

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £2.50

# ONE GIANT FAMILY

## HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS v BRADFORD BULLS

ENGAGE SUPER LEAGUE XI ROUND 28  
SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2006 : 3.00PM

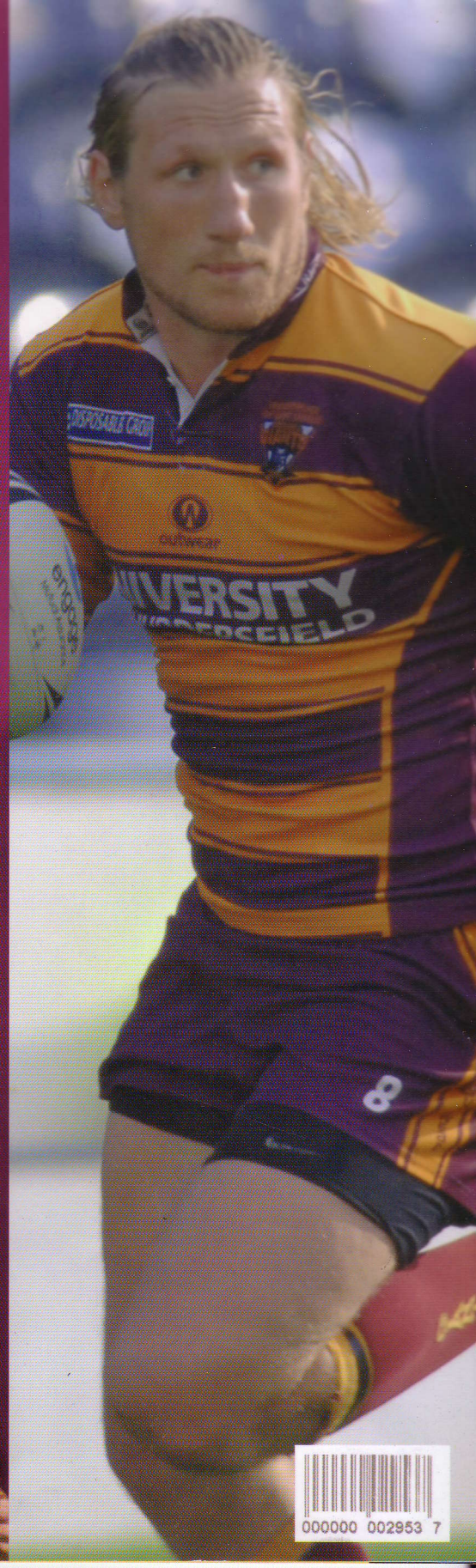
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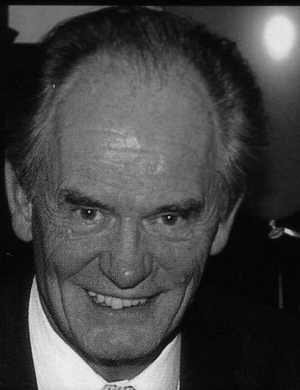
University of  
HUDDERSFIELD

THE SPORTING PRIDE OF HUDDERSFIELD



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

# Ken Davy



### **Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Galpharm stadium for our final engage Super League game of the 2006 season.**

My thoughts today are of looking forward to a local derby game that can result in us achieving our highest ever Super League finish and points tally. That alone is motivation for us all to make today very special. We must also all pay tribute to the players who will be moving on at the end of the year. Every member of our squad has played a huge part in what we have achieved this year and it is only right and proper that I place on record my thanks for their outstanding service. Our departing players can always be assured of a welcome back at The Huddersfield Giants wherever their careers and lives take them in the future. We are not a Club that forgets it's past players and the heroic deeds they have performed and I trust that at the end of today's game you will join me in applauding each and every one of them.

The key task that we face in the off-season is of course the vitally important increase needed in the season ticket base. I cannot stress enough the importance of these sales, they are our life blood throughout the year. We have held season ticket prices at the 06 levels whilst acknowledging the Rugby Football League policy of adding £1 which is donated back to the RFL Benevolent Fund – a move fully supported by ourselves and all other Clubs. Admission prices on the day will however have to increase which further highlights the value of our Season Tickets. Full

details can be found in today's match programme on page 53

If anyone has any doubts about where this great Club is headed then simply look at the Players who took us to that unforgettable Powergen Challenge Cup Final and who are on show today. With the right backing through the season ticket purchases and other support even more high-class players will be added to continue our drive to achieve our stated aim of being a Top Six Championship side. We are on the verge of something very special that and can and will be achieved providing we can get more and more people, young and old, joining our "Giant family"

***Enjoy today's game and I look forward to your continued support through our season ticket offers which go on sale from Monday .***

PS To those who traveled to France go my thanks on behalf of the players and coaching staff. To see a stadium on foreign soil emblazoned with the claret and gold support roaring the team home was a quite incredible sight for all concerned and I know it made a massive difference to the outcome.

KEN DAVY

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**Get Behind the Giants for Super League XII, Season Tickets on sale Monday 18 September 2006 Ticket Hotline 0870 4444 552**

## FROM THE COACH

# Jon Sharp

**Giants Head Coach Jon Sharp is interviewed by Huddersfield Examiner reporter Chris Roberts**

***WE'VE reached the last game of the season. It's not been a bad one, has it?***

Not at all. As far as I'm concerned, it's been the best since I've been here. Hopefully, by the end of today, I'll be able to say we've reached a Challenge Cup final and finished seventh in Super League on 24 points. And I know there are a lot of clubs in the competition who would have settled for that at the start of the season! But what has made the year even more fantastic is that it's been achieved in the face of a lot of adversity. During the course of the season, I've lost two members of my coaching staff, had two influential players ruled out for the season with major knee injuries and also been without several other players for other a month with other knocks. To crown it all, we've had 18 cases of gastric problems, when six is often regarded as an epidemic! So, all in all, I've got to be relatively happy haven't I?

***But I bet you're a little unhappy to know that today will be the last time we see some of these players in Giants shirts.***

Definitely. Mick De Vere, Jim Gannon and Wayne McDonald will be on the field for us for the last time, while Paul March and Jon Grayshon will also be bidding farewell. That's a massive shame, because I've got the utmost respect for all five. In an ideal world, I would have given them all new deals, but I'm afraid we just weren't in a position to do so. I would like to thank them publicly for their contribution to the Giants' cause and I know that whatever club they join they will be successful and will make a very positive impact. They have always been a pleasure to coach and are also great people. I wish them all the best.

***And wouldn't it be great to send them off with a victory against the Bulls.***

It would be fantastic, and that's certainly the aim. We found it very disrespectful when some people questioned whether we would win any of our last three Super League matches after being beaten in the Challenge Cup final. That made us even more determined to win them all. We beat Salford and we've just returned from Catalans with victory No2. We're ready to make it No3 this afternoon.

***And going back to last weekend. Did you enjoy your French trip?***

It was a really enjoyable experience. We were together for four days, which made it feel a little like a pre-season camp. It brought us even closer together and proved a highly productive time. We trained twice a day while we were out there, and it helped us make sure we came away with the win. Defensively, I thought it was one of our best of the year, may be just fractionally behind Leeds in the Challenge Cup semi-final. And we needed to be good in that department, because the French really put us to the test. In the end, it was excellent two League points to bring back with us.



JON SHARP

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## SKIPPER'S REVIEW

WITH

# Chris Thorman



**IT'S been a pretty good year, I think you'll all agree.**

I'm sure that if some one had said to you at the beginning of the season that we would finish

seventh in Super League and reach the Powergen Challenge Cup final you'd snap their hand off. I know I would.

