



ENGLISH SCHOOLS' RUGBY LEAGUE HANDBOOK 2007/08

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Carnegie Champion Schools 2007/08

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

My fondest memories of the past season was the tremendous success of the Carnegie Champion Schools finals played at RAF Uxbridge, with the Yr7 boys final being the curtain raiser at the new Wembley Stadium. It was a truly wonderful weekend and it emphasised the success and value of the close relationship between the ESRL and the RFL. Thanks must also go to the staff at RAF Uxbridge and the many helpers provided by the RFL and Leeds Met and, of course, the meticulous organisation and efforts of Andy Harland and Ron England.

Castleford High School set an amazing record of providing six finalists across both boys and girls competitions, surely this will not be surpassed for a very long time, if at all. The girl's competition showed the good progress that has been made by the players over recent years, with great athleticism and good skills being evident. The girls also showed a refreshing enthusiasm and enjoyment in their games. This season the competition will extend to accommodate Yr11 teams, thus covering the full age range for both boys and girls and consolidating the Carnegie Champion Schools as the largest Rugby League Tournament in the World.

As usual, great sportsmanship was shown in the finals and no better example than the Yr10 boys final between St John Fisher and Great Sankey School; a very close and exciting game throughout, only decided in the last minute when a St John Fisher player dropped a goal to gain victory by one point. The sportsmanship between the teams was wonderful to see, even though the Great Sankey boys must have been bitterly disappointed, they congratulated each other on their performance. This was an example of one of the strengths of the schools game, and that we must continue to vigorously encourage.

The Yr7 final between Castleford High School and Freeston High School produced a superb game to grace the new Wembley Stadium; many thought it to be a better game than the Carnegie Challenge Cup Final! It was a fitting way to bring to a close an excellent weekend for Schools Rugby League.

I would like to express my thanks to the hundreds of teachers and volunteers who help with the organisation and training of school teams day in and day out, not forgetting the parents who encourage and support their children, transporting them to training sessions and matches, sometimes over great distances. I wish everybody involved in schools Rugby League a happy and satisfying season ahead and success, at whatever their level, to the players.

John Ahm
Chairman ESRL

It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to welcome you to the English Schools Rugby League handbook.

There can be no doubt that the sport of Rugby League has a collective understanding of the importance and value of a vibrant and effective schools game.

Most of the best domestically produced players who reach elite levels first pulled on a pair of boots while they were at school and we as a sport are eternally grateful for all the hard work that teachers and head teachers undertake to ensure the game makes a major contribution within the world of education.

Rugby League's profile within school sport continues to grow thanks to the efforts of the ESRL as well as the impressive development of the Carnegie Champion Schools tournament.

The tournament has developed into the biggest competition of its kind in world Rugby and it continues to attract more and more young people to our game.

I hope everyone involved has an enjoyable and rewarding season in Schools Rugby League.



Richard Lewis
Executive Chairman Rugby League

PRESIDENT

MP Lindsay

VICE PRESIDENTS

DS Oxley OBE. MA, D Howes

LIFE MEMBERS

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D McHugh (Wigan), R Knowles (Leigh), B Latham (Leeds/Hunslet)

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ESRL & ITS HISTORIC ROOTS

This booklet contains the records of International, Inter-Town, Cup and League Competitions and the Champion Schools Competitions since their inception.

What is contained is but the merest tip of the iceberg which is Schools' Rugby League, for in Lancashire, Yorkshire and later Cumbria, the game has been in existence for well over 100 years, indeed there is documentary evidence that competition was taking place in the early 1900's in both Wigan and Leeds, and almost certainly in other districts as well. The Counties of Lancashire, (North West Counties), and Yorkshire were organising their own Competitions way before World War One, the Lancashire Cup being played for in 1913, with Warrington as the first winners. In season 1925-26, the first Lancashire v Yorkshire game was played. Each of these Counties will have their own records.

The Schools' game is indeed historic and in several ways represented more than simply one School or Town playing against another. In the first half of the twentieth century the 'all' Age or the Boys'/Girl's Schools stood at the very heart of the working class communities and as such often represented the aspirations of that community when involved in sporting fixtures. My own home-town of Wigan is one that I can readily draw on through the tales of older generations and the very history of the School I attended. From what I have gleaned is that when a school such as St Patricks played against Rose Bridge, it became virtually one community versus another, thus Scholes versus Higher Ince. The two communities lived side by side, but with fiercely separate community and often religious loyalties. School games often became a meeting of the tribes and attracted huge crowds. Undoubtedly there would have been incidents from time to time, but hot heads can emerge anywhere and for the greater part, the game was the thing and Rugby League Football was a unifying common factor. In my own School there was a constant reminder of the teams which won The Daily Dispatch Shield in 1936-37 and 1937-38, of which the great Martin Ryan 'the Wigan and Great Britain Full Back' was a member. Every household within the community of St Joseph's Parish had a photograph of those teams, including the one I was born into, after those great events I have to say. The School and its Sporting success was one which was hailed by all within that particular community.

