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**UNION**  
WE TO THE PEOPLE!



**HUDDERSFIELD**  
**GIANTS**  
2009-10  
ONE GIANT FAMILY



  
University of  
**HUDDERSFIELD**

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**Huddersfield Giants**  
Team Photo 2009

**Back Row**  
*Left to Right*

Tom Hemingway, Jermaine McGilvary, Chris Lawson, Lorne Patrick, Leroy Cudjoe, Keith Mason,  
Michael Lawrence, Richard Lopag, Shaun Lunt, Scott Moore, Keal Carlile

**Middle Row**  
*Left to Right*

Greg Brown (Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach), Mark Andrews (Head Strength &  
Conditioning Coach), Paul Anderson (Assistant Coach), Danny Kimmond, Andy Balogh,  
Eoin O'Leary, Trevor Griffin, Michael Korakidas, Joe Walsh, Josh Griffin, Amit Panu (Club Doctor),  
Garry Slade (Head Physiotherapist), Ian Alberts (Assistant Physiotherapist),  
Barry Wilkinson (Kit Man)

**Front Row**  
*Left to Right*

Luke Robinson, Paul Jackson, Kevin Brown, David Hodgson, Martin Aspinwall,  
Nathan Brown (Head Coach), Stephen Wild, Paul Whaturua, David Faumu,  
Simon Finnigan, Brett Hodgson

# A MAGIC WEEKEND!

Giants fans savour trip to Scotland



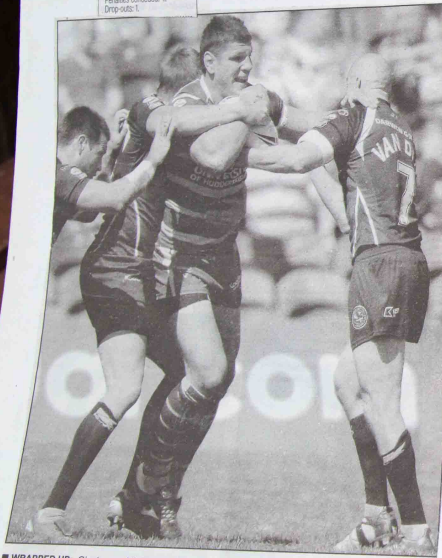
## MATCH DOSSIER

Giants ... 40

Tries: B. Hodgson (1), Kimmord (1), Moore (1), Lunt (1) & S. Kirkidas (1), Finnigan (1).  
Goals: S. Hodgson 5 from 7.  
Scrums won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 0.

Celtic ... 16

Tries: Beasley (1), Blackwood (1), Sanganal (1).  
Goals: Quinn 2 from 2.  
Scrums won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 4.  
Drop-outs: 1.



WRAPPED UP: Giants prop Michael Kirkidas is stopped by the Celtic defence.



## MATCH DOSSIER

Giants ... 38

Tries: Robinson (1), Lunt (1), 44 & 75), Patrick (1), Carlisle (1), Laker (1).  
Goals: Cudde 5 from 7.  
Scrums won: 4.  
Penalties conceded: 6.  
Drop-outs: 1.

Hornets 12

Tries: Fogarty (1), Ainscough (1).  
Goals: Giles 2 from 2.  
Scrums won: 15.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 3.



IN FULL FLOW: Larne Patrick races clear of the Rochdale Hornets defence on the way to his long-range 12th-minute try which put the Giants 16-0 ahead and well on their way to victory and a place in the Challenge Cup quarter-finals. Pictures by Julian Hughes (photos@genie.co.uk)

THE BIRTHPLACE OF RUGBY LEAGUE  
NORTH EAST FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
**GIANTS**

FAITH OF THE FUTURE

Sweet Spot

D.M. Keith Ltd  
"Family care for a giant community"

SPORTING HEROES



# MATCH DOSSIER

## Giants .... 4

Tries: Robinson 1 (5)  
Goals: Dudge 0 from 1  
Scrums won: 5  
Penalties conceded: 5  
Drop-outs: 2

## Salford .. 24

Tries: Wigham 4, Goulding 2 (8)  
Goals: Mather 5 (10)  
Scrums won: 10  
Penalties conceded: 5  
Drop-outs: 2



■ DON'T STOP ME NOW!: a determined Michael Korkidas prepares to confront Salford hooker Malcolm Alker during the bitterly disappointing 24-4 home defeat.  
Pictures by Julian Hughes. (L-R: 17/02/09, 18/02/09)



■ LEADING THE WAY: prop Keith Mason's early start helped put the Giants on top from the start against his former club, Wakefield





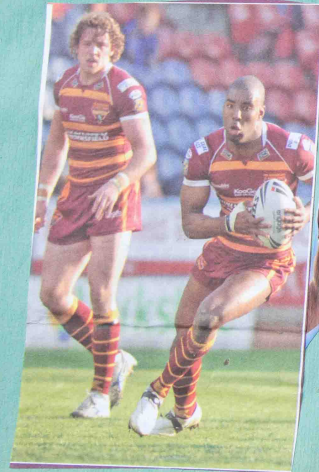
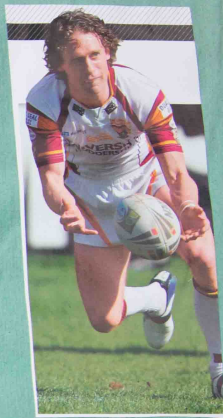
**SUPER MOMENT:** on-loan Wigan second-rower Lee Mossop crosses for his first Giants try on his home debut Pictures by Paul Welch (19)



**MOORE THE MERRIER:** Hooker Scott Moore was one of the Giants top performers in the win over Hull KR. (19)



**READY FOR A NEW LIFE:** Gregg McNally is now training full-time with the Giants as he looks to finish his time at hometown club Whitehaven on a high



**MATCH DOSSIER**  
**Giants ... 22**  
 Tries: Moore (10), Robinson (13), Mossop (3), Whittaker (6)  
 Goals: Cudjoe 3 from 4  
 Scrums won: 10  
 Penalties conceded: 7  
 Drop-outs: 3

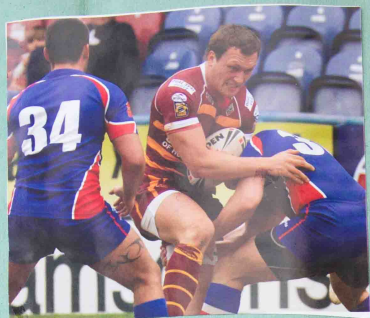
**Rovers ... 6**  
 Tries: Welham (2)  
 Goals: Dobson 1 from 1  
 Scrums won: 12  
 Penalties conceded: 7  
 Drop-outs: 1



**BEST OF ENEMIES:** Eorl Crabtree takes on Leeds' Jamie Peacock during their Super League clash earlier in the season. But last weekend they were close teammates for England in France



**MOMENT TO SAVOUR:** Kevin Brown touches the ball down to give the Giants a 12-0 cockleshell lead with his teammates (bottom) patting him round to celebrate the score.



Triess: Lunt (3), Roberson, Patrick, Carlisle, Lyles  
Goals: Cudjoe (5)

**CROWDED OUT:** Giants newcomer Danny Sculthorpe looks to get the ball away on his debut.



### MATCH DOSSIER

Rhinos ... 20

Triess: Watkins (46), Leulaku (68), Watkins (77).  
Goals: Sinfieid 4 from 4.  
Scrums won: 15.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 0.

Giants ... 12

Triess: D Hodgson (33), Brown (42).  
Goals: B Hodgson 2 from 2.  
Scrums won: 6.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 3.

### MATCH DOSSIER

Giants ... 6

Try: Cudjoe (64).  
Goal: D Hodgson 11 from 11.  
Scrums won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 6.  
Drop-outs: 4.

Tigers ... 13

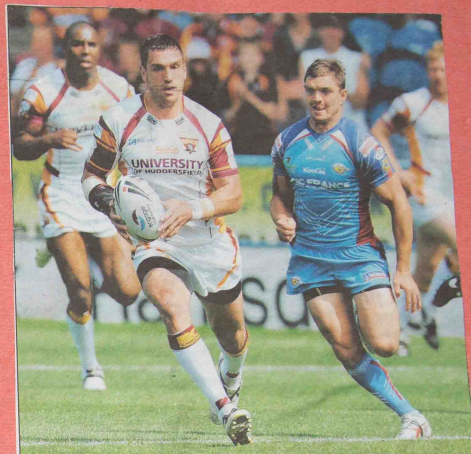
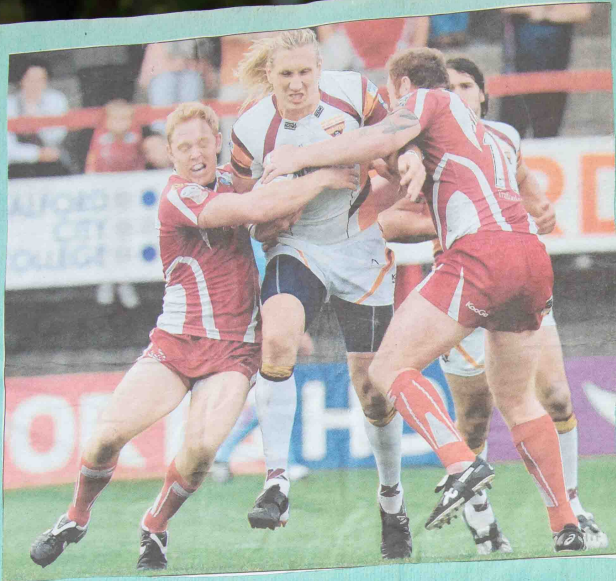
Triess: Dixon (5), McSodnick (7).  
Goals: Dixon 12 from 31, drop goal Dixon (18 mins).  
Scrums won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 4.



**NO WAY THROUGH:** Giants' Danny Sculthorpe is halted by Cas prop Mitchell Sargent.

Brett Hodgson leads the Giants on to the field at The Galpharm





■ NICE ONE CENTURION: Stephen Wild, who played his 100th game for the Giants, evades Wakefield Trinity's Danny Brough during the derby clash at the Galpham. *Picture by John Rushworth*

**MATCH DOSSIER**  
Giants ... 30

Tries: Moore (3 min), Filamu (12, 54), O'Hodgson (68), Kubu (77).  
Goals: B Hodgson 5 from 5.  
Scrums won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 9.  
Drop-outs: 0.

Cats .....14

Tries: Gray (28), Martin (50), Peterson (73).  
Goals: Brough 1 from 3.  
Scrums won: 5.  
Penalties conceded: 8.  
Drop-outs: 2.



■ GRAPPLING: Giants' Keith Mason gets hauled down by City Red's John Wilshere. *Picture: John Rushworth*

**MATCH DOSSIER**  
Reds ..... 10

Tries: Turner (28), Wilshere (68).  
Goal: Wilshere (1 from 2).  
Scrums won: 1.  
Penalties conceded: 10.  
Drop-outs: 1.

Giants ... 34

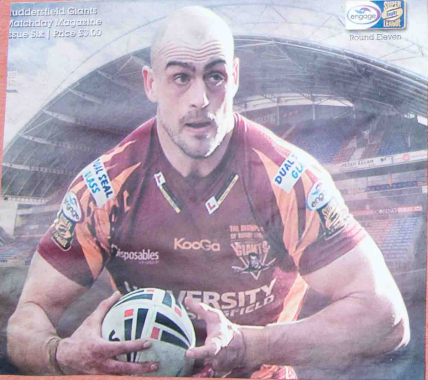
Tries: Moore (3), B Hodgson (6), Lawrence (21), Cuxliffe (62, 75), Wild (70).  
Goals: B Hodgson (5 from 6).  
Scrums won: 1.  
Penalties conceded: 12.  
Drop-outs: 0.



■ HAIR-RAISING: Wildcat Tevita Leo-Ekka Ives is pounced on the Giants' Scott Moore. *Picture by John Rushworth*



■ **GOOD TIMES:** Darrell Griffin (top) celebrates with the fans at the end of the game at Quins, with the victory confirmed by Brett Hodgson's second try (above).



Head of Football at Quins  
Nathan Brown | *Wolves* £3.00

**MATCH DOSSIER**

Quins ..... 16

Tries: Gale (13), Melling (69 & 73);  
Goals: Orr 2 from 3;  
Scrums won: 7;  
Penalties conceded: 4;  
Drop-outs: 1.

Giants ... 32

Tries: Cudjoe (20), D Hodgson (38), Lawrence (47), B Hodgson (71 & 91);  
Goals: B Hodgson 6 from 6;  
Scrums won: 7;  
Penalties conceded: 9;  
Drop-outs: 2.



■ **CRUCIAL MOMENT:** Michael Lawrence dives over for his 77th-minute try in the Giants' victory at Harlequins



■ **GOOD TIMES:** the Giants celebrate an excellent victory over Warrington which keeps them third in the Super League table  
*Pictures by Andy Catchpool* (cc) 19/10/16/andyg@msn.com



NATHAN BROWN

**MATCH DOSSIER**

Giants ... 28

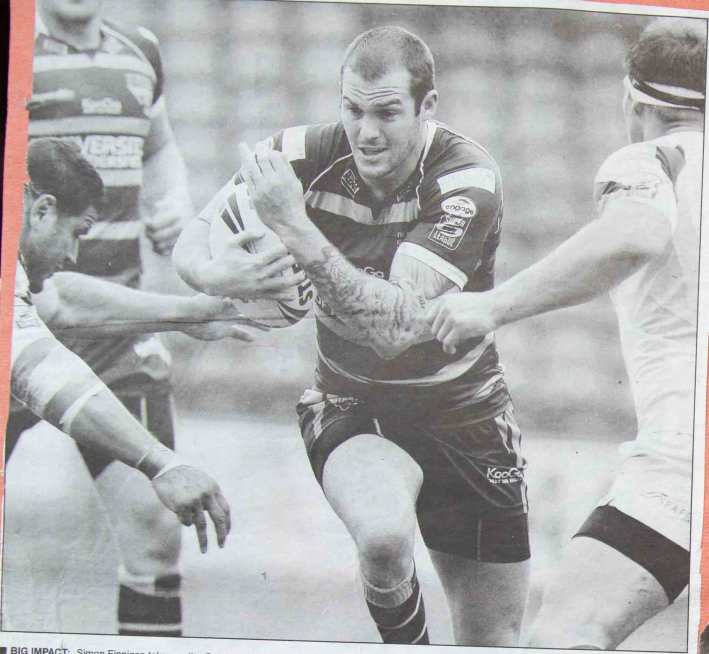
Tries: Jackson (18), Moore (27), Cudjoe (33 & 49), Lawrence (51);  
Goals: B Hodgson 4 from 6;  
Scrums won: 9;  
Penalties conceded: 8;  
Drop-outs: 9.

Wolves .. 10

Tries: Westwood (43), Carney (76);  
Goals: Bridge 1 from 2;  
Scrums won: 9;  
Penalties conceded: 8;  
Drop-outs: 1.



■ **WHAT A FEELING:** Michael Lawrence (left) is swamped by teammates Scott Moore (middle) and Larry Cudjoe after scoring a crucial second-half try that effectively ended Warrington's resistance against the Giants  
*(cc) 19/10/16/andyg@msn.com*



■ **BIG IMPACT:** Simon Finnigan takes on the Catalans defence during a performance Giants coach Nathan Brown believes was one of his best this year. It backed up the second-rower's two-try debut display in the 30-8 triumph in the South of France in February

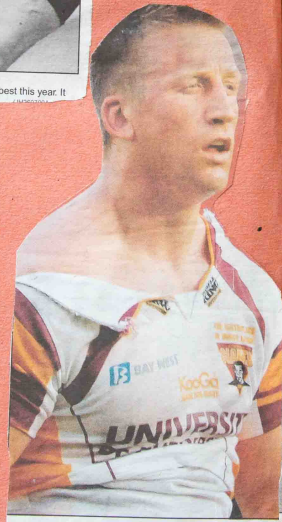
**MATCH DOSSIER**

Giants ... 36

Tries: Cudjoe (2, 28 & 75), B Hodgson (12), Griffin (29), D Hodgson (48), Finnigan (56), Goals: B Hodgson 4 from 7, Scrums won: 8, Penalties conceded: 6, Drop-outs: 2.

Dragons .. 12

Tris: Greenshields (2), Pelo (31), Goals: Boss 2 from 2, Scrums won: 8, Penalties conceded: 12, Sin-binned: Greenshields (firms, obstruction), Drop-outs: 0.



■ **FINAL FRONTIER:** Keith Mason wants another big cup day



■ **THANKS A MILLION:** the Giants players applaud their supporters after yesterday's thrilling victory against Castleford at the Galpharm Stadium, which attracted a crowd of 6,359. Picture by John Rushworth

**Last-gasp joy for brave Giants**



**MATCH DOSSIER**

Giants ... 16

Tris: Brown (22), Wild (68), Kinnord (78), Goals: Hodgson 2 from 3, Scrums won: 7, Penalties conceded: 9, Drop-outs: 1.

Tigers .... 14

Tris: Shenton (4), Ferris (45), Goals: Dixon 3 from 4, Scrums won: 15, Penalties conceded: 9.

**MATCH DOSSIER**

Hull ... 0

Tris: 0, Goals: 0, Scrums won: 10, Penalties conceded: 3, Drop-outs: 2.