As far as I'm concerned, that's a remarkable achievement, particularly considering the size of the squad and the number of longer-term injuries we've had to absorb. But we've still got some unfinished business, of course.

Today, it's the small matter of facing Bradford Bulls, and we're confident we can finish with a win. We're aware there's been a lot of talk about this being a good time to play them and become the first Huddersfield Giants side to beat Bradford in the Super League era. That is an extra source of motivation. However, our desire to make sure we finish a great season on a high is motivation in itself. Some had doubted after our Powergen Challenge Cup Final defeat at Twickenham whether we would be able to bounce back in our three remaining Super League games. While many

outside the Giants thought we would lose all three, we believed we could win the lot. We're on course to do just that. We showed great character to beat Salford and then showed similar qualities to beat Catalans Dragons in Perpignan last Saturday, so now we want to round it off against the Bulls today. And if we can reproduce the spirit we showed in France we won't be too far away. Our defensive effort against the Dragons was first-class and most of the time we felt we weren't going to concede a try. They couldn't break us down the middle and they couldn't break us out wide, which meant the only two tries they did score were from Stacey Jones' kicks. The victory proved the icing on the cake and rounded off an excellent weekend. We didn't expect the weather to be quite so warm, which made training and playing a little more demanding, although it's certainly far better than being out in freezing cold weather!

The French were also very hospitable and really looked after us through out the trip. And what can we say about the support? It was absolutely magnificent. The atmosphere inside the stadium was fantastic, mostly because of the number of Giants fans who made the trip. We were just delighted we were able to send them back to England happy.

**Let's hope the smiles will be just as broad a little later today!**

*Chris*

## ERIC SELLERS SCHOLARSHIP

**Once again the Giants have been running their very successful Eric Sellers Scholarship Scheme.**

The Scholarship is kindly sponsored by Mrs Leny Sellers, and Sellers International for which we extend our sincere thanks

for their continued support.

Many of our young players who were invited to take part in the scholarship have benefited, and there's no doubt that this years participants, will also take advantage of such a unique opportunity.



# Bradford

A brief look at today's opponents

## Club Contacts

### Club Name

Bradford Bulls

### Ground Address

The Grattan Stadium,  
Bradford  
BD6 1BS

**Tel** 08701 202 040

**Fax** 01274 724 730

**E-mail** [info@bradfordbulls.co.uk](mailto:info@bradfordbulls.co.uk)

**Website** [www.bradfordbulls.co.uk](http://www.bradfordbulls.co.uk)

## Club Honours

### Super League Honours Champions

1997, 2001, 2003, 2005

### Beaten Finalists

1999, 2002, 2004

### Challenge Cup Honours Winners

1905-06, 1943-44,  
1946-47, 1948-49, 2000, 2003

### Beaten Finalists

1897-88, 1944-45, 1947-48,  
1972-73, 1996, 1997, 2001

### World Club Challenge Honours Winners 2002, 2004

### Pre-Super League Honours

#### Division One Champions

1903-04, 1979-80,  
1980-81

#### Division Two Champions

1973-74

#### Championship Beaten Finalists

1947-48, 1951-52

#### Premiership Winners

1977-78

#### Beaten Finalists

1978-79, 1979-80, 1989-90

JOE VAGANA

## JOE VAGANA

"Big Joe" is regarded as one of the most complete front row forwards in the modern game. Signed from the Auckland Warriors, despite competition from number of clubs in both Britain and Australia. A destructive tackler and strong runner with the ability to off load the ball he is one of the characters of the game. He has been at Odsal since 2001 and rarely missed a game. After a long absence he was called up by New Zealand for their game against England last autumn. Joe is one of the most popular players at the club and writes a weekly column for several newspapers and the Bulls Website.

## MARCUS BAI

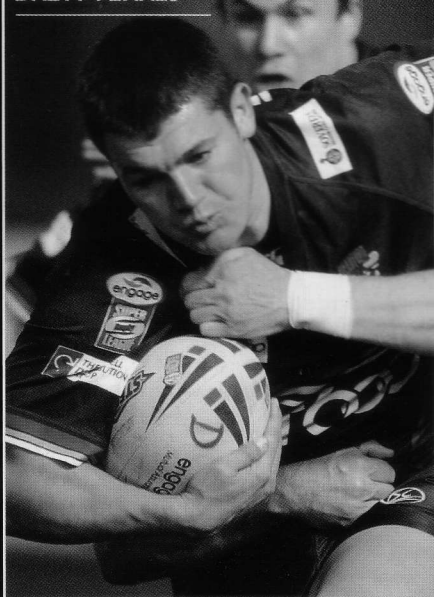
Marcus is a Papua New Guinea International who has had a spell at Hull before playing for the Gold Coast and Melbourne Storm in Australia. He has spent the past two seasons at Leeds Rhinos and was a member of their sides that played the Bulls in the last two Grand Finals. A strong runner and fierce competitor he will compliment Lesley Vainikolo on his opposite wing this year.

## BRETT FERRES

Brett is a tremendous footballer from the Castleford area and was a member of the England Academy side that toured Australia and New Zealand last summer. A Loose Forward with a lot of skill he comes from a Rugby League family and looks to have a great future in the game. Last season he continued his

improvement and made 9 First team appearances and was the regular goal kicker for the Senior Academy, a side he also Captained, scoring 17 tries in only 17 appearances for the Under 21's.

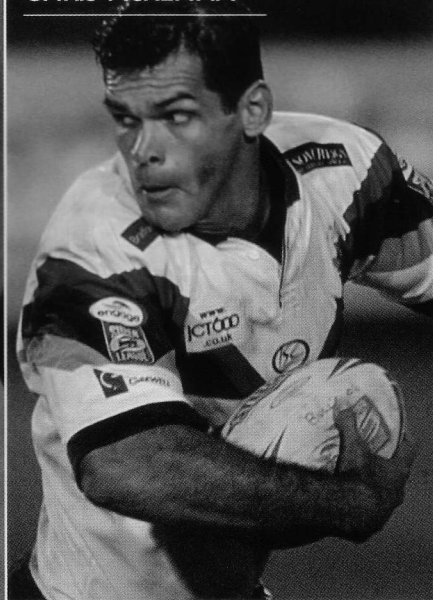
## BRETT FERRES



## MARCUS BAI



## CHRIS McKENNA



## CHRIS MCKENNA

Chris represented Australia in two Tests in a career that has seen him play for six clubs including Brisbane Broncos, Sheffield Eagles and London as well as Leeds Rhinos with whom he won a Super League Championship in 2004. One of the hardest working forward in the game he is equally at home in the Second Row or the Centre and turned down offers from clubs both here and in his native Australia to join the Bulls.

## IESTYN HARRIS

Iestyn is a former Leeds player who spent three years playing Rugby Union for Cardiff and Wales. He joined the Bulls in July last year and quickly readapted to life in Super League. A prolific points scorer he has already proved to be a great asset to the Bulls and was selected for Gt. Britain in the Tri Nations Tournament last year.

