

when leeds met rugby league

Leeds Metropolitan University:  
Carnegie Challenge Cup 2009



## Carnegie Challenge Cup Fifth Round



May 2009

Media Pack

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## Barrie McDermott's fifth round preview

Carnegie Challenge Cup Ambassador Barrie McDermott previews the fifth round ties taking place this weekend.

### Wakefield v Wigan

Firstly I strongly believe that any side that has a little bit of ambition can be forgiven on focusing on the cup game. Despite Wakefield's recent defeats at home at the hands of Wigan and Bradford, I think they are in with half a chance. Unfortunately they've had to also deal with an injury to Damien Blanch, the winger, who I think is one of the best players and finishers in the game. The disruption to their squad and those defeats mean that Wakefield will not be happy with their performances or that results. However, the fact that it is a cup game means it's a totally different prospect. For the neutral, I know that after the turmoil the club has been under in the last year, their thoughts and hopes will go to the Wildcats. It would be a fitting tribute for Wakefield to win through to the final.

John Kear has a massive part to play in this fixture. Last year they lost out to Hull in the semi finals and let themselves down. John's a great tactician, a good man manager and also a really top bloke.

Wigan can take great comfort from their impressive victory over St Helens at the weekend and have some incredibly talented young members of their squad. Both Ainscough and Tomkins are really fine prospects, for Ainscough in particular, his memories against Wakefield are good ones, having scored four tries in their previous encounter. Wigan blew the best team in the competition of the Murrayfield park at weekend and could do the same here if the mood takes them

**Barrie's prediction:** Wakefield

### St Helens v Catalans

After the remarkable comeback against Bradford in the last round and a good 2nd half in Edinburgh, Catalans can approach this game full of confidence. The Bradford game was one of the most remarkable comebacks in the cup I've seen in a long long time. The balance of the side is good with a mixture of French, Australian and Kiwi players. Whilst defence wins games in the Southern hemisphere, the French teams like not only attractive they like it down right raunchy rugby league and they are all about attack. Kevin Walters has taken time to settle in but has now got a good bunch of players together. Underestimate Catalan at your peril. This game is a repeat of the 2007 final, and although there aren't too many survivors from that day, there will be a willingness to get back to Wembley and reverse that result.

It's been a difficult couple of weeks for St Helens as well following defeats from Bradford and Wigan. They are however the best side in the competition with their size, speed and skill unmatched in super league at present.

I think Kyle Eastmond has a role to play in Saints cup run this year if they get to the final he'll, on a wide open pitch, have a field day. In my opinion the crushing force of Saints will see through to the final once again. They enjoy the big stage and know what to expect from the

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Challenge Cup. However, I don't think they'll lose their unbeaten tag I do think the Dragons will run them close.

**Barrie's prediction:** Saints to win a close game.

#### **Gateshead Thunder V Oldham**

Despite the recent form book showing Oldham in a rich vein of form and Gateshead coming off the back of some heavy defeats, I think this one is going to be a lot closer than people imagine. Nash in the centre is one of the best players in the division and coupled with the willingness of Henderson, they are a respectable side for anyone.

Oldham have Challenge Cup experience in their side and can go into the game with a lot of confidence in their last match they scored 78 points. Tony Benson seems to have a strong mentality in the players and demands high standards from them. Paul O Connor is an exciting prospect and I think they should enjoy the open spaces at the weekend. With a little bit of Irish luck from Stevie Gibbons and Wayne Kerr they could be through to the next round and be lining up a dream tie against the champions Saints at Boundary Park.

**Barrie's prediction:** Oldham's class to shine through and see them into the next round.

#### **Huddersfield v Rochdale**

**Barrie's prediction:** Huddersfield have experienced mixed fortunes of the last couple of months. However, they remain one of my wildcards to get through to the final. Their super league experience here should be enough to overcome a spirited Rochdale side.

#### **Castleford v Halifax**

**Barrie's prediction:** Halifax are a very impressive side and I think Gleeson, Penkywicz and Beswick are the key to the side, their speed around the ruck might just trouble the Cas pack. There is always one upset in the cup competition and this West Yorkshire derby might just have it.

#### **Batley v Salford**

**Barrie's prediction:** This could be the incentive in Salford's season that they are waiting for after they ran the Quins close last week. You would expect super league players to be more equipped for this type of game. Mount Pleasant isn't such a pleasant place to go when you need a result however Salford should have enough to overcome Karl Harrison's men.

#### **Featherstone v Warrington**

**Barrie's prediction:** This game is at another traditional ground and Featherstone aren't a bad side. This could be a potential banana skin for Warrington. Warrington win my award for a bag of revels this year. You are never sure what you are going to get, one week you are enjoying a malteser, the next you are spitting out a coffee cream. I think Warrington will win, but Iestyn Harris and Featherstone will take them all the way.