Giants.. 24

Tris: D Hodgson (27), Lunt (37), Lawrence (47), Cudjoe (78), Goals: B Hodgson 4 from 4, Scrums won: 8, Penalties conceded: 7, Drop-outs: 1.



■ **HAMMER TIME:** Giants star Jamathi Loleli drives into the Hull FC defence to help his side clinch only a second ever place in the Super League play-offs last night. Picture by John Rushworth

**MATCH DOSSIER**

**Giants ... 18**

Trials: B Hodgson (2), Moore (6), Kinnaird (7).  
Goals: B Hodgson 3 from 3.  
Scrums won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 8.  
Drop-outs: 2.  
Sin-bis: Moore (late tackle)

**Bulls... 28**

Trials: Platt (5), Nero (17 & 29), Sykes (22).  
Goals: Deacon 8 from 6.  
Scrums won: 11.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 1.  
Sin-bis: Sykes (professional foul).



■ HELD UP: Huddersfield Giants skipper Brett Hodgson is tackled by Bulls' Semi Tadulala.

(LH16020)Magnum



■ WELL DONE SON: the Giants players gather to celebrate Lerry Cudjoe's early try against Super League leaders Saints at Knowsley Road

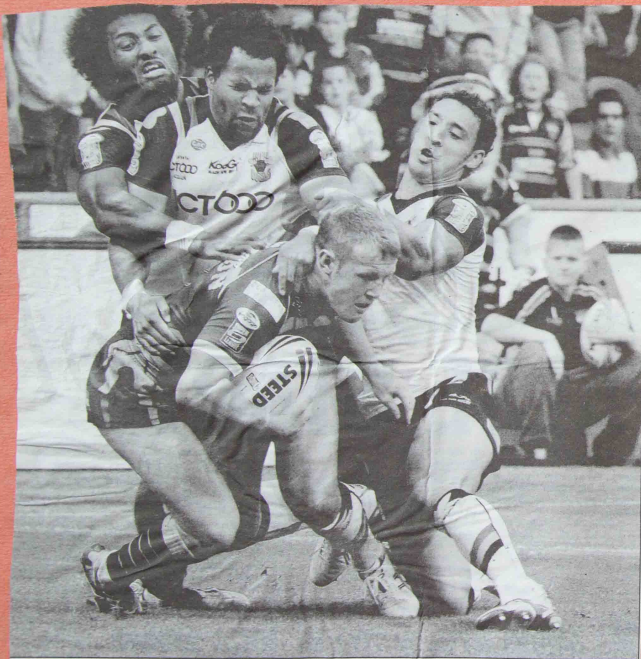
**MATCH DOSSIER**

**Saints ... 12**

Trials: Gardner (20), Gidley (47), Malt (64).  
Goals: Lomas (0 from 3).  
Scrums won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 1.

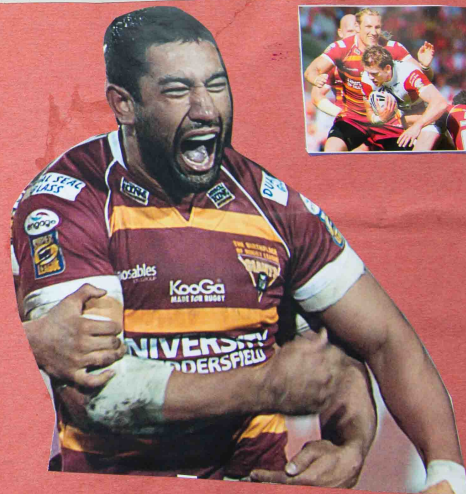
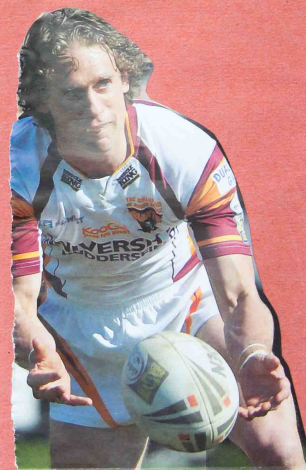
**Giants... 10**

Trials: Gardner (20), Gidley (47), Malt (64).  
Goals: Lomas (0 from 3).  
Scrums won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 1.



■ CROWD: Giants' Luke Robinson finds the Bulls defence are eager to ensure he gets no further

(LH16020)Magnum



# GIANTS ON THE WAY TO FINAL

## Victory over cup holders provides path to Wembley

**PROUD** Giants coach Nathan Brown believes his side's stunning Challenge Cup semi-final triumph over holders St Helens will put the Yorkshire club firmly on the rugby league map.

Home Huddersfield set a dream Wembley showdown with Warrington on August 29 after topping the Super League leaders 24-14 at the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

Although the Giants reached the Challenge Cup final at Twickenham, 2006 when it was staged at Twickenham, it will be Huddersfield's first game at Wembley since the final of 1962 when they were beaten by Wakefield and they will be aiming to lift the trophy for the first time for 36 years.

Yesterday's magical result hoped the Giants end Saints' unbeaten four-year run in Brown's first season at the Galpharm Stadium and he is confident their knockout success can help them make the big break through.

Brown said: "When I got here (chairman) Ken Davy told me the club has had two generations of supporters and it was only five years ago they were getting crowds of 500."

"What this can do for the town and the club in some ways may be far more important than actually being there, because it's going to create a lot of interest and hopefully it will bring more fans to the club."

"Getting to Wembley this year I think can really help put the club on the map and progress further forward. I am really happy with that."

Full of confidence on the back of six

consecutive wins in Super League, Huddersfield made the perfect start with skipper Brett Hodgson scoring the game's first try after only five minutes.

Saints led through Frantz Mel, who went on to complete a hat-trick, but they were unable to penetrate a tough-looking Giants defence in which Hodgson was hugely impressive, and back row forward Stephen Walsh took a five-minute try edged the Giants back in front.

And the Yorkshiremen took a firm grip when winger Leroy Cudde and Kevin Brown added further tries within seven minutes of the restart to put them 18-4 up.

Brown paid tribute to his side's defence, which is the best in Super League and admitted confidence was high following their climb to third place in the table. "For weeks ago we wouldn't have won today," he said. "We just weren't ready, but in the last five or six weeks we have been building."

"We've developed into a pretty reasonable team. We are an improving team and I think the improvement is still there for us."

"Today our ability to prevent them from scoring was crucial. We gave them plenty of shots at us, they had a lot more than we did."

The Giants have been allocated the west side of Wembley Stadium, with tickets priced at £21, £26, £31 and £41. There are also tickets available in the North Stand, ranging from £70 to £94, and in the South Stand from £26 to £76. There are NO concession tickets for the game.

Each ticket entitles its holder to a seat. Telephone bookings will also be taken Wednesday from 9am.



**WE'RE ON THE WAY** A jubilant Scott Moore (right) celebrates with scorer and man-of-the-match Brett Hodgson after the Giants' opening try of their semi-final win

from 10.30am, but be aware these lines are expected to be extremely busy and patience is appreciated.

The ticket hotline is 0870 4444552. There will be a £1 per ticket booking fee for telephone bookings and credit card sales at the ticketing windows.

Customers need to have their season/ticket holder with them in person or their client reference numbers for telephone bookings.

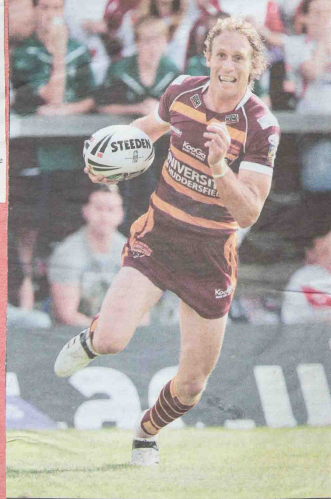
The club whose resignation was not handed in was Dewsbury, that organization being allowed until Tuesday next to decide.

All the representatives present signed a membership list for the new union except Mr Holdsworth.

A sub-committee of 10 was not appointed to consider the question of preparing by-laws and rules for the Union.

Messrs Smith (Widnes), Warren, Platt, Gresty, Quirk, Waller, Nicholl, Sewell, Fartouri, and Clifford were elected members of the committee, and it was decided that the same gentlemen should act as an Emergency Committee.

The resignations of 20 clubs willing to resign membership of the Rugby Union were put in, and subsequently



**CUP KING:** Brett Hodgson on his way to the tryline against St Helens.

Chris Roberts scans the archives for this week in ... 1895

# The most important date in rugby League history.

**AUGUST 29** will be a historic day for Huddersfield Giants, as well as rugby league as a whole.

It is the date Huddersfield faced Warrington Wolves in the Carnegie Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

But August 29 is also the date the sport of Rugby League was born at the George Hotel in Huddersfield in 1895, breaking away from the Rugby Football Union.

Never before has the final of rugby league's most famous knockout competition been held on this date.

So could this be an omen for Huddersfield – the birthplace of rugby league – this weekend, to mark the anniversary of an event held in the town 114 years ago and which was so widely reported in the Examiner?

In great detail, it was reported how the August 29 meeting had started at 6.30 sharp with the full story coming under the headline: 'The Football Crisis: Formation of a Northern Union'.

On Thursday night, a meeting of the representatives of the Senior Clubs of Lancashire and Yorkshire was held at the George Hotel, Huddersfield, to consider the question of the formation of a Northern Football Union.

The meeting was held in private, and lasted close on three hours.

At the meeting's conclusion the representatives of the press were informed that there had been present at the meeting the following gentlemen: Mr H Walker (Rugbouse), Mr J Platt (Oldham), Mr J Nichol (Halifax), Mr H Sewell (Leeds), Mr F Lester (Bradford), Mr L Whitaker (Hunslet), Mr E Gresty (Broughton Rangers), Mr J Goodall (Butley), Mr F Bennett (St Helens), Mr J Quirk (Leigh), Mr J Warren (Warrington), Mr G Taylor (Gydealey), Mr K Wardle (Wigan), Mr A Paterson (Muningham), Mr W Brierley (Rochdale Hornets), Mr J H Hampshire (Liversedge), and Mr C Holdsworth (Dewsbury).

Mr Walker was elected to the chair, and Mr J Platt (Oldham) was elected secretary pro tem.

The first resolution adopted was as follows:

"The clubs here represented decide to form a Northern Rugby Football Union, and pledge themselves to push forward with all due delay its establishment on the principle of payment for bona fide broken time only."

An application from the Stockport Club to be admitted to the Union was granted.

The resignations of 20 clubs willing to resign membership of the Rugby Union were put in, and subsequently



**WHERE IT ALL BEGAN:** the George Hotel in Huddersfield is the birthplace of rugby league

sent by post to Mr Rowland Hill, secretary of the Rugby Union.

The club whose resignation was not handed in was Dewsbury, that organization being allowed until Tuesday next to decide.

All the representatives present signed a membership list for the new union except Mr Holdsworth.

A sub-committee of 10 was not appointed to consider the question of preparing by-laws and rules for the Union.

Messrs Smith (Widnes), Warren, Platt, Gresty, Quirk, Waller, Nicholl, Sewell, Fartouri, and Clifford were elected members of the committee, and it was decided that the same gentlemen should act as an Emergency Committee.

It was agreed that the meetings should be held alternately at Huddersfield and Manchester; that there should be a Yorkshire Senior Competition and a Lancashire Senior Competition, and also a Northern Rugby League, the latter consisting of 22 clubs.

A meeting of secretaries is to be held on Tuesday evening next, at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Manchester, at five o'clock, for the purpose of arranging matches.

**MR W HIRST'S RESIGNATION**

In reference to the intended resignation, on the 9th of September, by Mr W Hirst, of his position as hon sec of the Yorkshire Union, and his position as Yorkshire representative

of the English Rugby Union, it may be said that his decision is not to desert his club.

In the course of an interview Mr Hirst stated that the Northern Union repudiate any idea of professionalism, and will punish strictly any departures from this principle.

Now that the new Union has been decided upon, the matter will be carried out to its utmost limit.

Although Huddersfield hesitated long, that was because it was felt that until the step became absolutely necessary it was impolitic to take it.

THE ENGLISH RUGBY UNION

The Press Association states that the Rugby Union Executives in London are so far unaware officially

of the suggested accession of Yorkshire clubs.

A Northern Union with compensation for broken time as its basis is a complete breach of the Union's old laws, apart from the stringent code which comes up for discussion at the annual meeting next month.

Until the matter is brought before the committee by the County Union or a club, however, no action can be taken, and to the clubs whose names are published remain members of the Union until suspended or expelled.

From good authority it is understood that no special meeting of the committee has been called, and its members will not meet until September 19.

**MR H BEARDSLEY**

A representative of the Huddersfield Examiner, who waited on Mr H Beardsley, one of the hon secretaries of the Huddersfield C and AC on Thursday, received the following statement of the position of the Huddersfield Club regarding the crisis.

The decision of the committee of the club to join the Northern Union was made to alter due deliberation, and they decline any idea of going in for professionalism, and the only question which can come under the consideration of the Rugby Union is that of payment for broken time, which was strongly advocated by the writers of the Yorkshire clubs two years ago.

The committee of the club understood that the rules which will be put into force under the Union will be very strict, and any club going in breach of the rules will be punished in a heavy fine and severe punishment.

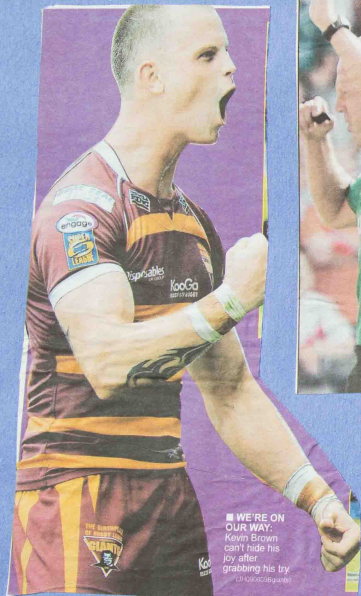
In fact, the Union will be carried on under rules similar to those of the English Rugby Union.

The new by-laws which are on the agenda paper of the English Rugby Union are of such a nature that it would be absolutely impossible for any club, however careful it might be in its management, to protect itself against an act of some would-be member, as under those proposed new laws any member of the club giving any consideration whatever to a playing member would not only provide the position of that member, but also any of the members of the club, and that not only renders that club liable to suspension, but to expulsion.

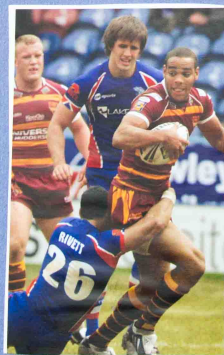
Such laws and regulations are of too drastic a nature, and are of an apparently small office magnified into one of the greatest kind.

# WEMBLEY

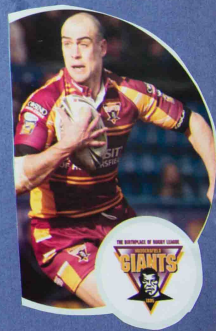
## here we come!



■ WE'RE ON OUR WAY: Kevin Brown can't hide his joy after grabbing his try



■ WEMBLEY BOUND: Huddersfield's players celebrate victory at the final whistle at the Halliwell Jones Stadium (above), Luke Robinson dances through the Saints defence (below)  
 Pictures: Julian Hughes (above), @huddersfieldgiants



101 Huddersfield Daily Examiner  
Wednesday August 26 2009

# GIANTS at Wembley



HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS v WARRINGTON WOLVES, AUGUST 29 2009

## They did it ... SO CAN WE!

### Giants set to emulate '53



HUDDERSFIELD Giants coach Nathan Brown will send his side into the Challenge Cup final at Wembley on Saturday knowing they can win!

Standing in front of them are a Warrington Wolves side coached by former Giants boss Eddy Storer.

It's a unique first premise to be a Challenge Cup final classic, with little to separate the two teams.

But Brown believes his side has what it takes to be the first Huddersfield side to 50 years to win at Wembley. "Everyone has worked so hard for us so get here, and that's what will bring us our success at Wembley," said Brown.

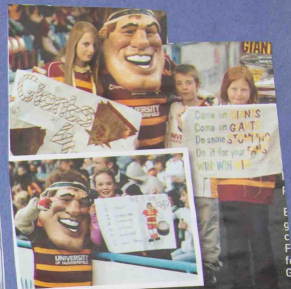
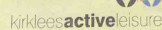


■ 1953 AND ALL THAT: Huddersfield celebrate after winning the Challenge Cup against St Helens at Wembley - the last time the club lifted the fabled old trophy

INSIDE ... Nathan Brown, Earl Crabtree, Brett Hodgson ... and Jamahl Loles's "insider" guide to the Giants

change 4 life

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# MEET THE TEAM

THE BACKDROP OF HUGBO LYONS



## CLUB FACT FILE

FULL NAME: Huddersfield Giants  
NICKNAME: Giants of Farforn  
FOUNDED: 1864  
HOME TOWN: Huddersfield  
GROUND: Galpharm Stadium  
CAPACITY: 24,500  
CHAIRMAN: Ken Davy  
HEAD COACH: Nathan Brown  
CLUB CAPTAIN: Brett Hodgson  
CHALLENGE CUP: Winners 1913, 1915, 1920, 1923, 1945, 1953  
RUNNERS-UP: 1908, 1910, 1935



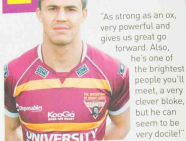
Giants' long-serving prop Eorl Crabtree introduces his team-mates. But what would they say about him? "A gentle giant, and the best looking!" Well, would you argue with him?

