

THE BIRTHPLACE OF RUGBY LEAGUE

HUDDERSFIELD

GIANTS



1895



The Life of Reilly

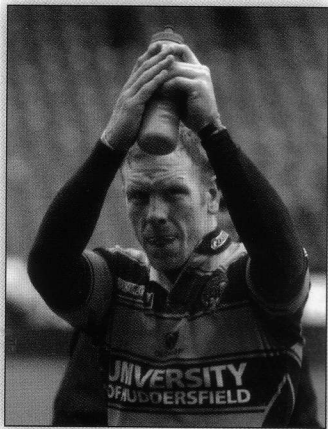
10 years of Paul Reilly at The Giants

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Souvenir Brochure **£5**

Hi all,

I would just like to take this chance to thank everyone who has ever supported, not just me, but Huddersfield Giants as a rugby club. It's been a fantastic experience playing for my home town club and has made me, and everyone related to me, very proud.



It has been very hard as a player who feels so much about this rugby club as I do and I feel that I would have not been the same

player had I played elsewhere. I'll never forget how I felt when we were relegated to the Northern Ford, having said that, in my personal opinion I feel the club being relegated made the club very much stronger on our return, and where the team is right now is fantastic. People said move on many times in the past, and goals I had set would never be made. Well how wrong they were, most of my goals have already been met and I feel very proud of staying here and achieving them. To say I have played international rugby for England and getting M.O.M in a final is great, but to top that I'm now having a testimonial with Huddersfield the place where I was born.

Finally I would just like to thank everyone who has, and are still, supporting

my testimonial year. A big thanks to supporters throughout the years especially Ida of the Fartown Flyers. Ida is a lovely lady and to have



someone who does so much for the club to sponsor me is very gratifying. Thanks to all who have helped in events iv already had including Janice & Catherine Manby, Jill Sykes, Terry Mosdale and my agent Martin Shuttleworth for all there help. There is also a big thank you to Mr. Ken Davy and his family who, as we all know, has done an unbelievable job to get the club to where it is now. There are many others I need to thank, too many to mention here, you know who you are, and I'm eternally grateful for all you've done.

Yours sincerely

Paul Reilly

A Huddersfield Giant - Now and Forever.

Dads Memories

My eldest son Paul was born on 10th may 1976.

He went to Dalton Infant and Junior School and then on to Rawthorpe High school (when I could get him out of bed).

I went to see the headmaster on several occasions, as you know he has a quick temper, and is a tough character. He had many friends but his two best friends and partners in crime throughout school and his Teenage years were Jason Mulvihill and David Holmes; they were like the three musketeers.

Paul's greatest influences in life were his grandma and grandad Reilly. He often sought refuge at their house after some of his pranks earned him a telling off especially after "hedge hopping" over neighbours privets.

He is a family man at heart, not quite as hard as his reputation.

My first memories of Paul playing rugby were when he played for Moldgreen juniors, aged 14, where he collected his first trophy and showed a competitive streak and his ability to play good rugby. Paul played for Moldgreen open age going through the ranks winning several trophies.

He played for the national conference team, including the first holiday cup to be played at the Mcalpine Stadium.

Paul and his friend Mickey Diskin went to train with the Fartown players where Darren Van Der Velde gave him a trial period.

He was soon offered a contract and played for the second team. He was a substitute at Hull Boulevard where Ben Barton took a knock and Paul made his debut for the 1st team.

From then on Paul became a fully fledged first team player. He developed his own, often controversial style; he has always been a tough player and given 100%.

He has had several bad knocks over the years. The worst being when he broke his leg, but Paul is a tough cookie and bounced back after eight months and returned to super league playing even better rugby.

My proudest moment was when he played for England and not only scored two tries but was awarded Man of the match as well.

Paul has often being criticised for the way he plays but as he got older he has matured and learned not to be drawn into situations – well maybe sometimes!!!

I hope Paul continues to enjoy playing rugby as much as I enjoy watching him.

Yours

Paul Reilly Senior
(DAD).



My Dad and Step-Mum
Ange

Paul Reilly is one of a now very rare breed of players earning a long service benefit.

