

ers

OFFICIAL E-PROGRAMME

Vs. Salford Red Devils 31 January 2020 | Kick-off 7.45pm



SI



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Read Kristian Woolf's thoughts



Top News



On This Day



Opposition



SI.Helens R.F.C.

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Founded 1873

SUPER LEAGUE HONOURS:

Super League Winners: 1996, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2014, 2019 World Club Challenge Honours: 2001, 2007

 Challenge Cup Honours: 1996, 1997,

 2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008

 BBC Sports Team Of The Year: 2006

 League Leaders' Shield: 2005, 2006,

 2007, 2008, 2014, 2018, 2019

PRE-SUPER LEAGUE HONOURS:

Championship: 1931–32, 1952–53, 1958–59, 1965–66, 1969–70, 1970–71, 1974–75

 Challenge Cup: 1955–56, 1960–61,

 1965–66, 1971–72, 1975–76

 Leaders' Shield: 1964–65, 1965–66

 Regal Trophy: 1987–88

 Premiership: 1975–76, 1976–77,

 1984–85, 1992–93

 Lancashire Cup: 1926–27, 1953–54,

 1960–61, 1961–62, 1962–63, 1963–64,

 1964–65, 1967–68, 1968–69, 1984–85,

Lancashire League: 1929–30, 1931–32, 1952–53, 1959–60, 1963–64, 1964–65, 1965–66, 1966–67, 1968–69 Charity Shield: 1992–93 BBC2 Floodlit Trophy: 1971–72, 1975–76

Editor: Jamie Allen

Contributors: Alex Service, Bill Bates, Steve Manning, Liam Platt, Gary Wilton, Adam Cotham, Mark Onion.

Photography: Bernard Platt, Liam Platt, SW Pix.



"Producing and retaining great local talent remains the philosophy and business model of the Club. We remain totally committed to this and it serves both us and British rugby league well indeed."



A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, EAMONN MCMANUS

Welcome everyone to the first game in our defence of our Super League title . It is fitting and appropriate that it is against the Salford Red Devils, who gave us such a great game last October on that memorable night at Old Trafford.

It is Kristian Woolf's first game for us as Head Coach and I would like to wish him the very best of luck, not just for this game, but for a long, successful and enjoyable career with St Helens. I would like to welcome his family also to our club and to our Town. I'm sure that our fans will all wish him all the best and give him their strong support also.

Although we have not recruited any new players for this season, I would expect a number of our younger players to improve further. They are also joined by some exciting new talent that has been promoted from our academy. Producing and retaining great local talent remains the philosophy and business model of the Club. We remain totally committed to this and it serves both us and British rugby league well indeed.

I expect a very tough game tonight. Much has been said about the players that Salford have lost but yet again they have brought in new faces who will ensure that they will perform strongly and contribute fully to Super League.

After tonight we have two further tough tests in quick succession away against Warrington and Hull. Hull in particular have recruited very strongly and I predict a vastly improved season for them.

And then we arrive at one of the biggest games in our clubs history against back to back NRL champions, the Sydney Roosters, in the World Club Challenge on 22 February. Ensure that you get there and get behind our team like never before. We have a great deal to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

Enjoy the game, the evening and the season.

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KRISTIAN WOOLF **"THANK YOU TO** ALL THE SAINTS nverters FANS WHO MADE AT HOME HER ST.HELENS....







You have been in St.Helens now for a few months – how are you enjoying life?

I have been made to feel very welcome from everyone in the Town with a number of fans making the effort to come up to me and say hello which is nice. My wife and family have now settled in and we are all looking forward to what lies ahead.

Tonight is your first game as Head Coach – you must be excited?

Yes definitely. This is what we have been building towards in pre-season. Now the first game has arrived we just want to get going and kick on with the season.

Are you looking forward to the atmosphere inside the Totally Wicked Stadium?

Of course. As I said, the fans have been great and I have been really impressed with the facilities here at Saints. It will be special to hear the noise inside the stadium tonight and I am sure that will drive the players on.

What are you expecting from Salford tonight?

A tough game! They have had a number of pre-season friendlies leading into this so we know they will be ready, as we will be. They have lost a few players but they have also brought some talented players in and they have a real top coach in Ian Watson so we are expecting a real battle.