### 1 BRETT HODGSON



"Definitely one of the best I've ever played with. Brett's got all the skills and can beat tacklers like no one else. And he looks like Mr Burns from The Simpsons."

### 2 MARTIN ASPINWAL



"As strong as an ox, very powerful and gives us great go forward. Also, he's one of the brightest people you'll meet, a very clever bloke, but he can seem to be very doleful."

### 3 KEVIN BROWN



"Kevin has been awesome this year, he seems to have stepped up to another level. He has got great handling skills and a ridiculously long neck!"

### 4 PAUL WHATUIRA



"I don't say anything bad about him because he's a bit of a boxer. Seeing him shadow boxing is quite scary. He has unbelievable footwork, is very committed and trains really hard."

### 5 DAVID HODGSON



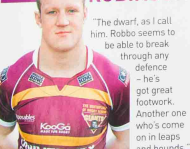
"Very quick, very enthusiastic and a very funny person. He's the instigator behind most things. He usually stands in the background so that he doesn't get noticed."

### 6 LIAM FULTON



"The worst dressed player at the club, but he's full of skill. He's been really good for us since he came back from his injury, very strong, a great defensive player and fantastic in attack too."

### 7 LUKE ROBINSON



"The dwarf, as I call him. Robbo seems to be able to break through any defence - he's got great footwork. Another one who's come on in leaps and bounds."

### 9 DAVID FAIUMU



"David probably has one of the biggest side-steps in the league. He's an absolutely fantastic player, he has good offloads and a great work ethic."

## HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS THE PLAYERS

### 10 DARRELL GRIFFIN



"A hard working big unit with great go-forward. Strong as an ox - he rates himself as well. He's always walking around in his X-kronis before the kick-off!"

### 11 JAMAL LOLESI



"Jammer the Hammer is the joker in the pack who is always up to no good and having a laugh. He's great to have around because he makes everybody happy!"

### 12 ANDY RALEIGH



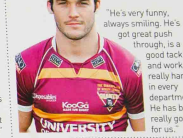
"A machine, unbelievably fit, works incredibly hard and never takes a backward step. A bit Jekyll-and-Hyde - when he gets on the Xbox he totally changes and goes mad!"

### 13 STEPHEN WILD



"Great player who's so experienced. He's 100 per cent committed and will work as hard as possible - and always lets you know what he thinks."

### 14 SIMON FINNIGAN



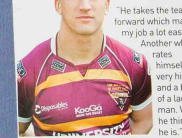
"He's very funny, always smiling. He's got great push through, is a good tackler and works really hard in every department. He has been really good for us."

### 15 PAUL JACKSON



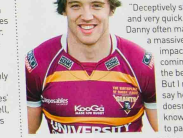
"Jacko has unbelievable footwork for a prop, he always finds his front and tackles well. But he's got really fat fingers."

### 16 KEITH MASON



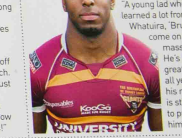
"He takes the team forward which makes my job a lot easier. Another who rates himself very highly and a bit of a ladies' man. Well, he thinks he is."

### 18 DANNY KIRMOND



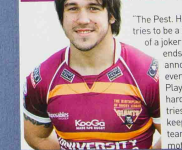
"Deceptively strong and very quick, Danny often makes a massive impact coming off the bench. But I must say he doesn't know how to pass!"

### 19 MICHAEL LAWRENCE



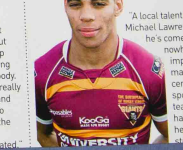
"A young lad who's learned a lot from Paul Whatuira, Bruno has come on massively. He's been great for us, all year, and his reputation is starting to precede him now."

### 20 SCOTT MOORE



"The Pest. He tries to be a bit of a joker but ends up annoying everybody. Plays really hard and tries to keep the team motivated."

### 21 LEROY CUDJOE



"A local talent like Michael Lawrence, he's come from nowhere, but improved massively to cement his spot in the team. Great hands and he's really strong."

### 24 SHAUN LUNT



"Shaun is probably the fittest man in the team. He's worked really hard to earn his spot in the starting line-up and I'm pleased for him because if anyone deserves it, he does."

01 Huddersfield Daily Examiner  
Monday August 31 2009

# GIANTS at Wembley



Match report ... interviews ... player ratings from the Challenge Cup final



## We're GUTTED!

COACH Nathan Brown has admitted his disappointment at failing to see the Giants lift the Challenge Cup at Wembley.

His Huddersfield side were beaten 25-16 by Warrington Wolves after failing to produce the sort of performance that has made them such a major force this season. It was a bitter blow for Brown and his men, with the Galpham chief unhappy for the fans who had turned out in such great numbers to watch their side try and win the Cup for the first time since 1953.

**Nathan: Giants just didn't deliver big performance**

"It would have been fantastic to have brought the Cup back, not least for the fans," he said. "Their support at the final was sensational, and I really can't thank them enough for the way they got behind us."

"It was just a massive shame that we couldn't deliver the performance everyone wanted. "We had a fair few people who were a fair way below their best, especially in some really key positions."

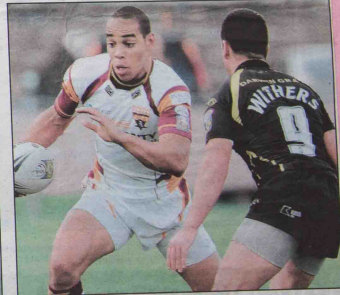
"You have to give some credit to Warrington. They probably put in their best performance for a while."

"The reality was the occasion probably got to some people. "Apart from their defence being good and our attack being pretty poor, we made some really uncharacteristic errors in defence."

"We leaked a couple of easy tries which is very unlike us and even before that our attack never looked like getting going at any stage."



■ **FLYING IN:** in-form Liam Fulton dives over for his second try in the Giants' comfortable Super League victory at Bridgend.



■ **ON THE ATTACK:** Josh Griffin (left) and Leroy Cudjoe (above) make it tough for the Celtic Crusaders.

### MATCH DOSSIER

Celtic ..... 16

Tries: Blackwood (8), Tyrer (4), Lennon (3).  
Goals: Lennon 0 from 1, Tyrer 2 from 2.  
Scrums won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 1.  
Drop-outs: 1.

Giants ... 42

Tries: D Hodgson (4), Fulton (2) & (3), Patrick (3), Whaitura (3), Lunt (2) & (3).  
Goals: Cudjoe 1 from 7.  
Scrums won: 6.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 2.



■ **GOLDEN MOMENT:** Leroy Cudjoe races away from Wigan's Pat Richards to complete his hat-trick with a length-of-the-field try

(PHOTOGRAPH BY AGENTS)



■ **BRILLIANT MATE:** Giants colleagues race in to congratulate try-scorer Brett Hodgson during yesterday's excellent 48-16 win over Wigan. Picture by Julian Hughes

### MATCH DOSSIER

Giants ... 48

Tries: B Hodgson (8), D Hodgson (27), Lunt (3 & 48), Cudjoe (44, 61 & 77), Whistaro (51).  
Goals: B Hodgson 8 out of 8.  
Scrums won: 6.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 0.

Wigan ... 16

Tries: Franigan (12), Richards (37), Tomkins (70).  
Goals: Richards 2 from 3.  
Scrums won: 5.  
Penalties conceded: 8.  
Drop-outs: 3.

# PROUDEST MOMENT

## Giants ace Brett celebrates after a night to remember

By CHRIS ROBERTS  
Rugby League Writer  
chris.roberts@examiner.co.uk

**MAN of Steel** Brett Hodgson can't wait for the start of next season!

The inspirational Huddersfield Giants captain was voted Super League's player of the year at the competition's glittering end-of-season ceremony in Manchester on Monday night.

The news came less than three weeks after the 31-year-old former Wets Tigers full-back in the Australian NRL was named the Rugby League Writers' Association player of the year.

That was in recognition of the massive role Hodgson played in helping the Giants to a club record third-placed Super League finish and reaching the Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

But the Super League Dream Team full-back admitted being named the Man of Steel was the "pinacle" of an outstanding career.

And he knows that honour will give him an extra spring in his step when he takes to the field for the Giants in 2010.

"Just to be nominated for the award was such a big honour so there was no way I was going to miss such a big occasion," said Hodgson, who delayed his flight back home to Australia so he could attend the ceremony.

"I'm over the moon, just so proud. This honour is absolutely huge. It's just something you don't dream about at the start of the year.

"I'll have to pinch myself in the next few days to realise what I've achieved!"

The Giants skipper was deemed to have made the biggest impact on the season and best of competition from reigning Man of Steel James Graham and Warrington captain Adrian Morley.

The vote was taken by fellow Super League players, with Hodgson admitting it helped erase the memory of their play-off exit at the hands of Catalan Dragons.

"I wasn't looking forward to dwelling on the Catalan defeat for the next four months," he added.

"But, thankfully, I'm heading back home for my break on the back of my final memory of 2009 being a very positive one.

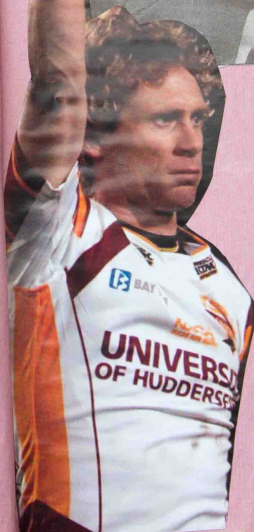
"I'm sure it'll give me an extra spring in my step when I do my own training, which I'm back in Australia."

"And, I have to admit, I'm already feeling really excited about coming back here for next season."

"Although the last game was a massive disappointment, it's been a fantastic year all round.

"I'm the Man of Steel and the captain of a fantastic club that's just reached the Challenge Cup final at Wembley and secured a club record third-placed Super League finish.

"On top of that, all the family have loved it over here, and we just can't wait to get back over again!"



Hodgson	OPTA STATS 2009
Position	Full-Back
1	Shirt Number
12	Appearances
5	Tries
5	Try Assists
44	Goals
0	Drop Goals
1403	Metres
218	Carries
71	Tackles
12	Offloads
19	Attacking Kicks
24	Runs from dummy/half
41	Tackle Busts
3	Marker Tackles
6	Clean Breaks
0	40/20's
37	Kicks in general play
11	Missed goals
18	Missed tackles
18	Errors
3	Penalties
0	Red Cards
0	Yellow Cards



# GIANTS OF SUPER LEAGUE!



**Huddersfield Giants have completed a clean sweep of the major engage Super League awards!**

International captain and peaking full-back Brett Hodgson was last night named the Man of Steel while Nathan Brown was crowned engage Super League Coach of the Year and the Giants Super League Club of the Year. All three are massive honours in the game although the coveted Man of Steel collected by 11-year-old Nathan Hodgson is the award that receives the highest attention. The Man of Steel is the player deemed to have made the biggest impact in the Super League season by his peers who vote for the award in a secret ballot.

Hodgson polled more votes than the two other players on the shortlist, Warrington Wolves captain Adrian Morley and St Helens prop James Cullen, to become only the fourth Australian to be crowned Man of Steel since the award was inaugurated in 1977.

With Hodgson getting a highly rated club captain, Huddersfield Giants enjoyed their most

**By CHRIS ROBERTS**  
Rugby League Writer

successful season of the Super League era finishing a best-ever third and reaching the Carnegie Challenge Cup final at Wembley for the first time since 1962.

His success also came on the back of being named the Rugby League Writers Association Player of the Year and taking the full-back spot in this season's Super League Dream Team, alongside teammate and hooker Scott Moore.

Hodgson's award came in his first year in Super League since he flew in from Australia to join Huddersfield at the end of last year.

In winning the Club of the Year award, Huddersfield were praised for making "a significant investment in coaching and talent development in the last 12 months."

"That investment has been reflected in an increasing number of club-trained players being given an opportunity to shine in engage Super League."

**MAN OF STEEL:** Giants captain Brett Hodgson was voted the best player in Super League in 2009

## This is an award for everyone

**By CHRIS ROBERTS**  
Rugby League Writer

**PROUD** chairman Ken Davy believes picking up the engage Super League Club of the Year award is an award for everyone at Huddersfield Giants.

The Giants were named Super League's top club for 2009 at the competition's end-of-season awards night when Giants captain Brett Hodgson was named Man of Steel and Nathan Brown the Coach of the Year.

Huddersfield were handed the club award for making "a significant investment in coaching and talent development in the last 12 months."

"That investment has been reflected in an increasing number of club-trained players being given an opportunity to shine in engage Super League."

And while Davy was delighted his club's efforts have now gained official recognition,

the Galpharm chief believes the Giants must continue to build on the awards and become even stronger.

"To win one award would have been wonderful and two quite outstanding," said Davy.

"But to scoop what are essentially the top three Super League awards is quite simply magnificent!"

"The Club of the Year Award is a much-deserved recognition of all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes, and really is the reward for everyone."

"It is self-evident the award of Coach of the Year is a well-earned tribute to the fantastic job Nathan and his support team have done and, last but not least, we've now got the Man of Steel in Brett Hodgson."

"This accolade is voted for by all the Super League players, and it is a fitting tribute to Brett's standing among his peers that we understand he collected more votes than the other two candidates put together."

Added Davy: "I cannot begin to say how

proud I am of everyone at our great club for these achievements.

"We are on a journey to build the Giants into the premier club in Super League, and on this journey we are passing countless milestones and creating many new records."

"At the Man of Steel awards we passed another very important milestone by naming all three top awards."

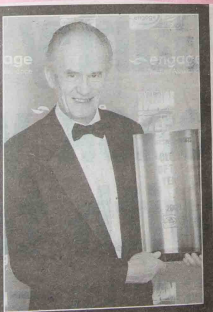
"Let's enjoy every moment of this success and spread the word to all our friends and supporters and urge them to come along and share this fantastic journey with us."

"Then let us prepare for the 2010 season with even more enthusiasm and excitement."

"Season-ticket sales are continuing to go extremely well on the back of the excellent offers we have available."

"Our season tickets are easily the lowest and best value in Super League and you will be watching a top-four team in a magnificent stadium."

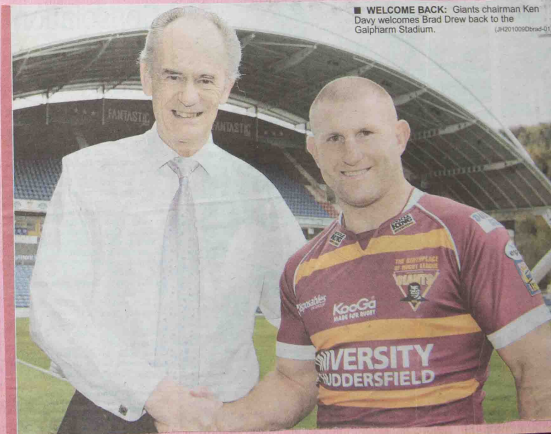
"These continue to be incredibly exciting times for Huddersfield Giants!"



**SO PROUD:** Giants chairman Ken Davy shows off the engage Super League Club of the Year Award trophy



**NEW KID IN TOWN:** Lee Gimour will soon be playing for the Super League club on his doorstep – and he couldn't be happier!



**WELCOME BACK:** Giants chairman Ken Davy welcomes Brad Drew back to the Galpharm Stadium. (L) © 2009 Engage

## I don't want to let anyone down: Drew

**By CHRIS ROBERTS**  
Rugby League Writer

**BRAD DREW** returned to the Galpharm, put on a Giants shirt for the first time in two years and declared: "I'm back home!"

The inspirational Australian hooker has spent the past two seasons at Wakefield Trinity Wildcats.

That came on the back of three successful years at the Giants, the highlight of which was his man-of-the-match performance in Huddersfield's Challenge Cup semi-final triumph over Leeds Rhinos at Odsal in 2006.

And even though the 34-year-old thoroughly enjoyed his time at Trinity, Drew admits coming back to the Giants is his dream move.

"I feel I've come home, it's as simple as that," he announced.

"Re-joining the Giants is like a fairytale for me, and I just hope I don't let anyone down, my playing career here, and that's now going to be the case."

"Don't get me wrong, I had a great time at Wakefield. It proved a good move for me and I left on great terms with everyone, but they all knew that deep down my heart was always in Huddersfield."

# 'I can't wait to get started'

A message to Huddersfield Giants fans from new signing DAVID FA'ALOGO – the New Zealand international back row forward

Hello everyone. I cannot wait to get across and start my new Giants career under Brown's coaching. I have always wanted play in the UK and now I have the opportunity to join a great club – The Huddersfield Giants.

The chance has come when I still feel I am in my best years with plenty of mileage left in me. I have some friends who already play at the club and they have spoken very highly of the team and the town.

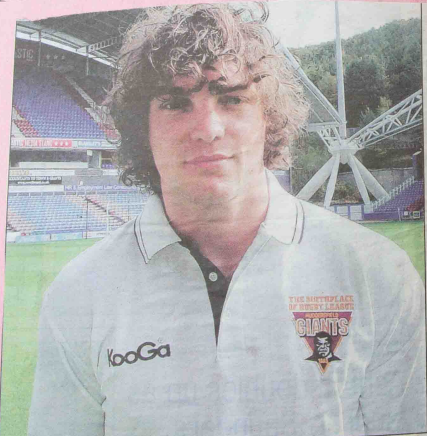
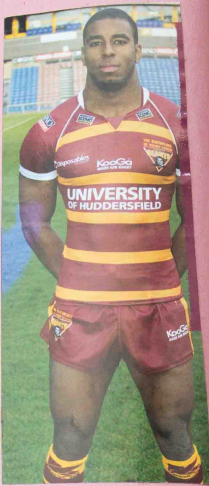
I know that the Giants are riding high at the moment in the league and have a Challenge Cup semi final to get for as well. I just want to help improve what's already there.