To find out how times have changed let us return to a period between 1970 and 1986 when there always seemed to be a Huddersfield player waiting their turn to be awarded a benefit season due to a 10 year stint in the 'Claret and Gold'. Players successful in the seventies were Frank Davies, Ken Senior, Dave Heppleston, Bob Tomilinson, Dave Hooson, Maloccolm Branch and Steve Mullany. At Fartown during the eighties the trend continued until 1986 when, with the game changing, the import of overseas players and playing contracts, loyalty did not seem to be important, especially if one could get a better deal elsewhere. Tom Davies, Mick Shepherd, Derek Wroe, Trevor Leathley, Peter Cramp, and David Schofield endeavoured to create enough

enthusiasm during a very low period in the club's history to improve their finances.

Many professional people over the years have said that the greatest sense of achievement came when they were recognised by their fellow professionals. In the past 10 years there have been many comings and goings at Fartown, but Paul carries on – Rugby League needs players like Paul Reilly. Consistency has been his byword for 10 years, as a local lad, Huddersfield must be proud to have him as a loyal professional.

We wish him well in his benefit year.

Huddersfield Rugby League Club Players Association

David Gronow

Secretary

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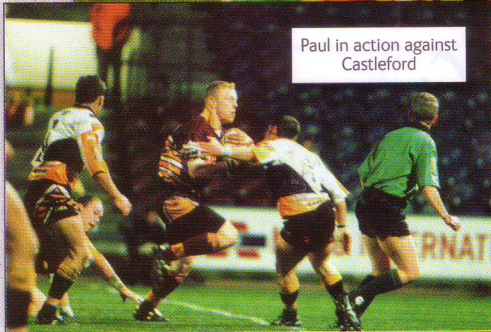
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**Good Luck for your
testimonial Year!**

PAUL



Moldgreen Under 14's Cup
Winning Team



Paul in action against
Castleford

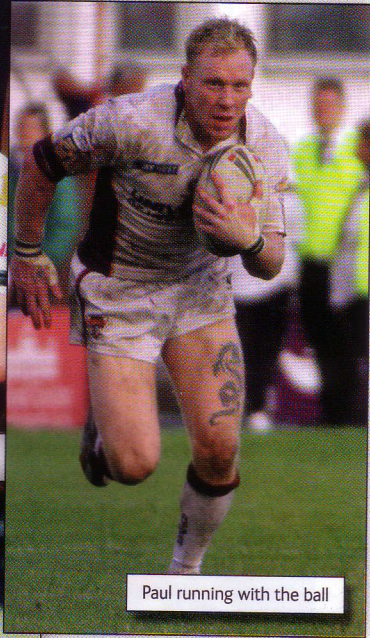


Paul and family over from
Perth, Australia

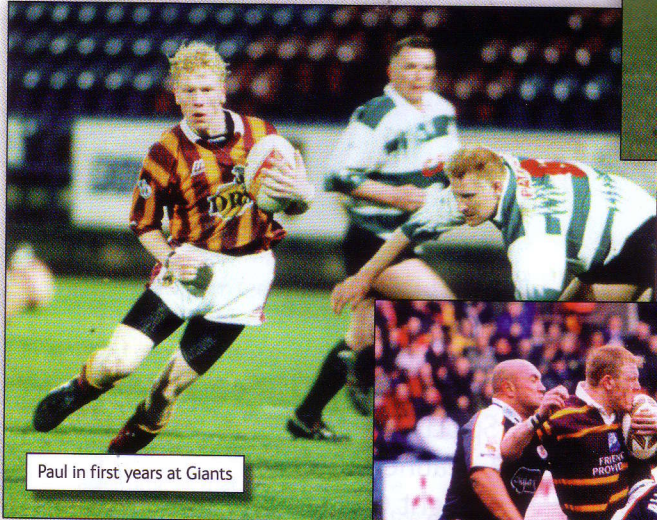
THE PAST



Ken Davy and Paul receiving a Player of the Month Award



Paul running with the ball



Paul in first years at Giants

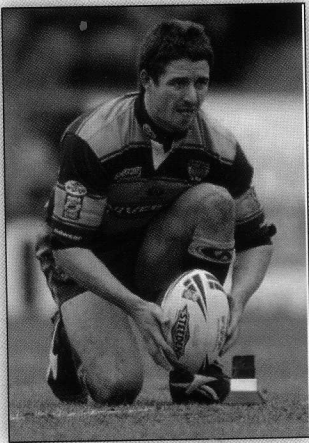


Paul vs Bradford

Paul Reilly Testimonial Brochure

No one deserves a testimonial more than Paul Reilly.