The demolition of slum housing and the creation of new housing estate broke up the old communities. A better standard of living and the increasing working class awareness of education and technology removed most of the tribal instincts and Schools no longer had to wear the tribal label.

The Schools' game also reflected the deprivation of the times. In 1938, John Hufton, Treasurer of Lancashire Schools' Rugby League wrote in his article titled "The first Twenty Five Years,"

"The difficulties of the early days were so many and so great that many teachers might have given up in despair. Lack of suitable playing fields and inadequate equipment and accommodation were both formidable obstacles. The inclusion of a rule that boys should "play in boots" is a reminder of the "safety-first" conditions of the early days when boys rather than miss a game would play in clogs or in bare or stockinged feet. Among other perplexities there was the problem of a fair adjustment of the "age limit" rule, for almost every locality had its own "school leaving age" with the result that some teams were at a considerable disadvantage in the matter of age and physique. Wigan schoolboys, for instance, were mostly victims in this respect, as were Oldham boys at a later period. Such disparities were the cause of much heart-burning and disappointments but happily are now rare."

As a footnote to the above comments, it is worth noting that Oldham was a predominant Cotton Mill town, whilst Wigan was pre-eminent as a Mining Town although having several large Cotton Mills within its boundaries. There was great pressure for boys to leave School as early as they could so that they could begin to work. Remember that Employment Laws then were not as strictly monitored as now, nor were many Employers as scrupulous in their employment of youngsters as they might or should have been. Mr Hufton's observations complement those of George Orwell in his "Road to Wigan Pier" published in 1937.

English Schools' Rugby League is by comparison a young organisation being formed in 1967 following talks between the Counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire. It was formed to enable the organising and playing of International games; to act as one body for the disbursement of Grant Aid received from Rugby Football League; to act as an organising body to spread the game and to be a forum for committed and expert opinion. It would also liaise with Sports Council to qualify for Grant Aid, which the Schools' game could not do until it became a National Body. Among its first acts were the organisation of a visit to

France in 1967 and the visit of the Australian High Schools in 1972.

A look at the International records will show many illustrious names within Rugby League have started their careers with English Schools' Rugby League. We are proud of all of those players but we are no less proud of the thousands of players who did not reach the pinnacles of Professional Rugby but who gained pleasure and sound values from their time in the Schools' game. Every player who passed through our ranks is equal in value.

Much has been made by Rugby Union writers of the use of the sin-bin, which has, they say, been beneficial to the conduct of their game. English Schools' introduced this at its inception, 15 or so years before The Rugby Football League, and many more years than that before Rugby Union saw its logic and benefits.

The records of those who have held Office in English Schools' Rugby League may not mean much to many people, but to the initiated, they contain the names of men who gave long and dedicated service to the propagation of the game in Schools. They ensured that the ethics and standards demanded in Schools were equally demanded in the game of Rugby League. No less is expected today of all of those who play in games organised by English Schools' Rugby League. The integrity and diligence of those who have gone before us is undiminished by the passage of time and we, as Trustees of their legacy have much to cherish and to protect.

The organisation today is very different from that which began life in 1967. Much of the Competition structure has gone, as a look at the records will show. What does remain is the will to remain faithful to the standards expected of those involved in the activities provided for the boys and girls of School age.

Ray Unsworth
Honorary Secretary



PAST OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN

1965-66	Fred Howarth	Oldham
1966-67	Ken Humphries	York
1967-68	Eppie Gibson	Whitehaven
1968-69	Cyril Smith	Wigan
1969-70	Bill Ablett	Hull
1970-71	Ron Morgan	W.Cumberland
1971-72	Frank Wansell	Salford
1972-73	Phil Morris	Wakefield
1973-74	Norman Jolley	Warrington
1974-75	Arthur Spencer	Barrow
1975-76	Brian Latham	Hunslet
1976-79	Arthur Spencer	Cumbria
1979-82	Ray Unsworth	Wigan
1982-84	Tony Profitt	Wakefield
1984-86	Roy Knowles	Leigh
1986-88	Barney O'Hara	Huddersfield
1988-90	Dennis McHugh	Wigan
1990-92	Colin Murray	Huddersfield
1992-94	Jim Forshaw	St Helens
1994-96	Ian Jones	Hull
1996-98	Don Preston	Salford
1998-2000	Peter Dawson	Morley
2000-02	Roger Harrison	Widnes
2002-04	Steve Boothroyd	Leeds
2004-06	Ian Davies	St Helens
2006-	John Ahm	Leeds & Hunslet