It's obvious the side is impressive and I know from over here how good the likes of Brett Hodgson and Paul Whatuira can be on their day. Hopefully I can bring some steel and consistency into the forwards and create some space for the backs to do their job.

I know people say the NRL is different to Super League but my experience shows me if you run harder and tackle harder than your opponent then generally you come out on top.

I want to win while at Huddersfield and play in the big games and I'm happy the club has given me and my family an opportunity to come.

We are planning to move across sometime in December and I hope this paper and the squad we are assembling will tempt you all to buy the season tickets that are so important to the club. I'm really looking forward to coming to Huddersfield and hope to meet you all soon.



■ SCOTT GRIX: the talented Irish international has signed a two-year contract to work under head coach Nathan Brown at the Giants next season. Grix is versatile and highly rated

THE BIRTHPLACE OF RUGBY LEAGUE



- 1 Brett Hodgson**

THE Giants' inspirational captain. The 31-year-old goalkicking full-back crowned his season by being named the Man of Steel.


- 2 Leroy Cudjoe**


ESTABLISHED himself in the Giants' first-team in 2009, and the 21-year-old ex-Newome Panther should have another big year.


- 3 Jamahl Loles**

JAMMER has been the model of consistency in his three seasons at the Giants, with the 28-year-old handed a new two-year extension.


- 4 Paul Whatuira**


THE 28-year-old former Kiwi ace will be looking to maintain the form he has shown in his first two seasons in the claret and gold.


- 5 David Hodgson**

THE 28-year-old Great Britain winger finished as the club's top scorer and the third top in Super League last season with 18 tries.


- 6 Kevin Brown**

CEMENTING his position at stand-off with a superb 2009 campaign, the 25-year-old is expected to get even better.


- 7 Luke Robinson**

THE 25-year-old scrum half finished 2009 season with seven tries from an ever-present 33 appearances and will again be a potent threat.



## Quality and depth of squad hold key for Giants – Brown

By CHRIS ROBERTS  
Rugby League Writer  
chris.roberts@examnews.co.uk

GIANTS coach Nathan Brown is confident he has the squad to maintain a stronger Super League challenge in 2010.

His Huddersfield side enjoyed a remarkable last season when they finished a club record third in Super League and reached the Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

But their campaign lost all of its momentum in the final weeks of the season, culminating in two play-off defeats.

At the heart of those reverses was a lack of quality manpower, with injuries to a number of key players taking their toll.

As a result, Brown has added more depth to his squad to help cover for any potential losses this time around, as well as recruited several established stars to make sure the Giants' success story continues.

"I think we're all looking forward to getting under way."

signed an international back-row duo Lee Gilmour from St Helens and South Sydney star David Fa'alogo.

Also arriving are Scott Grix from Wakefield and Graeme Hogg from Hull FC, while Brad Drew is back at Huddersfield for a second spell after he also left Wakefield.

And Brown has declared himself well satisfied with his squad and firmly believes they are well placed to push on.

"We feel we have a better squad and were in a stronger position than a year ago with the systems we introduced last year," he said.

"As well as some top-quality new signings we've also got some very exciting young players like Michael Lawrence and Leroy Cudjoe, and more behind them coming through.

"We've got more depth in our back row and in the halves, and that could be crucial when the physical demands on our squad begin to challenge you."

"I think we're all looking forward to getting under way."

- 11 Lee Gilmour**

A MASSIVE new signing from St Helens, the 31-year-old ex-Great Britain back-rower's winning pedigree will prove decisive.


- 12 David Fa'alogo**

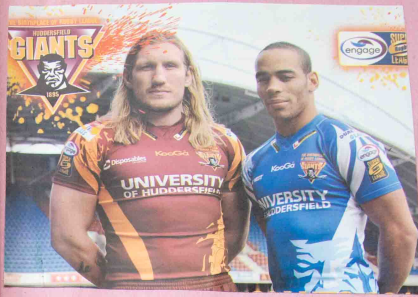
THE 29-year-old played a starring role for New Zealand in their 2008 World Cup triumph and his aggression will be of huge benefit.



- |           |   |           |  |
|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Earl Crabtree</b><br>AS THE biggest man in Super League, the 27-year-old will again make a big impact on the back of his England Four Nations heroics.         | <b>26</b> | <b>Kyle Wood</b><br>HAVING just joined from Sheffield, the 26-year-old half-back is going on loan to Batley.                         |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Shaun Lunt</b><br>THE former Workington part-timer shot to prominence in 2009 with 12 tries from 21 appearances and the 22-year-old is one of the top hookers. | <b>27</b> | <b>Jermaine McGillvary</b><br>AFTER spending last year at Batley, the 21-year-old winger will be looking for a big season back home. |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Keith Mason</b><br>NAMED the Coaches Player of the Year in 2006, the 28-year-old is one of the top mid-fielders and the toughest prop in the game.             | <b>28</b> | <b>Gregg McNally</b><br>THE 19-year-old former Whitehaven scrum half will be hoping this will be his breakthrough season.            |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Darrell Griffin</b><br>THE 25-year-old England international's explosive heart of his side's efforts.  | <b>29</b> | <b>Alex Brown</b><br>THE third player to go on loan at Batley, the 22-year-old winger will look to make a big impact.                |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Danny Kirmmond</b><br>AFTER missing out on Wembley with a knee injury, the 26-year-old will want a big season.   | <b>30</b> | <b>Adam Walker</b><br>A HIGHLY promising prop, the 19-year-old is tipped to make a big impression in Super League.                   |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Stephen Wild</b><br>A FORMER Wigan favourite, the 28-year-old Great Britain ace will be hoping for another top year after undergoing knee surgery.             | <b>31</b> | <b>Elliot Hodgson</b><br>THE 19-year-old full-back shot to fame with a Sky TV man-of-the-match display at St Helens last year.       |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Simon Finnigan</b><br>RENOWNED for his hard-working ethic and uncanny eye for the tryline, the 28-year-old Ireland star is in his second season.               | <b>32</b> | <b>Jacob Fairbank</b><br>A NEPHEW of former GB star Karl, the 18-year-old is desperate to follow in his illustrious footsteps.       |
| <b>15</b> | <b>Andy Raleigh</b><br>A MODEL of consistency, the Huddersfield-born 28-year-old is relishing the move from second row to prop forward.                           | <b>33</b> | <b>Graeme Horne</b><br>THE 24-year-old utility ace is poised to prove a point following his release from hometown club Hull FC.      |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Martin Aspinwall</b><br>THE 26-year-old has made a successful switch from Great Britain winger to Super League back-rower.                                     |           |  |
| <b>17</b> | <b>Larne Patrick</b><br>HAVING just signed a two-year extension, the 21-year-old forward is tipped for big things.  |           |  |
| <b>18</b> | <b>Josh Griffin</b><br>THE talented centre and brother of Darrell, the 19-year-old will spend this season on loan at Batley.                                      |           |  |
| <b>19</b> | <b>Keal Carlile</b><br>THE 19-year-old England Academy hooker will be looking to build on his two senior call-ups in 2009.  |           |  |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Brad Drew</b><br>BACK at the club for a second spell, the popular 34-year-old is a very welcome addition.  |           |  |
| <b>21</b> | <b>Scott Grix</b><br>AN NEW arrival from Wakefield, the 25-year-old Ireland star's utility value should prove crucial.  |           |  |
| <b>22</b> | <b>Michael Lawrence</b><br>THE 19-year-old former Newcastle junior is one of the brightest prospects in the game.   |           |  |
| <b>23</b> | <b>David Faijumo</b><br>BOASTING one of the best side-steps in the game, the 28-year-old Kiwi should start once again.  |           |  |



WELCOME TO THE NEW BOYS: Huddersfield Giants new signings for Super League XV line up at the Galpharm Stadium ahead of tomorrow's big top-flight opener at home to Bradford Bulls. The new faces are (from left): Kyle Wood, David Faijumo, Brad Drew, Lee Gillmour, Graeme Horne and Scott Grix. Picture by Paul Welch (pw271104@huffpost.co.uk)



MAIN MEN: the arrival of international back-rowers David Faijumo (left) and Lee Gillmour has added to the quality of the Giants squad for Super League XV. They are ready to make their debuts against Bradford Bulls at the Galpharm tonight. (pw271104@huffpost.co.uk)





■ **HANDS OFF:** Giants forward Andy Ralfe repels the attentions of the Bradford defence during the victory at the Galpharm

**MATCH DOSSIER**

Giants ... 24

Tries: Cudjoe (8 mins, 16), Lunt (23), Falalogo (24)  
Goals: B Hodgson 4 from 5  
Scrum: won: 4  
Penalties conceded: 12  
Sin-bin: Robinson (48)  
Holding down: Gilmour (64) obstruction.

Bulls ... 12

Tries: Beardon (35, 66), Sheriffe (38)  
Goals: Sykes 0 from 3  
Scrum: won: 5  
Penalties conceded: 8.

**MATCH DOSSIER**

Hull ... 14

Tries: Tickle (6 minutes), Hall (26)  
Goals: Tickle 3 from 3  
Scrum: won: 8  
Penalties conceded: 7  
Drop-outs: 0.

Giants ... 6

Try: Grix (44 minutes)  
Goal: Cudjoe 1 from 1  
Scrum: won: 9  
Penalties conceded: 10  
Drop-outs: 4.



■ **HANDS ON:** Hull FC's Mark O'Meley battles with Huddersfield Giants duo David Falumu and Lee Gilmour

Pictures: John Rushworth



■ **NO CHANCE:** Hull Kingston Rovers' Jason Netherton gets dumped by Huddersfield Giants' Jamahl Loles in a perfect illustration of the visitors' defensive effort to keep a clean sheet at Craven Park, where they ran in six tries and dominated after a stunning first-half show

Pictures by John Rushworth

**MATCH DOSSIER**

Hull KR... 0

Tries: 0  
Goals: 0  
Scrum: won: 9  
Penalties conceded: 3  
Drop-outs: 4.

Giants ... 30

Tries: Lunt 7, D Hodgson 23, 55 & 74, Patrick 28, Cudjoe 11  
Goal: B Hodgson 3 from 6  
Scrum: won: 7  
Penalties conceded: 7  
Drop-outs: 1.



Action replay

### Giants... 10

Tries: Brown (5),  
Whitburn (5),  
Goals: B Hodgson 1  
from 2.  
Scrummings won: 5.  
Penalties conceded: 9.  
Drop-outs: 2.  
On report: Lawrence  
(6 times, spear tackle).

### Wolves ...14

Tries: King (3 & 29),  
Hicks (65).  
Goals: Myler 1 from 3.  
Scrummings won: 4.  
Penalties conceded: 8.  
Drop-outs: 1.



Pictures by Andrew Catchpool (AC283019@giants.co.uk)

■ TAKING THEM ON: Giants prop Eari Crabtree tries to dodge Warrington's Mickey Higham



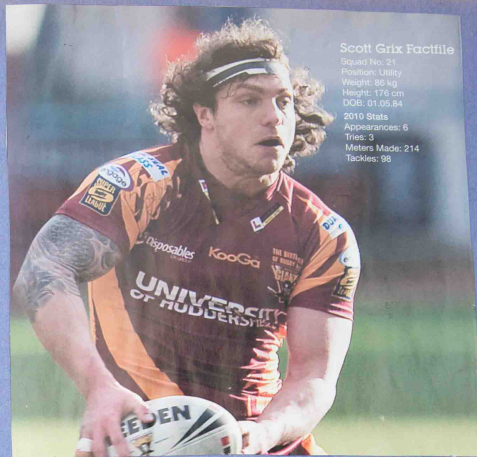
■ WE'RE ON THE WAY: David Fa'alogo celebrates the first of the Giants' 10 tries in his side's big 52-0 Super League triumph at Wakefield Wildcats, with delighted teammates Shaun Lunt and Martin Aspinwall the first on the scene to offer their congratulations  
Pictures by Paul Welch (PW002310@giants.co.uk)

### Wildcats... 0

Tries: 0.  
Goals: 0.  
Scrummings won: 5.  
Penalties conceded: 3.  
Drop-outs: 1.

### Giants... 52

Tries: Fa'alogo (6),  
Whitburn (6), Aspinwall  
(2), Cudjoe (23), Grix  
(32 & 68), Gilmour  
(44), D Hodgson (62),  
Patrick (73), Lunt (78).  
Goals: Cudjoe 6 from  
10.  
Scrummings won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 6.  
Drop-outs: 2.



### Scott Grix Profile

Squad No: 21  
Position: Utility  
Weight: 89 kg  
Height: 176 cm  
DOB: 01/05/94  
2010 Stats  
Appearances: 6  
Tries: 3  
Meters Made: 214  
Tackles: 98

### MATCH DOSSIER

#### Giants... 6

Try: Grix (49).  
Goals: B Hodgson 1  
from 1.  
Scrummings won: 5.  
Penalties conceded: 10.  
Drop-outs: 0.

#### Saints ... 24

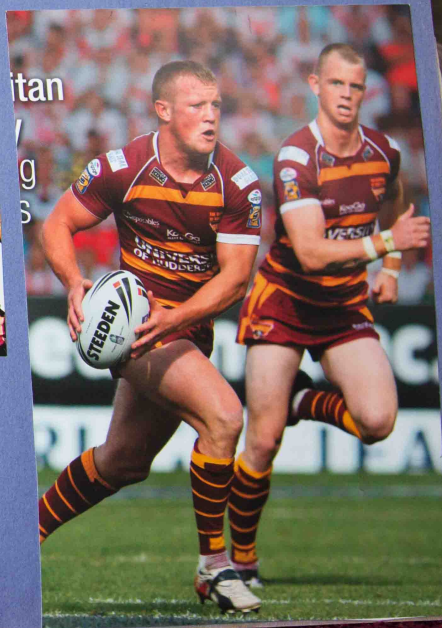
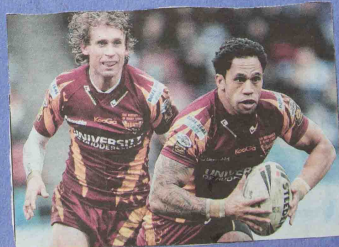
Tries: Mell (6 & 16),  
Graham (67),  
Eastmond (71).  
Goals: Eastmond 4  
from 5.  
Scrummings won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 8.  
Drop-outs: 1.



■ HELD UP: Giants' Andy Raleigh is stopped by Saints' Bryn Hargreaves



Claret and Gold caught up with interim Martin Apperall whose match-winning try against Leeds Rhinos helped secure a historic victory for the Saints.





Danny Brough is a Giant until the end of the 2014 Super League season!

**MATCH DOSSIER**  
Giants... 48

Tries: Fahuu (5), Gilmour (1), Brough (23 & 59), D Hodgson (28 & 85), Brown (33), Cudjoe (62), B Hodgson (78).  
Goals: B Hodgson 6 from 9.  
Scrums won: 4.  
Penalties conceded: 2.  
Drop-outs: 2.

Dragons .. 6  
Try: Pelo (49).  
Goals: Barthau 1 from 1.  
Scrums won: 9.  
Penalties conceded: 3.  
Drop-outs: 3.

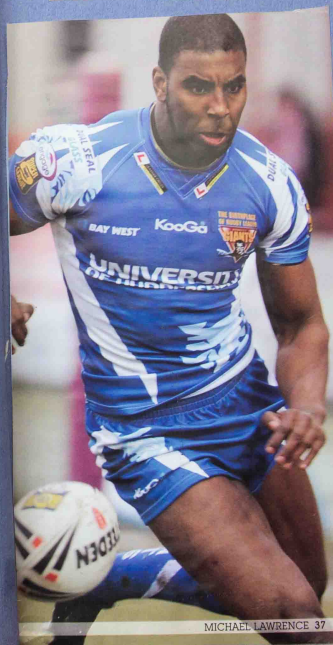


**TOP MOMENT:** Danny Brough prepares to plant the ball down over the line to score his second try in the big win over Catalans Dragons, which took his side back up to third in the Super League table.  
*Pictures by Julian Hughes*

Brough is tops as Giants sparkle



**■ THAT'S BRILLIANT:** Shaun Lunt (left) and David Fahuu congratulate No34 Danny Brough on his second try during last night's 48-6 Super League victory over Catalans Dragons at the Galpharm.  
*Picture by Julian Hughes*



MICHAEL LAWRENCE 37



**MATCH DOSSIER**  
Salford .. 30

Tries: Sidlow (4), Gibson (34), Holdsworth (41), Tyrer (63).  
Goals: Holdsworth 7 from 7.  
Scrums won: 9.  
Penalties conceded: 6.  
Drop-outs: 0.

Giants .... 18

Tries: Hodgson (58), Patrick (67), Cudjoe (73), Whaitira (78).  
Goals: Brough 1 from 4.  
Scrums won: 12.  
Penalties conceded: 8.  
Drop-outs: 1.