Over the past decade he has given more blood, sweat, and tears than any other Giant (ok, maybe not tears). Paul is a very tough bloke, but I don't need to be the one to tell you that. What a lot of people don't know is that Paul has another side. His loyal, hard-working and



amiable character out shines his tough guy image.

The Paul I know (and love) is always up for a laugh. You can always count on Paul to take the mick out of someone.

More often than not, that

person is Chris Nero. I think it's just Paul's way of letting you know that he likes you. Even when training is unbearably difficult, Paul has a smile on his face. He certainly helps get the rest of the boys through the session.

Something about Paul that surprised me is that

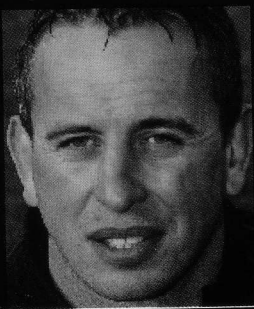
he is an expert when it comes to computers (probably from a miss spent childhood hacking into school mainframes). But seriously, if any of the boys have a problem with their computer Paul is the first one we go to for help. I think that when he's not at training, he's glued to his computer screen. His greatest ever achievement away from rugby league is scoring a maximum 147 on internet snooker. Paul tells me that it was one of the most nerve racking moments of his life. What a loser.

When it comes to rugby league, Paul certainly has his own style of playing the game. I don't know anyone that runs with quite as much aggression as Paul. His head first running style makes him a doctor's worst nightmare. Just ask our club doctor, Amit, about how many stitches he has put in Paul's head. I am sure Paul can't even remember the number of head injuries he has had over the years. As a testament to how tough he is, Paul is the only person Stuart Fielden is scared of on a rugby pitch. I will always remember one occasion at Odsal, where Paul flattened him. And that is no mean feat.

I genuinely feel that he is one of the best full backs in the country not to have represented Great Britain. If I was a coach, Paul Reilly's name would be first on the team sheet every game.

Chris Thorman

I am delighted to have been asked to write a few words for Paul's Testimonial.



He is an outstanding player who probably hasn't got the International recognition he has deserved. Anyone who has played with him will tell you he is a fantastic player to have on your side and he is

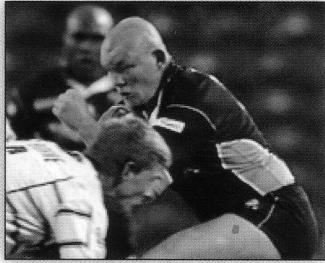
certainly not one you want to play against!! During my three years at Huddersfield we became firm friends. I am sure Paul wouldn't mind me saying that he is a bit of a 'Rough Diamond' but he is an extremely likeable person. He is definitely someone that if you were going to waryou would want on your side and I cannot speak highly enough about him.

I hope he gets all the success he deserves in his Testimonial year and I also hope he has many more years as a player ahead of him.

Steve McNamara

Well,well, well, Paul Reilly - Where do i start.

When I first arrived here a few years ago, Paul reilly made him self known to me. He walked up to me, all i could see was a gold tooth, a thousand tattoos and an earring, first impression, poofa. na just kidding, I shit myself, then he said in his broad accent I'm reills, ya alright, wow he could talk as well !!!!



Then we started to play rugby, i was still unsure about him. Step forward 2 weeks to the Wakefield game - a small scuffle

breaks out , reills is the first one in and somehow ends up biting David March on the ear, Mike Tyson style. At this moment, I knew it was better to be Paul's friend than his enemy. A few weeks later after i gathered the courage to go out for a beer with him, Paul took me out to town . " Watch me dance" he said 3 years down the track he hasn't changed, out after most games and still can be seen dancing the night away on his own when the "ugly " lights come on.

That first year the Giants had some tough cookies among the ranks, Mick Slicker, Rocky Turner and Darren Fleary , but Reilly takes the cake .He is the guy you would like to have in the trenches besides you in a war, just an uncompromising , tough, fearless character and a person you are only likely to meet once in your life.

On a more serious note , as captain, Paul was a pleasure to play with, never said out to him, never needed to - i always knew he would play every game like it was his last. paul would turn up to the game, walk in the dressing room, strap up, then enter the war zone. Paul would run the ball back as hard in the last minute of the game as he would in the first minute, it would not be an understatement to say paul lives for his footy.

