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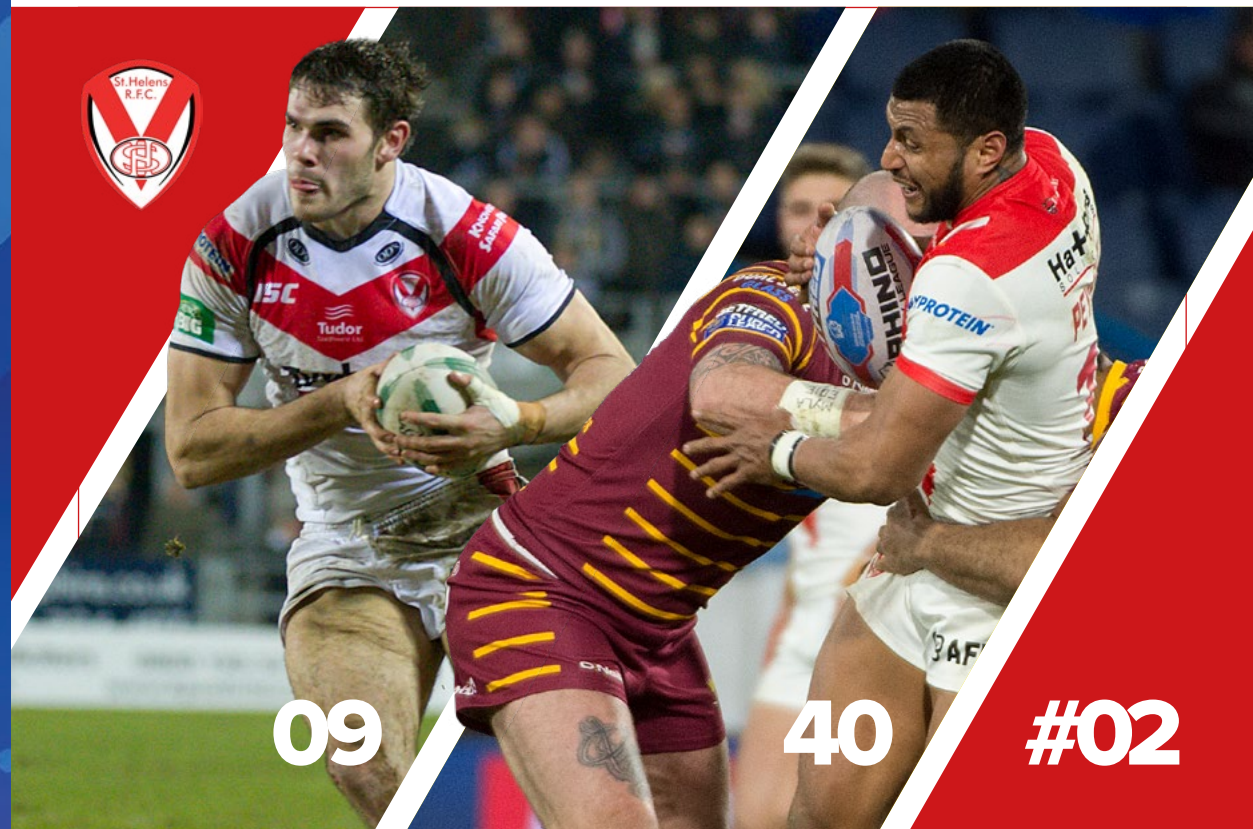
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27 - GEOFF PIMBLETT



Happy Birthday to Bob Hastie, a lifelong saints fan and number one Dad. All the best, from your son Robert x

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1975-76
Leader's Shield:
1964-65, 1965-66

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1975-76, 1976-77, 1984-85, 1992-93
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1926-27, 1953-54, 1960-61, 1961-62,
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1968-69
Charity Shield:
1992-93
BBC2 Floodlit Trophy:
1971-72, 1975-76

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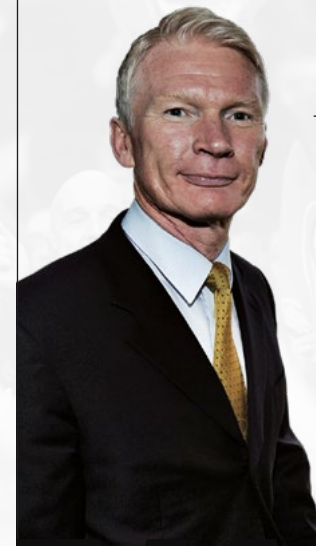
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EAMONN MCMANUS

Firstly, congratulations to The Cricketers in St Helens for being voted the best pub in Britain in 2018 by CAMRA and, critically, beating a pub in Wigan for top spot.

How blessed we are in St Helens to have both the best rugby club and best pub in the country. What more could we possibly ask for in life? Actually, some rugby silverware to add to the pub silverware please.

We've certainly had an encouraging start to our season and the away wins at Catalans and Huddersfield get two perennial banana skins out of the way early. One of the most encouraging aspects of our solid start to the 2018 campaign has been the obvious togetherness of the squad and their confidence in each other. If we maintain that throughout the season then we should have a lot to look forward to.

The arrival of Salford tonight will be a real challenge. They showed their fighting spirit away against Wakefield and should have come away with the points at a very difficult venue. Last week against Hull KR they played the sort of successful attacking rugby which served them well last season and that augers well for an entertaining encounter tonight.

The next few weeks herald probably the most challenging period of the season before the play offs. They entail games against Warrington, Leeds and Wigan as well as having to cope with the annual physical demands of the Easter period and thereafter. It will be a real test for us, and for the depth of our squad as well as its quality. It will also be a real indicator of what may ultimately lie ahead for us during this very long season, but I feel that we are better equipped to deal with this than we have been for many years.

On a very sad note, I would like to extend my personal condolences to the family of one of our greatest past players, Geoff Pimblett. Geoff was one of our top players during one of our most successful periods in the 1970s. Equally important, he was a gentleman without equal and a superb ambassador and leader of our great Past Players Association. Geoff will be greatly missed by us all and his memory long cherished.

Welcome to Salford, their supporters and their new management. If tonight's game is half as exciting as last season's, then you'd better have a stiff drink now.

Enjoy the game and enjoy your evening at The Totally Wicked Stadium.



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JUSTIN HOLBROOK

It seems like an age since we were last at the Totally Wicked Stadium and we are really looking forward to playing back at home tonight against the Salford Red Devils.

We have started the season really well winning all three games.

In Round One we were outstanding against Castleford and put in a very clinical and rewarding performance after a very good pre-season.

In Round Two against a tough Catalans side we were required to do a lot of defending. They came at us hard and it took a special effort from all of us, particularly when down to 12 men for the last 25 minutes, to get the win.

And last week at Huddersfield was another very tough game.

The Giants were camped on our line for a long period but we kept on turning up for each other and got the two competition points.

To see all facets of our game playing a significant part early in the season is great to see but we know there is a long way to go.

We also know we have a lot of improvement in us and the players are pushing each other to set a high standard.

Tonight, we take on Salford Red Devils who picked up a good win over Hull KR at the weekend.

Ian Watson has galvanised a good spirit there and they have several players we need to be wary of.

Congratulations to Luke Thompson who makes his 100th appearance for the club tonight.

I've been very impressed with Thommo since I joined the club; his work rate is outstanding and it is frightening to think that he can only get better.

I think he has become one of the best forwards in the competition from his form at the back end of last season to the way he has started this season.

Luke has become a real leader for us with his actions both during a game and at training. The high standards he sets himself are very beneficial for his team mates and the coaching staff to see. In my opinion it will not be long before he makes his England debut.

Finally, thanks to our fantastic fans that made the trip to Catalans and also the large turnout we got at Huddersfield.

Both the players and myself really appreciate the support we get from you all.

It was like a home game at times at the John Smith's Stadium and we were glad to be able to get the win for you.

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JAMES ROBY

It's a case of so far so good as we come into tonight's match on the back of three wins.

In our first game we started with a bit of a bang and put a few points on Castleford. We were all looking forward to the beginning of the season and it turned out to be a good day for us.

Our last two games have been more about defence. Catalans and Huddersfield are both physical teams and ultimately our defence brought the points home. We showed a lot of character in those performances but we know there is definitely a lot of improvement in us.

Over at Huddersfield on Friday there were parts of the game that were similar to the one in Catalans. We went set for set and luckily for us went in front at half time. We then had that 10 minute patch in the second half and that really helped us home.

We showed great resolve but we know we could have attacked better, especially in the second half.

It was nice to get on the board with a little barge over try too. Sometimes when the play the ball is near the line and teams are down to one marker, you can take advantage. I don't think I have scored one like that for a while and it was certainly one we needed with the flow of the game.

I'm now a couple away from 100... I'll be happy when I hit that for sure. 100 tries sounds like a good figure to me!

Luke Thompson is set to reach a milestone tonight

by making 100 appearances for the club.

There aren't many players who work harder than him. He takes his craft very seriously, is meticulous with his diet and a hard trainer.

And it's showing too. Over the last 12 months he has come on leaps and bounds and is one of the form front rowers in the competition.

He is a leader for us and hopefully will be the mainstay of the pack for the next 10 years.

Tonight we face Salford and we know they are a quality team. They attack well and are very physical up front.

We need to make sure we turn up with the right attitude and mindset. We need to be fully focused on keeping up our good start to the season in front of our home fans.

With that in mind, I'd like to thank all the fans who have got behind us in great numbers this season. Your support is really appreciated and if we stick together we could achieve big things this year.

Finally, we pay tribute to Geoff Pimblett tonight.

Geoff was a really nice, likeable fella who always took time out to see how you were. I know he was happy to be involved in the club with the Past Players Association and Saints Community Development Foundation and his loss is one we are all feeling.

On behalf of all the playing squad I'd like to pass on our condolences and thoughts to all his family and friends.

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IN CONVERSATION WITH **ALEX WALMSLEY**

The prop has pledged his future to the Saints and is looking forward to creating a new era.

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Alex ... Big Al ... obvious we suppose but where did you pick that nickname up from?

It was adopted on to me as I was growing up. I was always bigger than everyone else and being called Alex, it naturally came about. I didn't give it to myself if that is what you mean! Whenever I have gone to new environments it has followed. Fits doesn't it?

Have any of the other boys given themselves a nickname? There's no way Mark Percival called himself the Prince.

I remember Luke Thompson coming on to Twitter and calling himself 'LT baby'. That sticks to mind. He'd been side-lined with injury and announced on there that 'LT was back baby', which got ridiculed and rightly so.

So Big Al, baby, you signed a new four-year contract recently to prolong your stay with the club. How easy a decision was that to make?

It was easy in the end. There had been well-documented interest in Australia and I was given some good offers to ply my trade out there. But after speaking to everyone, my family, Justin, Rushie (Mike Rush) and Eamonn it was clear I wanted to stay. I feel there is a lot to come from this team and I want to be a part of that. I'd hate to have left at the end of the season and watch this team go on to win a lot of silverware. It is well capable of that and bringing back those glory days that we speak of. If I didn't think that was the case then it might have been easy for me to give it a go.

What Justin is building, the players we have brought in and how happy the place is made it an easy decision. I am really looking forward to the next five years. It is 10 years since we won successive silverware, apart from in 2014, and I want to be part of bringing trophies back to this club.

Did having a new son make a big difference in your decision?

I had the blessing of everyone. I am in a relationship and have a family who are very supportive. They want me to go on and do what I want to do rather than what is best for everyone. I had their support and in particular from Simone, to go on and have a go at those ambitions if that is what I wanted to do. Naturally, there was a part of me that asked if it was the right thing to do taking a five-month-old away from his grandparents, aunties and uncles, but I had their blessing if that is what I wanted to do.