And you have a WCC to look forward too?

Yes, but we need to have all eyes on this round one fixture first and then Warrington in round two before the World Club Challenge comes around. It will be the first chance to grab some silverware in 2020 and we know the Roosters have been the benchmark in the NRL for a number of years, but we equally know we are a quality team and we are confident we can bring it home.

Long term what are your aims as Head Coach?

I want to build on the success of last year and win trophies. St.Helens is renowned for that and so we want to continue with that successful tradition and I am confident with the team we have, we can do that!



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TOP NEWS THIS MONTH





The Steve Prescott Foundation is to donate a further £10,000 to the Rugby League Benevolent fund for the care and rehabilitation of former Saint, Mose Masoe.

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We have now opened the East Stand for our World Club Challenge clash with Sydney Roosters.

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ROUND 5 VS TORONTO MOVED TO WARRINGTON

Toronto have confirmed our Round 5 clash has been moved to Warrington's Halliwell Jones Stadium.

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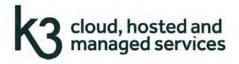
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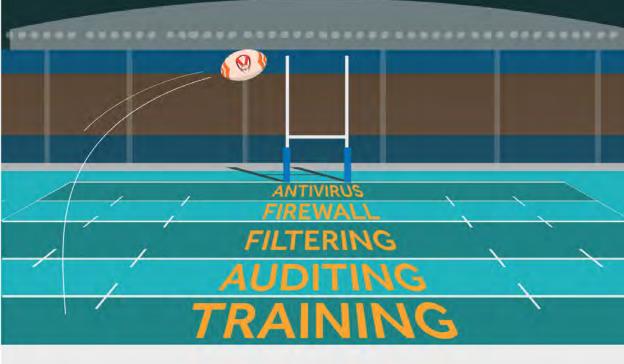


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International days: Wales v England, 1953. #668 George Parsons [back row 2nd from left] #692 Don Gullick [front row 3rd from right] are the Saints' Welsh representatives.

ON THIS DAY: 31st JANUARY

3Ist January

1874

It was 146 years ago today! The St. Helens Standard carried a report of Saints' very first match, against Liverpool Royal Infirmary, at Boundary Road. Details of the score and scorers is rather sketchy, to say the least, but, according to the paper: "On no side being called the Liverpool men had added another touchdown to their score, a very pleasant game thus terminating in a draw in their favour". Club Founder William Douglas Herman captained the team from full-back.

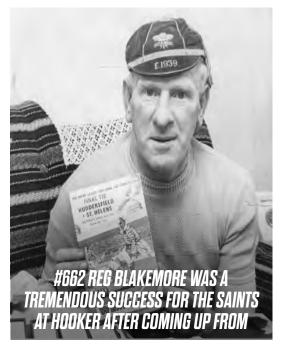
1981

European Championship: France 35 Wales 5 at Stade de l'Egassiaral, Narbonne. Bustling front-rower Roger Owen made his Welsh debut and replaced fellow Saint Mel James from the bench. Clive Griffiths was the other replacement, with Roy Mathias at loose forward.

2003

Saints were beaten 39-41 by Sale Sharks in a 'crosscode challenge' match at Knowsley Road. The visitors from the 15-a-side code won the first half under union rules 41-0. The second half of rugby league saw Saints score 39 points without reply doing what they did best. It was certainly not a 'point-less' exercise in the literal sense and was arguably more interesting than the usual 'friendly' clash. Yet it emphasised the technically different aspects of the two codes. How about this for a team of Saints' Welsh imports, complete with their Heritage Numbers, who all joined from the rugby union code in the Principality? It could take on all-comers!

#936 Clive Griffiths; #667 Steve Llewellyn, #692 Don Gullick, #853 Frank Wilson, #885 Roy Mathias; #1014 Jon Griffiths, #826 Bob Prosser; #890 Mel James, #662 Reg Blakemore, #947 Roger Owen, #812 John Warlow, #824 John Mantle, #797 Kel Coslett [Capt]







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SAINTS' COLLECT HERITAGE NUMBERS!

A number of Saints legends pick up their Saints Heritage certificates!

#948

Colin Whittle, a doughty hooker from the 1980s

#900

Tony Atherton, a talented half-back who was restricted to just one senior match as a result of a serious head injury.