On the odd occasion that there was a scuffle, paul would be the first back up to arrive , pushing and sometimes punching his way in or out of the trouble - funny to watch actually.

Paul also has a great family. Paula and the tribe will be at every game cheering and screaming their lungs out in support for him and the giants, and also give the refs some when they deserve it.

On closing , I think Paul will go down in history as one of the finest fullbacks to play for the Giants and the club really owes him for sticking through 10 tough years of rugby.

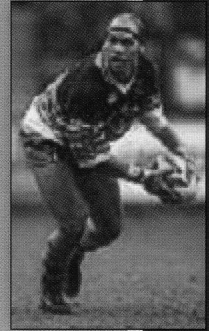
Great man, great player, most importantly great mate, thanks for the fun in the last few years, ill miss ya brother.

Roarts

When I first met paul I could tell what type of person he was and I new that his passion for the game would lead him to his dreams and watching his past few years from the side line instead of alongside him he has matured into i think one of the top fullbacks in the world .

I think pauls best assets in life is being able face obstacles head on which he has had to do from a young age and for a young person looking for a role model he would be second to none because he changes any hurdle in life to a stepping stone . To finish off I would like say thanks for the great memories on and off the field and to wish him and his family the very best and our door is always open in Australia .

Danny Russell



When I was asked to write something about Paul Reilly for his testimonial, I felt proud and privileged. To say he's a giant among men giants is a bit of cliché but in Paul's case it's so true!

Anyone that knows Paul or seen him play will know that he's a player who give's a hundred percent when ever he put's on a giants shirt. Paul is one of the true characters of the game and when ever you play against him he's one of the players that you don't want to come in contact with too much, as when you do you know it for days after!

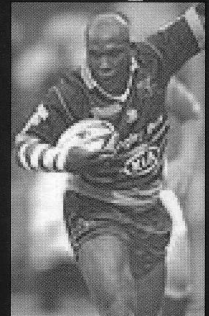
In 2001 I had the pleasure of finally playing with this hard man of the game! and i was not disappointed! I have been lucky enough to play with some of the greats throughout my career and I would put paul up there. He always puts his body on the line no matter if it's in attack or defence, but my greatest playing memory of him is when we played against Bradford. He received a ball and ran back at a 100 miles an hour straight at the Bradford hard man "Stuart Fielden" the collision that happened was one of the true "BIG HITS" in the game . The crowd did one of those deafening silences that they do when they watch something in amazement and in awe of a superhero, but to my amazement Paul bounced Stuart crashing to the ground and played the ball.

It has been one of my greatest honours playing with and writing this for Paul as he works so hard on his game and is now getting what he deserves out of the game.

I would like to wish Paul and his family all the best in the future!

From his team mate, Captain, friend and biggest fan!!!!!!!

Darren Fleary



Paul Reilly - 10 years a Giant

Quite a lot of Paul's teenage years were spent with his Grandparents, and without doubt they were his number one fans, particularly his Grandma.

She could always see his potential when he was playing with the junior teams at Moldgreen. She would cut the clippings out of the Examiner and tell all the neighbours how he would be a professional one day. (how right she was). Grandma was so proud she began to teach him the National Anthem, saying "One day you'll have to sing this". As we know Paul didn't represent GB, he played for England so it was the wrong song he learned, we laugh about it now.

I'm sure Grandma wouldn't have minded, she will have looked down watching with pride.

My memories are more from the living room in the house where Paul practised his tackling technique on me! He would pretend a cushion was a rugby ball running round the room, ducking and diving. Not satisfied with this, he would tackle me, lifting me up and throwing me on the sofa. I would eventually have to give

in, not without a fight I might add, I'd try my best to pull him off even though he was bigger and stronger than me by this time. This was not a good idea on my part. I should have let him win because Paul found this so amusing.

It was just like this when Paul's cousins came over. They would be playing some game in the Garden, cricket or football, then Paul would arrive, and that was it. The football would be put away and the Rugby ball would appear. This inevitably ended with a scuffle, (some things never change), and his Grandma would have to break it up.

I'm pleased to say Paul doesn't need to practise his "Rugby moves" on any of us these days, but we do have to put up with what he calls his "Stardom", he says things like "What's it like to be related to a superstar" and "Do you know who I am".