#### **Hull KR v Sheffield**

**Barrie's prediction:** This completes my trios of possibles (Wakey, Cas, Hull KR). Hull KR are a very strong side and are well balanced, well drilled with a willing mentality at home and they showed last week that they have the mental toughness to come back from adversity Ben Galea and Scott Murrell are two sung heroes of Super League. Even though Sheffield were there in 1998, it won't get them past the superiority of Hull KR.



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### Carnegie Challenge Cup 5<sup>th</sup> round preview

#### BATLEY BULLDOGS v SALFORD CITY REDS

It is nearly 28 years since Batley beat Salford. That was in September 1981 when Batley won 15-11 in a Division Two home match. The Salford side included internationals David Stephenson, Maurice Richards, Bill Francis, Steve Nash and Mike Coulman. Since then, Salford have remained unbeaten in 16 matches against Batley, who did manage a 12-12 home draw in 1995. Salford have won the last eight matches and piled up more than 45 points in every one, including a double last season. Batley have not reached the last 16 since 1938.

#### Previous RL Challenge Cup meetings

1897-98 (SF)	Batley	5	Salford	0	At Oldham
1901-02 (SF)	Salford	8	Batley	0	At Oldham
1910-11 (3)	Salford	3	Batley	18	
1919-20 (1)	Batley	19	Salford	0	
1930-31 (1)	Salford	16	Batley	3	
1968-69 (1)	Salford	17	Batley	2	
1990-91 (1)	Salford	36	Batley	14	

#### CASTLEFORD TIGERS v HALIFAX

HALIFAX have never lost to Castleford in the Challenge Cup. The nearest Castleford came to victory was a 7-all draw in their first Cup meeting 71 years ago. Halifax's victories include an 11-10 fifth round win in 2000, which was the last time they have beaten Castleford away. Since then, they have lost on all seven trips to the Jungle. The last time they met was in 2007 when Castleford completed a National League One double.

#### Previous RL Challenge Cup meetings

1937-38 (3)	Castleford	7	Halifax	7	
Replay	Halifax		11	Castleford	7
1944-45 (P)*	Castleford	5	Halifax	8	
	Halifax		8	Castleford	3
2000 (5)	Castleford	10	Halifax	11	
2005 (4)	Halifax		23	Castleford	14

\* Two legs

#### FEATHERSTONE ROVERS v WARRINGTON WOLVES

The last time Warrington visited Featherstone they lost 26-10. That was in the last full winter season of 1994-95 and also the last time Featherstone were in the top division, then the Stones Bitter Championship. Warrington won the return game 18-14, the only other meeting since then being their 50-6 fourth round Cup victory in 1999. The last time Warrington won the Cup was when they beat Featherstone 24-9 at Wembley in 1974.

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### Previous RL Challenge Cup meetings

1950-51 (2)	Warrington	18	Featherstone	6
1960-61 (2)	Warrington	10	Featherstone	13
1965-66 (2)	Featherstone	14	Warrington	15
1972-73 (3)	Warrington	14	Featherstone	18
1973-74 (F)	Warrington	24	Featherstone	9 At Wembley
1989-90 (1)	Warrington	20	Featherstone	12
1999 (4)	Warrington	50	Featherstone	6

### GATESHEAD THUNDER v OLDHAM

Gateshead Thunder have won only one of their seven meetings with Oldham, 32-18 in a Co-op National League Two home match last year. This is the first time Gateshead have appeared in the fifth round, while Oldham are aiming to reach the quarter-finals for a second successive year. Neither club has appeared at Wembley, but Oldham appeared in four of the five finals immediately before the move to the stadium in 1929, winning the Cup for the last time two years earlier.

### Previous RL Challenge Cup meetings

None

### HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS v ROCHDALE HORNETS

Rochdale Hornets' last win at Huddersfield Giants was 27-12 in 1995-96 and was the first leg of a League double in the Stones Bitter Centenary Division One (second sphere). They finished eighth in the division, one place above Huddersfield. The two clubs have drifted leagues apart since then and have met only four times with Huddersfield winning them all. Their last meetings were in 2001-02 when Huddersfield completed a Northern Ford Premiership double.

### Previous RL Challenge Cup meetings

1901-02 (2)	Rochdale	9	Huddersfield	19
1922-23 (1)	Rochdale	3	Huddersfield	5
1924-25 (2)	Rochdale	5	Huddersfield	0
1948-49 (1)*	Huddersfield	4	Rochdale	5
	Rochdale	0	Huddersfield	11
1974-75	Huddersfield	18	Rochdale	21
1985-86 (1)	Huddersfield	4	Rochdale	10

### HULL KINGSTON ROVERS v SHEFFIELD EAGLES

Hull Kingston Rovers have won four successive matches against Sheffield Eagles. The Eagles' last defeat of the Robins was 33-26 at home in a National League Cup match in 2003. Gavin Brown scored a try and 10 goals, including three drop goals. But Sheffield have not beaten Rovers away since 2001 when they won 18-14 in a Northern Ford Premiership match. The pair last met in 2006, with Rovers achieving a National League Cup double 44-22 and 52-12.