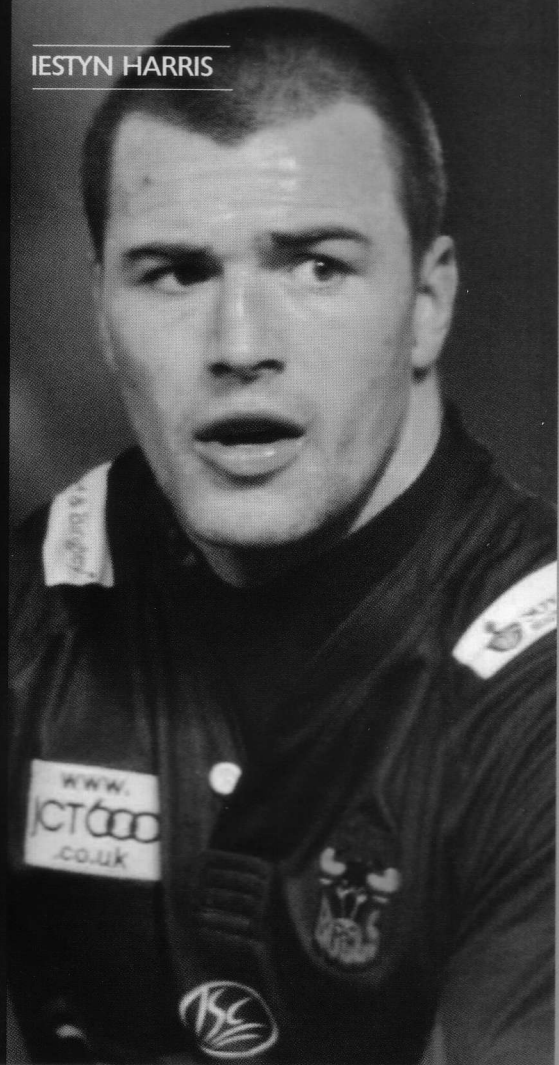
## SHONTAYNE HAPE

Shontayne enjoyed a tremendous first season with the Bulls, winning Challenge Cup and Championship honours. A former Junior Kiwi, he joined the Bulls from the New Zealand Warriors and missed only one of the Bulls 35 games in the 2003 season, scoring 15 tries. A knee injury sustained playing for New Zealand in last year's Tri Nations kept him out until Round 22 last year but his return coincided with the Bulls charge toward the Grand Final and the Super League Championship. His partnership with Lesley Vainikolo is one of the best in the game and has yielded many tries for the Bulls. His spare time hobby is being a DJ and he has become a popular figure in the local music scene.

## IAN HENDERSON

Ian joined the Bulls in June last year from Parramatta in Australia and immediately made a big impression with his enthusiasm and ability from Dummy Half and played in every game after his arrival. A Hooker, he was born in Torquay and emigrated to Australia when he was eight years old. He formerly played for the Sydney Roosters and will be at the Bulls until the end of 2007. Was a member of the Bulls side that took the Grand Final last season.

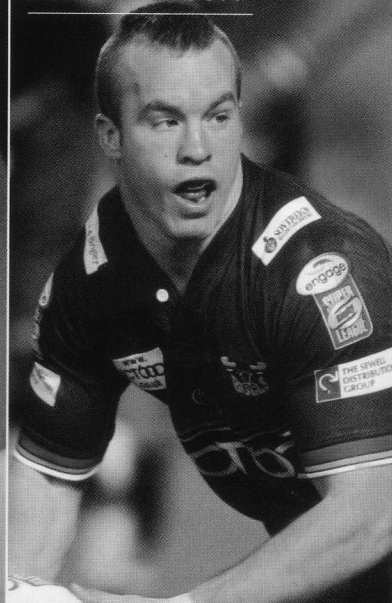
## IESTYN HARRIS



## SHONTAYNE HAPE



## IAN HENDERSON



# Stan The Man



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to all of you who have come along for our last game of the season against the Bradford Bulls.

My thanks go to **RAMSDENS SOLICITORS** as Match Sponsor, **DUAL SEAL GLASS** and **ASSUT UK LTD** as Ball Sponsors, and **MAZARS** and **PENNINE PNEUMATIC SERVICES** as Associate Sponsors.

I trust they, and all our other guests have a great day out at the Galpharm Stadium

**The End of Season Dinner held last Monday evening at the Galpharm Stadium was a great success with over 250 people attending. After dinner the awards ceremony took place and the winners for 2006 were:**

Junior Academy Player of the Year  
**MATTHEW WHITAKER**

First Team Player of the Month for Aug/Sept  
**BRAD DREW**

Senior Academy Player of the Year  
**PAUL MENNELL**

Most Outstanding Individual Achievement  
**ROBBIE PAUL**

Most Outstanding Individual Achievement Number 2  
**JON SHARP**

The Tony Iredale Trophy Player of the Year  
**BRAD DREW**

Squadbuilder Man of Steel  
**PAUL REILLY**

The Player of the Year Award  
**BRAD DREW**

*Stan*

**Ramsdens Solicitors**

Ramsdens is considered by many to be the leading legal firm in Kirklees and Calderdale. With its principal office in Edgerton and four branch offices in Huddersfield, Holmfirth, Slaithwaite and Elland, Ramsdens is perfectly placed to build on its 130 years heritage in the area.

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## WITH Martyn Sadler



### INTO THE FINAL FURLONG

**MARTYN SADLER looks ahead to the Super League play-off campaign.**

I wonder whether you have forgotten that after the regular season the top six Super League clubs enter into a play-off series that climaxes at Old Trafford on 14 October with the Grand Final.

If you had forgotten I will forgive you, because almost since the start of the season the media, including Sky Sports and most of the national newspapers, have behaved as though the relegation battle is the most important thing in Rugby League.

The six clubs who haven't been in relegation danger have gone their own sweet way, with St Helens hammering almost every opponent they have faced, Hull proving worthy runners-up, Leeds and Bradford stumbling as they get near the finishing line, and Salford and Warrington looking as though they are awaking from their slumbers just in time to pose a real threat to their opponents next weekend.

Part of the problem for those of us who look forward to the climax of the season is that some of the positions in the top six have been set in stone for quite some time. The only competition for places has been between Salford and Warrington for fifth place.

After this weekend's clash between Wakefield and Castleford to decide which of those two clubs is relegated, the media will at last be able to focus once more on what is happening at the top of the league.

The question that everyone will be asking, of course, is whether any club can hope to beat St Helens. The answer is a resounding NO!, at least if Saints can maintain their recent form, when they have looked all-but invincible. Last season Saints also finished at the top of the Super League table, but, without Sean Long and

Paul Sculthorpe, they bombed out of the play-off race without reaching the Grand Final, suffering home defeats to both Leeds and Bradford.

This season Saints look a totally different outfit. It's impossible to imagine them failing to make the Grand Final this season, even though their talismanic skipper Sculthorpe is again in the wars. His possible absence won't matter anything like as much as it did last year.

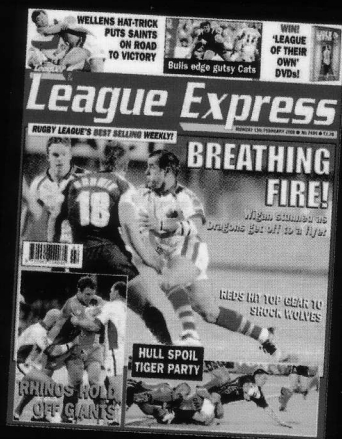
Leeds and Bradford look a shadow of the teams they were last year, to the club that is most likely to challenge Saints' dominance is Hull. Peter Sharp's team may have suffered a recent dip of form, but there is every reason to believe that they will be primed to hit peak form in the Grand Final.

The great imponderables are, of course, Warrington and Salford, both of whom could fancy their chances on the opening weekend of the play-offs, either at Leeds or at Bradford. Given that the Bulls last year became the first team in the history of the play-offs to win the Super League title from ninth, however, it is perhaps asking a bit much to believe that either the Reds or the Wolves could actually win the competition this year.