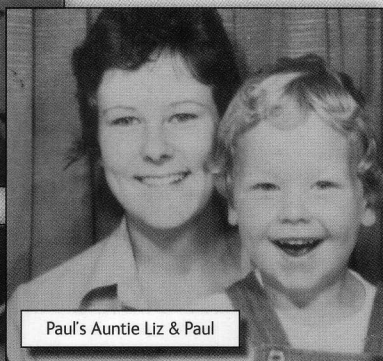
But we love him and wouldn't have him any other way.

Best wishes on your benefit year paul

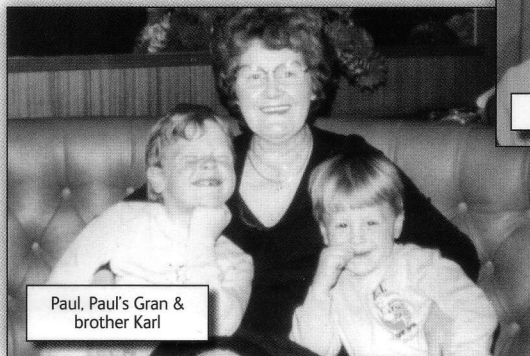
Auntie Liz



Paul's Grandma



Paul's Auntie Liz & Paul



Paul, Paul's Gran & brother Karl

THE MRS HAS HER SAY



GET OFF HIM, you will probably have heard me shout that a few times from the stands down at the galpharm.

I would just like to write a bit for Paul's testimonial about life as a Huddersfield

giants WAG (wives and girlfriends) lol. Over the years I have seen the ups and downs of been a Huddersfield Giants fan, my experiences started when the giants were relegated to the northern ford and will have ended with a challenge cup final and hopefully a winners medal and the cup.

I started going to watch Paul play rugby with pauls dad. it's a funny feeling you get when you see your man getting knocked about on a rugby pitch but Paul loves it, and he always gives as good as he gets. Every game Paul has played has been with pride and passion week in and week out he gives more than 100% and I love watching him play. Paul is wild and aggressive on the pitch, I would even go as far as saying a bit of an animal, which is probably a good thing, because if he wasn't like he is he wouldn't want to get on the pitch again with all the cheap high shots he gets nearly every match.

Off the pitch Paul is a pussycat, so nice and polite a proper nice guy. He can be quite shy around people he doesn't know that well, but when in the company of people he knows he is really funny coming out with classic one liners and always joking around but sometimes can take a joke and go on and on and won't leave it this can get a bit annoying especially if you're the one on the receiving end. One time when I'd just had our daughter Cody, unbeknown to me Paul set the camcorder going recording. He placed it down by the fire pointing at me he was taping me and I didn't know anything about it, best of it was, I looked as rough as a don't know what, Cody was only a couple of days old I had a big toweling dressing gown on and was sat their demolishing a beef spread sandwich. then I noticed Paul was nearly crying with laughter, he couldn't hold it in anymore he told me he had been recording me for about 10mins. we watched the tape back and killed ourselves laughing. I looked like waynetta slob with the baby in one arm sandwich in the

other, rocking back and forth taking bites of my sarnie in between singing to the baby. We had a right laugh about it, but I said if he shows that to anyone I'd kill him.

On another occasion Paul got me with a total classic, I'm always going to see psychics and I believe in the spirit world and all that , anyway one night me and Paul had got in to bed a few minutes later I thought I'd heard something moving on the windowsill pauls like that don't be silly next of all pauls protein shaker flies off the windowsill, well I jumped up screaming frightened to death thinking there was a real ghost in the bedroom when I caught sight of pauls face, he wasn't scared he was laughing his head off. earlier on when he'd gone for his bath he'd tied a piece of cotton round the protein shaker brought it down the back and round his side of the bed so when he pulled on it, it looked like it was moving on its own. I wasn't impressed, after about an hour when I had calmed down I saw the funny side how sneaky is he.

