self reliant has made me grow up very fast. But I honestly believe I couldn't have done it at any other club. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help me settle in. Now I feel like I've always been a Leeds man.

Onto this season. What do you think has been the main key to Leeds' success so far this year?

There is no secret to it. A team full of as many seasoned and quality players can't be kept down for too long. The players at this club are the most driven I've ever met. Last year we didn't win anything. We had a bit of bad luck with injuries to key people but that's no excuse. We just made a pact with one another on the first day of pre season that we want our trophy back and if anyone is going to beat us they are going to have to play out of their skin to do it. I think it shows in our defensive efforts this year. Nobody wants to be watching other teams playing in finals. That needs to be us this year.

What has been your most enjoyable game playing in so far this year?

I really enjoyed the challenge cup game against St Helens, the atmosphere was first class and it was the most relief I've felt after a game ever. It was really important to get that result for the fans and club.

The Leeds Rhinos are still in the running to win all 3 cups this year. Is there a belief around the camp that you guys can do this?

Absolutely. You only have to be better than the team opposite you on the day and with the calibre of player in this team we are always going to be competitive.

Your Challenge Cup semi-final will be against the ever-improving Warrington Wolves. What do you make of the Wolves this season? Do you think this will be a great Challenge Cup clash?

I think after our last result with Warrington and it being 1-all this season it sets up a great Cup Tie. We have to rebuild our form leading into that game because the only way we can beat them is if we play our very best. In my opinion, they are going in the direction where they will be the team to beat very soon. They seem to have got over their slow start to the season and are now the form team of the competition. I just hope they don't play that well against us next time we meet.

Does the squad believe they could make it through the semi-finals and make it to Wembley in the Cup?

I don't think we are ready for that game just yet but we have 7 or so games before then to get ready. I'm sure everyone at the club believes we can do it.

What's in store in the future for you? Do you want to challenge yourself somewhere else in the future, be it in the NRL or another team, do you want to stay at Leeds if another contract offer comes up, or are you currently concentrating on this season?

I've learned over the years that you can't look too far ahead because you can lose focus on what you are doing right now. I need to be playing good footy for my career to progress. I'm really enjoying myself at Leeds and if we can win some silverware while I'm here that would be great. Maybe only then would I look to challenge myself somewhere else. Right now I just want to win something with this group of men.

Away from Rugby League, what do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm very social. My roommate Brad Singleton and I are always organising team meals and coffee dates with the boys. We spend a lot of time at the gym too. We like to go for a swim and mess about with the spa and sauna. It's not often that we are bored.

What's the best stadium you've ever played at?

Before moving to England it was Brisbane Broncos' home, Suncorp Stadium. But thanks to Magic Weekend, it's now Etihad Stadium that I'll never forget.

Who's the toughest player you've played against?

Paul Gallen. He just never stops.

What's the most embarrassing song on your phone haha?

I suppose it would have to be any of the Justin Bieber songs.

Do you have any hidden talents haha?

I have a knack for silly ball games like those you would find at a theme park. It's a useless skill that gains me nothing. Unless we play beer pong.



I always like to ask some team questions, too, with a little bit of banter, if you don't mind haha Is there a team-mate that has a bad habit haha?

Brad Singleton has a habit of starting rumours. He will tell one person a completely untrue story for his own amusement, but then when he forgets to tell them he was joking it can get to the end of the week and everyone has spread it about and it can get people on trouble. It's usually harmless though.

Who has the worst music taste?

Zak Hardaker, it's not music, it's just sounds without words. Ryan Hall listens to heavy metal which is not popular in the gym.



Who's the worst dancer?

It's probably easier to tell you who the best dancer is. Joel Moon is the only man with rhythm at Leeds. Although Kal Watkins has apparently had some training. I've never seen it though.

Who's the biggest show off at training?

Danny McGuire. He doesn't mean to but he constantly makes the rest of us look stupid when he's in a skilful mood.

Who's the smartest within the team?

Everyone would like to believe they are but in my opinion, Ian Kirke absorbs information like a sponge and he remembers everything.

What's the most embarrassing thing that has happened at training/in the changing rooms haha?