I am a grounded person. Going to the NRL and Australia gets hyped up as a glittering career and is a bit Hollywood I suppose. Players have gone out over there and cracked it. If I went it wouldn't have

been for those glittering lights, it would have been a career choice for me and what is best for my family. At the end of the day a major factor in coming to my decision was that I was happy here and you can't put a price on happiness.

That's great to hear!

Everyone at Saints has been so welcoming since I signed. The fans, staff, everyone at the club has been great. I get on great with everyone who works here and I'd like to think the lads get on well with me too. When you're happy why change it?

You've come through quite a journey to be here now. What's it been like?

It's been crazy. Playing at Dewsbury Celtic with my mates and going to University was class. I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed learning and working part time on building sites and earning some cash to go out on a weekend. I loved the feeling of getting up, enjoying my rugby, playing with my mates and then having a few beers afterwards. It was great.



I always felt there was something more there though and signing for Batley at the time was the pinnacle. I felt I had made it, I was now semi-pro player. Getting £250 on a weekend after a game was great. What more could you need? I got this money from playing rugby and then I started to see all the interest from Super League and it was a bit daunting. After a training session John Kear asked me what I was doing the next day and I said I was a student so I wasn't doing a great deal. He told me we would be driving over to St Helens and I knew straight away I would be signing. I really didn't need to get in the car. They could have put a McDonald's wrap in front of me and said sign that and it wouldn't have mattered. I was due to start a career but within a couple of years I'd been to a Grand Final and represented my country. I've been a part of something really special and part of one of the most successful teams in Super League. It is something I have very proud of.



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A McDonald's wrap?

The last time I told this story I said a used tissue and the lads took me apart so I have changed it. I would have signed for anything though. When Saints want you, you sign. When I came here Wellens was still captain and then you had Wilkin, Roby and Gardner... these absolute heroes of the game in your changing room so why wouldn't you sign?

When did you realise you had made it? Have you realised it yet?

I knew I was a full time professional when I played against Wigan in 2013. It was Nathan Brown's first year and I had been thrown in pretty early because of injury. All those players eventually came back and I thought that was it, I've had a few games and now I'm off to Batley on dual reg. But Brown picked me ahead of Josh Perry who was an NRL prop and that is when I realised I am a professional. I was playing in one of the biggest games of rugby league at the time, and Brown had given me the nod in what was the biggest game of the year so far. We didn't win but I knew this was for me and I loved it. I am a rugby league player.

What are you like off the field?

I've definitely changed. When I first came over here I still had that student lifestyle in me. I'd train, go home, get on the PlayStation and cook the cheapest meal I could as that was all I could afford. I went out and enjoyed myself. Now I have a little one so that takes up 99 per cent of my time. It's nice to step back and spend a lot of time with my family.

Thanks Alex... so... is there something else we should have asked you?

What, you want something interesting about me? Something I should share? Ok, how about what do I want to achieve in the next five years? How's that?

Bit dull, but why not... !

Ha ha! I want to get this club back to where it was because I feel we are sort of the nearly men at the minute. We are nearly good enough but last year I

felt that was a little different. I thought we were good enough to win, but before I thought we weren't quite good enough. I want to get this team to be good enough to win things.

I feel that what Justin is making here is special and off the field there are big changes going on at the club and how it approaches things. We are engaged together. It isn't a case of just coming to do a job and go home, it feels more personal. Everyone is more invested and are putting a lot of personal time and effort into the club.

For us it's not just about going to training; I feel there is a genuine care for the club and everyone here wants it to do well. We can do that by winning things. We want to bring back those days and inspire the next generation.

Ask anyone what inspired them and they will talk about 2006, 7 and 8. It is when this club was pumping and it inspired a generation. I feel we can inspire the next generation of Saints teams for the future and I think we can do that by winning things.



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ALEX WALMSLEY MINI FACT FILE

AGE: 27
SEASON: 6
DEBUT: Feb 15, 2013 v Hull FC

GAMES: 150 games played
TRIES: 23 tries

SUPER LEAGUE METRES:
16,780 metres (2013-2017)
SUPER LEAGUE TACKLES:
2,550 tackles (2013-2017)

HONOURS:
SUPER LEAGUE CHAMPION: 2014

PERSONAL HONOURS:
SUPER LEAGUE DREAM TEAM: 2015

REP HONOURS: 5



ALEX WALMSLEY
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OUR OPPOSITION: SALFORD RED DEVILS



This evening Super League rugby returns to the Totally Wicked Stadium as the Salford Red Devils make the short journey down the M62 to visit St. Helens.

They arrive in a buoyant mood after their comprehensive home defeat of Hull KR, last Friday, finally kick started their 2018 campaign.

Salford are currently lying ninth in Super League having won one of their opening three matches. Last season, they qualified for the Super 8s for the very first time and reached the Challenge Cup Semi Final and they will be looking to at least match these feats during the forthcoming campaign. There have been many changes around their club during the off season; the biggest of which saw their charismatic Chairman, Marwan Koukash, handing over control of the club to a fans' consortium after almost five years at the helm.

Salford's last visit to the Totally Wicked Stadium was on June 23 2017 for a round 19 Super League XXII fixture. At that time the Red Devils were lying second having won 12 of their 18 Super League matches for a total of 24 points, whilst Saints were sixth and trailed their opponents by seven points, prior to kick off. Little did we know, at that time, the significance of this fixture to both teams, and for 73 minutes the match went with the form book. At that point Salford were in complete control of proceedings as they led by 24 points to 8 and, as the home supporters left the stadium in their droves, St. Helens produced one of the truly great comebacks to steal the points with the very last kick of the match. In those closing seven minutes, James Roby, Regan Grace and Jonny Lomax each scored tries for Saints and former Salford scrum half, Matty Smith, landed a quite remarkable 45 metre drop goal, several seconds after the final hooter, to claim the points in a game that ended 25-24 to the hosts.

This result proved pivotal in both clubs' seasons. Saints were to win eight of their remaining twelve matches to qualify for the 'play-offs', whilst the Red Devils, who had already qualified for the Super 8s with five rounds remaining, were to win just two of their final twelve Super League matches to eventually end their 2018 campaign in seventh.

During the off season, Derrell Olpherts (Newcastle Thunder), Gavin Bennion (Rochdale Hornets), Levy Nzoungou (Melbourne Storm, Aus), Jack Littlejohn (Wests Tigers, Aus), Luke Burgess (Catalans Dragons) and Ben Nakubuwai (Gold Coast Titans, Aus) have each joined the club; whilst, Matty Wilkinson (Oldham), Olsi Krasniqi (Toronto Wolfpack, Can), Adam Walne (Huddersfield Giants), Jordan Walne & Connor Williams (both Hull KR), Ben Murdoch-Masila (Warrington Wolves), Michael Dobson (Wynnum Manly Seagulls, Aus), Liam Bent (Oldham), and Todd Carney (Northern Pride, Aus) departed.

There's still a lot of football in their new squad, despite the significant departures of both Michael Dobson and

Ben Murdoch-Masila and provided they stay relatively healthy during the Super League XIII campaign there's no reason why the Red Devils can't qualify for the Super 8s for a second successive season.

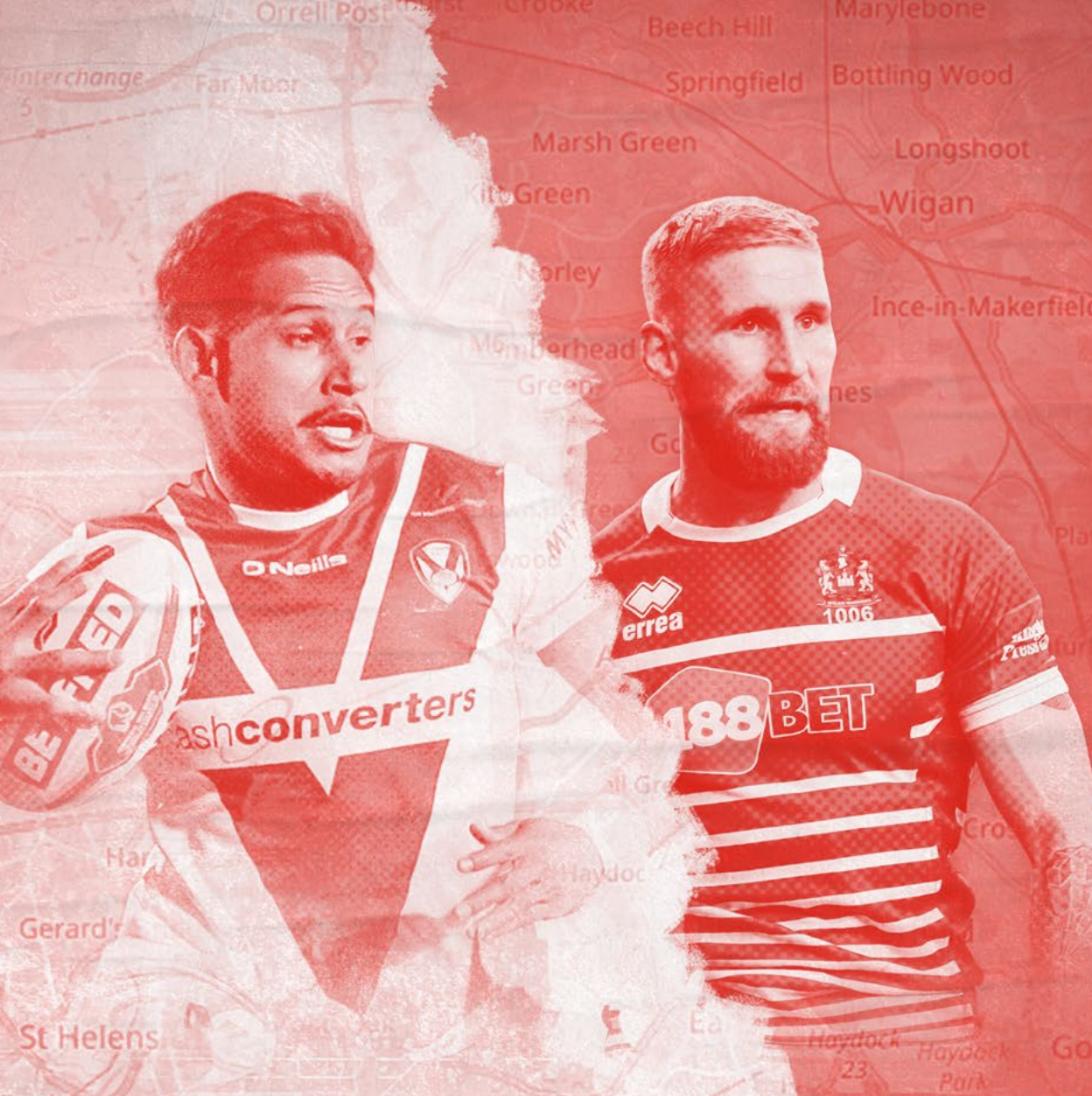
Salford lost their opening game of the new campaign 12-40 to Wigan but those present felt that the final scoreline somewhat flattered their visitors and that the hosts could take positives from their performance. They were much better in game two at Wakefield and deserved something from the match, in a very narrow, 12-14 defeat. Again there were many positives, particularly given Wakefield's excellent start to Super League XXIII. Last Friday, the Red Devils secured their first win. They were very good and they comprehensively defeated Hull KR by 36 points to 12.

Salford have faced Saints on 42 occasions since the onset of Super League. Saints have won 36 of these previous Super League meetings between the sides, including all 14 matches played at Knowsley Road, one at the Stobart Stadium and six at the Totally Wicked Stadium; including the Grand Opening game in 2012.

In this period, St. Helens have also won each of the three Challenge Cup ties between the two teams.

Bill Bates





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GARETH O'BRIEN

Gareth O'Brien signed for the Red Devils from Warrington at the start of the 2016 season and soon wrote himself into Salford folklore as he kicked the match-winning extra-time drop-goal in the 2016 Million Pound Game which saw Salford maintain Super League status. O'Brien can play at half-back or full-back and has already racked up almost 350 points for Salford. He has also spent time with Widnes, Swinton, Castleford, St Helens and Warrington.