So it's Saints and Hull for the Grand Final!

I'd better warn you, though, that my record as a tipster is lamentable.

**A full report with pictures from today's game will appear in Monday's edition of 'Rugby Leaguer & League Express'.**



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH...

# Paul Jackson



**Who has been the biggest influence on your career to date?**

All my coaches

**Who is the toughest opponent you have played against?**

Barrie McDermott

**What is your favourite Super League away ground?**

Headingley

**What would you be if you weren't a Rugby League player?**

Unsure

**What are your plans after you have finished your playing career?**

Unsure

**Who is the best and worst dresser at the club?**

Best - Spuggy Worst - Jonny Grayshon

**Funniest thing seen on a rugby field?**

Player running over dead ball line, then celebrating the try

**What is your greatest fear?**

Drowning

**What is your favourite film?**

Gladiator

**Favourite holiday destination?**

America

**Ideal car?**

Range Rover

**Favourite TV programme?**

Friends

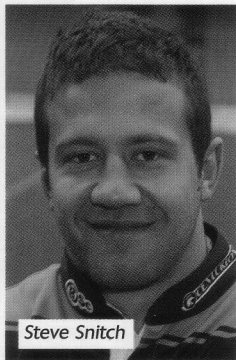


# SENIOR ACADEMY

## WITH Paul Moses

**Hi, we finished our season 2 weeks ago with a disappointing performance losing 36-8 to Salford City Reds.**

Again we had to deal with last minute withdrawals, which disrupted our preparations, but on a positive spin the young guys who answered the late call-ups really did perform well notably Matthew Whittaker who is a real star in the making. In the first half we failed to complete our first 5 sets and finished the first half with a completion of 38% which put us under pressure, Salford were gifted their tries through individual errors and despite all the good ball they only led 18-0 at the break.



Steve Snitch

We improved in the second half and with Steve Snitch (29 carries and 31 tackles) leading by example the young Giants crossed for 2 tries through Ashley Johnson and Joe Flaherty who also defended tirelessly (38 tackles) The final

score line of 36-8 was a disappointing way to finish the season.

I would like to thank the players for their efforts during the season where several close defeats could have given them the confidence and belief to gain more wins. The squad have had plenty of adversity to cope with and their experiences of competing in the elite league week in week out will make them stronger for

the experience. I would also like to say a big thank to the staff at the DRAM, our home base for academy games for looking after us and a big thank you to all the support staff, sponsors and supporters for their encouragement in a tough season.

**Enjoy the Game and COME ON YOU GIANTS**

*Paul Moses*  
Senior Academy Head Coach

### Senior Academy Fixtures 2006

Day	Fixture	Venue	KO	R
Sun Feb 12th	Leeds	Headingley	12.45	6-54
<b>Sat Feb 18th</b>	<b>Warrington</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>20-28</b>
Sat Feb 25th	Wigan	Orrell	2.30	16-62
Sat Mar 4th	Wakefield	Belle Vue	3.00	26-28
Sun Mar 26th	Castleford	The Jungle	3.00	20-58
Sat Apr 8th	Salford	The Willows	2.00	14-44
<b>Sat Apr 22nd</b>	<b>Wigan</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>14-22</b>
Sat Apr 29th	Harlequins	Imber Court	2.30	16-54
<b>Sat May 6th</b>	<b>St Helens</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>30-44</b>
Sat May 27th	Hull	Ionians	2.30	16-66
<b>Mon June 5th</b>	<b>Bradford</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>24-48</b>
<b>Sat June 17th</b>	<b>Harlequins</b>		<b>3.15</b>	<b>24-46</b>
Fri June 23rd	Bradford	Odsal	5.40	26-50
<b>Sat July 1st</b>	<b>Leeds</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>20-46</b>
Sat July 8th	Warrington	Wilderspool	2.30	36-18
<b>Sat July 15th</b>	<b>Wakefield</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>24-28</b>
<b>Sat July 22nd</b>	<b>Castleford</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>24-26</b>
Fri Aug 4th	St Helens	Knowsley Rd	5.45	12-54
<b>Sun Aug 13th</b>	<b>Hull</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>8-34</b>
<b>Sat Sept 2nd</b>	<b>Salford</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>8-36</b>

Giants score first

# JUNIOR ACADEMY

## WITH Andy Procter

**The season came to a close for the U18's on Sunday morning with a heart breaking 33 -37 defeat to Leigh at the DRAM centre.**

Those who saw the first match between these two sides would have witnessed the Giants snatch a 26-26 draw from the jaws of victory in the last minute. Unfortunately we went one better this time and grabbed defeat from the jaws of victory, again in the last minute.

The game started well despite conceding an early try. This came after a very pedantic referee sent Matt Whitaker to the sin bin after only 12 minutes. He continued to impress the crowd with his antics which would not have looked out of place on an aircraft carrier bringing in the planes. Luke Sandland opened the scoring for the Giants with a 20m burst and dummy. Ryan Heeley went in from 40m after good work from Michael Lawrence at the scrum, but to beat them all Leroy Cudjoe went in from 80m after beating several men from a dummy half carry. Only one goal was added by Luke Broady who, with Chris Brooke, found it difficult to find the target all match. This meant Leigh were always psychologically within reach and a half time score of 14-12 was scant reward for the Giants' efforts.

The second half started brightly with Chris Donlan scoring his first try for the U18s escaping the naked run in the process. It then became 'tit for tat' in the scoring stakes as both sides struggled to cope with

the referee's interpretation of the rules. Leroy Cudjoe produced two sublime pieces of skill to first score himself and then put in Richard Lopag, but again the lack of goals meant only a 26-24 lead despite 6 tries to 4. Both teams swapped penalties, Chris Brooke adding the 2 points but then Leigh took control with a try and drop goal to lead 33-28. The Giants fought back with a James Martin try which was this time coolly converted by Luke Broady to give the Giants a one point lead going into the last minute. However, Leigh managed to controversially re-gather the short kick off and squeeze in the corner to cries of anguish from the Giants.

I'd like to finish these notes by thanking a number of people who have made the season possible. All the staff at the DRAM centre who have been wonderful hosts throughout the season, Keith and Carol who do the gate, the supporters, the videoman, ball boys, kitmen, medical staff especially doctor Gary Smith and physio Charlie Steggle. Stuart Sheard and Wayne Daily the team managers, Jon Sharp and Keiran Purtil for their support, Paul Moses and Chris Parker the U21's coaches, Wayne Stead my assistant and Ben Cooper the conditioner. Last, but not least the players who, despite the results have trained hard all year with a smile on their faces and are a credit to themselves and their families. I wish those moving on all the best and look forward to coaching those who are staying next year.

Apparently it is not the end of the season though as we have been invited to play the West Tigers U18's at the YMCA on Sunday 8th October KO 2.30pm. It's going to be a great opportunity for the U18's so come along and support the lads.

**Enjoy the game**

*Andy Procter*

Head Coach

## SUPER LEAGUE INJURY NEWS

### WITH Gary Slade

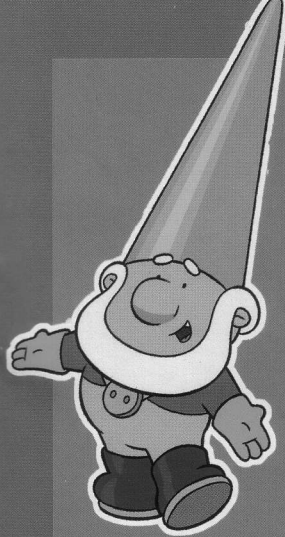
**The last game of the season for us has finally arrived.**

It has been a long season with no breaks since our first game. We have had our fair share of injuries over the year and it seemed that we would get one player back and then lose another. Monday was the awards night, and it is my pleasure to add more awards.