My first week at training the boys pulled a prank on me and tried to make me believe that they regularly take showering together a step too far. I walked in on Chris Clarkson, Paul McShane and Liam Hood in a 3-way hug in the shower. They kept the straightest faces for what felt like forever. I didn't know whether to laugh or look away in discomfort. Paul McShane was notoriously touchy feely. I had to get used to that fast.

That's all the questions with Mitch Achurch. This was a really good interview and I really enjoyed reading the answers. BIG thanks to Mitch for taking some time out to answer the questions!

GETTING TO KNOW MITCH ACHURCH @RLLATEST

Talk to me about rugby while growing up. Did anybody inspire you to play rugby?

I first started playing rugby league at the age of 4 in Christchurch, NZ. No one really inspired me, I just figured out at a young age that I had a talent and it just grew from there.

Do you remember your debut? I can imagine it's pretty scary haha.

I remember my debut like it was yesterday. Mixed emotions, anxious, nervous but very excited! Back in 2011, round 20, I played against the South Sydney Rabbitohs. Scored on my debut as well.

You started your career in the NRL with the New Zealand Warriors. How did the Warriors pick you up?

Playing in the Local comp in Auckland and playing in the NSW CUP for the Auckland Vulcans really gave me the exposure and the opportunity!

How did you find your time at the Warriors?

Loved every second at the Warriors! A very Family orientated club who always made me feel welcome! Great bunch of blokes.

You then moved to Wakefield Wildcats for the 2013 season. How did this transfer come about?

I'm not quite to sure how the offer came about? My manager just came to me with an offer on the table! I was shocked at first! Didn't know what to think really. But glad I made the move! Enjoying my time very much here at the Wildcats.

How did you find settling into England and the Wakefield camp?

I am absolutely enjoying my time here in England! The lifestyle here suits me and my wife and we have not felt homesick once. :-). Having a great bunch of blokes and partners at the Wakefield Wildcats helps the move a lot easier for us as well. :-)

What persuaded you to transfer to the Super League and the Wakefield Wildcats?

My family played a big part in my transfer to Super League! I asked my parents on both sides of the family if they didn't mind me moving to the other side of the world. Not 1 of them said NO! That pretty much made my decision.

You also represented Samoa in the 2013 Rugby League World Cup! How did it feel to put on the Samoan jersey and represent your country?

It was a huge Honour and privilege to pull on the Samoan jersey!! To represent the Country where my parents come from is BIG in my Family! And can honestly say it was the BEST CAMP I have ever been on!!

Onto this season. It's been a roller-coaster of a season for the Wildcats, I hope you don't mind me saying, but what have you made of your season so far?

Yeah it has been a rollercoaster of a season. I know the preparation going into this season wasn't very ideal or professional leading into the highest level of Rugby League in UK! So you can say it was a bit unfair to the coaching staff trying to put a team together or not even knowing who was gonna be in the team when half the signings are still abroad! We still have loads to improve on and we are getting better and better! Just need to string a few wins together.



Do you and does the squad believe they could make the top 8 this season?

Yes, I do believe we can make the top 8.. We all do!

This year would have been your first time playing in the Magic Weekend. With nothing like that in the NRL, or any other sports, how did you find the weekend as a whole and playing in such a big venue with such a large, noisy crowd?

Absolutely the most incredible event I have ever been apart of. The atmosphere and crowd were outstanding!

How are you finding the Super League compared to the NRL?

Not much to compare really? The physicality and speed are just the same as NRL! I'm happy where I'm at with my footy! Really enjoying the Super League!

If you could say anything to the Wakefield fans, what would it be?

Thankyou so much for your love and support! You have all played a massive part in making my time here at Wakefield a whole lot more memorable and enjoyable!. Can not thank you's enough! Keep the Chants coming!!!!

Some quick questions about you

What's the best stadium you've ever played at?

I have 2 now, Suncorp Stadium & the Etihad

What's the most embarrassing song on your phone/ipod haha?

I don't have any embarrassing songs. Love my music.

What's the best prank you've ever played?

Wrapped cling film around my mates car

Who is the worst room-mate you've ever had haha?

Jarrod Sammut because he snores... But he'll deny and say it was me ;-). Haha

Away from Rugby League, what do you like to do in your spare time?

Relax and spend time with Family. And if I'm for it, spin Afew tunes on the decks.