KRIS WELHAM

Kris Welham's signature at Salford went under the radar. He joined from Championship club Bradford Bulls and was extremely impressive in his first season at the AJ Bell Stadium. Welham made his name at hometown club Hull KR for whom he featured for ten seasons helping them earn promotion to the Super League and appear at Wembley in the 2015 Challenge Cup final. The 30-year-old scored 12 tries in 29 appearances in his first season with Salford.



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JACK LITTLEJOHN

Salford Red Devils Head Coach Ian Watson added another half-back option ahead of the 2018 season in the form of Australian Jack Littlejohn who arrived from Wests Tigers. Littlejohn, born in Wagga Wagga, made 16 appearances in the NRL last season and has captained the Wests Tigers Reserve side previously. He will be looking to impress in his debut season with the Red Devils.

LUKE BURGESS

Burgess returns to Salford for his second spell after being there in 2016. He was a Super League Grand Final winner with the Leeds Rhinos in 2009 before moving to South Sydney in Australia to play alongside his brothers Sam, Tom and George; where he was involved in an NRL winning campaign in 2014. Burgess has also spent time with Manly Sea Eagles and the Catalans Dragons before re-signing at the AJ Bell Stadium.



JOSH JONES

Josh Jones joined the Red Devils in 2016 following a one-year stint in Rugby Union's Aviva Premiership with the Exeter Chiefs. Born in Leyland, Lancashire, Jones joined his local side St Helens in 2012 and spent three years with the Saints, winning a Super League Grand Final in 2014. Since arriving at the AJ Bell Stadium, Jones has featured in the back-row and at centre and has crossed for 11 tries over the past two seasons.

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SAINTS v SALFORD RED DEVILS

YEAR	AT ST. HELENS		AT SALFORD	
1996				
1997	W	19-12	L	26-39
1998	W	48-12	W	18-14
1999	W	48-0	W	30-12
			W	23-10
2000	W	46-22	W	58-4
	W	50-28		
2001	W	66-16	W	56-18
2002	W	34-2	W	28-24
2003				
2004	W	40-4	L	20-30
2005	W	46-12	W	33-22
2006	W	28-6	W	12-10
2007	W	48-4	W	32-20
	W	27-26		
2008				
2009	W	38-12	L	10-20
2010	W	58-34	L	34-42
2011	W	31-6	W	56-22
2012	W	38-10	W	32-10
2013	W	14-10	W	52-10
2014	W	32-12	W	38-0
2015	W	32-12	W	52-6
2016	W	34-20	L	10-44
2017	W	25-24	L	14-22
			W	30-4 ^
2018				

^ Super 8s Match

PREVIOUS LEAGUE ENCOUNTERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	108	87	5	16	2577	1055
Away	106	47	3	56	1552	1444
Total	214	134	8	72	4129	2499

ALL MATCHES (EXCLUDING FRIENDLIES)

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	124	99	6	19	2829	1176
Away	122	54	5	63	1775	1641
Neutral	2	2	--	--	65	22
Total	248	155	11	82	4669	2839

UPS AND DOWNS

Highest Home Win	66-16	2001
Highest Away Win	58-4	2000
Highest Home Defeat	5-32	1938-39
Highest Away Defeat	10-44	2016
Biggest Marginal Home Win	59-0	1962-63
Biggest Marginal Away Win	58-4	2000
Biggest Marginal Home Defeat	0-31	1937-38
Biggest Marginal Away Defeat	0-37	1938-39



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GEOFF PIMBLETT: ONE OF OUR OWN

Alex Service provides a fitting tribute to one of our most loved players, Geoff Pimblett, who passed away on recently at the age of 73.

Born in the Laffak district of St. Helens, Geoff Pimblett showed he had tremendous sporting ability as a pupil at Windle junior school and later at Cowley Grammar School. He had tremendous hand-eye coordination and was a natural games player. Even then it was obvious that he was cool under pressure and was rarely, if ever, flustered. Although he was a quiet, somewhat reserved character, he had a total belief in his own ability that could never be described as arrogance, which every successful sportsman has to have.

In rugby and cricket, he continued to flourish and by the late 1960s, he was an integral member of St. Helens RUFC and had picked up county honours, for Lancashire, in the process. In the summer months, he was a deadly fast bowler for St. Helens Cricket Club and also represented the Manchester Association. Many good judges reckon he was one of the quickest bowlers never to play for his county, but I digress.

He was never the biggest of players and his anticipation and timing had to compensate accordingly – another reason he was to achieve so much.

"I was quite happy playing rugby union with St. Helens RUFC at Moss Lane, where I was captain and that's where I thought I would remain until Saints came in for me," he recalled. "I was well into my twenties and they wanted me to play as an attacking full-back. I had been a centre in union, although I played a few games at stand-off before settling down in the number one jersey. I was really chuffed that they had approached me and it was the right time to do so for me, personally."

What they got was an astute and intelligent footballer, with a nimble step and the ability to chime into the attack with deadly effect. It seemed as though his football brain was several notches ahead of his opponents and he made things look easy, such was his natural ability. He appeared to be so organised and unflappable, in command of most situations, whether in defence or attack. Geoff was also a fine goal-kicker, with a precise, chipped style, like a golfer with a nine-iron and could pop over crucial drop-goals if need be.

Geoff was 26 when he became a Saint on January 7 1971 and a change of codes was always a potential gamble. He played several games in the A team as a stand-off and was the back substitute for the visit to Whitehaven on February 27.

"You have to have some luck in the game and I remember the team got knocked out of the Challenge Cup by Leeds and perhaps it was then that they thought about giving me a chance to establish myself," he recalled.

He wore the full-back's jersey for the first time against Wigan on Good Friday at Central Park, with the Saints winning 9-6, in front of 24,017 and by the end of the campaign, 12 matches in fact, Geoff was playing a vital role in another Saints' success over Wigan, at Swinton in the Championship Final, when they kept the trophy for the second successive year. He looked the part in the number one jersey too.

Geoff had certainly arrived at Knowsley Road at the right time. The next eight seasons were sprinkled with finals, winner's medals and Man of the Match awards, as Geoff made the number one jersey very much his own. He was the first player to win both the Lance Todd Trophy [1976 v Widnes] and Harry Sunderland Trophy [1977 v Warrington] and after taking over the goal-kicking duties from his great friend Kel Coslett, he led the goal-kicking charts in 1977/78 with 138. He also became the only man to captain both St. Helens RUFC and St. Helens RLFC!

He made a sterling contribution towards Saints' success in the 1972 Challenge Cup Final victory over a



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powerful Leeds side and was a virtual ever-present in the team that won the First Division Championship in 1975 at a canter. Yet it is the 1976 Challenge Cup Final that saw him produce his greatest performance.

"We were playing good rugby that season – the best I had experienced in a Saints' side," he remembered. "Once we got the breakthrough, you could enjoy the experience of playing at Wembley."



Despite the intense heat, Pimblett revealed why he was such an asset to the Saints, with three conversions and two vital drop-goals as his 'Dad's Army' side held their own – and more – against a much younger Widnes outfit. He was a constant threat to the Widnes defence all afternoon doing what he did best – linking up with the attack. It was a superb all-round performance worthy of the coveted Lance Todd Trophy.

"It was different in those days," he remembered. "As we were lining up ready to go up for the cup, this fellow comes up to me and says 'by the way, you've won the Lance Todd,' which was a nice surprise – without doubt the highlight of my career."

Following a 15-2 Premiership success against Salford seven days later, Geoff and his team-mates embarked on a short tour Down Under, playing against Easts at the Sydney Cricket Ground, but were beaten decisively.

The Saints, with Geoff in sparkling form, retained the Premiership trophy in 1977, with the 32-20 defeat of Warrington. Pimblett's marvellous seven goals and a try earned him the Harry Sunderland Trophy outright, when, almost like an extra stand-off with his deceptive, jinking running style, he created wholesale panic in the opposition ranks! By this time, despite his relatively slight frame, he had also perfected a superb front-on 'man-and-ball' tackle. Not many got past him! He was more durable than many realised.

Geoff was the natural choice as Club Captain,

following the departures of Billy Benyon and Kel Coslett and he skippered the team in the classic 1978 Challenge Cup Final against Leeds. Unfortunately, the heavier Leeds pack triumphed that day 14-12, in one of the classic Wembley finals. Indeed, the Captain could not disguise his disappointment: "I would have loved to have lifted up the cup for the fans, that's my main regret, although it was a close game."

Geoff became a 'dual-code' county player with his selection for Lancashire against Other Nationalities at Knowsley Road on November 25 1975, at right centre. He played once more, two years later, in his more accustomed full-back position, against Yorkshire at Naughton Park, Widnes. He also achieved a long-standing ambition by playing for England against Wales at Knowsley Road on May 28 1978.

It was a proud moment when Geoff heard of his selection: "There were some good full-backs around at the time, especially Wigan's George Fairbairn, but I finally got my chance after Wembley. We stayed the night before in a hotel in Kirkby, which was a bit strange with me living so close to the ground anyway! But to play at Knowsley Road was always a pleasure – a superb, flat pitch, always in great condition."

England won 60-13, the widest-ever margin between the two countries, yet Geoff delighted his supporters with a fabulous 21-point performance, nine goals and a try, a record for an England player at the time. Ironically, this was later broken by another Saints' full-back, Steve Prescott, in 1996.



The 1978/79 season saw the Saints in relative decline, although the side battled through to the semi-final of the Challenge Cup against Wakefield. After a string of bad results, the unthinkable happened and Geoff was dropped before the game. The team itself had not been playing well in the run up and supporters thought that Pimblett had been made a scapegoat, especially when Saints lost 9-7 and he could have made quite a difference.







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"I decided to call it a day after that," he remembered.

"I didn't feel bitter, although the feeling of stability I felt had gone. In the mid-seventies I was making, perhaps four tackles in a match. Now it was in double figures! I played with the best and I had no intention of putting on a pair of boots again!"

But for the fantastic achievements of another superb full-back and local lad, Paul Wellens, Geoff would have been 'nailed on' as a member of the club's Greatest 17. Even after his magnificent playing career had come to an end Geoff maintained his links with the St. Helens Club, right to the end. He was the Secretary and a founder member of the St. Helens Players Association, which has grown from strength to strength over the years and he was an integral part of the Saints' Smart School, helping local primary schools who visited the club. He loved that. Geoff was also a trustee of the Saints' Lottery.

Geoff was a brilliant history teacher at Grange Park High School, where another Saints' great, Steve Llewellyn, was Deputy Head. He was a supremely organised person, an engaging personality and so well-respected by pupils and staff alike. When Grange Park became Broadway, he was Senior Master and remained a popular figure until his retirement in the mid-1990s.

A devoted family man, and married to Merle for more

than 50 years, they have two daughters, Helen and Janet; five grand-children, Jarrod, Josh, Keeley, Hollie and Chloe, together with two great grandchildren, Zak and Eli. Indeed, his grandson Josh [Simm], has recently returned from the Saints' Academy tour to Australia and, hopefully, has a great future ahead of him. Geoff was so proud of the progress he was making.

St. Helens R.F.C. has lost one of its greatest sons and we extend our sympathy to Geoff's family at this sad time.

Geoff was always a very modest man, despite his considerable achievements and never one for fuss. He was an absolutely top-notch bloke, great company and so many will feel such a tremendous sense of loss at his untimely passing. He was truly one of our own.

Geoff Pimblett

Born: St. Helens May 11 1944

Died: St. Helens February 19 2018

Debut: February 27 1971 Whitehaven 8 St. Helens 15 [Lge]

Last match: April 1 1979 Wakefield Trinity 23 St. Helens 3 [Lge]

Appearances: 365

Tries: 48

Goals: 608

Drop-goals: 28

Points: 1,388



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FAREWELL PERCY LANDSBERG



It is sad to relate the passing of one of Saints' Southern African stars, Percy Landsberg, 82, after a long illness.