#607

Jimmy Goodier, the oldest surviving Saints' debutant at 95 and a talented number nine, receives his certificate from #807 Peter Harvey.

#1130

James Graham, a fantastic front-rower who left Saints for Australia in 2011, is presented with his certificate by former team-mate #1087 Paul Wellens

Look out for further news about further Heritage Certificate Open Days during the 2020 season. For comprehensive career details of our current and former players go to www.saints.org.uk



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OPPOSITION

A WELCOME TO SALFORD RED DEVILS



The Super League fixture planners have certainly given us a wonderful treat this evening as we open our 2020 campaign with a visit from last season's Super League Grand Finalists, Salford Red Devils.

Salford had a magnificent 2019 campaign. A 'Middle 8' contender in 2018, they absolutely astounded everyone last year, by not only finishing in 3rd position, but, by reaching their first ever Super League Grand Final. It really was the 'stuff of dreams' that almost became one of Super League's truly great stories.

So in 2020, head coach, Ian Watson has to follow that. And that is most certainly going to be easier said than done. Salford knew mid-season, when they were only mid-table, that several of their higher profile players were going to leave the club at the end of 2019 and as the season progressed, somehow, Watson manaed to shut out all of the off the field distractions to build momentum in his squad to peak at exactly the right time. But of course having reached the Grand Final, he is now left with having to put a new squad of players together to compete in Super League XXV.Since the start of the season, Bevan French (Parramatta Eels) joined the club whilst, Josh Ganson (Widnes Vikings), Liam Forsyth (Leigh Centurions), Liam Paisley (Barrow Raiders), Taulima Tautai (released) and Morgan Escare (Wakefield Trinity - on loan) have departed.

His most notable departure is of course, Steve Prescott 'Man of Steel', Jackson Hastings, an ever present last year, who has, along with Jake Bibby joined Wigan Warriors. Hull FC bound Josh Jones; Josh Griffin who has signed for Castleford Tigers and Logan Tomkins (Widnes Vikings) are three more of the other ten players who have also left the club. The question now on everyone's lips is whether his new recruits can fill these players' boots and help replicate the form that Salford showed for much of last year.

The key recruit is of course is Kevin Brown from Warrington Wolves. He is now 35 and missed almost the whole of 2019 after suffering an Achilles tendon injury last January. An England International and World Cup Finalist just three years ago, Brown has an outstanding pedigree and how he settles in with his new club and what sort of partnership he can strike up with Tui Lolohea will go a long way in determining whether the Red Devils will emulate last season's achievements.

Other notable recruits include, former Super League Dream Team, player Sebastine Ikahihifo from Huddersfield Giants, Dan Sarginson (Wigan Warriors) and Luke Yates (London Broncos). They are just three of Salford's other eight new signings.

Salford have faced Saints on forty six occasions since the onset of Super League. Saints have won forty of these previous Super League meetings between the sides, including all fourteen matches played at Knowsley Road, one at the Stobart Stadium and eight at the Totally Wicked Stadium; including the Grand Opening game in 2012. In this period, St. Helens have also defeated Salford 23-6 in last season's Super League Grand Final and have won each of the three Challenge Cup ties between the two teams. For the record, St. Helens have won their last 35 home matches versus the Red Devils. Salford's last win in St. Helens was, 40 years ago, by 18 points to 17 back on the 12th January, 1980.



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NIALL EVALDS PLAYER POSITION

Niall, aged 26, is Salford's longest serving player. A product of the Red Devils' Academy setup, he is blessed with a lightening burst of pace and an eye for a gap. Equally at home at full back or on the wing, Niall scores tries for fun and is one of the Red Devils most potent attacking threats.



CENTRE

Dan joined the Red Devils from Wigan Warriors during the off season. During his spells with the warriors he won 2 Grand Finals. Dan will be a key component in Salford's 2020 squad.



Tongan international half back Tui Lolohea arrived in England at the start of 2019 when he signed for Leeds Rhinos. Lolohea immediately formed a great combination with Jackson Hastings and their excellent form was instumental in reaching Old Trafford.



Joey Lussick joined Salford Red Devils from Manly Sea Eagles in July 2018 Lussick, a hocker, scored 13 tries in 34 appearances for the Red Devils and played a key part in Salford's most successful ever Super League campaign, culminating in their Grand Final appearance last October.