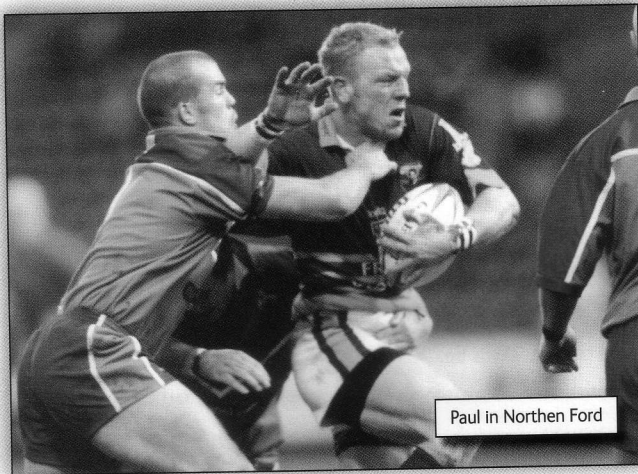
Paul is a proper family man we have 6 children between us. When we met Paul had jade and I had Bradley, Jordan and Leah then we had Cody and Joni. Brad and Jordan are 14 Leah and Jade are 10 (two sets of twins) Cody is 3 and Joni is 1 and we all go every week to watch and cheer Paul on. On match day morning's it can be a bit stressful for Paul, sometimes I think you moody get, I shouldn't think like that because he needs to be mentally prepared for a game. When you live with em sometimes you forget that they play for a Superleague club. I don't know how he gets his game head on because our house is like a mad house with the 6 kids and not forgetting the dog Bailey so then I pray he has a good game cos I'd hate to think he'd had a bad game because of the mayhem he puts up with before a game. Paul loves tattoos and has got my name and all the kids names tattooed on him. My favourite one is a scorpion on his hand. My proudest moment of Paul is when he played for England and got the man of the match in the final against Ireland which they won he played his heart out and deserved it. Paul is a local lad who for the last 10 years for his hometown club he wears the claret and gold with pride I hope everyone gets behind him and supports him in his testimonial year because he deserves it. Paul just like to say were all proud of you and love you to bits all our love

*Paula, Bradley, Jordan, Leah, Jade
Cody-Jae and Joni-Lea xxxxxxxx*

Paul Reilly Testimonial Brochure

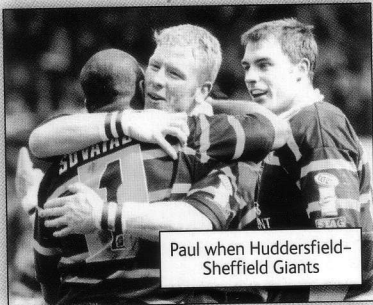
Ten years with so much mixed feelings is how I have to start this piece.

Thinking back to the start of my career I will never forget the feeling of been sat on the



Paul in Northern Ford

bench at the boulevard home to Hull FC thinking that I was there not to be moved from it and just watching another Huddersfield game from a very different place to when going to watch with friends.



Paul when Huddersfield-Sheffield Giants

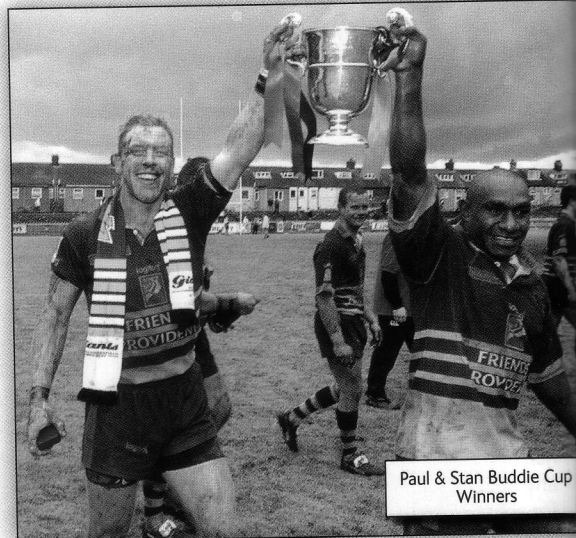
I stood up it all hit me at once. I was here playing for my home town club, and at fullback you have nowhere to hide. After getting through that game feeling very proud things got a bit easier for me and fitted in well in what was a great squad full of stars I watched as a kid.

In 1997-98 season personal problems didn't help my rugby and was in and out of the second team which looking back could have sent me down a very different path and feel even though my Gran never saw me play she is always guiding me from above.