NATIONAL COACH(ES)

1967	Eppie Gibson	Whitehaven
1972	Danny Stephens	Castleford
1973-76	Walter Norris	Warrington
	Gordon Jones	Bradford
1977-80	Walter Norris	Warrington
	Les Clarkson	Castleford
1980-94	Dennis McHugh	Wigan
1994-97	Don Preston	Salford
1997-98	Dennis McHugh	Wigan
1998-99	Don Preston	Salford
	Dennis McHugh	Wigan
1999-02	John Bartlett	Salford
	Martin Dunn	Hull
2002-03	John Bartlett	Salford
	Dave Rotheram	London
2003-04	John Bartlett	Salford
	Gareth Pratt	Rochdale
2004-05	Tony Fretwell	Widnes
	Gareth Pratt	Rochdale
2005-	Jason Kenneally	Leeds
	Gareth Pratt	Rochdale

TREASURER

1967-69	Tom Perrin	Huddersfield
1969-85	Jack Lee	Hull
1985-94	Tony Profit	Wakefield
1994-99	Dennis McHugh	Wigan
1999-06	Ian Szwandt	Wigan
2006-	Steve Boothroyd	Leeds

SECRETARY

1967-71	Norman Jolley	Warrington
1971-84	Ron Morgan	Whitehaven
1984-	Ray Unsworth	Wigan

FIXTURE SECRETARY

1976-1978	Bob Isherwood	Leigh
1978-1979	Colin Murray	Huddersfield
1979-1987	Dennis McHugh	Wigan
1987-1990	Bill Watts	Hull
1990-2002	Roy Knowles	Leigh
2002-	Ron England	Castleford



CONSTITUTION

The name of the Association shall be the English Schools' Rugby League.

MISSION STATEMENT

As the English Schools' Rugby functions under the patronage of the Rugby Football League, the following Statement is an amalgam of the original English Schools' Statement and that of the Development Programme of the Rugby Football League.

"To foster the physical, mental, educational, social and moral development of school children through the medium of Rugby League Football, and to deliver a high quality, vibrant Community Development programme which serves the needs of its constituent communities in providing opportunities for all to participate."

MEMBERSHIP

All Schools' Rugby League Associations (and any other part of the UK as the Executive may see fit) will be eligible to affiliate to the English Schools' Rugby League. A Schools' Association is an Association who's objects are in agreement with those of The English Schools' Rugby League

MANAGEMENT

1. The Management of the affairs of the English Schools' Rugby League shall be vested in an Executive Committee which shall consist of:

(i) The Officers of the English Schools' Rugby League who shall be or have been serving teachers, namely; a. Chairman b. Vice Chairman c. Immediate Past Chairman d. Hon. Treasurer e. Hon. Secretary. The Officers shall be ex officio members of all sub committees and shall not be eligible to hold more than one of the afore-mentioned offices at any one time.

(ii) Fixture Secretary

(iii) National Coach(es)

(iv) Representatives of constituent Associations

(v) Life Members

(vi) Other persons who may not necessarily be or have been serving teachers whom the Executive shall from time to time see fit to co-opt. Such persons may attend Executive Meetings.

All of the above mentioned people shall have the power to speak and vote.

QUORUM

The presence of 6 members of the Executive, in addition to three Officers shall constitute a quorum.

POWERS TO ACT

1. The Officers of the English Schools' Rugby League shall have full powers to act in an emergency.

2. The Executive shall have the power to appoint sub committees; such sub committees will be responsible to the Executive of the English Schools' Rugby League, to which they will, in the first instance report.

LIFE MEMBERS

Life members shall be elected at The Annual General Meeting. They shall be nominated by the Officers of the English Schools' Rugby League.

VICE PRESIDENT

Nominations for Vice Presidents shall be received from the Officers of the English Schools' Rugby League at the Annual General Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the English Schools' Rugby League shall be held on the third Saturday in June, or the nearest date convenient to such date, at a location to be decided by the Executive Committee.