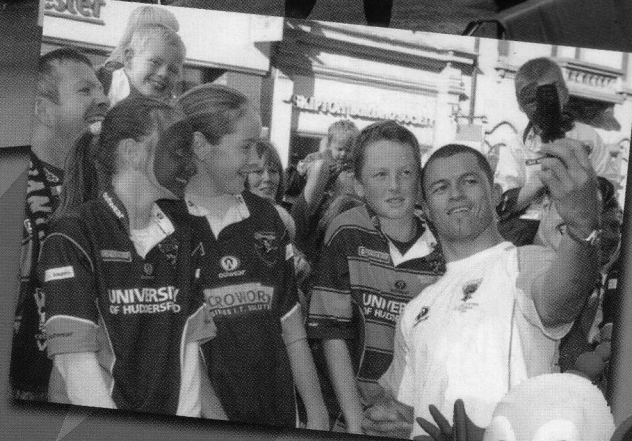
The Tough as old Boots award goes to **STUART JONES** who has been having painful pain killing injections, it makes me cringe watching the Doc. Close second was **EORL** who badly hurt his shoulder in the first half against Wakefield but went on to play a storming second half with only one arm. The Plastic Skin award goes to **CHRIS NERO** who has received the most stitches this

year. **ANDY RALEIGH** receives the High Maintenance award but to his credit has not missed a game since his Hernia op through injury. The weirdest injury has to go to **MICK DE VERE** who froze his thumb black but also receives an award for miracle recovery after straining his groin days before the Challenge Cup Final. The Bleeding award goes to **PAUL SMITH** who has lost over eight pints of blood (not in one game though). **STEPHEN WILD** wins the most travelled player award having trailed up and down the M1 to get his knee treated and to see Doc. **PAUL RILEY** along with his Man of Steel award receives the most beat up player; if he remembers any of this seasons it will be amazing. The Reckless Doc award goes to our **DOCTOR AMIT PANNU** who injected **WAYNE MACDONALD** for a fitness test and his foot dropped off, he also wins fastest medic award after winning a race in France against the physio! And that's it folks for another year but Theraspport will continue to be providing a physiotherapy service to all rugby clubs over the amateur season with the help of Charlie our U18 physiotherapist over the coming year.

*Gary*



# Big G's Kids ZONE



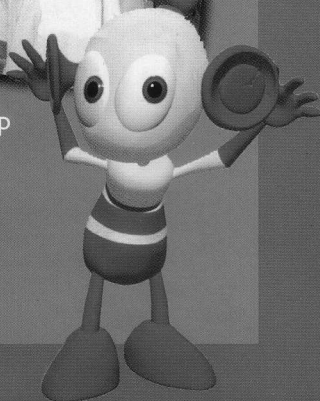
**Hi Kids,**

**Well here we are for our last game of the season against the Bradford Bulls.**

I'm sorry if I sound a bit sad but I'm sure I'll soon be my happy self when I see all your smiling faces this afternoon. Remember the Bulls are the only team in Super League we have never beaten so lets cheer

and shout as loud as we can and help the lads to a great win.

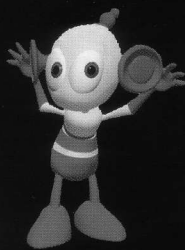
**See you all next season!**



Produced in association with

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# GIANT JOKES! GIANT QUIZ!



What are prehistoric monsters called when they sleep?

A dinosnore!

What is the fruitiest lesson?

History, because it's full of dates!

What language do they speak in Cuba?

Cubic!

Why did the stupid racing driver make ten pitstops during the race?

He was asking for directions!

What illness did everyone on the Enterprise catch?

Chicken Spocks

What is a myth?

A female moth!

1 Which ex player of the Giants is now the coach at Bradford?

2 Which Giants and Papua New Guinea International now plays for Bradford?

3 Which Giants ex player left Bradford's coaching staff this season to join Brian Noble's staff at Wigan?

4 Which of the Giants players has a degree in mathematics?

5 Who is the Giants player of the year for this season. ?

6 Which two players did Bradford sign from Leeds Rhinos for the start of Super League XI?

## On my trip to Eureka I...



## ... saw my skeleton and rode a wave.



Come and see who you can be! Eureka! are the proud new partners of the Huddersfield Giants. Come and find us face painting in the Family Stand tunnel today! Visit our website and find out all about the UK's first and only must-touch museum for children. It's handfulls of fun for everyone! Discovery Road, Halifax. 01422 330069 [www.eureka.org.uk](http://www.eureka.org.uk)

**EUREKA!**  
the museum for children

# MY GREATEST DAY

WITH

# Owen Horn

**When my name was read out as the winner of the mascot competition I couldn't believe it, I was so happy.**

It was great that the Giants were in the final but I never thought I would be leading them out. The rest of my prize was a VIP weekend in London and a brand new Giants kit. WOW !!

Our trip down to London was great. I met 2 new friends Joel and Logan Sykes and I got to see the Lords cricket ground, new Wembley stadium and Marble Arch from the coach.

I woke up on the morning of the match feeling a little bit nervous but as soon as I had my breakfast and changed into my Giants kit I started to feel very excited.

On the coach to Twickenham me, Joel, Logan and Luke were singing songs and waving at all the other Giants fans on their way to the ground, everyone was smiling and laughing.

When I got to the ground I had to meet the St Helens mascots and go straight to the tunnel.

The teams came out and I waited next to my favourite player Chris Thorman. He asked me if I needed a cuddle but I said I was ok, he must

have been nervous because he said he needed a cuddle!! Chris put his hand on my shoulder and we walked out onto the pitch. I could hear all the fans cheering and they were waving their flags and banners. The stadium was massive and full, it was noisy and smokey. I lined up with the team and Jon Sharp put his arm around me. It was awesome to be stood there with my heroes in front of all those people. I then went to watch the match with my Mum and Dad.

After our evening reception at the hotel, Joel and I went to talk to the players and Jon Sharp. It was fab talking to them, they were all so friendly and I also had my photo taken with them. I even stayed up till 1.30am!!

I had the best time ever, I can't stop thinking about everything that happened. I will never forget my proud moment when I lead my team out at Twickenham. It was fantastic and thank you to Ramsdens who made my dream come true!!

**The Giants Mascot for the Powergen Challenge Cup Final, Owen Horn, was proudly sponsored by**

Ramsdens  
Solicitors



# CLARET & GOLD LOTTERY

# WITH Karen Clifford

*You've got to be in it to win it!*



As it's the last match I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody concerned with the Golden Gamble which includes ticket sponsors and also all those kind enough to come down every match and sell the tickets

A big thank you also to all those who have bought tickets throughout the season. Changing over to a cash prize has proved to be a winner and I'm sure it will be continued next season. If anybody is interested in selling Golden Gamble tickets next season please give me a call.

The Claret and Gold Lottery is a 52 week a year lottery. So don't forget to carry on paying your dues in the off season. If anybody would like to join please do not hesitate to contact me on 01484 484 130. If you would like to become an agent and you can manage to get 20 family and friends involved remember you could be receiving free match tickets next season.