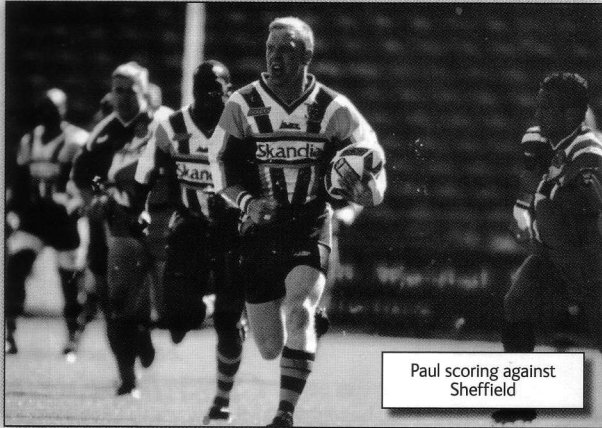
In 1999 things turned different for me and was back in the first team under coach Mal Reilly and even though the results were still disappointing, I could at least try and change things being on the field. It was very hard for me being down at the foot of the table and I don't think people even close people like my dad understood the feelings I had then. He and my step mum Ange went with me to the end of season awards night where I picked up the supporters player and player of the year award and he, as I, couldn't believe it. It was a great feeling, very much like the first time I put on the

claret and gold for the first time, but still the situation the club was in took the shine off it I must admit.

Years went by with the club being at the foot of the table and finally ended up being



Paul & Stan Buddie Cup Winners



Paul scoring against Sheffield

the lower division. As I've said before the drop was a blessing in disguise for the club, looking back now. I feel we improve year by year and one day will be amongst the very top clubs in the league.

Everyone works very hard, not just the players but everyone to do with the Giants including office staff and the promotion side

relegated to the Northern Ford Division where Tony Smith coached us in that league a lot of the players at that time as I did stayed, and without losing one game all year went straight back

to the super league again some disappointment had to get in the way for me as I missed the final, breaking my leg about 4 weeks before the final. The final was a great win with some top performances from some of the guys who could have moved on

of things and they sometimes don't get the credit they deserve. It's been a great 10 years so far at the club working with and around people who I could only dream of



Back to Super League where we belong!!

instead of sticking around with the club in

and I hope that my Grandma does know that I have achieved the goals I set so many years ago because at times, I wasn't an angel when she was around, but I'm sure she'll be proud of me now and that make my years at the club so much sweeter



Paul scoring vs Wigan

Thank you everyone

Paul Reilly

The early years, by David Holmes

When I was asked to write a piece on the young Paul Reilly for his testimonial programme, it felt strange, Paul Reilly playing 10 years for the Huddersfield Giants, it doesn't feel like 10 years ago that we were little kids being forced to listen to his favourite Fleetwood Mac tape round at his Dads house.

From a very early age, there were three lads who were inseparable, they were Paul myself and our friend Jay. We were always real sport billys whether it was football, cricket or hedgehopping, you would always find us charging about tearing into one another.

At Junior School, we never played Rugby League, but as a Hull Lad, I was always mad keen on the game and always bored the other two with my tales of my team, Hull K.R. As we got a little older Rugby League was added onto our list of sports that we played. Paul's dad lived about one minute away from a huge school field but for some reason the three of us along with Paul's brother played on the street outside his dads house on a cul-de sac that was 5 metres wide and jagged stones as a touchline, there was no space to move in these games of two on two RL, so we quickly



developed sidesteps, dummies, chipovers and shimmys. It must have looked like a scene from "Riverdance" with us all jumping around.

Paul especially would show the ball, lick his head and sidestep at the same time. It was effective on the tiny cul-de sac but I've also seen the exact move work countless times for him playing in Superleague. In the later years I had signed for Moldgreen Juniors and really wanted Paul to do the same, but it was two years before I bent his ear enough for him to leave his post as the head choirboy at Rawthorpe High School and play rugby for real. In fact it was his role as choirboy

that led to one of our worst arguments as I tried to stop him from getting a tattoo of Aled Jones on his chest.

His first game for Moldgreen was a tough local derby away at Underbank Rangers, Paul was the star of the show as he scored four tries and was made man of the match. But more importantly, he got into two fights during the game and Paul was hooked. He was great to play with, he had all his fleet-footed skills as well as great natural strength and aggression which really did belie his skinny frame, he would also get under the skin of all his opponents and would always suck in about five tacklers looking to kill him every time he touched the ball. This enabled myself and other players to use all the space he created to grab the glory. Although there was no doubting Paul had been the man.