COMPETITION RULES

1. In the interest of safeguarding the health and safety of players who may become injured in any game, all competing organisations should ensure that adequate First Aid facilities are provided. A person competent in First Aid should be present. It is strongly urged that Goal Posts should be padded.
2. These Rules apply to all Competitions organised for Schoolchildren by members of The English Schools' Rugby League.
3. The LAWS OF THE GAME shall be those adopted by THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE except those alterations decided by the Executive of The English Schools' Rugby League
4. AGE LIMITS; These are determined on the 31st August/1st September in the academic year of competition.
5. In all Competitions except seven a side, RL Nines and Mini and Mod games, a team shall consist of 13 players plus 4 substitutes.
6. All teams shall be under the control of Schoolteachers.
7. No person shall be allowed on the field of play during the progress of a game except the players, the referee, touch judges, and at the discretion of the referee, the person responsible for administering First Aid.
8. In the event of a draw in Knock out competitions in all rounds up to the Final, the team scoring the most number of tries will be declared the winner. If both teams score the same number of tries, the visiting side will be declared the winners. In the event of a draw in the Final, the trophy will be shared for six months each and both teams will receive winners' souvenirs.
9. REFEREES; who should preferably be Schoolteachers shall be appointed by the mutual agreement of the Schools concerned, failing which they shall be appointed by the organising body.
In all finals the referees shall be appointed by the organising body.
10. POWERS OF THE REFEREE; if, in the opinion of the referee, "sending off" is too severe a punishment, the referee is permitted to suspend a player for a limited period of time.
11. TOUCH JUDGES; where possible, should be one Teacher from each School. They shall be properly attired.
12. DURATION OF GAMES;

Under 16 years (Year 11)	30 minutes each way
Under 15 years (Year 10)	30 minutes each way
Under 14 years (Year 9)	30 minutes each way
Under 13 years (Year 8)	25 minutes each way
Under 12 years (Year 7)	25 minutes each way
Under 11 years (Year 6)	20 minutes each way
13. SIZE OF BALL;

Under 16, 15, 14 years	Size 5
Under 13, 12, 11 years	Size 4
14. PROTECTIVE GEAR; All protective gear worn by players shall be well fitting and safe.
15. The Executive has the power to penalise any player or official acting in any way contrary to the interests of English Schools' Rugby League.
16. No player may play for more than one team on any given day.
17. It is to be strongly discouraged, and wherever possible, prevented that a player should double up and play for two year groups; eg a Year 9 pupil may play for Year 9, or if mature and good enough, for Year 10, BUT NOT BOTH. This is aimed at bringing into line and addressing the overplaying of young players. Boys in Years 9, 10 & 11, who are selected for Regional elite squads in the Yorkshire, North West & Cumbria Regions, will only be eligible to play for their schools at one name age group. E.g. "a Year 9 boy can play for Year 9 or 10 but not both.

18. No player may play for two different schools in the National Rounds of the National Champion Schools Tournament without the prior approval of the Officers.

19. It is recommended by ESRL and The RFL that school teams should attempt to avoid inter-school games being played on Mondays and Fridays. It is also recommended that boys are not asked to play two games in any one week.



ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2007

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report, whilst being conscious that what was once similar to an end of term report, is now more of a report equating to the end of the academic year rather than marking the end of our activities. The advent of the summer playing season for Rugby League, and the staging of the Finals of the Carnegie Champion School Competitions in August, have changed forever the original concept. The truth is that the activities of this organisation resemble that of a garden; there is really no close season. The Finals to be played at RAF Uxbridge, whilst nearer to the new playing season to come, do of course represent the final rites of the 2006/07 season. In this sense the report is of itself both interim and in part, incomplete. The organisation has worked closely with The RFL and its Officers, sharing its aspirations and supporting its initiatives, and continues full membership of the National Council for School Sports.

FRENCH TOUR APRIL 2007

The original itinerary proposed to our French friends was that the first Test Match would be played at Craven Park, Hull Kingston Rovers ground on Saturday 6th April, whilst the second Test Match would be played at The Arena, Wigan on Tuesday 10th April. The Tour would conclude with a game in South Wales on Thursday 12th April, following which the French party would leave for home. Having been promised that the Wigan Arena was almost certain to be available, but that it would be confirmed when the Manager returned to work a couple of days later, things were looking quite rosy. However, matters took on a Chaplinesque aspect when we were informed that the Manager let it be known that as Wigan Athletic reserves had a game on the 11th April, the Arena would not be available to ESRL, as the last time a Rugby game had been played the day before a Football League Reserve game, the referee had complained to The Premier League that he could still see some of the markings from the previous night. The Manager was therefore, to put it colloquially, "chewed up", and vowed that it would not happen again. This, notwithstanding the fact that the Arena does not belong to Wigan Athletic, or any individual, but is in fact owned by the Council and its use is for the benefit of the community. As there was a Premiership game at the JJB Stadium on Easter Saturday, and the JJB is adjacent to the Arena, there was no possibility of staging the game then. Ironically, the Tuesday suited the Hull KR Club better than the Saturday and so their positive offer for the Tuesday was taken up. The moving of the proposed Tuesday Test from Wigan to Hull caused the French to re-arrange their Hotel plans. Instead of staying in Wigan for the week, they moved to Hull on the Sunday until Wednesday morning.