He made 22 appearances overall for the club, scoring two tries and kicked 11 goals. He was also full-back in the 1960-61 Lancashire Cup final team that triumphed over Swinton at Central Park, Wigan, which included Tom van Vollenhoven and Jan Prinsloo in the line-up.

In the late 1950s the St. Helens club began to look at South African Rugby Union as a source of recruiting future talent. They hit pure gold with Tom van Vollenhoven and signed Jan Prinsloo shortly after. Their third venture was to snare Percy Landsberg to a professional contract at Knowsley Road.

It was a very cloak and dagger operation in those days. If a player was found to be dealing with the professional code, they were dealt with very harshly indeed by the union authorities. On September 29 1959, the Saints Secretary Basil Lowe received a letter from the South African 'go between' regarding Percy Landsberg.

In the opening paragraphs, Basil stated the club's desire to sign him: "I have taken action straight away and I am able to inform you that we are interested in Percy Landsberg. I have had a word with Tom van Vollenhoven who more or less repeats all that you have said. He feels that Landsberg would be a success in Rugby League and he also thinks that Percy would be happy in this country and with this club."

The die was duly cast and Percy became a Saint shortly after.

Born on June 18 1935 and a miner in the Rhodesian copper belt, Percy had played his club rugby for a team called Nchanga and had enjoyed representative selection for Rhodesia and the Transvaal Under 19s. At 5ft 10ins and 11st 5lbs he could play anywhere in the backs, with excellent handling skills and he was tough enough to compete in professional rugby league, for sure.

He was also a competent goal-kicker too. Percy made his debut against Liverpool City on November 7 1959 at right centre, with Tom van Vollenhoven outside him, who scored a hat-trick in Saints' 40-17 win in front of more than 11,000 at Knowsley Road. Jan Prinsloo was the other centre. Percy played on eight occasions in the First Team that season, scoring two tries. Although he could play centre, he was, perhaps, most at home at full-back.

Percy took up the full-back position at the start of the 1960-61 campaign and wore the jersey in the Lancashire Cup final against Swinton at Wigan on October 29 1960, in front of more than 31,000 fans. The Saints lifted the famous trophy after a 15-9 success, part of their domination of the competition in the early 1960s. Percy played the following week against Whitehaven at Knowsley Road at full-back and it proved to be the last time he pulled on the First Team strip.

During his time at St. Helens he proved to be a popular player with the fans and team-mates alike. His brother, Chris, a winger, came over to play several games for Leigh in 1961.

Percy returned from St Helens to work on the Copper Belt in Nchanga. His eldest son, Tony tells us: "He was not allowed to play rugby on his return [due to having played pro rugby], so he went and played soccer, representing Northern Rhodesia. He played baseball as well while in Northern Rhodesia. He then moved to South Africa, Durban and then Pretoria where he started a baseball club for kids. It grew to being the top junior and senior club for 25 years. He retired from the club [Centurion Raiders] due to ill health."

Clearly his sporting interests formed such a huge part in his life.

His granddaughter, Keri Stroebel, said that Percy was extremely proud of his rugby achievements and shared his fond memories of St. Helens rugby league right to the end.

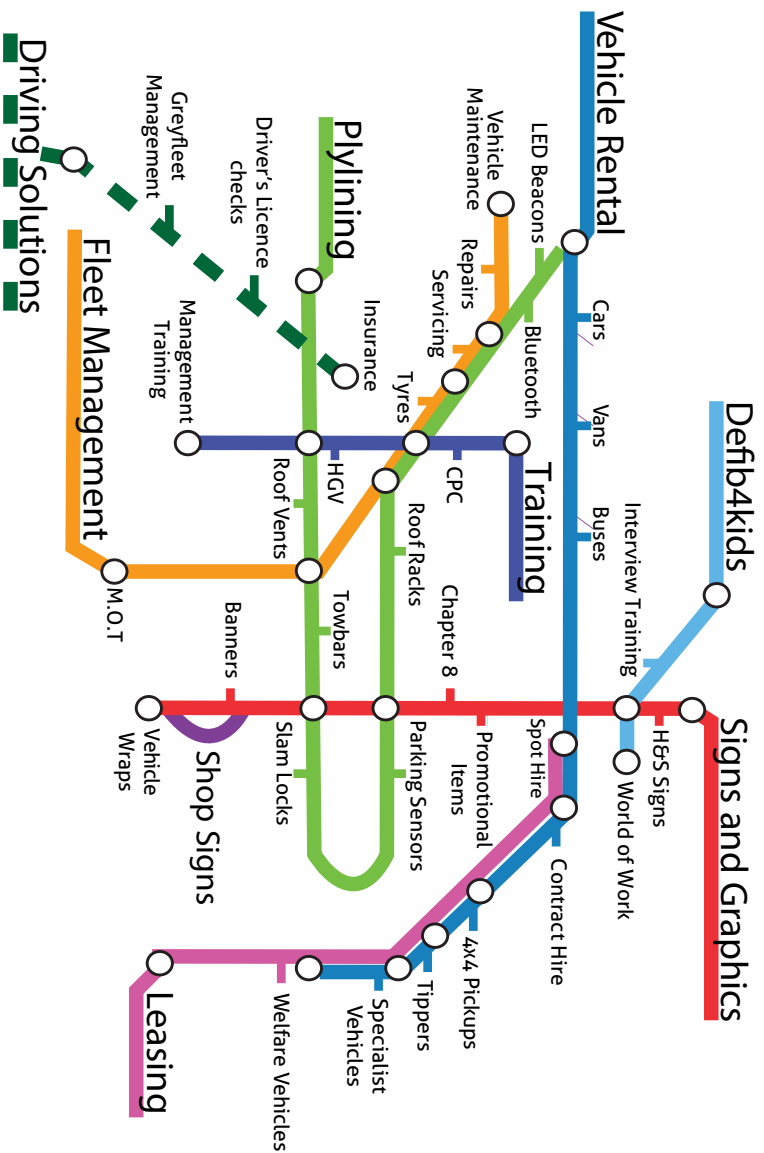
A point emphasised by Tony: "His St. Helens jersey and other memorabilia was his greatest possession." A touching sentiment, indeed.

At this sad time, we send our condolences to Sylvia, his wife of 60 years, together with sons Tony, Deon and Steve. Percy is survived by his brother, Chris. Another of his brothers, Jannie, pre-deceased him.



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ST HELENS MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SUICIDE

A SERVICE OF REFLECTION WILL BE HELD AT SAINTS' TOTALLY WICKED STADIUM THIS MARCH FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SUICIDE.

The event, which will run from 7:30pm - 9:00pm on Wednesday March 28, is being hosted by Listening Ear's AMPARO service, which provides support following suicide, and is supported by St Helens Council, Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBs), State of Mind (a charity that promotes positive mental health for sportsmen and women) and St Helens College.

Bringing people affected by suicide together from across Merseyside and Cheshire, the evening aims to provide a space for thought and reflection in supportive surroundings. In attendance will be Danny Sculthorpe and Ian Smith from the world of Rugby League who have both been personally affected by suicide.

Richard Brown, CEO of Listening Ear said: "We have

been delivering our post suicide support service, AMPARO, in Cheshire & Merseyside for nearly three years. AMPARO aims to reduce stigma, support bereaved families, and bring local services together to provide cohesive care and support when a suicide has occurred within a community."

"Suicide is an individual tragedy, life-altering for those bereaved and a traumatic event for the community and local services involved. It is also a major public health issue and a leading cause of years of life lost."

If you would like to attend the memorial service, visit <https://www.listening-ear.co.uk/Event/st-helens-memorial-service> to book your place.

Wish FM Saints summariser and Redvee. Net editor David Lyon has donated £500 to the St Helens Foodbank after taking joint first place in the 2017 Betfred Media Tipping Competition.

The Saints fan shared the top prize of £1,000 with Gareth Walker of the Daily Mirror after a full season of tipping couldn't separate them.

He made the donation to the Foodbank to ensure money helped as many of our local community as possible.

In the past 12 months the St Helens Foodbank at the Hope Centre on Atherton Street has given out over six thousand three-day emergency food supplies

If you'd like to make any food donations then the Foodbank is open Monday-Friday 9:30-4:00pm. Items such as Cereal, Milk, Sugar, Rice, Pasta, Tinned food (vegetables, potatoes, fish meat) and Fruit Juices, as well as other items such as toiletries and nappies are gratefully received.

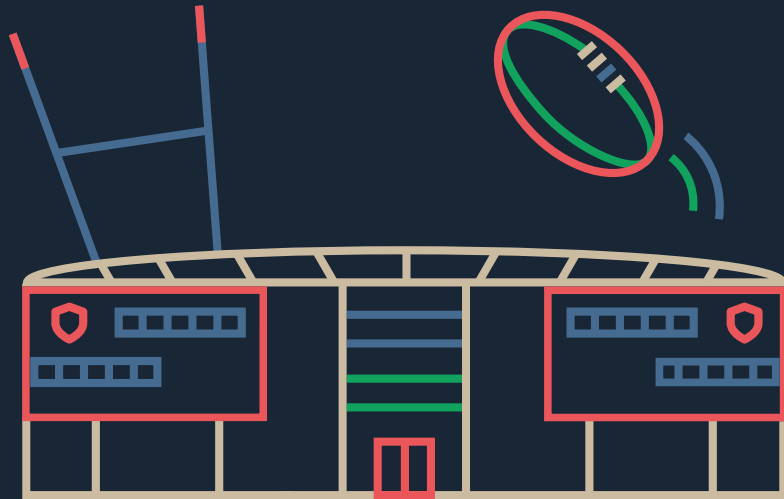


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All about Perspective

BY PAUL JOHNSON, CLUB CHAPLAIN

Valentine's Day 2018 was a special day for my wife and me. It was our 20th wedding anniversary. As a special treat, along with a great bunch of friends, we had booked tickets to go and watch Hamilton in London.

For those of you who don't know, Hamilton is probably the biggest thing in musical theatre at the moment. It is the story of Alexander Hamilton, who was one of the Founding Fathers of the USA. He rose to prominence from being an immigrant and orphan with no real prospects, to being George Washington's personal secretary, the founder of the American banking system and one of the most influential characters in American history. Lin Manuel Miranda has written this incredible show, which is a mixture of musical styles, and Hamilton's story is beginning to be heard once more.

My wife is Head of Performing Arts at a school and so we go to see shows fairly regularly. We've seen lots of different musicals, but this one completely blew me away. It is, by a distance, the most amazing show that I have ever seen. I'm not ashamed to say that, even though we watched the matinee, it was 1am in the bar before I could talk about it without holding back tears!

Knowing that we had booked a matinee show, we had the Saturday evening free in London. We decided, at the last minute, to try to get tickets for another show for significantly less money! We looked around and saw that we could go to watch Phantom of the Opera. This musical has won numerous awards and it is world renowned for its music and staging. The visual spectacle of the show is incredible and the songs are huge and memorable. Off we went for our second show of the day... What a bizarre experience! The show was superb. The performers were phenomenal. The music was brilliantly played and mixed. The atmosphere was great. However, I found it to be somewhat underwhelming. I tried really hard to engage with the show, but I found myself humming the songs from Hamilton, in my head, throughout the performance (thankfully they never got hummed out loud!).

What was the problem? Well, it certainly wasn't the show. Phantom was great. The issue was that I had just experienced something that was so good, everything else paled into insignificance. It's like going to Blackpool and riding the Pepsi Max Big One first! Every other roller coaster will feel poor by comparison. My perspective on the matter meant that I, probably, missed out on enjoying a great show

to the fullest extent. In order to fully engage with it, I should have made a more conscious decision to LIVE in that moment, rather than simply be PASSIVE in that moment.