*Karen*

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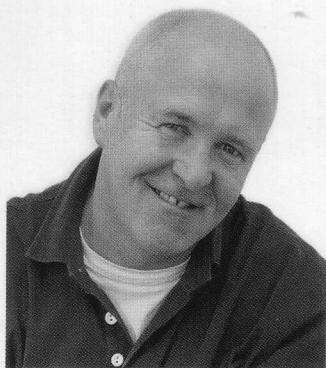
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THE GIANTS LOTTERY

# 37



# Rugby Talk

**Danny Lockwood**  
Publisher, League Weekly

**AND so season 2006 draws towards its glorious close. Trophies for some, backslaps of 'hard luck' to others, and for either Wakefield Trinity or Castleford, the bitterest pill of all.**

Across the board this has been the most competitive season I can recall - if you take away the dominant St Helens team at the top of the pile. Their wondrous season, encapsulated so artfully in that dismantling of Leeds last week, puts into context the quality of the Hull side chasing them, the only team to have prevailed at Knowsley Road this year.

The Airlie Birds have come up quietly on the rails and should make their first appearance at Old Trafford next month. There were few people in the game who did not sympathise with John Kear when he found himself out of a job so early in the year. Whatever the reasons underpinning Hull's early season struggles, Peter Sharp's accomplishments with the same squad of players are notable indeed.

It would be churlish to argue against Daniel Anderson's anointment as coach of the year, but Sharp, Karl Harrison and Brian Noble all deserve honourable mention. And while in previous years three or four clubs might have provided Man of Steel contenders, it is almost impossible to look beyond the Saints in 2006.

Universal commiserations will accompany the luckless victims of the West Yorkshire derby; both Castleford and Wakefield have made mighty contributions to the drama of engage Super League XI.

But who will replace the vanquished? Hull KR's cloak of early season invincibility has fallen ragged about their shoulders since their Challenge Cup semi final; while Gary Thornton's Batley side have been the heart-warming surprise packages of LHF National League I, Widnes and Leigh have hit form at an ominous time for the Robins.

And don't ever write off Whitehaven, who have been here before in both previous seasons and possess the character to upset anyone not at the very top of their game.

Similarly in NL2, Sheffield will be confident of joining Dewsbury in promotion, but nervous of the Welsh raiders from Bridgend. 2006 will hopefully go on record as the year development sides came good in rugby league, with Gateshead making the play-offs and London Skolars enjoying their best ever finish. And while many continue to bemoan the Catalans Dragons' three year stay of execution, they have still garnered more points than the relegated sides of recent campaigns - and that despite the tiring tedium of fortnightly cross-Channel voyages.

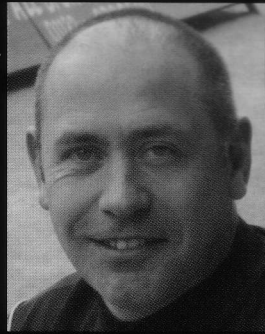
It has been a year of headline news, of stunning surprise, of soap-opera drama. I have a feeling in my water that we haven't seen the last of the big stories yet.

What price Whitehaven to upset the applecart, pocket the LHF cheque for £100,000 and provide Cas or Wakey with the type of stay of execution that Hollywood would be truly proud of?



## IN THE COMMUNITY

# WITH Mick Sykes



**Today's game is the final one of the season and the players will be taking a well earned rest once the final whistle blows.**

I'd like to use this space to thank them all for the tireless work they've done for us in the community. From Blitz days in schools to opening galas. From visiting the shops on the Town's Piazza to playing Didgeridoos to the Children. Each event is as important as the next and it has meant a lot to the community and hopefully this continues to spread the word and increase our attendance figures. The Community Player of the year was awarded to **ALBERT TORRENS**. Due to his early season injury his commitment to the club has been fantastic off the field. When other squad members have been unable to attend due to training schedules Albert has jumped up and almost insisted that he can cover for them!!

Other people worthy of a mention are **eureka!** We have had a good season with them. We have run Skills sessions at their museum in Halifax and in return they have helped with prematch entertainment at our home games and also came along to do some face painting on the very successful **engage** day on the **PIAZZA**.

Tina Clare and the staff at engage have been brilliant. They sponsored our Summer Camps and also ensured we could hold today's Masterclass at the Leeds Rd Sports Barn. There's now 100's of children in the area running around in T-shirts provided by engage.

As we strive to visit more and more areas in the community we are building a pool of efficient coaching staff to assist us. Two regular volunteers worthy of praise are **ANTHONY WOOD & TIM JONES**.

Chris Roberts and the **HUDDERSFIELD EXAMINER** have again proved to be great for our publicity. The community work is mentioned almost every week in the

Examiner and hopefully this partnership will continue throughout the off season.

If anyone wants to receive our weekly community newsletter that is distributed through emails can mail me at [community@giantsrl.com](mailto:community@giantsrl.com) and you'll be added to the list.

Finally, **ALL YOU GIANTS FOLLOWERS DESERVE THE BIGGEST THANKS** because you are the Giants in the Community and you all make it the success it is today. Hopefully Ryan, Myself and Big G will get to see many of you before Super League XII.

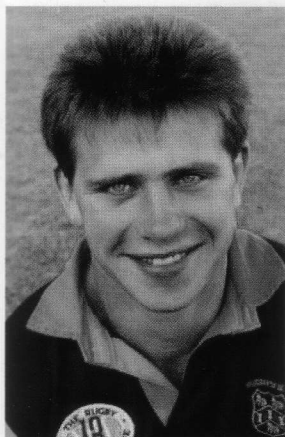
*Mick*



GIANTS COMMUNITY PAGE

## TODAY'S HALF TIME DRAW

# With Alan Boothroyd



Signed from David Brown Gears ARL,  
24 September 1986

Debut Game:  
v Hunslet (Away)  
19 September 1986  
(Trialist - from Subs Bench)

### HUDDERSFIELD CAREER

Season	Appearances	Tries	Goals	Points
1985-86	14 + 1	1		4
1986-87	27	4		16
1987-88	18 + 4	1		4
1988-89	5 + 1			
1989-90	17 + 4	2		8
1990-91	25			
1991-92	19	2		8
1992-93	3			
<b>Total</b>	<b>128 + 10</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>40</b>

Last Game: v Bramley (Away) 6 September 1992

Was a member of Huddersfield's Third Division Championship-winning side of 1991-92.

## GIANTS TOUCH RUGBY

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*A great way to get into sport!!*

*Free t-shirts for every player!!*

*Regular prizes, giveaways and complimentary match tickets!!*

*Families welcome*

*Make contact now and register your team (or just yourself!)*

**Mick Sykes 01484 484156**





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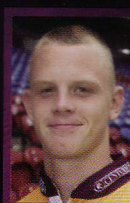

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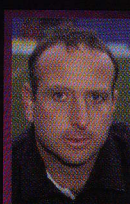
**JON SHARP**

ROCAR MOORES




**KIERON PURTILL**

TREVOR & SHEILA KAYE



**GARRY SLADE**

THE BURHOUSE FAMILY



**BEN COOPER**

MARK WEAVILL & DAVE BLACKER



**MARK WEAVILL**

OUTWEAR




**BIG G**

MA BAKERS SANDWICH SHOP

## ROBERTS REPORTS

# WITH Chris Roberts



### HERE'S a pretty safe bet.

It's odds-on that as soon as next season's fixtures are produced, many fans will look for the away trip to Catalans Dragons ahead of any other.

That's because last weekend's trip to the South of France was a truly unforgettable experience - even though sore heads were the order of the day every morning!