That's all the questions. Thanks to Pita Godinet for spending some time out and answer the questions. Hope you enjoyed getting to know him as much as I did!



SO IT'S FINALLY COME TO THIS

BY THE GUV'NOR

Hi, and welcome to the news that the Guv'nor is back! Longstanding supporters will know that throughout the period of the stay at Griffin Park and the early years at the Stoop, the Guv'nor was the fan's champion. In my regular feature in the club programme I asked the questions fans wanted to know and made the point forcibly! This went on for about 7 years until the club in their wisdom appointed a new editor, a female journalist called Joanne Lester. She decided to replace me with, wait for it – The Girly Guide to Rugby League! Anyone remember that? Not many would! She bugged off to Australia after about 5 editions, erm, farewell and many thanks!

Talk of those days at Griffin Park and the mind conjures up images of what I believe to be the best ever Bronco side – Marty, Tommy, Dorny, big Solomon Haumono, Lee Hopkins, NBQ, Syko playing out of his skin. What a side that was! It was what London sport should be about if League is ever to gain respect in the capital – glitz, glamour, razzle dazzle. So how one earth have we got to where we are today – no stars, no wins, no fans and an acceptance that we have not yet reached the bottom of the downward spiral. The nadir to me came yesterday – Caton Bown's move to Salford with immediate effect. SALFORD! I ask you, Salford! We have become a feeder club for bloody Salford – for years the deadbeats of Super League. And Castleford keep raiding our locker – CASTLEFORD, done nothing for years and won't do any more when someone like Leeds takes Daryl Powell. We are easy pickings for Salford and Castleford – how about that for a development strategy to make the game a national presence! So someone who shows

the slightest promise, get shipped off to Salford or Castleford – to further their careers.

We barely have a side, yet most of it will disappear at the end of the season, or earlier if Marwan likes the look of you, despite contracts, salary cap etc. I make 3 completely different sides in 3 years – last year's disastrous “full salary cap” side, this year's hastily assembled side of fringe players and youngsters, and next year's side in the Championship. 3 totally different sides in 3 years! This is a recipe for disaster and a total cock up, played out in the most vibrant sporting arena in the country – London.

Who do you blame for this – David Hughes? He seemingly is happy to let his expensive legacy fall like sand through the fingers, if he can find a way out. Nigel Wood? He's more interested in keeping Halifax and Featherstone off his back, has little idea or desire how to make development work. Ian Lenagan? One can only imagine where Broncos would be today had he stayed. People forget how poor Wigan were on and off the field when he arrived.

So next year the pinnacle of Rugby league will be a few hundred people watching a side of inexperienced youngsters taking on Northern old heads for a minor competition. Rupert Murdoch's vision of a big city Super League it is not.

RELEGATION

BY THE GUV’NOR

So it’s finally happened, we are relegated for the first time in our Super League history. It’s a proud record of never having been consigned to lower leagues prior to licensing, and of course never having finished bottom. So as fans, do we feel let down? Of course we do, the team have tried but their severe limitations of pre-season preparation, game know-how and of course experience has been frankly, frightening. Most fans deserted the sinking ship weeks even months ago, and trust me it would be worse in the north if this happened to one of their teams. The patience and tolerance of London fans is largely immense, no other side would have gotten away so lightly in terms of fan response as our teams have over the years.

So where do you stand on David Hughes? He clearly wanted out at the end of last season. Apparently he walked out of the Leigh ground during the semi-final as angry as anyone has seen him. His mind was made up. I know how he feels. I watched on TV, and couldn’t bear to watch any more at half time. If you’d have told me I would be refusing to watch my team playing in the semi-final of the cup, I could never have believed you. So if for David, enough was enough, what got him to change his mind? RFL? They would have feared for the integrity of the competition if we dropped out. Tony Rea? He would have persuaded David about his legacy and not to throw it away. For whatever

reason David has said very little, he lets the coaches and CEOs do the talking. We know he’s a private person, but you do wish for the guy in charge just occasionally to bang the drum for Rugby league in London like Eamonn MacManus or Ian Lenagan would, or the PR machine that is Dr. Koukash. So there is no statement of intent, no clarifying of the position, nothing except the positive statements coming out of Joey Grima.