So many times, throughout our lives, we find ourselves in situations and become passive. There may be many good reasons for that to be the case, but we still have a choice to make. When we spend time with our family and friends, let's choose to engage - maybe even put our phones away (!) and be truly present in the moment. Some of the best advice I was ever given, as a chaplain, was from a friend of mine called Gurdev Singh Bal, who is a Sikh chaplain in Walsall. He advised that we should choose to 'go the long way around' and engage with people, rather than taking a short cut to avoid conversations. Yes, it may take more time, but that active moment of conversation has the potential to lift someone's day - maybe even save their lives! Let's choose not to switch off, but stay active and enjoy the moment that we are living in.

Enjoy the game!

Chapper's Tips for a Happy Mind

Here's this week's quote of the week:

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Francis of Assisi

How often do we look at a situation and the sheer gravity of it puts us off? How many times do we face circumstances which, short of a miracle, look hopeless? How many times, in our own lives, do we have to admit that we don't really know how we are going to achieve the things that we want to, because the challenges look too big? St Francis of Assisi's quote reminds us that we can only make changes happen by addressing the needs that are in front of our faces. As we start to make a difference there, we grow in confidence and see the bigger things turn around too. Let's decide, this week, that we are going to start where we are make a series of small changes, in order to see the impossible becoming more possible.



CATALANS DRAGONS

ST. HELENS



DRAGONS:

Tries: Mead, Da Costa

Goals: Albert (2 from 2)

Penalties Awarded: 8



SAINTS:

Tries: Lomax, Grace, Swift

Goals: Richardson (4 from 5)

Drop: Richardson

Penalties Awarded: 7

HALF TIME:
0-12

FULL TIME:
12-21

REF: P BENTHAM

DRAGONS

David MEAD **01**
 Jodie BROUGHTON **02**
 Iain THORNLEY **03**
 Brayden WILIAME **04**
 Lewis TIERNEY **20**
 Greg BIRD **13**
 Lucas ALBERT **22**
 Remi CASTY **08**
 Michael MCILORUM **19**
 Mickael SIMON **15**
 Benjamin JULLIEN **21**
 Benjamin GARCIA **12**
 Jason BAITIERI **17**

Subs:

14. Julian Bousquet, 18. Thibaud v,
 23. Antoni Maria, 24. Alrix Da Costa.

SAINTS

23 Ben BARBA
05 Adam SWIFT
02 Tommy MAKINSON
04 Mark PERCIVAL
19 Regan GRACE
01 Jonny LOMAX
18 Danny RICHARDSON
14 Luke DOUGLAS
09 James ROBY
16 Luke THOMPSON
17 Dom PEYROUX
11 Zeb TAIA
12 Jon WILKIN

Subs:

6. Theo Fages, 8. Alex Walmsley,
 13. Louie McCarthy-Scarsbrook,
 15. Morgan Knowles.



HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS

ST HELENS



GIANTS:

Tries: Brough, Roberts
Goals: Brough (2 from 3)
Penalties Awarded: 8



SAINTS:

Tries: Wilkin, Roby, Taia, Percival
Goals: Richardson (5 from 5)
Penalties Awarded: 10

HALF TIME:
8-14

FULL TIME:
12-26

REF: L MOORE | ATT: 5,915

GIANTS

Jake MAMO **01**
Jermaine MCGILLVARY **02**
Lee GASKELL **06**
Jordan TURNER **04**
Aaron MURPHY **05**
Jordan RANKIN **15**
Danny BROUGH **07**
Ukuma TA AI **17**
Adam O'BRIEN **21**
Paul CLOUGH **18**
Oliver ROBERTS **16**
Dale FERGUSON **14**
Ryan HINCHCLIFFE **13**

Subs: 8. Seb Ikahihifo, 9. Krui
Leeming, 19. Daniel Smith,
20. Adam Walne.

SAINTS

Ben BARBA **23**
Adam SWIFT **05**
Tommy MAKINSON **02**
Mark PERCIVAL **04**
Regan GRACE **19**
Jonny LOMAX **01**
Danny RICHARDSON **18**
Kyle AMOR **10**
James ROBY **09**
Luke THOMPSON **16**
Dom PEYROUX **17**
Zeb TAIA **11**
Jon WILKIN **12**

Subs: 6. Theo Fages, 8. Alex
Walmsley, 13. Louie McCarthy-
Scarsbrook, 14. Luke Douglas.



SAINTS

T G DG P

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	01	JONNY LOMAX
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	02	TOMMY MAKINSON
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	03	RYAN MORGAN
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	04	MARK PERCIVAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	05	ADAM SWIFT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06	THEO FAGES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	07	MATTY SMITH
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	08	ALEX WALMSLEY
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	09	JAMES ROBY
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	KYLE AMOR
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	ZEB TAIA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	JON WILKIN
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SALFORD

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St Helens v Salford Red Devils
 Friday 2nd March - Totally Wicked Stadium
 KO : 20:00
 Referee: S. Mikalauskas
 Touch Judges: G. Jones, J. McMullen

Reserve Referee: S. Houghton
 In Goal: G. Melling, J. Butterfield
 M Com: K. Leyland
 Time Keeper: F. Hawley

FIRST AND LAST:

First and Last: Saints' Heritage Society presents a cavalcade of landmark matches. Today we look at Saints' first and last Grand Finals...

1999

ST. HELENS [2] 8

BRADFORD BULLS [6] 6

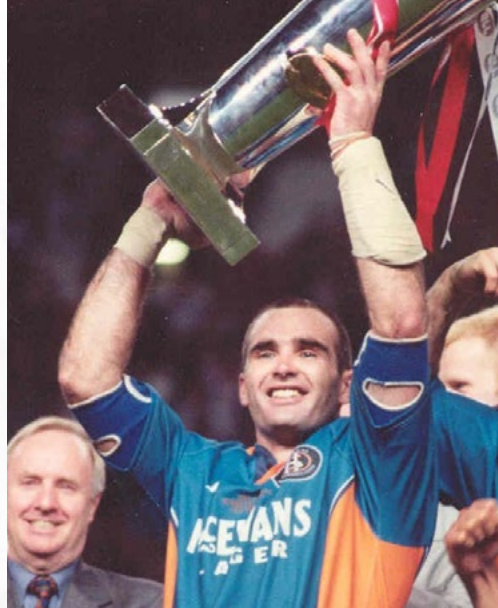
Saturday October 9
Old Trafford, Manchester
Attendance: 50,717

St. Helens: Atcheson; Smith, Iro [1T], Newlove, Sullivan; Sculthorpe, Martyn; Perelini, Cunningham, O'Neill, Tuilagi, Nickle, Joynt [Capt] **Interchange:** Long [2G], Hoppe, Matautia, Wellens

Bradford Bulls: Spruce; Vaikona, Naylor, Withers, Pryce; Henry Paul [1T 1G], Robbie Paul; Anderson, Lowes, Fielden, Boyle, Dwyer, McNamara **Interchange:** Deacon, McAvoy, Forshaw, McDermott

Referee: Referee: Mr. Cummings [Widnes]
Harry Sunderland Trophy: Henry Paul [Bradford Bulls]

This summary of a superb encounter was written by local journalist Denis Whittle: True grit! How else could one describe a simply magnificent defensive display by the 17 supermen from Knowsley Road? It was the bed-rock on which ultimate victory was built in a Grand Final which, given its intensity, sent a shiver down the spine. Old Trafford's 'Theatre of Dreams' and with it a record 50,717 crowd, was no place for the faint-hearted as Bulls and Saints locked horns in an eyeball-to-eyeball clash which guaranteed no-one left before full-time. Fully 65 minutes elapsed before Saints mounted a smash and grab raid to snatch the equalising try by block-busting Kiwi centre Kevin Iro, which ice-cool Sean Long converted from the touchline to put Saints in the driving seat for the first time. Bradford's failure to turn pressure into points was crucial and although much was made of a disallowed try by Leon Pryce, it is pertinent to mention that Sean Hoppe, Keiron Cunningham and Iro also had touchdowns refused. Cliff-hanger though it was, the outcome underlined Saints' determination to honour their 'write us off at your peril' warning, following a 40-4 thrashing at Odsal a fortnight previously. There could be no doubting Saints' character and fitness levels here as they put Bradford to the sword after snatching a belated lead. No praise was too high for an incredible tackling stint of Rorke's Drift dimensions by Captain Chris Joynt and his men, which produced the result it deserved and worked wonders for morale both at Knowsley Road and the Glass Town.



Saints on this day: October 9

1979 Floodlit Trophy First Round: St. Helens 45 Rochdale Hornets 17 at Knowsley Road. Loose forward Harry Pinner scored a try and kicked nine goals in the match – his most successful place-kicking performance for the club. Legendary Cumbrian second-rower Peter Gorley also made his debut after signing from Workington Town and scored a try following great work from scrum-half Neil Holding. Saints reached the semi-final, losing 7-10 to Hull KR at Craven Park.

FACT FILE

Saints' Individual Grand final Records 1999-2014

MOST APPEARANCES:
Paul Wellens [10]

MOST TRIES:
Chris Joynt [2], Francis Meli [2], Ade Gardner [2], Tommy Makinson [2]

MOST GOALS:
Sean Long [12]

MOST DROP-GOALS:
Paul Sculthorpe/Sean Long [1]

MOST POINTS:
Sean Long [29]

Saints on this day: October 11

1978 County Championship: Cumbria 16 Lancashire 15 at Whitehaven. This was a record county representation for Saints at the time: Peter Glynn [Full-back 3G], Les Jones [Left wing], Dave Chisnall [Front row], Graham Liptrot [Hooker], George Nicholls [Second row]. Harry Pinner [playing substitute].

2014

ST. HELENS [2] 14

WIGAN WARRIORS [6] 6

Saturday October 11
Old Trafford, Manchester
Attendance: 70,102

St. Helens: Wellens [Capt]; Makinson, Percival, Jones, Swift; Flanagan, Hohaia; Amor, Roby, Masoe, McCarthy-Scarsbrook, Soliola, Turner
Interchange: Thompson, Manu, Walmsley, Richards
Scorers: Soliola [1T] Makinson [1T] Percival [3G]

Wigan Warriors: Bowen; Charnley, Gelling, Sarginson, Burgess; Green, Smith; Flower, Powell, Crosby, Tomkins, Farrell, O'Loughlin [Capt] **Interchange:** Pettybourne, Clubb, Bateman, Williams
Scorers: Burgess [1T] Smith [1G]

Referee: Phil Bentham
Harry Sunderland Trophy: James Roby [St. Helens]

Although the Saints ended the 2014 Super League campaign as League Leaders, the squad had been drastically weakened by a succession of key injuries: Luke Walsh, Jonny Lomax, Jon Wilkin and Shannon McDonnell were key absentees in the run-in to Old Trafford. But the team got there and defending champions Wigan awaited in what was a potentially mouth-watering climax to the season. Perhaps the damage to the half-backs was the most crucial, with Wigan's first choice duo Blake Green and Matty Smith expected to boss the show. But there are imponderable circumstances in any final, the completely unexpected moment that turns a match on its head. The 'Withers knock-on' in 1999 and the Lee Smith 'offside' touchdown for Leeds in 2009 being classic examples of how luck can change the destiny of the trophy! Of course, the Ben Flower dismissal [leading to an unprecedented social media meltdown] is cited as the biggest single factor in the Saints' first win at the Theatre of Dreams after five successive years of pure heartbreak! The loss of Lance Hohaia further weakened the halves and Saints stuttered and stumbled somewhat to get their attack moving on occasions. Wigan actually took the lead just before half-time, when Burgess went over. Yet by the end of the crucial third quarter, the Saints established something of a stranglehold. The superb James Roby fed Soliola for the opener and, several minutes later, a Paul Wellens kick was latched upon by Tommy Makinson, who forced his way over. Cue absolute bedlam at the Stretford End! It was fitting for Tommy, especially after his near-miraculous tackle on Farrell earlier on, who had looked a certain scorer!