■ **IT'S AS EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE:** Giants wingman David Hodgson puts Castleford to the sword last night with his first (top), second (middle) and third (above) tries at the Galpharm last night in the 24-0 win  
 Pictures by Julian Hughes | LHM001100 games 02, 06 & 08

### Giants ... 24

Tries: D Hodgson (14, 45 & 56), Lolest (68).  
 Goals: B Hodgson 4 from 4.  
 Scrums won: 10.  
 Penalties conceded: 11.  
 Drop-outs: 0.

### Tigers .... 0

Tries: 0.  
 Goals: 0.  
 Scrums won: 10.  
 Penalties conceded: 5.  
 Drop-outs: 3.

### Giants... 26

Tries: Lunt (11), Gilmour (15), Patrok (48), Aspinwall (63).  
 Goals: Cudjoe 5 from 5.  
 Scrums won: 8.  
 Penalties conceded: 8.  
 Drop-outs: 0.  
 Sin-binning: Raleigh (fighting, 44mins).

### Rhinos ... 20

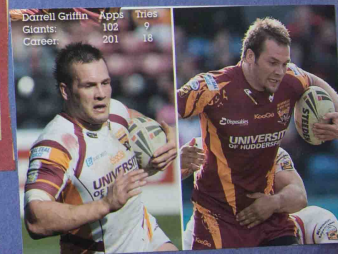
Tries: Burrow (28), McGuire (37), Hall (39).  
 Goals: Burrow 4 from 3.  
 Scrums won: 11.  
 Penalties conceded: 11.  
 Drop-outs: 1.  
 Sin-binning: Lautiti (fighting, 44mins).



■ **IN THE SHADE:** Leeds' Brent Webb is smothered by the eager Giants



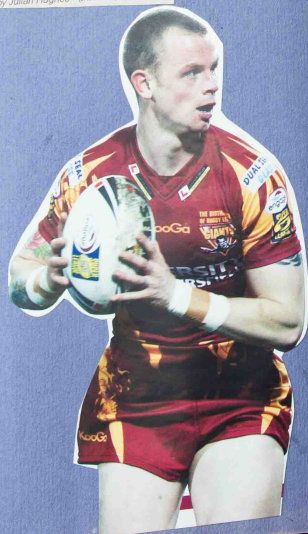
■ **YOU BEAUTY:** David Falgout (left) leads the celebrations as Martin Aspinwall scores the match-winning try against Leeds Rhinos yesterday  
 Picture by Peter Cottle | PLS124200 games 21



Darrell Griffin	Apps	Tries
Giants	102	9
Career	201	19



Congratulations to Darrell Griffin on making his 100th Giants appearance against Warrington Wolves and his 200th Career appearance against Bradford Bulls recently



**MATCH DOSSIER**

**Quins... 18**

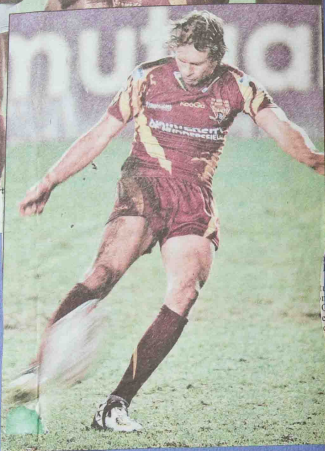
Tries: Randall (89),  
Melling (62), Cubb  
(63)  
Goals: Orr 3 from 3.  
Scrums won: 5.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 0.

**Giants ... 32**

Tries: Cilmour (3),  
Cudjoe (7, 35 & 43),  
Crabtree (49), Home  
(50)  
Goals: B Hodgson 4  
from 7.  
Scrums won: 4.  
Penalties conceded: 3.  
Drop-outs: 1.



■ **IN THE POINTS:** Leroy Cudjoe (above) is congratulated by his teammates on completing his hat trick of tries, while Brett Hodgson (right) lands one of his four goals in the win at Harlequins



**Giants ... 40**

Tries: Lolesi (14),  
Fa'alofoa (26 & 74),  
Robinson (28), D  
Hodgson (35), Brough  
(66), Aspinwall (77)  
Goals: B Hodgson 6  
from 7.  
Scrums won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 3.

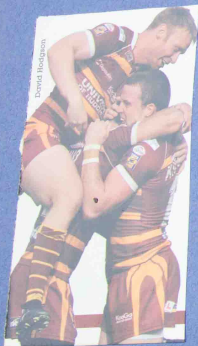
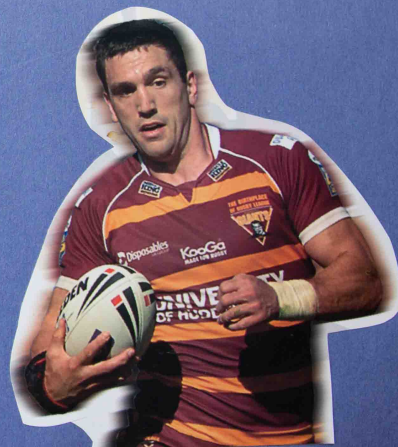
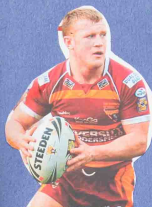
**Rovers ... 12**

Tries: Webster (55),  
Briscoe (68)  
Goals: Dobson 2 from  
2.  
Scrums won: 9.  
Penalties conceded: 8.  
Drop-outs: 3.



■ **SPRINT FINISH:** Danny Brough outpaces the Hull KR defence to score in yesterday's 40-12 Cup success at the Galpham

LINCOLN



**36**

**Brett Hodgson**

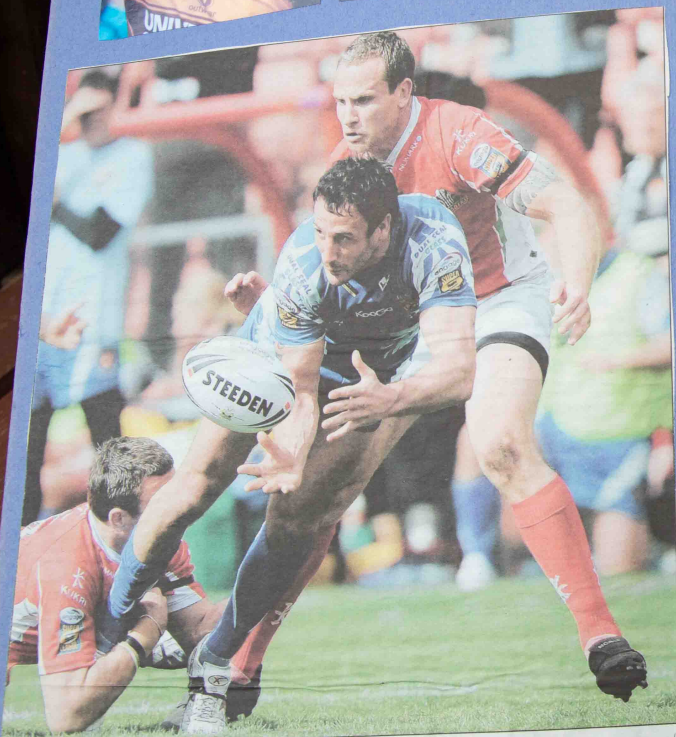
The Giants skipper has urged his teammates to keep their feet on the ground ahead of the start of the new Super League season.



CLARET & GOLD



action



SLEIGHT OF HAND: Giants' Lee Gilmour gets the ball away under pressure from the Crusaders defence

**MATCH DOSSIER**  
Crusaders. 10

Tries: Hauraki (23),  
Dyer (66).  
Goals: Witt 1 from 2.  
Scrum: won: 10  
Penalties conceded: 6.  
Drop-outs: 0.

Giants ... 38

Tries: Brown (3), D  
Hodgson (7, 72, 78),  
Cudjoe (38), Grix (46),  
Drew (63).  
Goals: Brough 5 from  
7.  
Scrum: won: 5.  
Penalties conceded: 6.  
Drop-outs: 1.



WELCOME SIGHT: fit-again  
Giants hooker Brad Drew throws out a  
pass during a highly-successful return  
to action following surgery to his left  
knee at the end of last season  
Picture by Julian Murgess  
© 2010 GFL Group



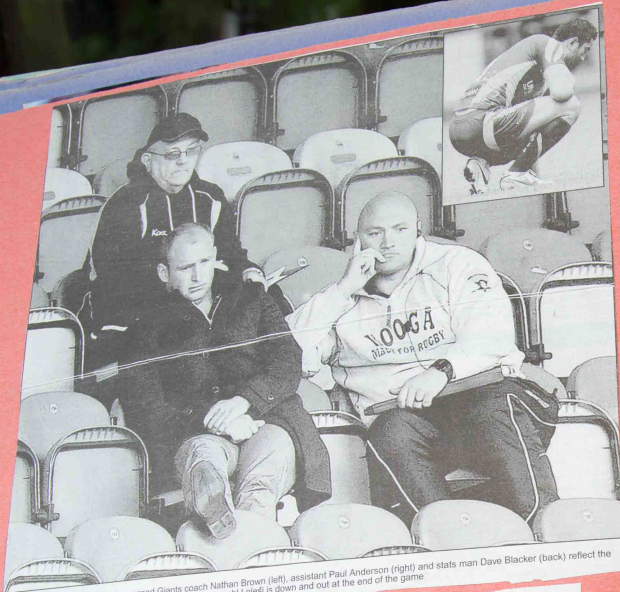
Michael Lawrence looks on as Graeme Horne is caught by the Wigan defence

**MATCH DOSSIER**  
Giants... 10

Tries: Gilmour (16),  
Craibtree (73).  
Goals: Brough 1 from 2.  
Scrum: won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 6.  
Drop-outs: 0.

Wigan ... 28

Tries: Goulding (20), S  
Tomkins (45), Pryce  
(48), Carmont (54),  
Leulua'i (65).  
Goals: Richards 1 from  
2, Riddell 1 from 1, S  
Tomkins 2 from 2.  
Scrum: won: 6.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 2.



REASONS TO BE GLUM: Concerned Giants coach Nathan Brown (left), assistant Paul Anderson (right) and stats man Dave Blacker (back) reflect the mood during the Cup defeat to Warrington, while (inset) Jamahl Loleisa is down and out at the end of the game

## Cup embarrassment for Giants



THE ONE MOMENT TO SAVOUR: Richard Mathers can't stop Martin Aspinwall scoring a try, who is then quickly congratulated by Giants teammates  
Pictures by John Rushworth

### MATCH DOSSIER

Giants ... 4

Try: Aspinwall (43).  
Goals: Brough 0 from 1

Scrum: won 10.  
Penalties conceded: 9.  
Drop-outs: 2.

Wolves .. 60

Tries: Atkins (14),  
Bridge (18, 33, 47, 52  
& 56), Myler (22),  
Hicks (28, 65 & 71),  
Riley (59), Higham  
(68).

Goals: Westwood 3  
from 7, Briers 3 from 6.

Scrum: won 2.  
Penalties conceded: 4.  
Drop-outs: 1.



# MY LAST SEASON

Brown to quit this year but vows: I'll go out on a high!

DEPARTING coach Nathan Brown is pledging to bring silverware to the Giants before leaving at the end of the season.

By CHRIS ROBERTS  
Sally League Writer  
chris.roberts@examiner.co.uk

The 36-year-old former St George Dragons coach has announced he will be returning to Australia at the end of the 2010 Super League season for family reasons. That will bring the curtain down on a highly successful two years at the helm when he helped the Giants to a club-record third-place Super League finish and a first Challenge Cup final appearance at Wembley last year.

But Brown's decision to quit comes at a worrying time for the Giants. The imminent departure of the current Super League Coach of the Year comes just a couple of weeks after it was announced reigning Super League Man of Steel Brett Hodgson will be joining Warrington Wolves on a two-year deal for 2011 after the Giants only offered him a one-season extension.

Brown's news also comes just days after Huddersfield suffered their humiliating 60-4 Challenge Cup fifth-round home defeat at the hands of hokies Warrington, who beat the Giants 25-16 in last season's Wembley final.

But Brown still believes his club can secure success before he returns home. "Nothing would give me more pleasure than to reward the chairman, board and fans of this great club with a trophy," he said. "I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to come here and I think the club has made huge strides forwards in my short time here and can continue to do so."

Why I'm quitting - Page 48



HEADING HOME: Giants coach Nathan Brown wants to make an impact before he quits the club



GOOD TIMES: David Hodgson dives in for his hat-trick try, while Eorl Crabtree crashes over by the posts (below)  
Pictures by John Rushworth

GOING NOWHERE: Giants' Eorl Crabtree is that out by Warrington Wolves's Paul Wood, Michael Monaghan and Vinus Anderson



**MATCH DOSSIER**

**Wolves .. 36**  
Tries: Morley (5 mins), Bridge (20), Riley (22)  
Kicks: (36, 47), King (55), Wood (79)  
Goals: Bridge (4 from 8)  
Scrum: won: 9  
Penalties conceded: 7  
Drop-outs: 1  
Sin-bin: Riley (holding down, 1 min)

**Giants .. 20**  
Tries: Robinson (2 mins), Cudjoe (26, 68), Lolesi (62)  
Goals: B Hodgson (2 from 4)  
Scrum: won: 8  
Penalties conceded: 12  
Drop-outs: 1  
Sin-bin: Gilmour (grapple tackle, 54 mins)

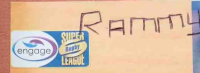
MAN IN FORM: Keith Mason has earned praise off coach Nathan Brown for the way he played on the 100th Giants appearance against Wigan at Murrayfield



**MATCH DOSSIER**

**Giants ... 30**  
Tries: Cudjoe (8), D Hodgson (17, 36 & 64), Whatura (27), Crabtree (80)  
Goals: B Hodgson 3 from 6  
Scrum: won: 3  
Penalties conceded: 15  
Drop-outs: 0  
On-report: Keith Mason (Late challenge)

**Wigan .. 38**  
Tries: J Tomkins (1 & 43), Carmont (13), Goulding (38 & 69), Coley (48)  
Goals: Richards 7 from 8  
Scrum: won: 6  
Penalties conceded: 10  
Drop-outs: 1  
Sin-binning: J Tomkins (high tackle), Coley (holding down)



**Huddersfield Giants 26**  
**Leeds Rhinos 20**  
Empire Super League Round 6  
Sunday 14th March 2010  
The Galpham Stadium  
Half Time score: 12-18

**Huddersfield Giants:** Curdie, Loleli, Lawrence, Wild, D Hodgson, Brown, Robinson, Paterson, Lunt, Giffis, Gilmour, Falalago, Woodhead  
**Leeds Rhinos:** Crabtree, Patrick, Falalago, Gra Tait, Lunt, Gilmour, Patrick, Ashwell  
Goals: Cudjoe (5)

**Leeds Rhinos:** Webb, Hall, Delaney, Sinton, Walters, McKinn, Barrow, Leake, Burrows, Bailey, Peacock, Kiva, Jones-Buchanan  
**Referee:** Diakin, Burgess, Luzzi, Pitts  
**Time:** McGuire, Burrows, Hall  
**Goals:** Sinton (4)  
**Referee:** Richard Silverwood. Attendance: 10,116  
**Man of the Match:** David Falalago

**What they said...**

**Nathan Brown**  
"It was good to beat a side of Leeds quality, the most pleasing thing was that we found another gear at half-time. I thought their last 15 minutes of the first half they were physically a bit better than us and that was reflected in the scoreboard. We came out in the second half and physically we responded really well. I don't think we would have won that game 15 months earlier. We are definitely improving, which is a key for us, now we probably need to maintain some consistency.  
"I think we have definitely added some more depth to our squad. David Falalago is a world class player. We brought him here for a reason, he's a big strong guy and he's physical. Lee Gilmour is a quality player too. The new players we have brought in have definitely helped us and our existing players have improved, whether it be rugby league wise or in a physical sense, and the confidence and belief has improved."



**Brian McClennan**  
"We started slowly out of the blocks and they got a jump on us. However, we responded well after that and went in front at half time. But we did not make the most of our opportunities and Huddersfield asserted the win on the balance of play in the final quarter.  
"Every team is going to have their runs during the season and I am sure that once we get things going we will have our runs. Every club has strengthened this year and the challenge is that much greater but that is what we love about this game and our competition."



**MATCH DOSSIER**  
Bulls ... 6

Try: Manzi (70).  
Goal: Sykes (from 1).  
Scrum won: 9.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 2.

Giants .. 52

Tries: Colthur (6), D Hodgeson (16 & 17), McIlvray (18 & 30), Cudhoe (22), Robinson (59), B Hodgeson (64), Griffin (81).  
Goals: B Hodgeson 8 from 3.  
Scrum won: 5.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 3.