I hadn’t heard anything all season about how determined we were to stay up. Here’s a question for you – what 3 things do the following players have in common?

Jarrold Sammut, Greg Eden, Jamal Fakir, Chris Riley, Logan Tomkins, Antonio Kaufusi, Ade Gardner?

The answer is:

1. They have all had spells on loan this season
2. They are all Super League quality players
3. As far as I am aware, London have never tried to get any of them on loan

Actions always speak loudest, and there silence has been deafening all year. So please don’t tell me that London management have not be resigned to relegation, even before the first kick-off.

Playing modest teams in a modest stadium in a modest competition was not the London dream of Super League when it began. Something has to happen and quick.

LONDON 24-40 WIDNES

BY THE GUV'NOR

Talking to friends and fans after the game, you get a curious combination of déjà vu and quizzical remarks about the future. Sometimes you question your sanity. I live in Surrey and it takes me 2 hours by public transport to get to the Hive. I told some Widnes fans this and they were staggered. It would be like their team playing home games at the KC in Hull. You do it because you love rugby league, and you desperately want to see a great side playing in London. Like some, I could easily just watch Harlequins at the Stoop in front of 15,000 crowds, but I don't.

The big question of course is who's staying and who's going. Most I guess are hanging on to see if they get offers to stay in Super League. Can't really blame them, but is this what Nigel Wood wanted with the return of relegation? The 2 unfortunate sides getting vultured by the survivors? Not so much the journeymen Aussies, they're 2 a penny anyway. It's more the cream of your youngsters, the ones you should be relying on as the future of the club. It means you have to start all over again from scratch. Bradford are starting this process very late, still clinging on to the hope of saving themselves. They will suffer even worse than us I feel.

Same old story one Saturday wasn't it? Solid defence down the middle, and exposed on the edges. Some appalling errors – mainly from Moore (a serial offender) and poor Macani, our so-called 4th choice by Joey as Full Back and horribly vulnerable to Brown's kicking game. He's a great athlete, but like some youngsters, needs time.

Here's some questions for you:

1. If Kevin Brown hadn't played, would we have won? I believe we would
2. How long will it be before we can attract a player's of Brown's experience and talent? A long time in my view, that's why Joe Keyes debut was both important and impressive
3. When's Drinkwater going to up his kicking game? At the moment, it's very ordinary.
4. Where is Jordan Atkins?
5. Why doesn't Solomona show us his pace more? His try showed what he can do

And some to get you thinking:

1. When was the last Broncos victory you witnessed live? If it was St Helens at home, that was nearly a year ago!
2. When was the last arm wrestle you saw the Broncos involved in?

Good luck!

LIAM FORAN

BY CHRISTIAN DUNNE @dunnearunner

Years of pottering around some of the NRL's biggest clubs reserves have restricted Liam Foran's career to-date, while younger brother Kieran has become a key member of a successful Manly outfit and is already seasoned at international level with New Zealand.

26-year-old Liam only has 26 first-grade appearances to his name. But there have been off-field issues which have also played a part in a career that just hasn't got going. In 2012 Foran told all about a traumatic ordeal in which the half-back was kidnapped and robbed of \$6000 when he was on a family holiday in China. And in 2013, not long after being recruited by the Parramatta Eels, Foran was charged with assault on a family member - over issues regarding money.

Form, injury and lack of time on the field have contributed to Foran's stuttering career. But a good run of form for the Auckland Vulcans showed that if given a proper run in the XIII, at a lower level, then he can produce. And it seems the London Broncos will be playing at a lower level in 2015, unless the Broncos go on a miraculous run of form from now until Round 27, which has been made even more unlikely after the sale of top try-scorer Mason Caton-Brown to the ever-buying Salford.

Joey Grima has been encouragingly pro-active in; accepting inevitable and imminent relegation from the Super League, and preparing the club to

tackle the Championship by recruiting early for next season. But the work is nowhere near done for Grima - several players will follow Caton-Brown through the exit door at the end of the season.

Foran needs a new challenge, to distance himself from his assault charge and his kidnap, and regular footy at the Broncos next season will give him a shot at rejuvenating his career, and in my eyes this is his biggest move yet.