Following the disappointment re the Arena, there then followed a few frenetic weeks in which the possibilities of staging the Saturday Test Match were explored at St. Helens, Leigh, Warrington and Widnes, all without success. The seeking of a Professional ground to stage the Test Match was conducted by colleagues in the Local Associations and by Kate Yule and Graeme Thompson of The RFL. Finally their efforts paid off and we were able to secure the permission of the Salford Reds Rugby League Club to play the first Test Match on Saturday 7th April. We are extremely grateful to the Salford Club, for there was a Super League game at The Willows on Good Friday, yet the Club had arranged for the tidying up to be carried out, enabling the game to go ahead. There was a major snag in that all of the facilities for after-match receptions had been previously booked for weddings, and as a consequence, the players had to receive their after-match sustenance in the public bar. It was by no means ideal, but I for one am eternally grateful that we had been able to play the game on a professional ground, and could quite easily bear the inconvenience after the game, given that the alternative would have meant the Test Match being played on an Amateur pitch or whatever. The Officers, in tandem with our French colleagues, decided to forego the usual reception speeches and presentations and carry them over to the game at Hull. Deepest thanks must be given to the Directors and Officials of the Salford Club for putting the ground at our disposal and for ensuring that the requisite tidying-up had been carried out.; to Kate Yule of The RFL, who was so instrumental in obtaining the Salford ground, and who worked like a Trojan in ferrying food to the players despite all the difficulties.

The game itself was played on a perfect pitch, in bright, warm, sunny conditions and was a well matched affair. I noted in my diary that the French sang La Marseillaise with gusto, whilst the English boys seemed none too familiar with the words penned to Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance No. 1, known more familiarly

as Land of Hope and Glory. First blood to the French then, but the game, patchy in parts I thought, went to ESRL by 22-12. The English boys had more possession and territorial advantage, but the French defence was at times outstanding. Flair was shown by both sides and the final result was on balance, the correct one.

The game at Craven Park on Tuesday 10th April was again played on a perfect pitch, whilst the day was grey and blustery. In almost remarkable symmetry to the first game, the final result was 24-12 to the ESRL side, although until the final quarter ESRL was well in command leading by 24-0. The French scored three unconverted tries in the latter stages making the score-line respectable, whilst not really threatening ESRL's grip on the final result..

With more time to prepare for the game, arrangements were performed more orderly and structured, and of course we had full access to all of the facilities of the Club. We were honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor, Trevor Lawson, Councillor Calvin Neal and Grahame Liles, President of The RFL. At the post-match reception presentations were made by the Lord Mayor on behalf of the City of Kingston upon Hull to the French Officials and to the players of both sides, whilst the usual presentations were mutually made by the Officials of both organisations to each other and to the match officials

The welcome that we received from everyone at the Hull Kingston Rovers Club was so warm and welcoming, making it a pleasure to be there. Nothing was too much trouble for the members of staff, but in particular I must mention Laura Webster for the marvellous way she looked after all of her guests. She deserves our highest thanks. She carried out her duties with the greatest of efficiency and warmth, and prepared the way for a great day, by the way she had dealt with the arrangements in the weeks before the game. Last year Don Barker was presented with the Volunteer of the Year award on behalf of ESRL and he showed what a worthy recipient he is. He contributed greatly to the success of the day by his background work, carried out quietly and efficiently, and even managed to provide, without cost to ESRL, mementoes for the day awarded to certain players, all that and arranging for the French Squad to visit one of Hull's biggest tourist attractions. It is hard to express adequately our sense of gratitude to these two people, except to say thanks a million Laura and Don for helping to make Tuesday 10th April such a memorable one in your city. Thanks are also expressed to Ian Jones who, with Don, did some of the early spade work, in helping to set up the Craven Park venue.