■ **LEADING THE RACE:** Giants' stand-off Kevin Brown starts another run, leaving Bradford Bulls' Chris Nero stranded on the deck and, inset, debutant Jermaine McIlvray slides in for his first try in Super League  
*Pictures by John Bushworth*

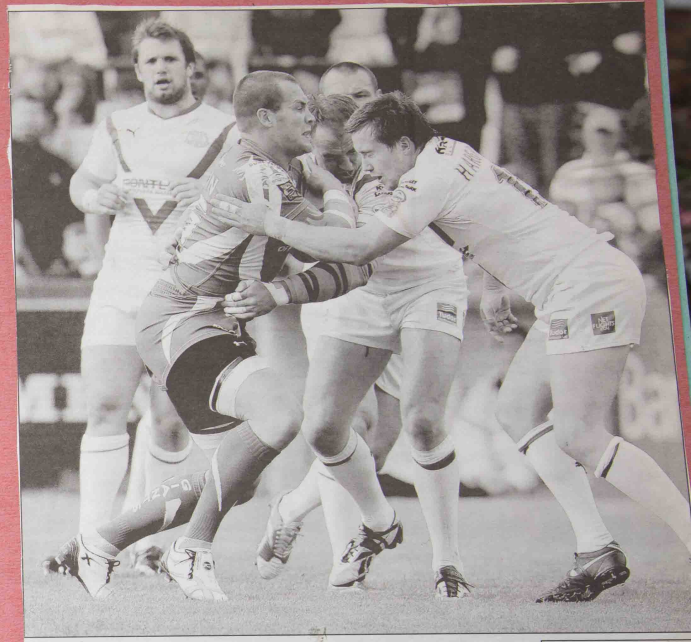


**MATCH DOSSIER**  
Saints ... 30

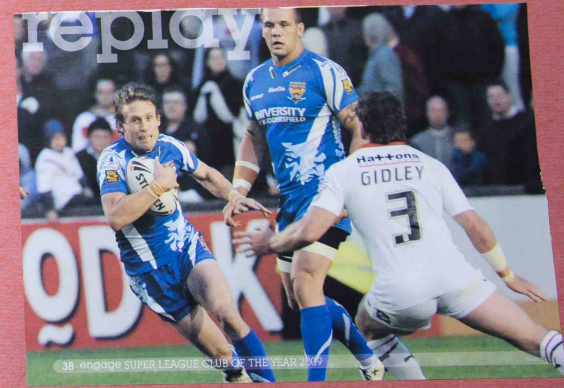
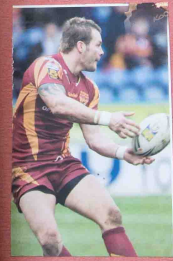
Tries: Gidley (10), Wheeler (14), Puletua (22), Fozzard (46), Dixon (71).  
Goals: Foster 5 from 6.  
Scrum won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 9.  
Drop-outs: 0.

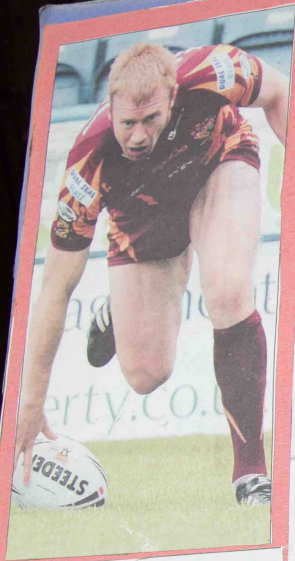
Giants .. 22

Tries: Falumu (17), GILMOUR (38), Grix (38) Cudhoe (62).  
Goals: B Hodgeson 3 from 4.  
Scrum won: 6.  
Penalties conceded: 8.  
Drop-outs: 1.

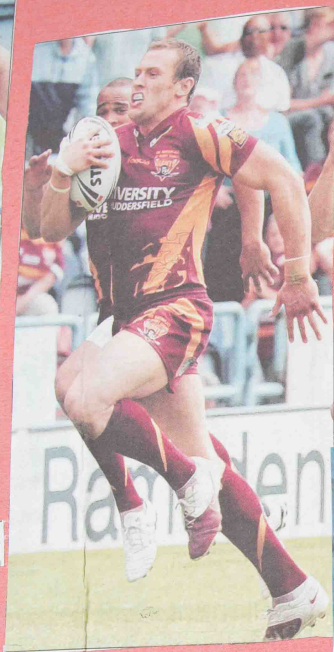


■ **DRIVING IN:** Darrell Griffin hits the Saints defence  
*Pictures: John Bushworth*





■ **GOLDEN MOMENTS:** David Hodgson (above) touches down for the Giants' opening try, while Shaun Lunt (right) races away for the last to seal a glittering Super League win over Hull



### MATCH DOSSIER

Giants ... 32

Tries: D Hodgson (36), Brown (45), Cudjoe (53), Lolesi (67), Lunt (71).  
Goals: B Hodgson 6 from 6.  
Scrums won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 0.

Hull KR .. 18

Tries: Turner (8), Manu (22), Yeaman (27).  
Goals: Tickle 3 from 3.  
Scrums won: 6.  
Penalties conceded: 15.



■ **WELL DONE:** Leroy Cudjoe, Kevin Brown, Brad Drew and Michael Lawrence celebrate Huddensfield's second try



■ **FACE TO FACE:** Giants Keith Mason sizes up a challenge with Hull KR's Joel Clinton



### MATCH DOSSIER

#### Tigers ... 44

Tries: Hubby (2), Chase (2), Smith, McCarrick, Dixon.  
Goals: Westernman 6 from 6, Dixon 2 from 2.

Scrummings won: 5  
Penalties conceded: 8  
Drop-outs: 1.

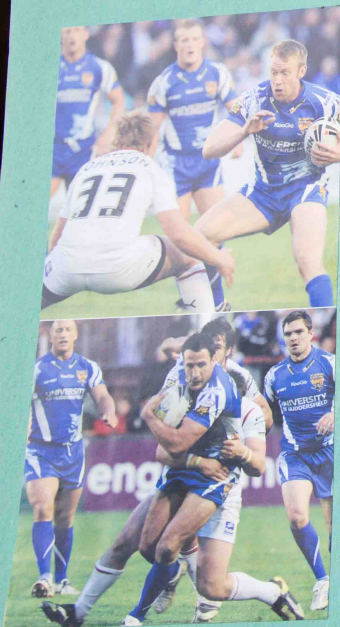
#### Giants .. 18

Tries: Lunt (2), Cudjoe, Lolesi.  
Goals: B Hodgson 1 from 4.

Scrummings won: 6  
Penalties conceded: 10  
Drop-outs: 3.



■ DUMPED: Giants star Brett Hodgson gets the treatment from the Castleford defence



### MATCH DOSSIER

#### Giants ... 30

Tries: Lunt (20), Wild (32), McIlivray (34 & 78), Lawrence (44), Brown (75).  
Goals: B Hodgson 2 from 3, Brough 1 from 3.

Scrummings won: 7  
Penalties conceded: 13  
Drop-outs: 0.

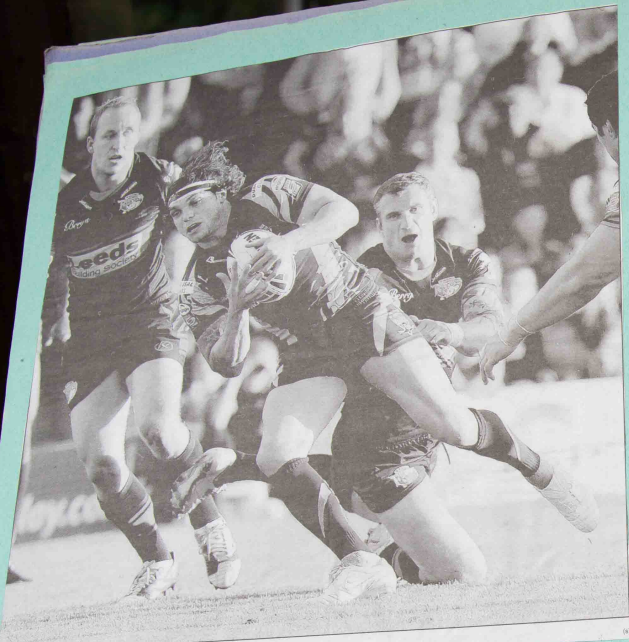
#### Crus .. 12

Tries: Sammut (27), Hauraki (59).  
Goals: Schifcofske 2 from 2.

Scrummings won: 10  
Penalties conceded: 10  
Drop-outs: 5.



■ TOP MARKS: Giants' centre Michael Lawrence (right) celebrates scoring his fourth try during yesterday's victory against Crusaders at the Galpharm Stadium, which moved them back up to sixth. Pictures by John...



■ BREAKING THROUGH: Giants' full back Scott Grix stretches the Rhinos cover

### MATCH DOSSIER

#### Rhinos ... 21

Tries: Clarkson (15), Hall (52), McGuire (78).  
Goals: Sinfield 4 from 4, Drop goal: Sinfield.  
Scrummings won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 0.

#### Giants ... 20

Tries: Lurt (24), D Hodgson (42, 46), Patrick (74).  
Goals: Brough 1 from 3, Cudjoe 1 from 1.  
Scrummings won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 2.  
Sin-bin: Griffin



### MATCH DOSSIER

#### Giants ... 40

Tries: McGillivray (3 & 75), Brown (25), Finnigan (43), Lawrence (47), Grix (52), D Hodgson (54), Brough (62).  
Goals: Brough 4 from 7, Cudjoe 0 from 1.  
Scrummings won: 13.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 2.

#### Quins ... 4

Try: Dorn (39).  
Goals: Purdham 0 from 1.  
Scrummings won: 9.  
Penalties conceded: 6.  
Drop-outs: 2.

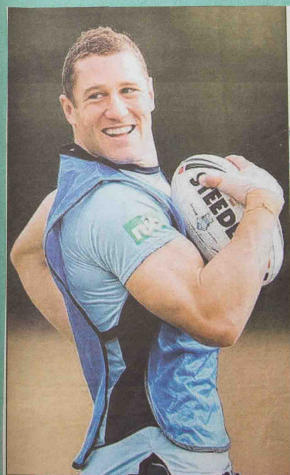
### Darrell Griffin Factfile

Squad No: 16  
Position: Prop  
Weight: 114kg  
Height: 193cm  
DOB: 19 June 1981

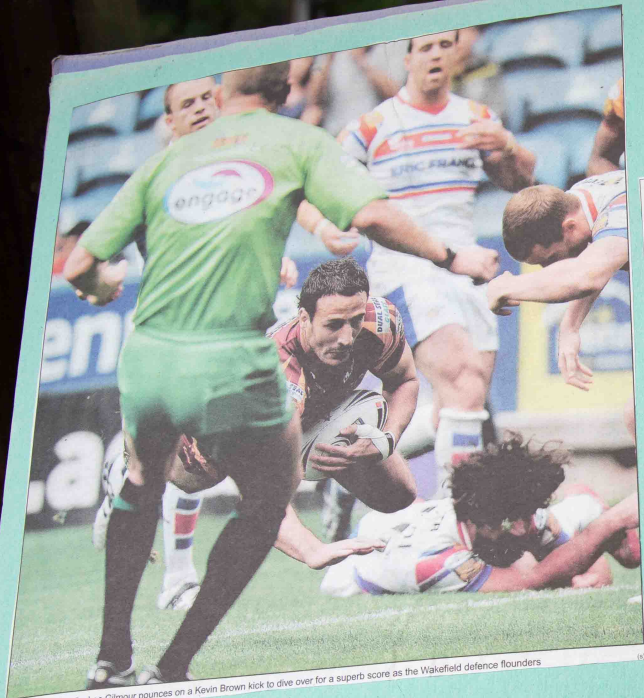
2010 Giants Stats  
Appearances: 8  
Tries: 0  
Meters Made: 721  
Tackles: 144



Chance to make a Giant impact is so exciting for Aussie Test star Luke



■ SO EXCITED: former Australia Test back rower Luke O'Donnell can't wait to test himself in Super League with the Giants



■ QUICK THINKING: Lee Gilmour pounces on a Kevin Brown kick to dive over for a superb score as the Wakefield defence founders

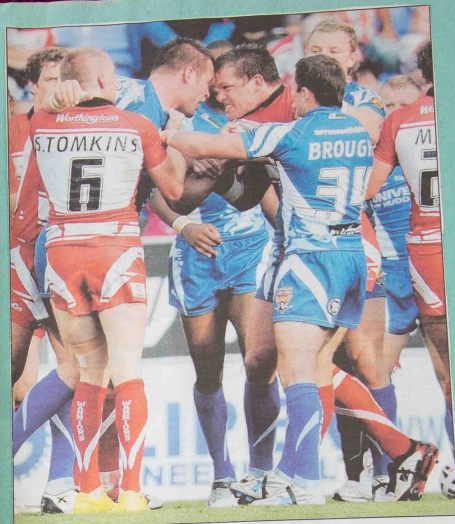
### MATCH DOSSIER

Giants ... 58

Tries: D Hodgson, McGillivray, Cudjoe (2), Gilmour, Griffin, Lunt, Brough, Grix, Horne.  
Goals: Brough 9 from 10.  
Scrums won: 10.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 1.

Trinity .. 6

Try: Gleeson.  
Goal: Jeffries 1 from 1.  
Scrums won: 7.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 1.



■ HEAD-TO-HEAD: Giants' Darrell Griffin and Wigan Warriors' Stuart Fielden at the DW Stadium

### MATCH DOSSIER

Wigan ... 16

Tries: Pryce, J Tomkins, S Tomkins.  
Goals: Richards 2 from 3.  
Scrums won: 8.  
Penalties conceded: 5.  
Drop-outs: 1.  
Sin-bin: Fielden (fighting 15 mins)

Giants ... 18

Tries: Cudjoe 2, Robinson.  
Goal: Hodgson 3 from 3.  
Scrums won: 12.  
Penalties conceded: 7.  
Drop-outs: 2.  
Sin-bin: Brown (obstruction 14 mins), Mason (fighting 15 mins).



■ NOT THE BEST OF FRIENDS: A mass fight breaks out midway through the first half (above), while Warriors' Harrison Hansen is halted by Giants Lee Gilmour and Michael Lawrence (left) and Huddersfield skipper Brett Hodgson (below) tries to evade Wigan's George Carmon



■ WELL DONE: Shaun Lunt with Danny Brough after he scored against his old club

**MATCH DOSSIER**

Giants ... 52

Tries: Brought (6), Wild (29), Pritchard (32), Fakuni (43 & 54), Brown (41), Pritchard (40), Horne (67), Gilmore (72)  
Goals: B Hodgson 8 from 5  
Scrummings won: 5  
Penalties conceded: 5  
Drop-outs: 0

Salford ... 4

Try: Broughton (80)  
Goals: Fryer 0 from 1  
Scrummings won: 11  
Penalties conceded: 10



■ ON THE ATTACK: Huddersfield Giants' back-row forward Stephen Wild offloads close to the line in the demolition of Salford City Reds, the team he will be joining next season. Wild showed exactly what they'll be getting in a try-scoring performance  
Pictures by John Rushworth



■ SIX OF THE BEST: Giants players (from left) Eorl Crabtree, Shaun Lunt, Darrell Griffin, Luke Robinson, Leroy Cudjoe and Kevin Brown flew out with England from Manchester last night for the Four Nations rugby league tournament in Australia and New Zealand. The Galpham contingent form a quarter of coach Steve McLamar's squad, who will be playing Down Under for the next six weeks. The Giants have a club doctor Amal Panuru on their England party. The fulfilling official medical duties for the England party have been taken over by coach McLamar and has been at the Giants eight years

**MATCH DOSSIER**

Dragons . 12

Tries: Sa (52), Vaccari (66)  
Goals: Gigot 2 from 2  
Scrummings won: 10  
Penalties conceded: 3  
Drop-outs: 4

Giants ... 26

Tries: Wild (29), D Hodgson (38), Lunt (42), Cudjoe (47), Robinson (65)  
Goals: B Hodgson 3 from 5  
Scrummings won: 5  
Penalties conceded: 3  
Drop-outs: 3



■ IT'S TRY TIME! David Hodson (left) and Shaun Lunt (above) race over their tries during Huddersfield's 26-12 Super League triumph in the 4th of France which guaranteed a fifth-place finish



■ TOP MAN: Giants fans have voted Kevin Brown their Player of the Season, deserving of a thumbs up after the victory against Salford City Reds

**Our stars fly with England**

# Huddersfield GIANTS Examiner

# League XV

**SUPER** **SPECIAL**

THE BIRTHPLACE OF RUGBY LEAGUE  
GIANTS  
1895

16-PAGE PREVIEW TO THE NEW SEASON ... WIN TICKETS - SEE PAGE 6



# THE TROPHY HUNTERS

**DAVY**  
My pride in Giants  
Page 2 interview

**BROWN**  
Squad's in great shape  
Page 2 interview

**HODGSON**  
No pressure on me  
Pages - 10-11



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# BACK FROM



**SAD STAR PAUL IN MENTAL HOSPITAL**  
 Whaitura has returned to the field after his latest attack

'Support of fans made a world of difference'

**PAUL WHAITURA** has expressed his thanks for all the support he has received to help him get through such a difficult time in his life.

As details began to emerge of the bizarre events surrounding his admission to a secure mental health unit in Bradford, the rugby league public rallied round to offer their support to one of the Giants' most popular and likeable players. And Whaitura has admitted that support played a key part in his recovery.

"To be honest, I didn't think I had that much support out there," he said.

"My teammates and coaching staff have obviously been right behind me, which has been a tremendous help, but the fans have also been incredible."

"I received lots of well-wishes in cards from them as well as other messages of support, and for that I can't thank them enough."

"It really has been a massive help, not just for me, but also for my fiancée Vanessa."

"It must have been really tough for her while I've been ill, particularly as she's pregnant."

"But she has been my rock. Fortunately she is one tough lady and, even though she has been through so much, she has always been so supportive."