Everything about this super Super League trip seemed magical. The fantastic weather certainly helped. But that was just the tip of a very big iceberg. Obviously, the main objective was achieved as the boys produced a brave and battling display to keep the French at bay and return home with the two League points tucked away in the aeroplane hold.

The Dragons had made it clear in the pre-match build-up that they were desperate to mark their final home game in their first season in Super League with a win.

But they probably didn't expect to come up against an equally determined Giants side on the night.

As a result, it ensured all the 1,000 Huddersfield fans who had made the trip were in totally upbeat mood.

It was then time to party, and there were many options available. There was a barbeque and disco

planned at the Malibu Village resort at Canet Plage which was the base for many supporters, while a number of others took in the delights of Perpignan's nightlife.

That's a really wonderful city and to see it full of fans wearing claret and gold was a sight to behold.

No doubt many supporters will already be planning a return, and making sure they put away their loose change to guarantee they can take full advantage of the local hospitality. And, no doubt, many of them will be telling those who stayed back home to make sure they don't miss next year's trip. If they do, they will be missing something special.

So, let's hope even more can pay a visit and cheer on the Giants abroad as they continue to grow and grow.

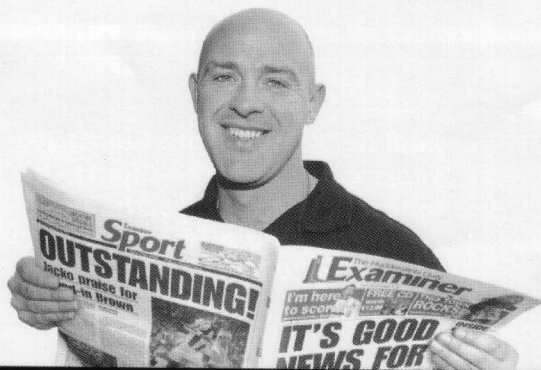
This year has been good - reaching the Challenge Cup final is something that still seems a dream - and, in the end, the play-offs were just a game or two away.

Last week's trip to France was the icing on the cake on the away front.

Beating Bradford Bulls today in the final home game would obviously be the icing on the Galpharm cake.

**It can be done!**

# COVERS ALL THE SPORT BUT LESS OF THE SETTEE



## THE NEW COMPACT EXAMINER

**MORE PAGES. MORE COLOUR. MORE COMPACT.**

The Huddersfield Daily  
**Examiner**

## VICE PRESIDENTS UPDATE...

**Good afternoon and welcome to our last home game of the season against the Bradford Bulls.**

Our last 2 league games and been most enjoyable, particularly the one in Perpignan against The Catalan Dragons. A victory today will see us confirmed in 7th place in the league and I am sure that at the start of the season most Giants supporters would have been happy with 7th place and a Challenge Cup Final appearance. Next season we have the ability to do even better and we should be in the end of season play offs as well as having a good cup run. You can be sure that the Vice Presidents will be there supporting the team whatever the result.

49 of us enjoyed an excellent trip to Spain and France last weekend. We left Leeds Bradford Airport last Wednesday for 5 days of sun, sea, sangria and Rugby League and every one us had a great time. Some had an even better time as there were a few incidents that could be used to make an Oscar winning movie. It would perhaps be diplomatic of me just to say that a fantastic time was had by all and will be sure to be repeated next season.

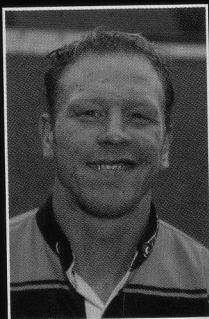
Last Monday at the Giant's end of Season Dinner Dance we sponsored the Junior Academy Player of the Year Trophy and this was presented by our member Anne Kaye to Matt Whittaker who also was presented with a kiss by Anne as well. We had quite a few Members in attendance at the dinner and I hope that you enjoyed the evening.

As this is the last time we shall all be together for a few months I will just remind you of a couple of events coming up where we shall be putting in an appearance. It is the RL Heritage Centre's Annual Aussie Grand Final Breakfast party hosted by Mike "Stevo" Stephenson on Saturday 7th October from 8.00a.. Tickets cost £15 - see me to book. Then on 13th October it is the Squadbuilder end of Season dinner at The George Hotel. Tickets are £25.00 each and the dinner will be followed by a Disco until the early hours.

Enjoy the game, enjoy the victory and see you for a drink after the game.

*Stuart*

## PAUL REILLY TESTIMONIAL 2006



**Paul Reilly joined the Giants 10 years ago and is the Giants longest serving player, he has been awarded a Testimonial season in 2006.**

A full itinerary of events will be published in forthcoming matchday programmes and the Huddersfield Examiner.

Anyone who is interested in sponsoring Paul or any of his events, or would like to help, or put on an event for Paul, please

contact Sue on 07751813921 or email reilly10years@hotmail.com

## SQUADBUILDER

**Well done to the Giants for their win against Catalans. I am sure all the fans who travelled to France, all had very quiet and sober time.**

Congratulations to all the players who won awards at the Presentation night Monday and to Paul Reilly, who won Squadbuilder Man of Steel Award. All the team deserved an award, but that can't happen, a big thank you to them all, Jon Sharp, the coaching staff everyone behind the scenes. Well done. A big thank you to our brilliant Chairman, Ken Davy and to our First Lady of Rugby, Jennifer Davy. They are behind every great man there is a woman, say no more, they both do the Giants proud.

Sadly some of our players will not be with us next season, so we thank them and wish them well for the future. Last match of the season today... We can't wait for the start of Super League XII!

### Squadbuilder End of Season Dinner/Disco

George Hotel 13th October. Tickets £25.00. Including a tour of the Heritage Centre.

Please come and support this event. Buy tickets from Squadbuilder committee.

**Ann 07966 387509**  
**Pat 07776 303397**  
**Stuart 01484 308339**  
**Alan 07889 842884**  
**Janice 07980 896884**

Stuart will have tickets upstairs at the Bradford match also

### 60's Night - Great local band 'The NeverWillBees'

will be playing plus a disco. Tickets £25.00. Always a good night, ring and order tickets early

Thank you to everyone who has supported Squadbuilder throughout the year, to Alan Bamber our Chair, and all the committee for giving their time and commitment throughout the year.

*Pat*

## SENIOR GIANTS

**Well here we are, the last match of the season already.**

I think you will all agree that we have had some memorable matches - the home win against St. Helens. The wonderful victory in the Powergen Challenge Cup semi-final against Leeds, and culminating in our trip to Twickenham in the final. Not the result we hoped for, but every player gave 100%, and we can't ask for more - hopefully this is a foretaste for the future.

Congratulations to the players and coaching staff.

Our speaker at the September meeting was David Oxley, former secretary of the Rugby Football League, who gave us a very interesting and detailed talk on British Lions Tours to Australia and New Zealand. Many thanks to David for coming to the Senior Giants again. Also many thanks to everyone who contributed to the collection for Paul Reilly's testimonial fund.

As usual we shall continue meeting in the close season. In October we meet at the stadium at 2.15pm on Wednesday 4th. When our speaker will be John Huxley, Media Manager for the rugby league.

In conclusion I would like to thank Richard Thewlis, Stan Sharp and the ladies in the office for their support throughout the season, and Mr. Davy who has made it all possible.

**See you next season**

*Nancy*

## FLYERS TRAVEL NEWS

**Last weekend a party of 27 hard-core Giants fans travelled to Perpignan with The Flyers for the game against the Catalans.**

Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time and we are already making plans for next year's visit(s).

