

when leeds met rugby league

Leeds Metropolitan University:  
Carnegie Challenge Cup 2009



**Carnegie Challenge Cup**

**Fourth Round**



**April 2009**

**Media Pack**

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## **Carnegie Challenge Cup Ambassador announced**

Leeds Metropolitan University, sponsors of rugby league's oldest and most prestigious knock out competition, the Carnegie Challenge Cup, are proud to unveil Barrie McDermott as the Carnegie Ambassador for this year's tournament.

Barrie, who appeared in four Challenge Cup finals in his playing career, won the trophy in 1999 when Leeds Rhinos defeated London Broncos 52-16.

Prop-forward McDermott, who made 283 appearances for Leeds Rhinos, scoring 40 tries including 1 hat-trick, also represented Oldham, Wigan and Widnes in a glittering rugby league career also gaining caps for Great Britain and Ireland.

Carnegie caught up with Barrie prior to the Fourth Round games:

### **What are your memories of playing in the fourth round of the Cup?**

"These early rounds of the competition are always an exciting time. In the fourth round, the Super League clubs enter the fray and it is ideal for the lower clubs to get a bit of a pay day. It's such a big occasion for the smaller teams, I remember travelling to places like Dewsbury and Workington as a Leeds player and it being a fantastic atmosphere in those traditional grounds and it is a chance to them to stake their claim against the bigger clubs. By the same token, everybody acknowledges and respects it is also the duty and responsibility of the bigger clubs to accommodate those teams and make their experience a good one."

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**Do you think that players approach cup games with a different attitude from regular league fixtures?**

Absolutely, you just get one chance in the cup. In the league you understand that there are both home and away fixtures, so there is always the opportunity to make amends. In the cup however, you only have one shot. Home advantage certainly does count for something in the cup and most teams realise that.

Most of all, I think that players realise that the Carnegie Challenge Cup is a very special competition. It has its own separate place in the rugby league calendar and contains so much history and heritage. The Carnegie Challenge Cup is distinct and has very traditional values, which differ slightly from the excitement, glitz and the glamour of the colourful engage Super League. Great players don't always get to play in the Carnegie Challenge Cup and clubs realise that and therefore don't take their cup games for granted.

**As a lower level club, what does it mean to the community to draw a Super League side?**

I remember as a player at Oldham, I was involved in the squad as we hosted Warrington with 6000 fans cheering us on at Watersheddings – the atmosphere was electric. Oldham came out victorious that day and I think that each tie really is a 50/50 chance for each team to progress; mark my words there is always an upset with the lower team not reading the script!

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## Carnegie Challenge Cup Fourth Round

### French Clubs

Paris St Germain were the first French club to appear in the Challenge Cup, in 1997. They won 38-4 at Batley Bulldogs in round four and lost 8-4 at Salford Reds in round five. Paris were a Super League club and French League clubs first appeared in 1999-2000. Catalans Dragons hold the record for the highest score by a French club in the Cup with a 70-12 home defeat of Featherstone Rovers in the 2007 fourth round. Catalans also hold the record margin win, 66-0 at home to Thornhill amateurs in the 2006 fourth round. Catalans are the only French club to reach the final, losing 30-8 to St. Helens in 2007.

Bradford Bulls ran up the highest score against a French club with a 98-6 fourth round home defeat of Toulouse last year. It was also the widest winning margin.

A record three French clubs appeared in the fifth round in 2005: Pia Donkeys, Union Trezieste Catalan and Toulouse. Toulouse were the only winners and went on to become the first French club to reach the semi-finals, losing 56-18 to Leeds Rhinos.

### Inter-division cup clashes

There have been 146 Challenge Cup meetings between Super League and lower division clubs.

Super League clubs have won 138 and of the eight lower division wins only two were achieved by the away team.

The only victory by a team from the third level was Hunslet Hawks' 18-14 fourth round home defeat of newly promoted Huddersfield Giants in 2003.

The last two lower division triumphs were in 2006, Widnes Vikings beating Castleford Tigers 14-4 in the fourth round and Hull Kingston Rovers defeating Warrington Wolves 40-36 in round six. Both were home victories.

Three of the other wins came in the first year of Super League (1996) with Dewsbury beating London Broncos 12-10 at home and Widnes winning 17-10 at Workington Town in the fourth round, while Salford Reds had a 26-16 fifth round home win over Wigan.

Later, Keighley Cougars had a 21-8 fifth round win at Halifax Blue Sox in 1997, Leigh Centurions a 16-12 fourth round home defeat of Salford City Reds in 2001 and Hunslet's defeat of Huddersfield in 2003.