Paul kept on improving, and it was only a matter of time before Paul turned professional. Although I begged him to join Hull K.R. Fartown was the only time for him. What a servant he has been.

One story that will live with me forever is a game we played as fourteen year olds, we had been behind all the game when, with two minutes remaining, Paul scored a great solo try by steeping past two defenders then bulldozing through another three on a relentless charge to the tryline. Whilst I was kicking the conversion, the referee told me that there were one tackle remaining before full-time. "Up the jumper" was the call

from everyone as our opponents kicked off. Everyone apart from Paul who caught the ball on his own line, chipped over and dived at the full-backs feet as he was about to kick the ball, both players missed the ball, but the full-back kicked Paul in the face, giving him the worst facial injury I have ever seen. The game was abandoned when Paul arose with blood pouring out of his nose and the biggest grin on his face. These two minutes of Rugby League, for me, sums up Paul Reilly, the RL player in a nutshell. A superbly talented Rugby League player

who, although as mad as a box of frogs, you would be hard pushed to find a braver, more committed player to have pulled on a Rugby League jersey.

I wish Paul a well deserved and bumper testimonial, and truly hope he caps it all with a Challenge Cup Winners medal. I am truly proud of everything that Paul has achieved and hope that we remain great friends long after he hangs up his boots.

David Holmes

ENGLAND TOUR

One of my proudest achievements in Rugby League was to be selected for England to play in the European Championship of 2004.

The first game was at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, we actually stayed in the Stadium, which seemed a bit strange.

Unfortunately I played no part in the game, it was an artificial pitch and I'd been struggling with my ankle.

A lot of the players actually played with skateboard pads on elbows and knees to protect themselves. Russia was an experience I'll never forget, and I'm grateful to have had the chance to visit there.

The game was won by England, 98 – 4 .



Rugby League still has a long way to go popularity wise in Russia



We had a day out in Moscow visiting the Red Square and many other attractions.

From there we went on to France, this was very different, the apartments were more like a holiday resort. The social highlight of France was meeting French International soccer player ; David Ginola.

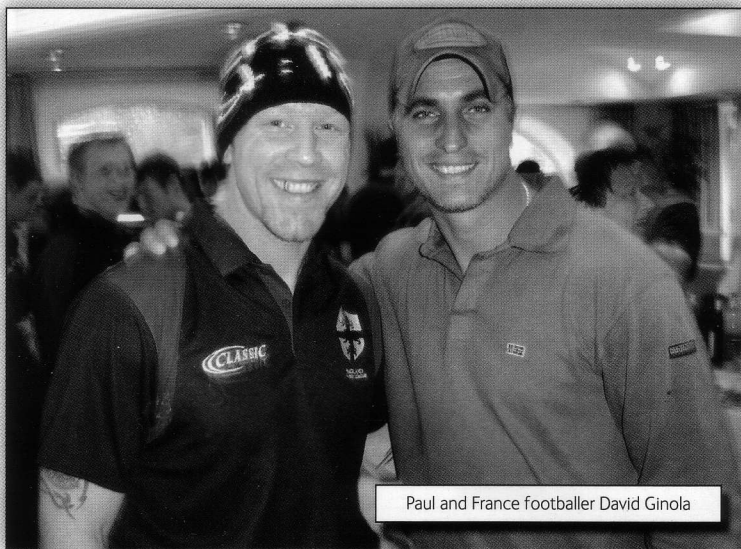
On the pitch, I got my first start in an England shirt. Unfortunately I was at the wrong end of quite a bad "Spear Tackle", I thought that was it, my tour over.

England won the game 42 – 2.

And then onto the final at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, Warrington. 7th November 2004.

EUROPEAN NATIONS CUP 2004

a date I will never forget. When Karl Harrison told me he wanted me to start the match, I was really quite shocked. I'd hardly had chance to shine, having only played for 20 minutes or so in France. I managed to score a couple of tries and was made M.o.M. England finally beating a strong



Paul and France footballer David Ginola

Ireland team by 36 – 12. The fact that there were so many Giants fans in the crowd made it extra special.

To sum the tour up, it was a great experience that I'm glad I was selected for, I made some friends from the elite of Rugby League. The medals, cap and shirt are proudly framed on my wall at home.