### Previous RL Challenge Cup meetings

None

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### ST. HELENS v CATALANS DRAGONS

St. Helens have won 16 successive Challenge Cup-ties, having lifted the trophy in the last three years. Their last Cup defeat was 34-8 against Hull FC in the 2005 semi-final at Huddersfield. The string of victories includes the 30-8 Cup final defeat of Catalans Dragons at Wembley in 2007. Catalans have won three home Super League matches against the Saints, but have lost all four away matches, including a Cup-tie.

#### Previous RL Challenge Cup meetings

2006 (6)	St. Helens	56	Catalans	10
2007 (F)	St. Helens	30	Catalans	8 At Wembley

### WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS v WIGAN WARRIORS

Each has had away wins over the other this season after Wigan completed an engage Super League treble last year. Wigan have also won the last four Challenge Cup meetings, with Wakefield's last defeat of them in the competition being a 6-5 second round home victory in 1972. Wigan have appeared in a record 28 finals and won the Cup a record 17 times, but lost both times they have met Wakefield in the final.

#### Previous RL Challenge Cup meetings

1908-09 (SF)	Wakefield	14	Wigan	2 At Broughton
1913-14 (3)	Wakefield	9	Wigan	6
1921-22 (1)	Wigan	15	Wakefield	6
1933-34 (1)	Wakefield	7	Wigan	14
1940-41 (2)	Wakefield	22	Wigan	0
1945-46 (F)	Wakefield	13	Wigan	12 At Wembley
1948-49 (2)	Wigan	37	Wakefield	2
1951-52 (1)*	Wakefield	18	Wigan	13
	Wigan	40	Wakefield	3
1957-58 (2)	Wakefield	5	Wigan	11
1960-61 (2)	Wakefield	0	Wigan	2
1961-62 (3)	Wakefield	5	Wigan	4
1962-63 (F)	Wakefield	25	Wigan	10 At Wembley
1971-72 (2)	Wakefield	6	Wigan	5
1989-90 (3)	Wakefield	14	Wigan	26
1993-94 (4)	Wigan	24	Wakefield	16
2004 (6)	Wigan	20	Wakefield	4
2006 (4)	Wakefield	22	Wigan	32

\* Two legs

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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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## The year of the nines

Former England number nine, Mick Morgan has made the draw for the 2009 Carnegie Floodlit Nines Tournament at a launch event at Headingley Carnegie Stadium.

Hosts Leeds Rhinos, have been paired against fellow engage Super League side Warrington Wolves, whilst Hull KR will line up against Wakefield Wildcats. Cumbria RL, Leeds Met Carnegie and invitational side Jamaica will play in a preliminary group stage for the right to face Hull FC. The Army RL, the Cheltenham nines winners and the winners of the Northern Rail nines competition will also battle it out for the right to play last year's tournament winners Huddersfield Giants.

Huddersfield Giants winger and star of last year's final Jermaine McGillvary commented: "The Carnegie 9's was a real springboard to success for me last year. Prior to the tournament I didn't have a full time contract at the Giants but the Carnegie 9's gave me the platform to showcase my talents which then allowed me to secure a long term deal with the club. As I've only been playing the game for two years this is a great experience for me as it allowed me to be fast tracked into a full time rugby league environment. I'm currently on loan at the Batley Bulldogs but hope to be back in the Giants side for this year's Carnegie Floodlit Nines."

Leeds Rhinos second row and Leeds Metropolitan University graduate Simon Worrall added: "Playing in the Carnegie 9's is a great opportunity to showcase your skills as you have a lot more space to play with as there are less players on the field. This is a great experience which especially a lot of the younger players relish as it gives them exposure on an international stage."

Leeds Met Carnegie rugby league coach Paul Fletcher, who earlier this year was awarded the Sports Coach of the Year accolade at the Leeds Sports Awards said: "This is a fantastic draw for us as we get the chance to take on a pro side in the form of the Northern Rail 9's winners as well as getting the chance to take on the unknown quantity of Jamaica. This tournament, which derives from a fantastic concept, gives Leeds Met Rugby League the opportunity to compete at an international level."

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The 2009 Carnegie Floodlit Nines will host twelve senior teams including six engage Super League clubs. Prior to the showpiece finals there will be a Girls rugby league county game which last year saw a keenly contested game between Yorkshire and Lancashire. The competition will take place on Wednesday August 26 at Headingley Carnegie Stadium. The tournament also revives the tradition of the Headingley 7s, which was staged at Headingley Carnegie Stadium between 1965 and 1978, and provided high-energy league action for fans.

### **The draw in full:**

**Qualifying Group A:** Jamaica, Cumbria RL, Leeds Met Carnegie

**Qualifying Group B:** Army RL, Cheltenham nines winners, Northern Rail nines winners

### **Round 2**

Hull FC v Group A winners

Warrington Wolves v Leeds Rhinos

Hull KR v Wakefield Wildcats

Huddersfield Giants v Group B winners