AN EVENING WITH THE BULLS

BY @BULLIEVE2013

Over the past week it has been a very busy one for the Bradford Bulls in terms of sorting out the club and importantly the team for the forth coming season.

Last Wednesday our owner Marc Green held a public meeting in the Cedar Court hotel which was filled to the brim with some supporters unable to get inside to watch the evenings proceedings on screens outside which, shows how popular our club is and how much of a strong fan base we still have despite recent events.

The event called "An Evening With The Bulls" was a complete success with, the announcement that Tom Olbison and Adam Sidlow had re-signed contracts to keep them with us and, the re-launch of the bulls lottery "The Big One". To join the big one please call 08448 711 490.

Charlie Ebbage was inducted as a 'life member ' of the Bulls and then new signings Jake Mullaney and Dan Fleming were formally unveiled to the 1,000 strong crowd. The Bulls have also launched their new hashtag on Twitter which is now #BullsForever and you can follow the official account by searching for @OfficialBullsRL

Another positive move by James Lowes was the signing of Dave Petersen. Dave, once a Hull KR player,

joins us from Australia currently playing for the Intrust super cup outfit, Mackay Cutters and will join us in October. Petersen has grown as a player playing for the Cutters and could not turn down the offer of a UK return and to play for the Bulls saying:

"The idea of playing under James Lowes was what swayed my decision to sign for the Bulls, knowing someone who cares so much about the club is in charge.

"I have really progressed as a player during my time with the Cutters and have lived a great lifestyle in Australia, but feel ready to return to the UK and kick on.

"This is a big chance for me and I want to make an impact. Bradford is a great club, with fantastic supporters and firm foundations in place, and I hope to help the Bulls get back to where they belong.

I am extremely enthusiastic and am committed to working very hard. That is the kind of game I will be bringing to the Bulls.

"I saw signing for Mackay, rather than staying with the Rovers, as a chance to better my life and career and I believe I have done that. Now I am looking forward to my future with Bradford."

You can follow Dave on Twitter - @Petersen92



RL4ALEX

BY @BULLIEVE2013

Thank you Stuart for your time and, we hope that you will have more followers and support in the future! Keep up the superb work you, Alex and the charity as a whole does. Give the charity a follow, @RL4ALEX

Can you give us a brief background on what the charity is and what it entails?

RL4ALEX is a not for profit charity that supports and develops the inclusion of intellectually disabled and ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) children within mainstream sports, Primarily Rugby League.

This is achieved through #InclusiveRL which is the provision of player mentoring, coaching support, club education and awareness to develop an inclusive environment within existing Rugby League clubs.

Who is Alex? (for those who don't know)

Alex is my Son and my own as well as the charity's inspiration.

Why did you set the charity up?

Through Alex's own desire to participate within Rugby League it became apparent that there was a gap within the game around supporting children with difficulties like his. After a lot of searching and asking questions with little or no answers coming back regarding what support or guidance was available to help him to be part of the game, It required something to be created to provide that support and go to place for clubs and coaches so children like Alex can be supported and included within existing set ups without being excluded or treated differently.

Who is eligible to take part?

Any child from age 6 to 16 described as been on the Autistic Spectrum of Disorders or Intellectually Disabled

Advocates: what and who are they?

Our Advocates are collectively known as 'Alex's Army'. They are a group of professional rugby league players from the Super League, Championship and Championship 1 who support our cause and inclusive mission, showing their support with the #ASign hand symbol, Especially when scoring a try!

Can people become involved?

Of course, we have a wide range of volunteering opportunities available, whatever your skill set or level of experience, No experience is necessary as training will be given all we ask is that you are enthusiastic and passionate about making a difference. If you are interested in volunteering then please contact us at stuart@rl4alex.org.uk

What events do you do?

We encourage fundraisers and events from clubs and local companies to help support our cause and raise awareness, we support these events and attend along with members from our 'Alex's Army' and mascots and members of local clubs helping raise the profile of both the event, our charity and the organisation/club supporting us. Our next event in our honour is the Leeds Masters Rugby League Festival. 16/8/14 at Farnley Falcons ARLFC, Leeds. KO 1pm. We would like to thank Kath Wilson, Ian Worthington and the Leeds Masters for organising the event and adopting us as their worthy cause.