TALKING LEGENDS

Paul Wellens

It seemed most appropriate that Saints' captain, Paul Wellens, should crown a stellar career by lifting the Super League trophy in 2014 after appearing in all ten finals since the club's first in 1999.

He knows too well the paper-thin margins between triumph and disappointment. After a cameo appearance in 1999, he was well and truly cemented into the full-back role twelve months later when the Saints first beat their rivals from Wigan. Despite a horrendous cheekbone injury in the 2002 final, he was truly in his pomp during the defeat of Hull FC in 2006, when he won the coveted Harry Sunderland trophy for good measure. In the interim, there was the gut-wrenching scenario of five straight reversals, including one from Wigan. His resolve remained unflinching, however and the 2014 Grand Final, in context, will remain right up there with his all-time favourite moments as a Saint. Truly one of our own favourite sons.

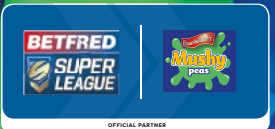


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Family Affairs: The Creeveys

Through the years there have been a number of family connections amongst the playing members of St. Helens R.F.C. Today we look at a famous local sporting family from the 'Cinder Field' area in Pocket Nook, who made a significant contribution to Saints' history before the First World War! Check them out at www.saints.org.uk

Jimmy Creevey

49 APPEARANCES 11 TRIES 17 GOALS 67 POINTS

From: Pocket Nook Shamrocks
Debut: 25-10-1902 St. Helens 9 Liverpool City 5 [Lge] at Knowsley Road

Last match: Whitehaven Recreation 13 St. Helens 2 [CC] at the Recreation Ground.

Went to: Liverpool City



The player: A competent all-round footballer, who played most of his matches for the club in the centres, Jimmy was also an occasional goal-kicker. All three brothers played against the visiting New Zealanders in 1907, when Jimmy captained the team. A fish-seller, he later lived over on the Wirral and was a good friend of Alf Ellaby.

Jimmy's brother was:

Charlie Creevey

143 APPEARANCES 56 TRIES 52 GOALS 272 POINTS

From: Pocket Nook Shamrocks

Debut: 07-09-1901 St. Helens 2 Wigan 8 [Lge] at Knowsley Road.

Last match: 17-09-1910 St. Helens 19 Salford 14 [Lge] at Knowsley Road

Went to: Wigan [and then back to Saints]



The player: A fine hard-running three-quarter and a tremendously-talented footballer all-round. Charlie was a bricklayer by trade and was transferred to Wigan, where he won county honours. He duly came back to the Saints later on and eventually migrated to the USA where his brick-laying skills were in demand. He passed away in Clawson, Oakland, Michigan in January 1967.

The youngest brother [by 5 years] was:

Matt Creevey

125 APPEARANCES 15 TRIES 15 GOALS 175 POINTS

From: Pocket Nook Shamrocks

Debut: 06-10-1906 St. Helens 8 Runcorn 22 [Lge] at Knowsley Road

Last match: 01-03-1919 St. Helens 0 Leigh 10 at Knowsley Road

Went to: Warrington [then back to Saints!]



The player: A physical freak! Great side-step and pace as a half-back, but he was also a champion standing long-jumper, who once toured the music halls displaying his skills. He could jump over the average man's head; onto a horse's back and off again in one movement and could jump backwards further than most could jump forwards! Matt later became a local licensee in Pocket Nook and died in January 1948, aged 61.

What's in the name?

Creevey: This is, as you would expect, of Irish origin. It is an anglicized form of the Gaelic 'O'Craoibhe' meaning 'descendant of Craoibhach', a byname meaning curly-headed. It dates back to the mid-17th Century.

RUGBY TO THE CORE...



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for the facts

Players, Movers and Shakers 1873-1895

Alex Service looks at those who were associated with our club in its formative years



Ald. Thomas Charles Wilcock [1843-1894] Brewer, Councillor and Chairman!

He is instantly recognisable on the end of the 1894 'candy-striped' Saints' team photograph, moustachioed and somewhat portly, with double-breasted jacket and bowler hat. Born in St. Helens on October 2 1843, at the age of seven he was a resident scholar at Parr Hall seminary. He married Ann Burrows in 1865 and in the 1891 census, he is described as a 'corn flour dealer' aged 47, living at 80, Prescott Road [Eccleston House]. His son, Charles [24] is a grocer's assistant; his other son, Alfred [23] is a brewer. In fact, there were three main breweries in St. Helens in the 1890s: Copple Brothers [Eccleston], Greenall Whitley and Company [Hall Street] and the Phoenix Brewery in Peckers Hill Road, Sutton, which was owned by TC Wilcock himself. His brewery also owned public houses, such as the delightfully named 'Live and Let Live Inn', at Pocket Nook.

He was referred to as 'Colonel' Wilcock, but he was actually a Lieutenant Colonel in the 2nd Lancashire Royal Engineer Volunteers. He was also an Alderman, who represented the Windle district on the Town Council with great success. Charles was an enthusiastic supporter of the Saints and a member of the Committee. His business success enabled him to provide much-needed financial support for the club and he was the elected Chairman when they moved to the Knowsley Road ground in 1890. Unfortunately he tragically passed away on December 9 1894, some twelve months before the club entered the Northern Union. He had an abscess on his arm that became infected and he died soon afterwards.

According to the Liverpool Mercury: "As Mr. Wilcock succumbed to an attack of typhoid fever, the coffin was not taken into church [Lowe House], but was allowed to remain in the churchyard until the close of the service." His funeral was officiated by his brother, Rev. CB Wilcock and he was buried in the family vault at Windleshaw Chantry.

Prominent in the local catholic community, he was a member of Lowe House Men's Guild, the St. Helens district of Oddfellows and the St. Helens Licensed Victuallers Association: a well-connected man indeed. Charles was a popular personality in St. Helens, reflected by the huge attendance at his funeral, which included many people with Saints' connections, such as Councillor James Patrick Mearns, the Club President; Billy Cross, the Captain and JH Houghton, Secretary and later President of the Northern Union. Thomas remains a key figure in the development of St. Helens R.F.C. in its formative years.

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WE ARE NORTHERN

MEET OUR WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM



Name:

Chris Dennett

What is your Wheelchair Rugby background?

I started my wheelchair rugby career playing for Mersey Storm in 2010 at the age of 24. I played for Wales in the Four Nations in 2011 and for Wales in the World Cup in 2013.

What inspired you to take part in the sport?

I have always been into rugby league however my arthritis stopped me playing. I enjoy watching the game and watching my younger brother play. I have always wanted to play rugby with my brother but couldn't play the able bodied game so we both joined a wheelchair rugby club.

As an upcoming youngster who would like to take part in this sport, what advice would you give and why?

I would tell them to train hard, have fun but remain disciplined. Always aim high and aspire to someday get international selection.

What is your biggest achievement?

My biggest achievement to date is coming third in the World Cup for Wales in 2013.

What does it mean to you to be putting on the Red V for Saints?

Playing in the Red V means everything to me, it means the sport will finally get recognition on a worldwide stage with Saints being a world class club.

If one of your teammates was to describe you with three words what would they be and why?

Hard working, dedicated and a team player.

What are your predictions for the upcoming season?

It won't be a walk in the park and it will be tough. However, I believe we will get a top spot finish.

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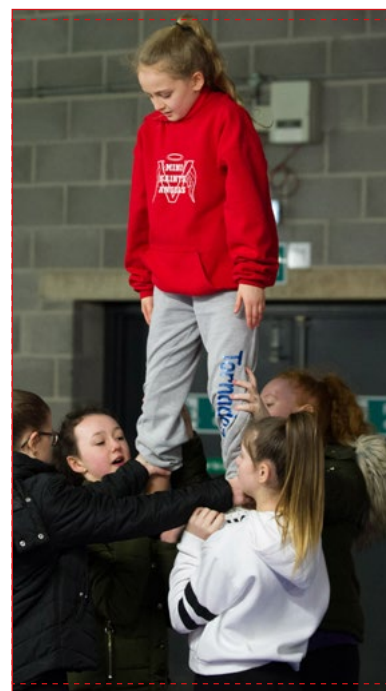


Saints Community Development
foundation
Inspiring Communities Through Sport

DID YOU COME TO OUR JUNIOR MEMBER AND COMMUNITY DAY?

The fans, alongside attendees of our development sessions and cheerleaders, got the chance to meet the players and collect autographs before heading into the North Stand Concourse to enjoy games and fun activities from Saints Community Development Foundation.

The A Star Saints Angels and Saints Wheelchair Rugby League Club also put on demonstrations too.





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SAINTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION'S EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Saints Community Development Foundation are looking to give back to local charities and causes in St. Helens – and with your help we can make a difference!

We are launching an Easter Eggstravaganza to distribute chocolatey treats around St Helens. Why? Because we want to make a good "eggsample" to our local community!

If you would like to get involved and donate Easter Eggs, then pop into reception at the Totally Wicked Stadium to drop them off! If you're a local business and want to help then

contact our new SCDF Chaplain Derek Hardman at derek.hardman@saintsrlfc.com

Derek said: "At this special time of year in the Christian Calendar where we celebrate new life, I thought this would be a good opportunity to distribute eggs to the local community and charities.

"It is great to give back to the work of these wonderful people and spread joy throughout the town."

Here we have Boots with some of the Easter Eggs that will be donated.



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MEET YOUR A-STAR SAINTS ANGELS



NAME: Melisa Yigit

SCHOOL ATTENDED: The Sutton Academy

OCCUPATION: Dance/ Cheer Coach

What is your dance background?

I danced with the Rugby League Rockettes, Saints Angels and school classes.

What inspired you to start dancing?

I would watch my older sister's dance shows and I would dance in the aisle copying the other dancers. I also liked watching films like Bring It On, Save The Last Dance and Step Up.

Why did you want to become a A-Star Saints Angel?

I've always enjoyed dancing and it was a good way to be involved in new opportunities. I also love the feeling of performing.

What is your favourite song to dance to?

Anything by the Pussycat Dolls or Sean Paul.

What advice would you give to young dancers?

To take every opportunity they can and to enjoy themselves in everything they do.

If another A-Star Saints Angel was asked to describe you in three words what would they be?

Reliable, confident and kind-hearted.

What's your biggest achievement?

Dancing at Wembley Stadium.

If you couldn't be a dancer but could be anyone in the sports industry, who would you be and why?

Jessica Ennis-Hill because she has achieved a lot and is a great role model for women.

Who is your favourite Saints Player?

LMS.

TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE

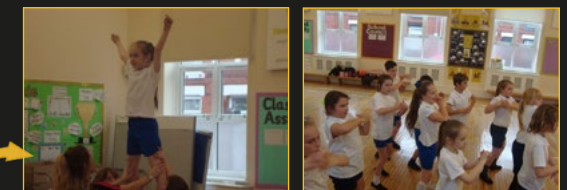
A big welcome to Holly Cross who are performing at today's game.

Our dance teachers have spent six weeks training and teaching the students for their routine.

At our last match, St Peter's and St Paul's performed - and what a job they did too!

Holly Cross Year 5 & 6 - Dancing To Disturbia
Amelia Rylance, Cody Ashcroft, Evangeline Allen, Freya Wesley, Hannah Dooner, John Cheetham, Kady Ashcroft, Kiera Ratcliffe, Kyle Green, Lily Maloney, Luke Crofts, Mckaila Lamb, Rebecca Ashall and Ruby Phillips

St. Peter's and St Paul's Year 5 & 6 - Danced Fifth Harmony, In Love With A Monster
Ava Wall, Charlotte Williams, Ellie Davies, Eve Ryan, Fearn Downey, Gabriella Arnold, Heleina Ballesteros, Isabel Lowdon, Isla Stenson, Isobel Haworth, Julia Wojcik, Katie Halliwell, Olivia Clapham and Rihanna Gornall





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TIME FOR SUPER LEAGUE TO BREAK AWAY AND LET BRITISH RUGBY LEAGUE FIND ITS FEET

Super League becoming independent is believed to be one part of the discussions around the structure for 2019.