# THE BRINK

Fit-again Fatz puts nightmare behind him



■ **SETTLED:** Paul and his partner Vanessa Almond with their daughter Gabrielle

**WHEN Paul Whaitura powered over the line for a classic centre's try in last week's pre-season win at Castleford** Tigers it was the moment everyone knew the New Zealander was really on the way back from illness.

Just a few months earlier, the 28-year-old's life hung by a thread.

In the early hours of October 13, the highly-popular Huddersfield player, who had been capped 16 times by New Zealand, was taken to a secure mental health unit after unprovoked attacks on two men.

It came as a massive shock to everyone who knew the highly likeable Whaitura. However, it soon became clear that one of the Giants' favourite sons – who is affectionately known as 'Fatz' – was very seriously ill.

The fact the police issued a statement three weeks later saying: "The Crown Prosecution Service has advised us not to take any further action" didn't come as a surprise to anyone.

But at that stage, it was Whaitura's health implications that were of the most concern.

Fortunately, as the days and weeks went by, Whaitura's health began to improve, so much so that he was able to report back for pre-season training in mid-November.

Although his fitness wasn't as good as he would have wished – which was pretty obvious given the circumstances – the former Wests Tigers star in the Australian NRL was quickly getting into his stride.

By Christmas, he was back to his old self

**By CHRIS ROBERTS**  
 Rugby League Writer  
 chris.roberts@examiner.co.uk

and, early in the New Year, his fiancée Vanessa gave birth to their first child, daughter Gabrielle Kaea Whaitura.

It then emerged his high-profile breakdown was sparked by memories of abuse he suffered as a child, and it was that which pushed him to the brink of suicide.

That admission has brought full closure for Whaitura, who is now looking positively to the future, both in his private life and in his rugby league career. "I now feel I've come through it all and can see the light at the end of the tunnel," he revealed.

"Where I was a few months ago wasn't a good place to be."

"I was sick, I was very ill. As I said, it wasn't a good time in my life, but I believe starting to look good again."

"I'm now back on my feet and things are starting to look good again."

"It was great to be given the all-clear to carry on with my career just before Christmas, and I've thoroughly enjoyed the pre-season training and I'm now hoping for a big season this year."

"It has obviously got off to a wonderful start with the birth of my daughter. We're over the moon about that, and I feel fit and healthy as the season approaches, which is something that was reflected in the way we played at Castleford last week."

Whaitura was well aware there would be a fair amount of attention focused on him that night because of what had happened in the previous few months.

But he emerged unscathed and that has added to his sense of excitement ahead of the big kick-off.

"I was a bit nervous before I went on, added Whaitura, who came on as a substitute against the Tigers.

"But you're always a bit nervous going into the first game anyway, because it's first time you've had the chance to test yourself out."

"Fortunately, it went well and it showed I've fully recovered from what happened last year. Getting the try was obviously a fantastic feeling."

"It's now just a case of getting amongst it on the field and playing my part for the team. I'm determined to work hard to help bring even more success to the club, which I believe we can."

"Last season was great, and it's going to take something special to reach the Challenge Cup final again and finish third in Super League, but that's what we've got to strive to do."

"And with the signings we've made, we'll certainly put ourselves in a strong position."

"All the new players have fitted in well and are making positive contributions, and it's great to be joined by another New Zealand international in David Fa'alofo."

"He's a big lad and is a fairly intimidating player, which is probably something we need. He'll offer us a lot."

## After the game ... time to get really competitive

RUGBY League players are a competitive bunch – whatever the pursuit. Giving less than 100% isn't an option and it's no different during their spare time. For many Giants, Xbox 360 and PlayStation help fill in the off-field hours. Giants stand-off Kevin Brown said: "When you've had a

hard day's training and your body's aching, the last thing you want to do is be involved in something else that's physical. "But with being such a competitive bunch, we're still keen to compete and there's no better way of doing that than by going on-line." So what are the in-favour games?

"Right now, there's a bit of a FIFA 10 Club going," added the former Wigan back. "But there are a couple of boys dominating, which is the gloss off it. "Jermaine McGillivray, in particular, is right up there. I don't think he can stop!" "It's still a

big fan of Call of Duty. I obviously love the game, but I also enjoy it because it's the chance to catch up with some of our old teammates. "Chris Thorman, Stuart Jones, Steve Snitch and Paul Smith still go online. "It's really a good way of keeping in touch, and it's even better if you can beat them!"



By CHRIS ROBERTS  
Sports Reporter  
chris.roberts@examiner.co.uk

THERE'S a widely-held belief in sport that the ability of some players isn't appreciated until they're missing.

So step forward Kevin Brown. Huddersfield's 25-year-old former Wigan half-back has been a regular for the past two-and-a-half seasons, becoming one of the club's most consistent performers. His finest day was probably last season's Challenge Cup semi-final triumph over St Helens.

Unfortunately, Brown's next Challenge Cup memory couldn't have been in starker contrast as he suffered the full of the Wembley final against Warrington Wolves.

It ended his season and also signalled a downturn in the Giants' form in the final weeks of season. Without Brown pulling the half-back straps, the side suffered.

Not that was any consolation to Brown. But it made him determined to return to action stronger than ever.

# but not UP

## Kevin Wembley agony's behind me

"What happened at Wembley is something I'm going to have to live with throughout my career. I fell as if for the past two-and-a-half seasons, becoming one of the club's most consistent performers. His finest day was probably last season's Challenge Cup semi-final triumph over St Helens.

"Unfortunately, Brown's next Challenge Cup memory couldn't have been in starker contrast as he suffered the full of the Wembley final against Warrington Wolves.

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last week when I felt no twinges in my knee whatsoever. "I always felt that would be the case, because since Christmas I've been doing all the tackling, wrestling and fitness sessions that the rest of the boys have been doing, so I know the knee would survive, which it did. "So now it's a case of getting back onto the field for a competitive game for the first time in what has been a very long – and very tough – five months.

"When you're receiving treatment you spend a fair amount of time from the rest of the boys, which can be tough. Then there were the games to have to sit through.

"I've never been a good watcher at the best of times, but having to sit through our final games of the season was really tough to take.

"To be honest, the way we struggled in the play-off games was harder to

take than the injury itself. I know how desperate the boys were to make a big impact in the play-offs, but it just didn't happen, and it definitely took some of the gloss off our season. "But, at the same time, I know how hungry that's made everyone ahead of next season.

"Having failed to win a play-off game this year, we're all determined to change all that in 2010, and with the quality of signings we've made we all know that's something we can do.

"And after not being there for the boys at the end of last season, I'm determined to make up for it this season."

■ FIT AS EVER!  
Kevin Brown has looked sharp in pre-season



HOW TO ENTER – Who is the Examiner's chief Giants' reporter?

A) Chris Roberts  
B) Chris Simons  
C) Chris Lerryas

Call our 220 2206 and let us know your answer, name, address and phone number. Send to: HEECCOMP, followed by a space then your answer, name, address and phone number and sent to 84800

Lines close at midnight Sunday 19th February. Winners will be telephoned by Wednesday 10th February 2010.

# Happy Gilmour

## Move to Galpharm is home from home for big Lee



By CHRIS ROBERTS  
Rugby League Writer  
chris.roberts@examiner.co.uk

LEE GILMOUR believes the move 'home' has helped freshen him up for the season ahead.

The 31-year-old former Great Britain back-row forward joined the Giants on a two-year deal at the end of the season to bring the curtain down on a glittering career at St Helens. Gilmour admits it was a real wrench to leave the club where he had achieved so many honours during a glorious six years.

But having completed his first pre-season with the Giants, the proud Yorkshireman knows he's made the right choice – both on and off the field.

With Gilmour living in Haughey Heaton – located between Dewsbury and Bailey – the Galpharm is an obvious choice, which has enabled him to spend far more time with his family.

"When I became clear that there would be no new deal at Saints, I obviously started looking around for a new club," he said. "And I didn't take long before I placed I wanted to be. Everything about it just seemed so right, both on

"But now I can spend that sort of time recuperating and seeing the physio to get rid of any niggles I might have. I find that fantastic."

"My daughter, Ella, is just one of the reasons I'm spending more time with his family is doing him a power of good. "Moving to Huddersfield has been a great deal happier. "It also means I can see the rest of the family, as well, which is something that's very important to me. As much as we all love our rugby, it is good to turn your attention to other things once in a while, and that's the beauty of the family as a way of seeing more of all the people in the doing that."

"But, having said all that, the rest of the family are all rugby league mad, and many of the conversations are about the club – and now the Giants. "Although we all live close to Huddersfield, my family haven't really followed the Giants in the

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■ FAREWELL: Gilmour and Sean Long's last game at Knowlsey Road. Typically a win against Wigan

## This is a club set for success!

LEE GILMOUR has been a winner throughout his career. During 13 years in the top 10, the 31-year-old former Wigan, Bradford and St Helens forward has been named in the Super League Grand Final squad and picked for the Challenge Cup winners' medals, and played 15 times for Great Britain.

Such a strong pedigree made the 6ft 10in, 250lb forward one of the game's hottest prizes when the Super League clubs were alerted to his availability last summer.

But the fact St Helens coach Mick Potter ended the season naming him as 'Player of the Year' has not done much to help. "The Giants stepped in to bring a new identity to the club, but Gilmour doesn't feel that puts him under any extra pressure.

"I'm obviously aware one of the reasons Huddersfield signed me was because I've been associated with successful sides and I can hopefully bring a winning mentality to the Super League career with Wigan in 1997.

"I don't seem to see that as putting extra pressure on me. "I'm in a great position in a big and very talented squad. My aim is to do my best for the club, and our success will depend on everyone we have in the squad, and our pulling together."

"Obviously, if my influence can help the club get a game or at training – it would be a bonus. "But our success will come through the talent we've got throughout the squad, and I'm generally sure that we'll win on merit at all why whatever it is."

Warrington Wolves. "I've never been a good watcher at the best of times, but having to sit through our final games of the season was really tough to take. "To be honest, the way we struggled in the play-off games was harder to

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**By CHRIS ROBERTS**  
Super League Writer  
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AS the new Man of Steel, Brett Hodgson can expect to be singled out for some extra 'attention' from the opposition in Super League XV. But will this worry the inspirational Giants captain?

You must be kidding! Instead, it will be his motivation. The 31-year-old Australian needs to lead the club to what he hopes will be an even more successful year than last season's Challenge Cup final at Wembley, where they were beaten by Warrington, and a club badge to match the Super League record third-placed Super League season determined to do. But Hodgson is determined to do everything he can to make sure 2010 is even better, and he is taking every opportunity to lead the Giants into battle as the Super League Man of Steel.

"Everyone knows how much of an honour it was for me to win the award last year," said Hodgson, who has in the past been named the best full-back in the Australian NRL and won a Grand Final Doves Under with Wests Tigers.

"I was absolutely delighted to have been asked to join the Super League Dream team (the full-back), so to win the Man of Steel was truly amazing, particularly as it was an award voted on by your fellow professionals."

"Since winning the award I have been asked a number of times if I feel it's put added pressure on me to perform. But I don't see it that way. I've always had a lot of pride in my play every game the best I can, as much as the club as for myself, so the pressure comes from within and from the what happens on the outside."

"I wouldn't matter whether I was the Man of Steel or not, I was just making sure this season is the best I've had, and with the players around me I believe that can be the case."

"As I said as soon as I was picked up the award, there's no way I would have done it if it hadn't been for the work of my teammates around me. They deserved so much of the credit for me winning this."

"And I also don't think it's a case of me being more of a 'marked man' in Super League because I'm now the Man of Steel."

"Once again, I know my teammates around me will make sure nothing changes this season. I can rely on them all to do their jobs superbly well."

"That was the key for us last year, and that will be the key for us this year."

Hodgson's optimism is based on a second reason: under head coach Nathan Brown and some close-season recruitments that include the new second-row Lee Gilnour and New Zealand international forward David Falalogo.

"The depth in the squad has definitely improved," he said. "The signings the club have made are top quality."

"Lee Gilnour has plenty of experience of picking up silverware and he brings a second reason that we haven't had since these while David Falalogo is just a superb athlete who's going to be strong for us with second-row Lee Gilnour and New Zealand international forward David Falalogo."

"Across the board we're a lot stronger. We look at where we were this time last year and having a year-and-a-half under a

# 'NO EXTRA PRESSURE ON ME'

says 2009 Man of Steel  
**BRETT HODGSON**



**■ OFF AND RUNNING:** Man of Steel Hodgson has started this season in similar high quality form



different coaching regime has definitely had a lot of the players in good stead. "There is no doubt we were disappointed towards the end of last season when we let ourselves down in key areas. "If we're good enough to get to that stage of the competition again I guess we'll address certain issues."

Hodgson will be 32 a week into the new season but at this stage he hasn't ruled out extending his stay beyond the two-year contract that expires in November.

"It's always in the back of my mind," he said. "I still feel I've plenty to offer in the club."

"Last year was one of my most enjoyable years for a long, long time. I had a lot of fun and, when you're having fun on the field, it tends to lead to more better quality football."

"My family and myself are having a real ball here."



**■ TRIPLE WINNER:** Eley Winner

## Men of Steel

- 1977 Hooker David Ward (Leeds)
- 1978 Prop George Nicholas (St Helens)
- 1980 Forward Dougie Laughlin (Widnes)
- 1981 Full-back George Fairbairn (Wigan)
- 1982 Stand-off Ken Kelly (Warrington)
- 1983 2nd-rower Mick Morgan (Cardiff)
- 1984 2nd-rower Alan Aher (Sheffields)
- 1984 Full-back Jonny Lloyd (Sheff)
- 1985 2nd-rower Eley Winner (Bradford)
- 1985 Prop Gavin Miller (Hull FC)
- 1985 Winger Martin Offenberg (Wigan)
- 1986 Forward Eley Winner (Widnes)
- 1987 Stand-off Shaun Edwards (Wigan)
- 1988 Stand-off Gary Schofield (Leeds)
- 1988 Centre Dean Bell (Wigan)
- 1988 Centre Andrew Davies (Warrington)
- 1989 Second-rower Denis Betts (Wigan)
- 1990 1st-rower Andrew Farrell (Wigan)
- 1991 Hooker James Lewis (Bradford)
- 1992 Stand-off Lesley Harris (Leeds)
- 1992 1st-rower Adrian Wakes (Castleford)
- 2000 Stand-off Sean Long (St Helens)
- 2001 1st-rower Paul Scullion (St Helens)
- 2002 2nd-rower James Pascoe (Bradford)
- 2004 1st-rower Andrew Farrell (Wigan)
- 2005 Centre James Lyon (St Helens)
- 2006 Full-back Paul Wellens (St Helens)
- 2007 Hooker James Roby (St Helens)
- 2008 Prop James Graham (St Helens)
- 2008 Full-back Brett Hodgson (Huddersfield Giants)



A NEW year and a new Super League season. But some of the names of familiar faces keep on returning to the Galpham Stadium.

Throughout Super League, Huddersfield Giants have the comfort of the stands as they trade, wherever it is, the competitive field.

And once again many will be cheering on Huddersfield's no-nonsense Super League XV kicking-off with Bradford Bulls in round one.

For starters, head coach **Steve McNamara** means little mention to former Giants League in 2005 as the captain of the Giants side that defeated Leigh Centurions 39-16 in the NPL Grand Final at Widnes.

The gaochaining loose-forward retired as a player – the Giants – at the end of the 2003 before joining the coaching staff at the Bulls.

McNamara became a head coach midway through 2006 and his assistant coach is another former Huddersfield favourite – another former Huddersfield player in Super League XV kicking-off with Bradford Bulls in round one.

For starters, head coach **Steve McNamara** means little mention to former Giants League in 2005 as the captain of the Giants side that defeated Leigh Centurions 39-16 in the NPL Grand Final at Widnes.

The Huddersfield-born hooper spent most of his former No2 to ex-Giants head coach Jim Sharp following following directly in McNamara's footsteps to Odsal.

And these two are in charge of a Bulls squad bursting with players who have tasted life at the Galpham.

Leading the way is centre **Chris Noro** – a member of the Giants side beaten by St Helens in the 2008 Challenge Cup final at Twickenham – while also winger **Rikki Shuffie** and prop **Danny Scullion**, who spent the second half of his loan at Castleford Tigers, where a very formidable pack.

There are also former Huddersfield 'old boys' over at Castleford Tigers, where a very formidable pack.

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# A Giant theme to almost every squad

Huddersfield member Tom St. John's, while major big name from former **Greg Leach**'s side, Gals.

As mentioned above, highly popular prop **Nick Fozzard**, who was in the Giants side that beat Hull FC in the 1997 to help secure the club's return to Super League for the first time, is now back at St Helens following his move from Hull FC.

And he will, of course, be joined in the pack of Knowsley Road by hooker in **Moore** after his season-long loan at the **Scott** position at what he played in the Challenge Cup final at Wembley and was named in the Super League Dream Team.

It's not a complete surprise either as the **Willow** for Leigh as well as end of last season, but there remains a healthy link at Wembley, led off by head coach **John Keir**.

He was, of course, the man who took charge at Huddersfield in the wake of the failed merger with Sheffield Eagles in 2000, a job that would have got the better of many a coach at the time.

Since then, however, he has enjoyed Challenge Cup success with Hull and then Warrington in a strong non-conference side this season will include in their ranks a number of ex-Giants players.