UNSS/Cadets left Hull on the Wednesday and travelled down to South Wales. They played their final game on Thursday 12th, defeating a Wales Select Team by 34-20 at Pontyclun Stadium.

Several matters arise from these presentations; one is the absence of the L'Entente Cordiale Trophy, which is presented to the winning side, and the other is the need for ESRL to think deeply about presentation items for the future, as we are a little lacking in this respect. The issue of the missing trophy is of more immediate concern, necessitating the need to locate it and ensure its presence at the next series of International games. Once the Trophy has been located and returned, strict guidelines re-responsibility for its safe keeping must be drawn up. I would also add, that if Land of Hope and Glory is to be the declared Anthem, and this is, I believe, the subject of some debate, then the players need to be taught and to learn the words, otherwise it becomes an embarrassment.

There is another issue from the visit of the French which the Treasurer, Steve, has been endeavouring to solve. That is the question of funding from the NASUWT, which would cover the cost of provision of blazers to the ESRL Squad should it be available. There was a problem this year in that blazers were provided in the expectation that the funding would arrive, but unfortunately it did not. Steve has twice visited Birmingham to discuss the matter with NASUWT and there are grounds for some optimism. The Union is naturally keen to see its name used more prominently and it has been suggested that perhaps its logo could be put onto jerseys, in for example, The Carnegie Champion Schools Competitions. Initial discussion with The RFL suggests that this is perhaps a possibility, as the Union would not be seen to be in competition with a commercial sponsor. Until this is resolved, we find ourselves in limbo vis a vis the provision of blazers, particularly now that individual sponsorship would seem to be a dead issue. Failure to persuade the NASUWT that English Schools is a worthy recipient of its sponsorship, would lead us to serious discussion next season as to how ESRL squads should be dressed in the future, and could mean the end of what has been traditional for many years. Aside from the Union wishing to see a higher profile for itself, ESRL benefits from public association with a Teacher Union. I note that in the

current edition of School Sport, the NASUWT name is prominent due to its sponsoring of three English Schools' Golf Championships, showing that the Union is interested in sponsoring Schools provided that it can receive reasonable publicity.

An extremely sad foot-note to the Tour. The Physio, Jacqui Scott who was, I am led to believe, a very warm and bubbly person, was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident at the beginning of this month, on her way to a Rugby League engagement. I did not know Jacqui personally, apart from meeting her briefly at the Reception at Craven Park, but nonetheless her tragic death touches us all. On behalf of everyone in ESRL, I express our deepest sorrow and offer sincerest condolences to her family and friends at this very sad time.

CARNEGIE CHAMPION SCHOOL COMPETITIONS 2006

The finals of these competitions for boys and girls were played at RAF Uxbridge on Friday 25th August 2006, on what was a very warm, sunny day. The day was truly a feast of Rugby League, and those of us present witnessed some outstanding games from both the boys and the girls, as was the Curtain Raiser played before the Rugby League Cup Final at Twickenham. The Royal Air Force personnel played their parts as hosts to perfection, making everyone welcome, and it was a perfect venue for the staging of these games. The finals in August of this year are again to be played at RAF Uxbridge and I look forward to being present at what is an outstanding day of School Sport, and one which presents ESRL and its member schools in a very positive light.

This year each semi final team received new kit and reports indicate that the semi final games were excellent. One pleasing aspect to report on is that schools have been complimented on the hospitality they have provided. Hospitality was always a strong feature of our Inter-Town Competitions and it is pleasing to record that it has not been forgotten. Hospitality between schools should be an integral part of our activities and it certainly fulfils part of our Mission Statement. Sporting encounters between schools should not simply be games on the field, for they provide opportunities for social interaction in a civilised atmosphere.

As a sequel to last year's competitions, St John Fisher School of Wigan played a game against Toulouge of France in an International challenge game at St Judes, Wigan in November. The night was foul but the game was excellent with St John Fisher emerging as victors by 25-4, although the result was secondary to the importance of the occasion.

At the meeting of 15th January, there was a discussion re discipline in the Carnegie Champion School Competitions. This was not due to an outbreak of indiscipline, but to ensure that the correct mechanisms are in place should the need arise to take action. The implementation of such policy entails the submission of a report by the match referee; the Headteachers of the participant schools being informed; the Local Associations being informed and the views of the teachers involved with the relevant schools being sought. Such a policy is almost exactly the one used by English Schools during such times as the Town Team Competitions were in operation. Disciplinary problems are a rarity in Schools' Rugby League, but participation in what is a collision sport will from time to time witness an outburst by an individual or two. An immediate and clear policy to deal with such incidents is both prudent and essential.