Leeds Rhinos registered the biggest Super League win over lower division opposition when they won 106-10 at Swinton Lions in the 2001 fourth round.

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### **Challenge Cup runs**

St Helens, the holders, have the current longest run of appearing in round five of the Challenge Cup, not having been knocked out at the first stage for top division clubs since 1995. Then they were beaten 40-24 in a fourth round replay at home to Wigan after drawing 16-16.

Of this year's fourth round clubs Keighley Cougars have gone the longest without reaching the fifth round, having not achieved it since 1997. Gateshead Thunder have not gone beyond the fourth round since they entered the competition in 2001.

### **Amateur clubs**

The last amateur clubs to reach the fifth round were Ellenborough Rangers and Egremont Rangers in 1998. Ellenborough lost 78-0 at Hull Sharks, and Egremont lost 84-6 at Sheffield Eagles.

### **Robinson equals Hunslet record**

Darren Robinson of Hunslet Hawks equalled a club match record with 12 goals, including a drop goal, in the 71-0 Co-operative Championship One home defeat of London Skolars. The record was set by Billy Langton, who kicked 12 in Hunslet's 63-7 League win at Keighley on 18 August 1959.

### **Ballard equals Oldham record**

Andy Ballard of Oldham equalled a club record with 30 points from three tries and nine goals in the 66-16 Co-operative Championship One home defeat of Workington Town. The record was set by Abe Johnson with two three-point tries and 12 goals in the 60-5 home League defeat of Widnes on 9 April 1928.

### **Try scoring run**

Gregg McNally of Whitehaven has scored tries in six successive matches as follows: 1-2-2-3-4-1.

Jon Presley of Keighley Cougars has scored tries in five successive matches as follows: 3-1-2-2-1.

### **Point scoring run**

Carl Forber of Workington Town has scored in 38 successive matches for the club, starting with the first match of last season on 3 February 2008.

### **Winning runs**

Halifax and Dewsbury Rams are the only teams in any of the three divisions to remain unbeaten this season, each having won seven matches. Halifax have won four Northern Rail Cup matches, a Carnegie Challenge Cup-tie and two Co-operative Championship game. Dewsbury have a similar record in Championship One.

### **Losing runs**

London Skolars have lost 13 successive matches - six Co-operative National League Two matches last season plus four Northern Rail Cup games, a Carnegie Challenge Cup-tie and

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two Co-operative Championship One matches this year. Their last win was 50-16 at Hunslet Hawks on 21 July 2008.

### Milestones

Chev Walker of Hull Kingston Rovers needs three tries for a career century of touchdowns in club and representative matches. The centre's 97 tries have been scored as follows: 86 Leeds Rhinos, 5 Hull K.R. and six in representative matches, including one for Great Britain.

Kirk Yeaman of Hull FC needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns in club and representative matches. He has scored 97 for Hull and one for England in 191 matches.

### LEADING SCORERS

#### ENGAGE SUPER LEAGUE

(League matches only)

##### TRIES

Peter Fox (Hull K.R.)	7
Ryan Hall (Leeds)	7
Shaun Ainscough (Wigan)	6
David Halley (Bradford)	6
David Hodgson (Huddersfield)	5
Richard Horne (Hull)	5
Kirk Dixon (Castleford)	5
Leon Pryce (St. Helens)	5
Matt Gidley (St. Helens)	5

##### GOALS

Michael Dobson (Hull K.R.)	30 (2)
Danny Tickle (Hull)	26
Brett Hodgson (Huddersfield)	24
Kevin Sinfield (Leeds)	24 (1)
Kirk Dixon (Castleford)	23
Danny Orr (Harlequins)	23
Tony Martin (Wakefield)	22
Thomas Bosc (Catalans)	19
Pat Richards (Wigan)	18
Paul Deacon (Bradford)	17 (1)

( ) Drop goals included in total

##### POINTS

Michael Dobson (Hull K.R.)	74
Kirk Dixon (Castleford)	66
Danny Tickle (Hull)	64
Brett Hodgson (Huddersfield)	60
Kevin Sinfield (Leeds)	51
Danny Orr (Harlequins)	50
Tony Martin (Wakefield)	48
Pat Richards (Wigan)	48
Chris Hicks (Warrington)	48
Thomas Bosc (Catalans)	42

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### CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIP & CHAMPIONSHIP ONE CLUBS (All Cup and League matches)