Winger **Luke George**, who has had to tame at the job in the Great Britain setup, and they now playing the same roles in Warrington after Shury left his job as Hull FC football manager at the end of last season.

Another old Giants assistant coach also popped up at Harlequins in the considerable shape of ex-Great Britain prop **Brian McBurney**.

He cut his coaching teeth under **Tony Smith** at Huddersfield in 2003, and then followed his steps to Leeds a year later before taking charge of the London-based club in 2006.

And under his command this season will be another front-rower, **Oliver Wilson**, who played Super League in the Giants and gold in 2001.

With the departure of former Giants captain **Chris Thompson** to Co-operative club York City Knights at the end of last season, there are no longer any player links with Hull FC.

But there will still be considerable interest in the meeting of the two clubs when new Giants springing **Greame Horne** – who spent 10 years with the back and whites – will line up against brother Richard for the very first time.

It's also a similar picture across the city, where an ex-Giants contingent is no more.

Last season, **Stanley Green** and **Nick Fozzard** were bobbing along with the Reds, but with the duo moving on to Halifax and St Helens respectively, New Craven Park is barren.

That can also be said of Headingly, the home of champions Leeds Rhinos.

Having said that, **Keith Snell**, pictured, is no stranger to the town – and all it's there when he was born and raised – and he's still the coach at top

and now **Warrors** squad, along with former Giants centre Martin Gleeson and second-rower **Leo Hoscoe**, who had a successful loan spell with Huddersfield halfway through last season.



**■ KEITH SNELL:** Huddersfield coach



**■ NICK FOZZARD:** Ex-Giants prop









**TRY TIME:** David Hodgson stretches over for his touchdown five minutes from the final whistle at Wembley.  
Pictures: Paul Welch (www.sportsworld.com)

**Dossier**

**GIANTS 16**

Tries: Lunt (5), B Hodgson (1), D Hodgson (7)

Goals: B Hodgson 2 from 3  
Scrum won: 6  
Pens conceded: 8  
Drop-outs: 2

**WOLVES 25**

Tries: J Anderson (1), Moranaghan (12), Hicks (14), V Anderson (5)  
Goals: Bridge 4 from 4  
Drop goal: Biers  
Scrum won: 5  
Pens conceded: 9  
Drop-outs: 2

Half-time: 10-10  
Attendance: 76,500

**Man of match**

It may have come as a surprise to many that Shaun Lunt started at hooker ahead of Scott Moore. But there could be no denying the 22-year-old Cumbrian was one of the few big hits for the Giants on a day of bitter disappointment. He scored one excellent try and was obviously desperately unlucky not to have had another.

# Giants bitten by Wolves

Defence failings are fully exploited by Warrington's widemen



**UNDER PRESSURE:** Wolves' Chris Riley denies Giants winger Leroy Cudjoe.  
(PWC2009/CWmedia)

**Huddersfield Giants suffered Wembley heartache after failing to deliver on the biggest of stages.**

Despite going into their Challenge Cup final against Warrington in great shape and with confidence high on the back of such a magnificent season, coach Nathan Brown's men proved a shadow of the usual Class of 2009.

Their normally rock-solid defence looked flimsy, while they were unable to demonstrate any sort of attacking edge because of the amount of ball they dropped. It was without doubt in complete contrast to the performance that brought them their stunning semi-final success over St Helens and had raised hopes of Huddersfield lifting the Challenge Cup for the first time since 1953.

It's possible the below-par display could have been due to too many players suffering the big freeze or a touch of over-confidence given the respective form of the two teams but, for whatever reason, this just wasn't the Giants' day.

At the same time, Warrington were right on top of their game, both defensively and offensively,

**By CHRIS ROBERTS**  
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and were to produce the sort of performance that has been lacking for so much of their Super League season. The end result was, therefore, almost inevitable. Warrington were going to come out strongly after it had been the key to their semi-final success over Wigan.

But despite a solid opening first five drives, the Giants' hopes of containing any early charge were shattered.

Brett Hodgson's attempted kick downfield was charged down by Louis Anderson, and although the Giants skipper got back to catch his man after it did appear the Wolves man may have knocked-on in securing possession, the ball was swiftly worked out for Richie Mathers to race away to score and for Hodgson to add the goal.



**NO TRY:** Shaun Lunt's touchdown is disallowed.

Two minutes later, however, the Cambrian hooker was to be denied as he collected Brett Hodgson's pass after outstanding work from David Fajumai to race away to score and for Hodgson to add the goal.

At 04-0 it looked as if the Giants were right back on track. Unfortunately, that couldn't have been further from the truth. Straight from the kick-off Darrell Griffin lost possession on the first tackle and within seconds

the position had been created for Lance Todd man-of-the-match winner Michael Moranaghan to cross from seeing half-back from close range with the minimum of effort.

Bridge again looked well, with Huddersfield looking shaky in the 36th minute forced a second Warrington drop-out and the Giants pounced.

From the restart, Lee Briers' clever kick downfield was collected by Chris Riley to make ground before he was held down

by Leroy Cudjoe. The Wolves' defence held up King on the tryline.

Five minutes later great hands helped some Paul Whataira racing away, but with the cover doing its job, he was forced to find the supporting David Hodgson and the danger had gone.

The winger was not to be denied with five minutes remaining, however, when another great move gave Hodgson the chance to finish off superbly in the corner.

Giants skipper Brett Landed the touchline conversion and at 24-16 there was a slight glimmer of hope. But from the restart, Huddersfield were unable to register down-back-to-back scores and with a trademark drop goal to send home the fans in despair and gold bitterly disappointed.

ball was kept alive superbly on the right for Fulton. Jamahl Loleai and Cudjoe to combine magnificently for Brett Hodgson to finish in the corner.

Hodges just failed with the touchline conversion, but at 18-10 at the break the Giants were right back in it. For the Giants to stand a realistic chance of mounting a winning Challenge Cup fightback it was always going to be vital they didn't concede the opening second-half try.

It looked as if Gareth Carwell had thwarted those plans after seven minutes when he stretched out to score, but the tackle had already been completed.

Unforced errors again proved the Giants' downfall as they threatened to get on top, and they were eventually pumbed as the Wolves pounced for a fourth score that appeared to have the opening nail in the Giants' coffin.



**Moment of match**

Shaun Lunt's superb ninth-minute try on the back of the excellent work of David Fajumai and Brett Hodgson got the Giants back to 6-6 and suggested they might be about to take control.

**Moan of match**

The general quality of the Giants' play which was not up to its usual high standard. There was too much dropped ball and defensive frailty.

**Ref watch**

THE major talking point on the match officials' front surrounded the video referee rather than match referee Steve Gannon. But it did appear the majority of the calls went against the Giants.



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■ **SORRY SCENE:** Shaun Lunt is consoled by injured Giants teammate Danny Kirkmond

'You were awesome' – Lunt

By **CHRIS ROBERTS**  
Rugby League Writer  
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**TOP performer Shaun Lunt** has hailed the role the Giants fans played in what he described as an 'awesome' Wembley experience.

"Although the 22-year-old hooker admitted losing in the Challenge Cup final was a bitter experience, he was still able to appreciate the occasion and knows how lucky he is to have played in such a major sporting event.

"I'm absolutely gutted to have lost. To have won the Challenge Cup would have meant everything," said Lunt.

"But I still know how lucky I've been to be a part of something as big as this.

"I think it's every schoolboy's dream to play at Wembley, and there are a lot of fantastic players who'll never have the chance to do it. So I feel very privileged.

"And the support from the fans just blew us away.

"To see so many supporters in the claret and gold was out of this world and the noise they made was brilliant. That's something else I'll never forget.

"But, to be honest, I think it's hard to fully appreciate everything that's gone on so soon after we've just been beaten, especially when we were all feeling confident we could get out there and do it.

"Lunt was arguably the Giants' best performer on the day, having a very excellent and somewhat controversial game. As well as scoring one superbly-created try after nine minutes, he had one disallowed for a double movement moment earlier and was then penalised for obstruction by the video referee when Kevin Brown put David Hodgson over in the 23rd minute.

And the Cambrian was far from impressed.

"Those decisions also took some of the gloss off the day for me," he added.

"I thought I scored under the posts, no doubt about it, and I also didn't think I should have been pulled up for obstruction. I was just running my line, nothing else.

"But there's obviously absolutely nothing you can do about it, you can't moan because that won't do any difference at all.

"And I don't think having my try disallowed made any difference, because I scored for real a few minutes later.

"Even in defeat, there's no doubt scoring a try at Wembley is a very special feeling. I just hope there's more to come!"



**IN THE WAY:** Shaun Lunt races in to score the Giants' opening try after nine minutes in the Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

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**Next time GIANTS**

It's a shame that even with Tina (my wife) in the Wembley crowd with the Huddersfield supporters, we just missed out - one place better next year!

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# Injury showpiece turns into Kevin's nightmare

## Wembley showpiece turns into a nightmare



SHATTERED: Kevin Brown.

KEVIN BROWN fears his season may be over after being injured in the game that shattered all his dreams.

The 24-year-old stand-off was forced off the field after 30 minutes after suffering medial knee ligament damage and left Wembley Stadium on crutches and with his right leg in a brace.

It also meant Brown was unable to walk the steps to collect his Challenge Cup finalists' losers medal.

But the former Wigan ace, who was in the Warriors side that lost to St Helens in the 2004 Challenge Cup final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, admitted that was the last thing on his mind.

"What happened to me on Saturday has just shattered my dreams," said Brown.

"It just went from being hopefully one of the best days of my life to definitely being one of the worst."

By **CHRIS ROBERTS**  
Rugby League Writer  
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"When I lost with Wigan in 2004 as a teenager it was tough to take, but this is 10 times worse. "Losing the final, particularly when we were so confident we could come here and win, was horrible enough, but to pick up an injury that I'm pretty sure will keep me out for the rest of the season is a nightmare."

"I've been due to go for scans to assess the full extent of the injury, but he kept straight away saying it wasn't good."

"I heard the knee pop, looked down and saw it was all over the place," he added.

"There was no way I could continue. I just had to put my hand up and hobble off."

"That was obviously bad, but what made it even worse was having to sit on the bench and feeling so useless."

"I could see the boys trying desperately hard to put things right, but the more they did that the more they were compounding the errors and giving away penalties on the fourth and fifth hour had not helped Huddersfield stage a fightback."

"You get low and you have to try and crawl your way back out of the hole, but then we lose a key player in Kevin Brown."

"You cannot lose a half back, which is a key position, because it upsets the attacking game and makes it harder to score points."

"Having said that we still needed to control the ball, we didn't do that and Warrington deserved their victory in the end."

"We have a good set up in terms of a mix between youth and experience and what happened in the Challenge Cup final should help stand us in good stead for games to come," said Lofesi.

"It was a big game and it probably took a lot out of us, but we have to use that experience."

"We have to look at the Super League game and think that we can be in another big game with the semi-finals of that competition."

However, the man who prides himself on lifting the atmosphere in the Giants dressing room was far from feeling happy after the Wembley defeat as Huddersfield failed to score themselves justice.

"It was very disappointing and things didn't plan early on in the game," he said.

"Through the rest of the game I thought it fairly even and obviously we got a couple of tries rubbed off the board, but it was there that let us down."

"First there was the early charge down and then we missed an important tackle and ourselves under too much pressure - the history."

But the centre felt that, while the Giants had made themselves a mountain to climb, the injury to half back Kevin Brown on the last hour had not helped Huddersfield stage a fightback.

"You get low and you have to try and crawl your way back out of the hole, but then we lose a key player in Kevin Brown."

"You cannot lose a half back, which is a key position, because it upsets the attacking game and makes it harder to score points."

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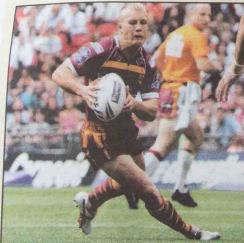
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# Hodgson: I won't watch final re-run



DISAPPOINTED: Luke Robinson.

**INSPIRATIONAL.** Giants captain Brett Hodgson has revealed he may not be able to bring himself to watch Challenge Cup final again.

Warrington.

Although the 31-year-old full-back has admitted leading out the side at Wembley is one of the top highlights of his glittering career, the former Australian NRL star felt that carrying very scant consolation.

"Losing a game as big as this comes as a huge disappointment even though the occasion was special," said Hodgson.

"I couldn't believe how loud the roar was when the crowd erupted. I've played in front of over 100,000 back in Australia, and this was the loudest I've heard."

"That's probably one of the best memories I'll take from the final because the way we played isn't something I want to remember

at that position a few times, it is pretty bad," said Robinson.

"But, believe me, it's nothing compared to how it feels to lose a final."

"I felt devastated at the end of the game, and I know everyone else did, too."

"Personally, I felt I let myself down and my teammates down."

"I've been playing consistently well all season and that gave me a great deal of confidence coming into the final."

"Obviously, we knew it was going to be tough against Warrington, because they can be a massive threat to anyone on their day."

"But we made it so much easier for them to play well on the back of how we played, and that's what's the most disappointing part of it all."

"Unfortunately, it's safe to say we just didn't do ourselves any justice at all."

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## Player watch Giants

- FULL-BACK BRETT HODGSON** Took his heart out to get the win, but there were some effects proved in waste.  
Player rating - 8/10
- WINGER LEROY CUDJOE** Winger Cudjoe's back was put under immense pressure but handled it well.  
Player rating - 7/10
- CENTRE JAMAHL LOLESI** Was well complimented and struggled to make the hoped-for impact.  
Player rating - 6/10
- CENTRE PAUL WHATURUA** Avert from one great break, he was also well contained by the keen Wolves defence.  
Player rating - 6/10
- WINGER DAVID HODGSON** Took his try well, and was unlucky to have another chucked off.  
Player rating - 7/10
- STAND-OFF KEVIN BROWN** Was making a fair impact until he was forced off the field with a knee injury.  
Player rating - 7/10
- SCrum HALF LUKE ROBINSON** By his own admission, he struggled to find his top form.  
Player rating - 6/10
- PROP DARRELL GRIFFIN** Fined hard, but was unable to make any sort of lasting impression on the attack.  
Player rating - 6/10
- HOOKER SHAWN LUNT** Definitely one of the Giants who didn't do his reputation any harm on the day.  
Player rating - 8/10
- PROP KEITH MASON** The mainstay of the pack this year failed to give his side the usual outstanding lead.  
Player rating - 6/10
- SECOND-ROWER LIAM FULTON** Found it hard to get the better of opponents who were up for the challenge.  
Player rating - 6/10
- SECOND ROW STEPHEN WILD** A fearless worker as ever, but on this occasion was no where near enough.  
Player rating - 7/10
- LOOSE FORWARD DAVID FALNUM** Produced one of the best passes of the day to set up Shaun Lum's try.  
Player rating - 7/10
- SUBSTITUTE SCOTT MOORE** Was unable to make the same sort of impact as he does when starting games.  
Player rating - 7/10
- SUBSTITUTE PAUL JACKSON** Produced a solid display, but failed to help turn the tide.  
Player rating - 6/10
- SUBSTITUTE EARL CRABTREE** Did his best to inspire his side with strong drives, but with mixed success.  
Player rating - 8/10
- SUBSTITUTE MARTIN ASPINWALL** Showed some strong touches in what was a steady display.  
Player rating - 7/10

## Wolves

- FULL-BACK MICHAEL MATTERS** Scored the winners late in the final.  
Player rating - 9/10
- WINGER CHRIS HICKS** The Australian played in a first half but was not as dangerous in training.  
Player rating - 9/10
- CENTRE MATT KING** Perhaps didn't make the impact expected, but was always a danger to the Giants.  
Player rating - 7/10
- WINGER CHRIS BILEY** Huddersfield who involved Giants on attack and defended securely.  
Player rating - 8/10
- STAND-OFF MIKE ANDERSON** Shows the excellent ball-handling from a head injury to backline.  
Player rating - 8/10
- SCrum HALF LEE BRIBBS** Earned glowing praise for the opportunity coach for a fine display.  
Player rating - 9/10
- PROP ADRIAN MORLEY** Played a solid part in the defence and perhaps was a defender rather than attack.  
Player rating - 8/10
- HOOKER MICHAEL MOHAMMAD** Displaying of his Lance Todd award for a softness and inspiring display.  
Player rating - 9/10
- PROP GARETH CARNELL** The big man was denied a try but put in a huge effort to push Wolves forward.  
Player rating - 8/10
- SECOND-ROWER LOUIS ANDERSON** Shows to create the game's first opening and put the Wolves on top.  
Player rating - 8/10
- SECOND ROW BEN HARRISON** An early reward for a youngster with a great career ahead of him.  
Player rating - 7/10
- LOOSE FORWARD BEN WESTWOOD** Worked tirelessly for the cause and produced some telling tackles.  
Player rating - 8/10
- SUBSTITUTE MICHAEL COOPER** The cup success to a great reward after his battle back to fitness.  
Player rating - 7/10
- SUBSTITUTE PAUL JOHNSON** Helped keep up the Wolves momentum coming off the bench.  
Player rating - 7/10
- SUBSTITUTE MICKEY HIGNALL** Greeted by an ovation as he took the field against the odds after injury.  
Player rating - 7/10
- SUBSTITUTE TYRONE MCCARTHY** A medal win on only his third senior appearance for the Wolves.  
Player rating - 8/10

■ X-RATED VIEWING: Brett Hodgson can't face a TV re-run of Saturday.