ISSUES

One issue which concentrated minds on a couple of occasions revolved around the question of over-playing of boys, and the clash of fixtures. ESRL do strongly urge that boys should not play for two age groups in their school, whilst recognising that it is not always as simple as it seems. However it does appear that many Local Associations and Schools have adopted this as standard, which is good. The matter of over-playing of boys is not, I would suggest, a massive problem in the schools. Indeed I will repeat what I have said before; despite the great success of the Carnegie Champion School Competitions, there are probably less games being played overall and on a regular basis in schools than there were say 20 years ago. The over playing of boys is a matter to be taken seriously, and we have always treated the issue so. The problem can only be resolved when organisations other than

ESRL take the matter seriously and do something about it also. Simply expecting the schools to play less games, whilst not applying the same principle to one's own organisation, is both Machiavellian and misguided.

The problem of the clash of fixtures came to light when letters of complaint were received from several schools in Wigan and Leigh, ironically, those involved in the Wigan and Leigh Service Area. The complainants made the point that the clash was with the Carnegie Champion School Competitions, making the schools feel that they were being steam-rolled. They also made the very valid point that schools provide other sports for boys, and in which the boys wish to participate. Due cognisance needs to be paid to that. School Sport can be all enveloping and Rugby League in schools cannot exist in a vacuum. The role of caring teachers has, throughout history been sympathetic to pupils' desires to follow one interest or other. Outside bodies by their very structure rarely show the same concern. ESRL participates willingly in Community Rugby League, and as I said earlier, supports the initiatives of the RFL. Willing participation relies upon the acknowledgment of other organisations that school sport is unique and does have special requirements, and is in any event a bona fide member of the Rugby League community. As was indicated at the March meeting, both the Carnegie Champion School Competitions and the Service Areas are under the direct umbrella of The RFL. As such the problem of clash of fixtures should not be hard to solve. The co-operation of others however is crucial to a proper rationalisation of the issue.

At the beginning of the season, Roger Harrison presented a report regarding Gifted and Talented, with its implications for the playing of North West Counties Schools' Under 11 Competition. As those who are practitioners in schools are aware, this subject is very topical and of concern to all schools. At the time of presentation by Roger, the programme had been accepted by the Community Board, and a commitment to a wider view of Talent Identification. I am aware that talks have been held throughout the season and I sincerely hope that progress has been made. The points raised by the teachers of North West Counties are of significance and should not be brushed aside without proper consideration. With the welfare of young children in mind, healthy discussion and exchange of ideas is good, but it does need to be remembered that in any other school discipline, the identification of talent and the provision of means to enhance subsequent flowering is taken as an absolute. Recognition of this ensures appropriate curriculum delivery, irrespective of calendar dates or arbitrary imposition subject to age. Those who are gifted and talented are treated according to ability, and not to their particular Year Group. High skill in any school sport should likewise be accepted for what it is, and accordingly given its chance at the level it deserves.

The Coaches' Group preparing a Pathway for teachers, and operated by Chris Chapman, has seen the emergence of several Coaches. The time is now to re-invigorate the process and seek further candidates from the teaching profession, who may see their future path in Coach advancement. Some of those who have come through have served as Assistant Coaches to the ESRL National Squad, and as stated earlier, the time is now to spread the news that this Pathway is available. I would urge colleagues in Local Associations to spread the news of this and to give encouragement to any aspiring teachers within their Associations who may wish to avail themselves of this opportunity to develop their coaching skills, with the possibility, in the not too distant future of serving as Assistant Coach to the National Squad.

At the same time, there are likely to be openings for younger teachers to consider the possibilities of advancing themselves administratively, say for example in the role of Team Manager to the National Squad. Obviously this is a little way down the line, but there are possibilities. I would urge colleagues in the Local Associations to encourage young interested teachers to attend ESRL meetings as a first step, enabling them to familiarise themselves with we old greybeards, and what the possibilities are. If any colleague in any Local Association knows of any teacher who would fit such a profile, and who is interested in attending ESRL meetings, simply let me know and I will add them to the mailing list and keep them up to date.

THANKS

The successful functioning of an organisation such as ESRL depends upon the efforts of so many, both within and without. The obvious examples are those already mentioned such as Laura Webster, Kate

Yule and Don Barker. People such as Ron England and Andy Harland who have been indefatigable in their efforts to taking the Carnegie Champion School Competitions to even greater heights; the coaching staff and officials of the ESRL National squad, and not forgetting the doctor and physio; those who led them in camp and those such as Chris Chapman who prepared the way prior to selection; the Norris family for their interest and support; Graeme Thompson of the RFL for his support; Salford and Hull Kingston Rovers for their help and generosity; match officials for their invaluable contributions, and finally my fellow Officers.