That would mainly mean control over its own TV money and the ability to govern itself, to a degree, without the RFL.

The big boys at the top are becoming increasingly frustrated at how much of the pie they are being forced to give away, especially when they see that the primary reason the money is invested in the first place, is to show their games.

Whatever discussions are going on, there are three key elements from my point of view:

- Enabling the top clubs to grow as much as possible to compete with their NRL equivalents
- Expansion of the game in to new territories, such as Toronto and New York
- Ensuring a healthy and stable system for existing rugby league clubs to grow organically and continue developing the player pool

There is no doubt that rugby league needs, and wants, to expand. The RFL are almost singlehandedly flying the flag, with the NRL reluctant to do anything other than look after themselves.

It also needs to give a platform to money men who want to invest in clubs and help to expand.

That said, bending the rules to accommodate them is surely counterproductive - the salary cap below Super League has changed massively in recent years due to pressure from certain clubs; there's surely a reason it was in place to start with.

Super League clubs, like Saints, Wigan and Leeds, want to grow but may feel they are being held back.

Championship clubs are stuck between a rock and a hard place, left frustrated at the lack of coverage their competition gets, but almost reliant on the central funding hand-outs they get as a result of the Sky Sports deal.

It's a risk, but without that restriction the Championship and League One clubs would then be free to negotiate their own rights deals or even stream games themselves.

Having said that, streaming games for free is surely not a sensible option for any club wanting to sell its rights either now or in the future, either independently or as part of a whole league deal.

So, rather than the World League idea I've mooted in the past, Super League effectively becomes that - for the bigger clubs (Wigan, Leeds, Hull, St Helens, Warrington etc), the expansion sides (Catalans, Toulouse, Toronto, New York) and anyone else who wishes to join the party, whether that be a franchise system or otherwise.

The opportunity would then be for the Championship and League One to signal a new era for "British Rugby League", potentially developing a pyramid structure with the National Conference League - which itself has now become a major attraction thanks to the FreeSports TV deal spearheaded by RugbyAM's Alex Simmons.

On the British rugby league note, it's not Brexit-inspired, but given in rugby union the nations are all very independent of each other, with the English Premiership and then the Celtic nations playing in a joint competition, rugby league could take over the "British rugby" mantle and make it work, especially with the resurrection of the Great Britain team.

The existing rugby league structure would then be able to find its feet and grow organically, leaving Super League as the vehicle to drive the full-time professional game forward, free of its current responsibility to the rest of the sport.

Some fans of bigger clubs bemoan those ones of so-called smaller clubs for holding the game back by not allowing the expansion and growth plans to happen, so this to me would be a happy medium.

Allow the long-established clubs to continue in a system free of the expansion behemoths that have ploughed their way through League One in recent years.

- Super League
- Championship
- League One North
- League One South
- National Conference League

The Super League big boys could even enter "B" teams in to League One to act as their reserve side, enabling the likes of Coventry to still experience the "glamour" of facing a Wigan or a Leeds, something which is an attraction given the encouraging crowd the Bears had for a pre-season game.

A Wigan or Leeds second team would attract decent crowds over a weekend, especially if Super League continues to be played out on Thursdays and Fridays.

Some form of regionalisation needs to happen at League One level, especially after the weekend's debacle involving Newcastle at West Wales, and also because players are being discouraged from playing semi-pro due to the sheer amount of travelling involved.

It's sadly not my decision what happens - but whatever does happen, here's hoping that it's a solution for the long-term so that we can start concentrating on growing the game, its fanbase and the player pool, rather than the ongoing structure debate.

James Gordon



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WHICH WAY DO WE GO?

St Helens **Star**

What is the ideal format of professional rugby league - at all tiers - in this country?

It seems we - and I include fans, clubs, administrators and pundits - are never happy in this country with whatever the current system is and can never resist a little tweak.

But it seems to be in overdrive at the moment.

A week barely goes by when there is not another permutation, or another kite being flown to face trial by social media.

One week it is a 14-team top flight, subsequently rubbished by one CEO, and now we have the idea of two leagues of 10 being floated.

You can see why the discussion is taking place - there is a feeling in some quarters that the game has been treading water for a few years and that it needs a gear shift.

There is also the challenge - or opportunity - presented by accommodating new blood, with Toronto providing the impetus for that.

The resurgence of London - and the poor start by Leigh - has certainly made the top end of the Championship interesting, particularly when Toronto are tipped to really make an impression too.

But if there are going to be winners, there has to be losers too.

Sometimes you get the idea that formulas are thrown up to soften the blow to some that they are not in the big league any more, as much as they are there to advance the ambitious ones looking for a way up.

Or are elite clubs, the ones who invest in stadia, academy set ups and players, just genuinely sick of carrying others?

Some of the points within that two divisions of 10 idea are interesting.

In particular the notion that some of the current Championship clubs would accept that their hopes of ever making it into the top flight are mere fantasy and they should simply be feeder teams to a Super League club.

They would play in tier two as such, alongside teams who had not given up the ambition, but not be allowed to gain promotion.

Now that would open up a real can of worms

should we go down that route.

Hypothetically - plucking two teams out of the air - if Saints were to gobble up a team like Rochdale or Oldham and use them as their feeder club, would that not ruin the identity of that proud club?

And how long would it be before that team becomes a Saints A team and those players simply train and play in the town of the host club.

I think rather than going for gimmicks and shortcuts, we need to go back to a more straightforward approach to the divisions throughout the pro and semi pro game.

We should go back to a league system that encourages all to progress with one up one down promotion.

THAT REWARDS AMBITION AND SUCCESS AND PUNISHES THOSE WHO SIMPLY COAST - AND IS THAT NOT WHAT COMPETITIVE SPORT IS ALL ABOUT.

Rugby league is a bigger game than just Super League - even if the top flight is where all the stars, the money and the big crowds are.

But there should be a better relationship between those wings of the game - and by that not simply giving handouts from the top.

The best way of letting Championship clubs strive to improve, stand on their own feet, build their own brand and secure their own funding and sponsorship would be if they are allowed to negotiate their own TV deal and get some much needed coverage.

And more importantly, the Championship should be a competition that fairly allows teams to fight for the chance of promotion at the end of a successful season and reward them for finishing top.

We can't concoct a solution that pretends to be giving Championship teams a helping hand, but ends up strangling them and the grassroots game in those towns.

Mike Critchley

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STATISTICAL ROUND UP



SUPER LEAGUE TOP STATS 2018

	2018 TOTAL						SAINTS CAREER						OTHER CLUBS, REP HONS				GRD TOT	
	APP	SUB	TRY	GLS	DRP	PTS	APP	SUB	TOT	TRY	GLS	DRP	PTS	CLUB	REP	SoO		CTY*
1. Jonny Lomax	3	0	2	0	0	8	159	2	161	73	103	2	500	0	6	0	0	167
2. Thomas Makinson	3	0	0	0	0	0	164	6	170	97	108	0	604	2	0	0	0	172
3. Ryan Morgan	1	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	29	12	0	0	48	92	0	0	0	121
4. Mark Percival	3	0	4	0	0	16	101	3	104	56	212	0	648	1	4	0	0	109
5. Adam Swift	2	0	1	0	0	4	113	0	113	77	0	0	308	10	0	0	0	123
6. Theo Fages	0	3	0	0	0	0	43	8	51	15	0	0	60	66	10	0	0	127
7. Matty Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	5	42	5	10	4	44	241	7	0	0	290
8. Alex Walmsley	0	3	0	0	0	0	79	71	150	23	0	0	92	22	5	0	0	177
9. James Roby	3	0	1	0	0	4	263	139	402	98	1	0	394	0	42	0	0	444
10. Kyle Amor	2	0	0	0	0	0	83	29	112	14	0	0	56	127	5	0	0	244
11. Zeb Taia	3	0	3	0	0	12	32	1	33	9	0	0	36	217	6	0	0	256
12. Jon Wilkin	3	0	1	0	0	4	360	36	396	94	0	2	378	39	22	0	0	457
13. Louie McCarthy-Scarsbrook	0	3	0	0	0	0	125	93	218	44	0	0	176	97	5	0	0	320
14. Luke Douglas	1	1	0	0	0	0	19	10	29	2	0	0	8	263	10	0	1	303
15. Morgan Knowles	0	2	0	0	0	0	22	35	57	7	0	0	28	0	4	0	0	61
16. Luke Thompson	3	0	0	0	0	0	43	56	99	11	0	0	44	1	0	0	0	100
17. Dominique Peyroux	3	0	0	0	0	0	35	14	49	6	0	0	24	41	8	0	0	98
18. Danny Richardson	3	0	0	16	1	33	14	2	16	2	16	3	43	1	0	0	0	17
19. Regan Grace	3	0	1	0	0	4	27	0	27	12	0	0	48	0	6	0	0	33
20. Matty Lees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	5
21. Jack Ashworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	7	2	0	0	8	13	0	0	0	20
22. Jake Spedding	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	16
23. Ben Barba	3	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	8	5	0	0	20	168	6	0	0	182
24. James Bentley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31
25. Aaron Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Liam Cooper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
27. Ben Morris	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	9
28. Josh Eaves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29. Rob Fairclough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30. Matty Costello	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TRIES

Liam Marshall	5
Krisnan Inu	5
Mark Percival	4
Fetuli Talanoa	4
Tom Johnstone	4

CARRIES

Stefan Ratchford	80
Justin Carney	68
Hep Cahill	66
Rob Mulhern	65
Lewis Tierney	62

DUMMY HALF SCOTS

Daryl Clark	30
James Roby	26
Matt Parcell	21
Shaun Lunt	20
Justin Carney	20

MISSED GOALS

Liam Finn	6
Gareth O'Brien	5
Ryan Shaw	3
Luke Gale	3
Marc Sneyd	3

ERRORS

Gareth O'Brien	10
Jake Connor	9
Ben Roberts	7
Ryan Hall	6
Jake Bibby	6

ASSISTS

Ben Barba	5
Jacob Miller	5
Tom Gilmore	4
Gareth O'Brien	4
Ben Currie	3

TACKLES

Daryl Clark	186
Rob Mulhern	170
Hep Cahill	169
Matt Whitley	163
Paul McShane	158

TACKLE BUSTS

Joe Mellor	22
Rhys Hanbury	22
Ben Barba	21
David Fifita	21
Tom Johnstone	20

MISSED TACKLES

Lucas Albert	24
Jamie Jones-Buchanan	17
Benjamin Garcia	14
Justin Horo	16
Brad Singleton	16

PENALTIES

Chris Houston	6
Mike Cooper	6
Oliver Roberts	6
James Greenwood	5
Benjamin Julien	5

GOALS

Danny Richardson	16
Sam Tomkins	11
Marc Sneyd	11
Bryson Goodwin	10
Tom Gilmore	9

OFFLOADS

Bryson Goodwin	10
Josh Jones	9
George Williams	8
Mickael Simon	9
Zeb Taia	7

MARKER TACKLES

Paul McShane	45
Hep Cahill	39
Matt Whitley	37
Rob Mulhern	35
Daryl Clark	35

METRES

Stefan Ratchford	641
Hep Cahill	518
Rhys Hanbury	516
David Mead	482
Tom Johnstone	480

ATTACKING KICKS

Tom Gilmore	32
Lucas Albert	29
Luke Gale	23
Danny McGuire	22
Kevin Brown	21

CLEAN BREAKS

Tom Johnstone	10
Mark Percival	7
Adam Quinlan	7
Ryan Shaw	6
Liam Marshall	6

POS	TEAM	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	DIFF	PTS
1	Saints	3	3	0	0	93	30	63	6
2	Wakefield Trinity	3	3	0	0	58	32	26	6
3	Widnes Vikings	4	2	2	0	85	49	36	4
4	Wigan Warriors	3	2	1	0	74	38	36	4
5	Leeds Rhinos	3	2	1	0	42	46	-4	4
6	Warrington Wolves	4	2	2	0	52	56	-4	4
7	Hull FC	3	1	2	0	66	64	2	2
8	Salford Red Devils	3	1	2	0	60	66	-6	2
9	Huddersfield Giants	3	1	2	0	44	70	-26	2
10	Castleford Tigers	3	2	1	0	47	76	-29	2
11	Hull KR	4	1	3	0	52	88	-36	2
12	Catalan Dragons	4	0	4	0	42	100	-58	0

* Warrington, Hull KR, Catalans and Widnes have played four games.