What merchandise do you have to offer?

We currently have a full range of apparel and head guards from our official partner Impact Rugby which can be purchased direct from their website www.impactrugby.co.uk and search for RL4ALEX with other merchandise currently being developed.

How can I help spread the word?

Follow us on social media our twitter is @RL4ALEX

You can also find us on Facebook by searching RL4alex

Mention our cause at your local amateur and professional club or supporters group Show your #ASign at a game or wherever you are and send to us via social media

Can we have some links for twitter etc please?

@RL4ALEX #InclusiveRL #TogetherAsOne #AlexsArmy #ASign

RICHARD HORNE

A MODERN DAY LEGEND

BY DANIEL TOMLINSON

When you think of Hull FC legends, the names of Johnny Whiteley, Arthur Keegan, Gary Kemble, David Topliss and Peter Sterling all come to mind, all remembered throughout history as true Black and White heroes, but now in the modern day era there must be room for one more.

Richard Horne, a one club man, and Hull FC's half back of the past 16 years has announced his retirement at the age of 32, a fantastic servant to his club, a role model, a professional and a gentlemen.

At his peak Richard was remarkable, a former Great Britain international, to this date he has pulled on the Hull FC jersey no fewer than 383 times, scoring 133 try's in the process for a total of 563 points.

Making his debut at the tender age of 16, at Headingley, Richard went on to feature at the infamous Boulevard ground, deployed at fullback and centre, as well as in his more trademark half back position.

As Horne aged, so did his maturity, and therefore so did the game management. Under appreciated at times, his trusty boot was a key part in the cup win in Cardiff, pinning Leeds back, alongside fellow pivots Danny Brough and Paul Cooke.

Winning the Challenge Cup in 2005, Horne achieved the ultimate glory lifting the most prestigious of rugby league trophies, but also playing key roles in the clubs run to the Super League Grand Final the following year, a season in which Richard was a record holder, scoring in 13 consecutive matches, a feat yet to be matched in the present day.

Horne's value to Hull FC has been imperative; his contribution exceptional, even after his partner in crime (Paul Cooke) left in 2007, Richard has remained a significant figure at the club, but it was the mid-2000s that really caught the eye, alongside Cooke it was partnership to rival those of Batman and Robin or Han Solo and Chewbecca.

As they say though, all good things come to an end, the departure of Paul Cooke to Hull KR left a huge hole at Hull FC, and a half back vacancy that still to this day is yet to be solved. Many believe that if that partnership was allowed to flourish then Hull



would have gone on to further glory, but it wasn't to be.

Presenting his heroism in 2008, returning early from a serious neck injury to feature at Wembley, Horne showed his courage, his determination and his bravery to line up for Hull once more. It's no secret that the season of 2008 was a torrid time for him personally, and the club, but to display such amiability in the face of adversity only shows his character, especially after copping a full force hit from James Graham. To no surprise, Horne played on.

In 2009, a fully fit Richard Horne came back stronger once more, and achieved arguably the greatest personal milestone of his career, scoring his 100th Hull FC try in the Round 3 match against the Catalan Dragons.

A diabetic since the 2010s, Richard carried on playing, and in 2010 was awarded a testimonial by the Rugby Football League, beating the old enemy 28-16 in his testimonial match.

Last season (2013) was a year of hit and miss for Hull FC, but a huge hit was the mid-season form and the duo of Daniel Holdsworth and Richard Horne in the halves. Horne was in such a rich vein of form, outstanding in the clubs win at Warrington, he then received a cruel injury which near enough ended his season. To no wonder and surprise, Hull FC's form deteriorated from it.

Playing on in what will be his final season, 2014, Horne was in and out of the team, but after announcing his playing days at Hull FC would come to an end, Richard delivered one of his finest performances in a Black and White shirt, as the Airlie Birds overcame St Helens 19-12. Winding the clocks back, it was vintage Richard Horne, and just reminded us all of what the half back was and still is capable of.

Whether it be the trademark step, the fend, the pace, or the notorious support play, Richard Horne will go down as a modern day Hull FC legend, a Challenge Cup winner, and a servant of 16 years, he certainly deserves his place amongst the greats of this wonderful club.