Pauli Pauli joined the Red Devils from Wakefield Trinity during the off season. The 6ft 4, 19 stone prop is a 'high impact', explosive runner.

KEY STATS Saints Highest Home Win 66-16 [2001]

SAINTS HIGHEST AWAY WIN 60-10 [2018] SALFORD PLAYED AT THE WILLOWS 1901-2012

SAINTS HIGHEST Marginal Home Win 59-0 [1962-63]



ALL MATCHES [EXCLUDING FRIENDLIES]						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	126	101	6	19	2895	1208
AWAY	124	56	5	63	1861	1655
NEUTRAL	3	3	-	-	88	28
TOTAL	253	<i>160</i>	11	82	4644	2891

PREVIOUS LEAGUE ENCOUNTERS							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	
HOME	110	89	5	16	2643	1087	
AWAY	108	49	3	56	<i>1638</i>	1458	
TOTAL	218	138	8	72	4281	2545	









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2020 FIXTURE LIST

Jan	Fri	31	н	Salford Red Devils	7:45pm
Feb	Thu	6	А	Warrington Wolves	7:45pm
	Sun	16	А	Hull FC	3:00pm
	TBC		Н	Catalans Dragons	TBC
	Sat	22	Н	Sydney Roosters	7:45pm
	Sat	29	А	Toronto Wolfpack At Warrington	6:00pm
Mar	Fri	6	Н	Huddersfield Giants	7:45pm
	Sun	15	А	Castleford Tigers	3:30pm
	Fri	20	А	Leeds Rhinos	7:45pm
	Fri	27	Н	Hull KR	7:45pm
Apr		3/4		Challenge Cup 6th Round	
	Fri	10	Н	Wigan Warriors Good Friday Derby	2:45pm
	Sat	18	А	Catalans Dragons	6:00pm
	Fri	24	Н	Wakefield Trinity	7:45pm
May	Sat	2	А	Toronto Wolfpack	1:30pm
		8/9		Challenge Cup Quarter Finals	
	Thu	14	Н	Hull FC	7:45pm
	Sat	23		Salford Red Devils Magic Weekend	5:15pm
	Sun	31	А	Hull KR	3:00pm
Jun		5/6		Challenge Cup Semi Finals	
	Fri	12	Н	Leeds Rhinos	7:45pm
	Fri	19	Н	Castleford Tigers	7:45pm
	Sun	28	А	Warrington Wolves	7:15pm
Jul	Fri	3	А	Huddersfield Giants	7:45pm
	Fri	10	Н	Hull FC	7:45pm
	Sat	18		Challenge Cup Final	
	Sun	26	А	Wakefield Trinity	3:00pm
	Fri	31	Н	Wigan Warriors	7:45pm
Aug	Sun	9	А	Salford Red Devils	3:00pm
	Fri	14	Н	Warrington Wolves	7:45pm
	Fri	21	А	Leeds Rhinos	7:45pm
	Fri	28	Н	Huddersfield Giants	7:45pm
Sep	Fri	4	А	Wigan Warriors	7:45pm
	Fri	11	Н	Toronto Wolfpack	7:45pm
	17th	– 19th		Play off Round 1	
	24th – 26th			Play off Round 2	
Oct	1st – 3rd			Play off Round 3	
	Sat 10th			Grand Final	

Fixture Change!

Toronto Wolfpack have confirmed that our Round 5 Betfred Super League clash as part of the '2020 London Series' has had to be relocated to Warrington Wolves' Halliwell Jones Stadium.

The fixture on Saturday 29 February was due to take place at Saracens Allianz Park with kick off at 6pm, but the change has unfortunately been forced upon the Wolfpack after significant changes were made to the agreed terms and conditions of the original agreed fixture at Saracens. The date and kick off time will remain unchanged

Martin Vickers UK General Manager said: "It is with great disappointment that we need to make this change, but sadly it comes as a result of reasons outside of our control.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of Simon Moran, Stuart Middleton and Karl Fitzpatrick of Warrington for stepping into the breach to allow this fixture to happen. We must also thank St Helens, who have worked tirelessly with us to resolve this difficult issue we were faced with."

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