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19s MAKE GOOD START TO SEASON

Following a pre-season friendly home loss to Bradford Bulls, the 19s have got off to a great start in their league campaign by defeating Catalans Dragons and Warrington Wolves.

They travelled over to the Dragons and came away with an 18-16 win after leading 14-6 at the interval. Tries came from Josh Simm (2), Tom Nisbett and Callum Hazzard.

Last weekend they defeated Warrington Wolves 40-12 after leading 14-0 at half time in a game played at Ruskin Drive. The side's tries came from Sean Croston, Tom Nisbett, Jack Welsby (2), Josh Simm, Chris Follin, Paul Nash and Cameron Brown with Callum Hazzard kicking four from seven.

By the time you read this, the 19s game against Bradford should be underway at Blackbrook – weather permitting.

Academy Head Coach Derek Traynor gives his thoughts on the season to date.

"It's never an easy trip to face the Catalans. They are always a big side and like to play tough. We started very well and got a good lead but they came back and got in front with ten minutes to go. We then scored a try to clinch it in the last few minutes. Their winger was carrying the ball, Josh Simm and Tom Nisbett put in a big hit, the ball came loose and Elliott Jenkins picked it up to send Callum Hazard off to score the winning try.

"There were things from that game we wanted to improve on against Warrington Wolves and we did just that. In the first half we were very dominant and I think the scoreline flattered them at 14-0. I think we should have had more points on the board, but they came out, got a couple of tries, and we then got some momentum back and eventually ran out quite easy winners.

"The biggest thing we talked about after the win was that they have to learn to keep up the momentum when they are in a good position.

"You cannot afford to relax as in the blink of an eye a try is scored. Hopefully they learnt a big lesson.

"Quite a few stood out for us: Jack Welsby at fullback, hookers Paul Nash and Brandon O'Neill, Jorge Lewtas, Alex Eckley and Callum Hazzard were very good in the middle of the field and Matthew Foster did well. Chris Follin also put on a real solid performance.

"Our improvement from game one to game two is really pleasing and the things we highlighted have been put into practice. From our point of view that's the most improving aspect."

He continued: "We play Bradford tonight. They are a big and experienced team and we know it will be a hell of a battle.

"We are looking forward to locking horns with them again and hopefully improve on the result this time. It's a chance for the lads to make it three from three and that's what they will be looking to do. They will all want to improve personally on their performances which will make the team improve. It will be a good test for us."

NAME	APP	SUB	T	G	DG	PTS
Brown, Cameron	3		1			4
Brown, Kevin	1					0
Croston, Sean	2		1			4
Eckley, Alex	3		1			4
Follin, Chris	3		1			4
Foster, Matty		2				0
Hazzard, Callum	3		1	6		16
Horne, Ryan	1					0
Horridge, Kian		2				0
Hutchings, John	2					0
Jenkins, Elliott	2	1				0
Kellett, Christian		2				0
Lewtas, Jorge	2	1				0
Nash, Paul	2	1	1			4
Nisbett, Tom	3		2			8
Ojeaburu, Kelvin		1				0
O'Neill, Brandon	1	2				0
Royle, Sam	3					0
Sharratt, Joe		3				0
Simm, Josh	2	1	3	1		14
Sims, Ben	1	1	1			4
Siyani, Kye		1				0
Ward, Luke		1				0
Welsby, Jack	3		3			12
Wingfield, Jake	2					0
TOTAL =	39	19	15	7	0	74

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IN THE SYSTEM - TOM NISBET



Tom, 18, can play in a number of positions across the back line. He lives with his parents Rob and Lucy and currently works four days a week with Saints Community Development Foundation.

Prior to this he attended Hope Academy High School.

When he was five-years-old he played and trained with his older brother Andrew who played at Pilkington Recs.

Tom then went to Newton Storm and stayed at that club until signing for the Saints.

Throughout his time at the Storm, he was coached by Ian Wynn as well his father Rob and played in all the back positions becoming a true utility player.

His team competed in the North West Counties Premier Division and won the title at various age groups as well as winning the local cups. He also collected a number of individual honours.

Tom also played at his high school from Year 7 to 11 under coach Paul Crook and the team won the St Helens Schools Cup on a number of occasions.

He was involved in the St Helens Service Area at 13s and 14s.

He missed out on the first year of the Saints Scholarship but was invited to be part of the Under 16s following a five-week trial at the club.

Tom only missed the Hull game because of an ankle injury and at the end of those games he signed a two-year academy contract.

Following a tough pre-season, Tom played on the wing and missed only three games before traveling on the bi-annual Saints Academy Tour of Australia.

There, Saints defeated Canterbury Bulldogs, Central Coast Roosters and South Sydney Rabbitohs but lost out in the final game against Penrith Panthers, who Tom scored against.

This year, Tom played in the Reserves and Academy friendlies as well as the opening league wins over Catalans Dragons and Warrington Wolves, scoring in each game.

He hopes to maintain his form to the end of the season and re-sign for the club.

During that process, he hopes the team can reach the playoffs and win the Grand Final.

Tom's role model growing up was his older brother Andrew who has stayed at Pilkington Recs and is currently playing for its open age side.

DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS



In the February Half Term break Saints Community Development Foundation organised England Talent Pathway Development sessions for ages 11-14.

Held at Saints Training Facility at Cowley International College girls and boys came down to train and learn valuable rugby and teamwork skills.

The kids took part in attacking and defending drills as well as small games of tag rugby. The wrestling gym was also available for use throughout the week, with the attendees being able to perfect and their grappling skills within the sessions.

Craig Richards said: "It was fantastic to see so many members of our community and local community clubs take part in our England Talent Pathway Development Sessions.

The level of skill and overall maturity of all the groups that took part was impressive and we thoroughly enjoyed hosting the sessions throughout the week.

"It's safe to say the future of rugby league is looking bright with a wide range of skill from both girls and boys."



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Our thanks go to Stuart Curtis and his team who provide our Matchday Programme for every game at the Totally Wicked Stadium throughout the season. Alongside our editor Mike Appleton, they help design and print what we believe is the best programme in Super League! Visit their website at curtis-sport.com to see their wide range of clients across several sports.

Our Programme Sponsor is Warrington Audi

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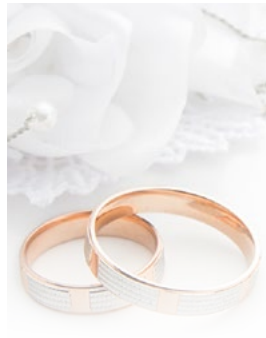
CORPORATE SPONSOR



WEDDINGS



AT THE
TOTALLY WICKED STADIUM



THOMMO HITS 100

Congrats to Luke Thompson who is set to make his 100th appearance for the club tonight.

The 22-year-old reaches that milestone after making his debut at London in 2013.

He's also notched up 11 tries for the club he has been with since 11-years-old. Luke signed pro terms with the Saints from Bold Miners having previously played for Pilkington Recs. He represented England on their Academy Tour of Australia and toured with the Saints in 2011 too.

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**NOW AVAILABLE AT THE KIOSKS
 AND IN TESCO AND ICELAND**

SAINTS PREMIUM LOTTERY TO BE RE-LAUNCHED



The new Saints Lottery will be a fortnightly draw with a top prize of £2,000!

The prize structure is:

- First prize £2,000
- Second prize £200
- Third prize £100
- Fourth prize £50
- Plus 20 prizes of £10

You can pay by standing order at £4.34 per month, £13 per quarter or £52 for the year.

You can pay by cheque, by card over the phone or via one of our many local Agents who will call at your home and pick up £2 per fortnight!

To join or to ask about any other Lottery schemes call the office on 01744 455056.

Interested? Then there are numerous ways to play!

CASH DASH IS BACK



Four fantastic prizes are up for grabs in our popular Cash Dash Half-Time Draw on Friday night.

For just £1 you can win Cash, a framed Signed Squad List or one of two Framed Signed Photos of Saints winger Regan Grace!

To be in with a chance of winning simply seek out one of our sellers in their bright yellow t-shirts near the turnstiles or in the hospitality areas.

At our match against Castleford Tigers Mr.Winrow from Haydock won a massive Cash Prize of £638!

ANOTHER BIG CASH PRIZE IS ANTICIPATED SO FOR JUST £1 A TICKET YOU COULD BE OUR NEXT LUCKY WINNER.

Simply get your Cash Dash Ticket from one of our many sellers and YOU could be celebrating a great win too.

You have got to be in it to win it and the more that are in, the more you can win!

Seek out a seller and join the Cash Dash!



UNCLAIMED PRIZES

- 26/01/18 (Leigh) - Second Prize Framed Signed Mark Percival Photo, Ticket No: 00330
- 26/01/18 (Leigh) - Third Prize Framed Signed James Roby Photo, Ticket No: 00416

If you are a lucky winner please contact the Lottery Office on (01744) 455070.

NEWS

HAVE YOU LOGGED ON RECENTLY?

SAINTS ONLINE COMMUNITY IS GROWING EVERY DAY AND IF YOU'RE NOT 'CONNECTED', YOU'RE MISSING OUT.

The Club's Official Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites are the places to be for up to the minute news, views and opinion from around the Saints as well as little snippets of information, ticket details, competitions, great pictures and debate and the occasional juicy exclusive too - including the very latest from all the Club's press conferences.

And you can interact with like-minded fans from all over the world.

You can also follow matches live on our social media platforms and comment as the tries and goals fly over.

We have also launched on Snapchat too.

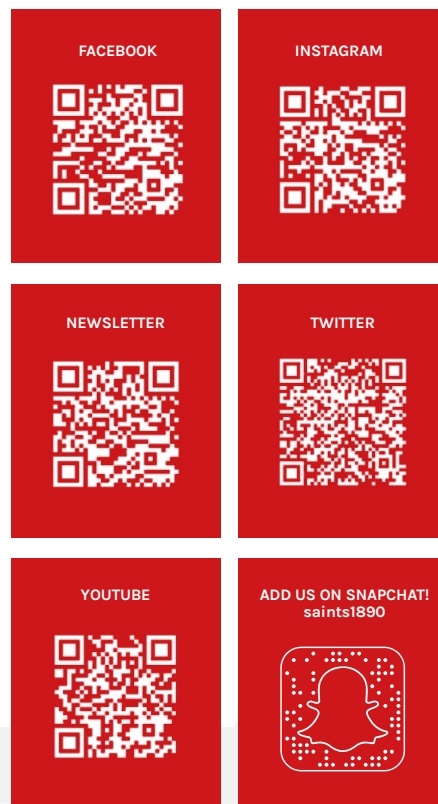
So what are you waiting for?

Click on to Saints Official Facebook, Saints Official Twitter and Saints Official Instagram sites to find out more!

Don't forget to check out our Official YouTube Channel too!

We have highlights of Saints games past and present as well as interviews from behind the scenes - and the infamous Crossbar Challenge!

And finally, make sure you're to date with the very latest Saints information by registering or updating your details our portal - we send out regular newsletters and exclusives straight to your inbox!



#SAINTSANDPROUD

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