#### TRIES

Gregg McNally (Whitehaven)	14
Jon Presley (Keighley)	12
Stewart Sanderson (Gateshead)	9
Andy Ballard (Oldham)	8
Dave Hull (Swinton)	8
Paddy Flynn (Widnes)	8
Andy Kain (Featherstone)	7
Kane Epati (Dewsbury)	7
Luke Branighan (Gateshead)	7
Jon Oakes (York)	7

#### GOALS

Patrick Walker (Dewsbury)	42
Andy Ballard (Oldham)	37
Paul Noone (Barrow)	33
Ian Mort (Leigh)	31
Gregg McNally (Whitehaven)	30
Jonny Woodcock (Sheffield)	28
Danny Jones (Keighley)	27 (1)
Carl Sneyd (Swinton)	25
Scott Yates (Widnes)	24
Darren Robinson (Hunslet)	20 (1)

( ) Goals included in total

#### POINTS

Gregg McNally (Whitehaven)	116
Andy Ballard (Oldham)	106
Patrick Walker (Dewsbury)	88
Ian Mort (Leigh)	82
Paul Noone (Barrow)	70
Jonny Woodcock (Sheffield)	68
Scott Yates (Widnes)	64
Carl Sneyd (Swinton)	58
George Flanagan (Batley)	54
Danny Jones (Keighley)	53

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## **Prescott to deliver Carnegie Challenge Cup match ball**

Steve Prescott will deliver the match ball for the Carnegie Challenge Cup fourth round tie between Leeds Rhinos and St Helens on Sunday 5 April as part of his fundraising challenge. Following the launch of Steve Prescott's Carnegie Challenge last week, training has begun for the gruelling endurance test that will test the participants to their limits.

Steve and a star-studded team of ex-professionals rugby league players are preparing for a challenge that will see them cycle 720 mile across France before rowing across the Channel in a dragon boat, a second 60 mile bike ride before finally completing the challenge with a half marathon run in time for the Carnegie Challenge Cup final in August.

This weekend Steve and six members of the Carnegie Challenge team, including Kris Radlinski MBE and former Saints captain Chris Joynt, will cycle from St Helens College to Headingley Carnegie Stadium in time to deliver the match ball for the mouth-watering Carnegie Challenge Cup fourth round clash between cup heavyweights Leeds Rhinos and St Helens.

The players will begin the challenge at St Helens College, where Saints mascot, Boots, will present Steve with the match ball. They will then cycle the 70 miles across the Pennines before arriving at Headingley Carnegie Stadium where they will be welcomed by Leeds mascot, Ronnie the Rhino and the Radio Aire dance team.

Guy Lincoln, Director of Rugby League Partnerships at Leeds Met Carnegie said: "We are encouraging all supporters to welcome Steve and the team into the stadium at around 2.30pm just in time for the Catalans v Bulls game. There will be opportunities for fans to have their photos taken with the legendary players before they are introduced onto the pitch at 4.00pm, before Steve leads the teams onto the pitch with the match ball."

Participants in Steve Prescott's Carnegie Challenge include Paul Sculthorpe, Kris Radlinski, Chris Joynt, Steve Hampson, Gary Connolly, Anthony Sullivan, Steve Prescott, Terry O'Connor, Chris Smith Steve Hall, and Lee Jackson. Jimmy Gittins and Pete Stephenson, who both sustained career-ending injuries, will also take part on a specially adapted quad bike designed to help them complete the challenge.

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## Leeds Metropolitan University

Leeds Metropolitan University is an award-winning university of festivals and partnerships. The University's renowned Carnegie Faculty of Sport & Education was named after Carnegie College, a PE teacher training college which was established 75 years ago, at what is now Leeds Met's Headingley Campus, with money bestowed by Andrew Carnegie. Links between rugby league and Carnegie go back to 1936 when one of the college's first students, the legendary Eric Harris, scored a famous try when Leeds won the Challenge Cup at Wembley.

The name Carnegie is already recognised across the world in association with an impressive portfolio of sporting partners besides the RFL, including Rugby League Ireland,

Leeds Rhinos, Leeds Carnegie, Scottish Rugby Football Union, Yorkshire County Cricket Club incorporating Yorkshire Carnegie, and Leeds Carnegie Ladies FC. Cultural partners include Northern Ballet Theatre, Black Dyke Band, Harrogate International Festival and the Indian International Film Academy (IIFA).

The University is also recognised in rugby league for its own performance on the pitch, as British University Champions for the third consecutive year, unbeaten at home for four years, and the first student team to reach the third round of the prestigious knock-out competition, the Carnegie Challenge Cup this year.