On the journey home, we carried out the vote for the August player of the month award, which was once more won by Brad Drew, who pulled a total of 159 votes. Next came Paul Reilly with 84 votes and Chris Nero with 73 votes.

Brad was presented with his award along with the supporters' Player of the Year Award and the first team Player of the Year Award at last Monday's end of season dinner.

As this is the last programme of the season, we would like to thank all our sponsors and everyone who has travelled with The Flyers this year. We look forward to seeing you all again in even larger numbers for Super League XII.

*Ida*

## MARK WEAVILL

**I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jon Sharp and Stuart Sheard for backing me in my job.**

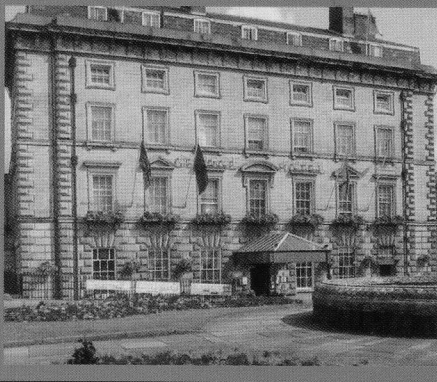
And the boys who have been a massive support and pleasure to work for and be around this season, to both me and my sister; that goes for the Club and all you out there who have been supportive and come along to help raise the money we raised for the Squad Builder and The West Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

We will be presenting the cheques for the event today at half time

*Mark*

## Gillette Rugby League Heritage Centre

**Why not visit the Birthplace of Rugby League, the George Hotel?** Call in at the Gillette Rugby League Heritage Centre and see all the games memorabilia from 1895 to present day. Opening hours are Wednesday through to Sunday 10.00am to 5.00pm.

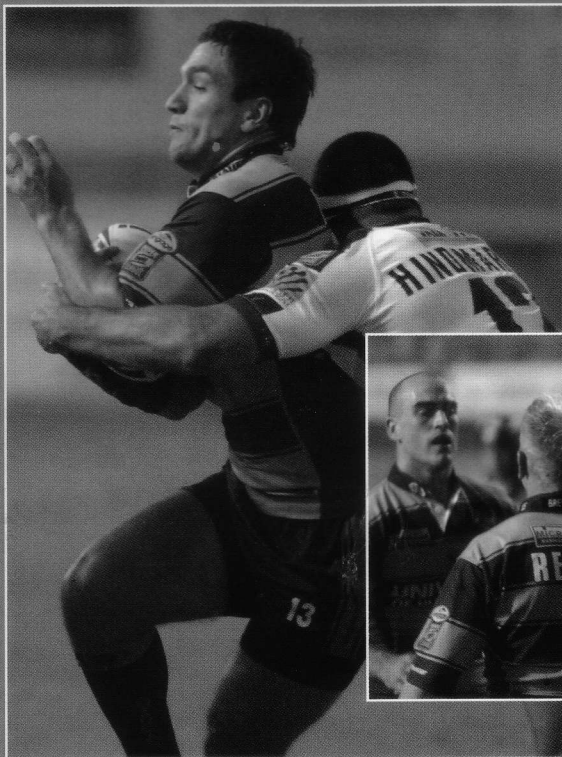


# THE GIANTS v.... Catalans

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER KO 6pm

DRAGONS 12 (6) GIANTS 20 (10)

REF: BEN THALER ATT: 6,463



**DRAGONS:** Thomas Bosc, Justin Murphy, Teddy Sadaoui, mark Hughes, Bruno Verges, Laurent Frayssinous, Stacey Jones, Chris Beattie, julien Rinaldi, jerome Guisset, Jamel Fakir, Ian Hindmarsh, Gregory Mounis.

**Replacements:** Alex Chan, David Berthezene, Mathieu Griffi, Pascal Jampy

**SCORERS: Tries:** Murphy, Rinaldi **Goals:** Frayssinous (2)

**GIANTS:** Paul Reilly, Martin Aspinwall, Michael De Vere, Chris Nero, Stuart Donlan, Kevin Brown, Robbie Paul, Paul Jackson, Brad Drew, Jim Gannon, Paul Smith, Andy Raleigh, Stephen Wild.

**Replacements:** Chris Thorman, Eorl Crabtree, Wayne McDonald, Stuart Jones

**SCORERS: Tries:** Paul, Nero, Donlan, Aspinwall **Goals:** De Vere (2)



## ROUND 27

**KEVIN BROWN** inspired the Giants to victory in a game he so very nearly missed.

Had it not been for a 4.30am call to his parents in Wigan from Manchester Airport last Thursday morning, the in-form Giants half-back would not have made the trip.

It was at that time that Brown discovered he had left his passport at home!

Fortunately, his understanding parents answered the SOS, Brown made the flight to the South of France - and the rest is history.

Huddersfield may still have beaten the Dragons without the services of the 21-year-old. But he certainly made a huge impact, setting up two tries, making several clean breaks and providing the link for many of the Giants' best moves.

Yet even the former Wigan ace would be the first to admit it was his side's huge defensive effort which made it all possible. In a game where the visitors made a number of errors, their tryline was put under periods of immense pressure.

And in Kiwi legend Stacey Jones they had a player more than capable of making the Giants pay. However, with Huddersfield defending their line as if their lives depended on it, there was simply no way through.

The Dragons did score twice, but both were from kicks - the first from a perfect Jones punt to the corner and the second after a Jones high kick failed to be diffused. That apart, the French were unable to make

an impact. And, given the fact they were determined to put on a big show in their final home game of their first season in Super League, it really was a phenomenal achievement.

Huddersfield, however, were also desperate to put on a show, not least to reward the Giants support of around 1,000 for travelling such a distance to watch their team. Thankfully, with Brown pulling the strings, it was the English who got their wish. It was clear from the start the visitors meant business. By the 10th minute, Brown was making his intentions clear, linking up superbly with Paul Smith and Chris Nero from deep in a stunning break, which even had the French on their feet applauding.

Unfortunately, Brown's final try-scoring pass to winger Martin Aspinwall was slightly forward, but it was a taste of things to come. Four minutes later, they hit the front for the first time, with another in-form attacker, Brad Drew, bursting through two defenders and feeding Robbie Paul to score under the posts.



Michael De Vere converted with ease.

But after withstanding an intense period of pressure, the Giants' line finally cracked when Jones' kick to the corner was collected by Justin Murphy to touch down.

Laurent Frayssinous goaled from the touchline and the French were right back in it.

However, the Giants were to have the final first-half say with a stunning second.

Brown's perfectly-timed pass on halfway released Nero, who handed off his marker and then showed electric pace to beat the flying Murphy to dive in at the corner.

At 10-6 the Giants had their noses in front.

A Brown break from deep almost brought try No3 in the 46th minute.

But he was not to be denied two minutes later as his superb long cut-out pass sent Stuart Donlan scorching in at the corner.

De Vere failed to convert, but at 14-6 it was looking good.

That optimism took a battering in the 57th minute when the lively Julien Rinaldi touched down a loose ball from another Jones' kick to make it 14-12.

But with 16 minutes remaining the Giants finally wrapped up the contest.

With a kick almost identical to that from Jones in the opening half, Drew stabbed the ball into the corner for De Vere to gather and release Aspinwall to finish off. De Vere added the touchline conversion.

Once again, the Giants then had to withstand some serious French pressure.

But, on a night like this, they were determined not to be denied.

Report by Leslie Thewlis