As well as the Carnegie Challenge Cup, Leeds Met's six-year partnership with the RFL includes the Carnegie Champion Schools Tournament, the biggest rugby league tournament in the world, involving 25,000 school-girls and boys. Leeds Met is also the primary partner for the Carnegie World Club Challenge and the Carnegie Student Ashes. The RFL's full-time referees and technical staff are based at Leeds Met's Headingley Campus and students can be seen rubbing shoulders with these champions around the campus.

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## **The UK Centre for Coaching Excellence unveiled at Leeds Met**

The Minister for Sport, Gerry Sutcliffe, has announced that The UK Centre for Coaching Excellence in sport and disability sport will be based at Leeds Metropolitan University. The new centre will help coaches to develop the sporting stars of the future and will propel the UK into becoming the leading coaching nation in the world by 2016.

The Centre, the first of its kind in the United Kingdom, will benefit sports coaches in a wide range of sports to help them reach the top and help drive a legacy of sporting success for British athletes in major events. Start-up funding of £600,000 has been provided by UK Sport and Sport England. The Centre is also being backed by sportscotland, Sports Council for Wales and Sport Northern Ireland.

As well as benefiting sports coaches the Centre will also offer training to community coaches to improve the quality of the sport experience for all, and help identify potential British sports stars of the future.

Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe said: "Behind every great athlete is a great coach and we want to ensure that we have the best sports coaches and coaching system in the world both at the elite end and grass roots. The UK Centre for Coaching Excellence will be vital in helping us realise that ambition. We want to develop a more professional approach to coaching in the UK with it becoming a real career option for people like it is in the United States."

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## **Carnegie launches RFL Management Academy**

An innovative new academy to train the sports administrators of the future has been unveiled by a top sporting institution. Leeds Met Carnegie have launched the RFL Management Academy, an educational partnership between the Rugby Football League (RFL) and the University.

The Academy offers current students a year-long programme with the opportunity to enhance their studies with work-based learning and training opportunities within professional rugby league clubs and the sport's governing body. The programme is part-accredited by the university and also formally recognised by the RFL. At present placements are with Championship Clubs however as the programme develops, Super League clubs may also be included.

Director of Rugby League partnerships at Leeds Met, Guy Lincoln, explained: "The RFL Management Academy provides added value to students' degree courses with work based placements; benefits the sport with the opportunity to train, identify and potentially recruit its future workforce and delivers value added projects for championship clubs."

Fourteen second year students studying Sports Business Management, Sports Marketing & Public Relations and Sports Events Management at Leeds Metropolitan University are currently taking part in the academy. They will spend a total of 90 hours of voluntary work experience with 13 Championship clubs identifying development potential to extend the commercial aspects of the club's business.

The students will also have access to mentors from the club itself, the RFL and the University.

The RFL Chief Executive Nigel Wood added: "This is a unique and exciting initiative with Leeds Metropolitan University that will create some fantastic opportunities and also assist Co-operative Championship Clubs by offering them some valuable added resource at key parts of the season.

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## National sporting success for Leeds Met athletes

Leeds Metropolitan University's sporting stars are celebrating unprecedented success following a national student sports competition.

The British Universities and Colleges (BUCS) championships, held in Sheffield, saw the University pick up a number of gold medals including victories in hockey, badminton, futsal, indoor cricket, squash, volleyball and rugby league.

Director of University Sport at Leeds Met, Malcolm Brown said: "The University has had its best and most successful four days of University sport ever and we have made a significant step forward. The competition has been tough but we have shown quality and commitment and thoroughly deserve the success; credit must go to everyone involved."

Leeds Met Carnegie's hockey team were crowned national student champions for the first time after coming from two goals behind to beat Birmingham 3-2 in the British Universities and Colleges (BUCS) trophy final in Sheffield.

The victory handed Leeds Met their first ever BUCS Championship trophy in women's hockey with Carnegie scholar and Great Britain star Jo Ellis proving instrumental for the Leeds side with her international experience shining through. The 25-year-old scored a superb solo effort with five minutes remaining to seal the victory.

Commenting on their history victory, Jo Ellis said: "There wasn't a lot in the game really. Leeds Met wanted this trophy after we won the league and we have been training really hard all year for this. We started off a little bit slow but going two nil down brought the best out of the girls. We got in their faces and worked really hard to get it back to two all."

The win for the hockey team follows hot on the heels of the men's rugby league team who have been crowned national student champions for the fourth consecutive year.

Leeds Met overcame arch-rivals Loughborough 18-16 in a pulsating British Universities and Colleges (BUCS) Championship final at West Park. Scott Ellam, Kris Hodson and Rhys Griffiths scored the tries for Leeds Met whilst Iain Gordon kicked three goals.