It has not been an easy year for John Ahm in his first year as Chairman, for he was indisposed for a while due to undergoing a replacement-knee operation. One thing John is not is a shirker, and as soon as he was able, he took up his duties with a relish. John is extremely willing and is not afraid to travel on our behalf. As with his predecessors, John has grown with the position of office and is a worthy holder of it. Ian Szwandt, having metamorphosised from Treasurer to Vice Chairman, stood in for John in the first couple of meetings and did a very sound job. Steve, as Treasurer has had to undergo the frustrations of being an ESRL Treasurer, but has of course maintained his quiet dignity and is currently negotiating with NASUWT, undoubtedly in a skilful manner. Steve was a tremendous help in the summer of last year by offering to take on the onerous task of updating the Handbook, and its improved appearance and removal of many of the previous year's mistakes are due to him.

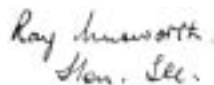
In the early part of the season, Ian Davies, as past Chairman, stood in for John as our representative on the Community Board, but I believe that Ian's greatest contribution to ESRL has been his work in helping to produce the development plan. The office of past Chairman is the most frustrating of all. It is perfectly normal for every Chairman on his completion of office to feel that there is much to be done, but that the knacker's yard beckons. It is a feat to retain one's sense of proportion. Ian has done that.

All of these gentlemen have worked assiduously on behalf of English Schools' Rugby League and deserve your thanks and the thanks of all of those who benefit from the existence of this organisation.

The meeting of March was attended by two young men who are pro-active in their coaching in schools, and who were expressing their concern at events in their Association regarding the clash of fixtures and the detrimental effect upon their charges. These younger members represent both the present and future of the game in schools. They are the reason that many of us continue to try to serve the young people who play our game, they, and their colleagues in the other Local Associations and schools, are what keeps English Schools' Rugby League going, both on the field and in upholding the precious ethos we cherish so much.

Listening to them at that meeting served to remind that what was begun in schools around 100 years ago, and there is evidence for that, is in good hands. Of all the people to thank, they and their colleagues in all of the schools which play Rugby League, come top of the list, for in striving to preserve the heritage the founders of the schools' game handed down, they are giving us new life, renewed confidence and a strengthening of our resolve. They, the legatees of the past, are the trustees of the future. Those of us who hold office now are charged with ensuring the future, not like Professor Higgins in Pygmalion who said, "Time enough to think of the future when you haven't any future to think of."

The success of the Carnegie Champion School Competitions, involving so many young teachers, as it does, and hopefully with the future active involvement in ESRL affairs, some of them, gives one hope, both for the game and for the continuation of an organised Schools' Association. We have, as I said earlier, been in existence for around 100 years. There is no cause to stop at that figure, magical though it may be. A good batsman, on reaching his century, takes a new guard, re-focuses his mind and endeavours to go on; so gentlemen shall we.



Ray Unsworth
Hon. Sec.

Ray Unsworth
Honorary Secretary



L'ENTENTE CORDIALE

ENGLAND V FRANCE

1967	France	2	V	England U15	17	at Perpignan
1972	England	5	V	France	2	at Hull
1974	France	10	V	England	36	at Villeneuve-sur-lot
1975	England	9	V	France	14	at Warrington
1976	France	33	V	England	11	at Avignon
1977	England	23	V	France	12	at Whitehaven
1978	France	9	V	England	0	at Carcassonne
1979	England	30	V	France	5	at Hull K.R.
1980	France	8	V	England	11	at St. Paul de Fenhouilet
1981	England	8	V	France	12	at Widnes
1982	France	15	V	England	21	at Bacares
1983	England	28	V	France	4	at Wigan
1984	France	8	V	England	22	at LePontet
1985	England	22	V	France	16	at Hull
1986	France	12	V	England	20	at Limoux
1987	England	14	V	France	4	at Leigh
1988	France	10	V	England	32	at St. Laurent
1989	England	24	V	France	6	at Wakefield
1990	France	8	V	England	26	at Tonneins
1991	England	16	V	France	8	at Huddersfield
1992	France	6	V	England	25	at Limoux
1993	England	42	V	France	14	at St. Helens
1994	France	0	V	England	40	at Lezignan
1995	England	52	V	France	6	at Hull
1996	France	28	V	England	22	at Bagneres de Bigorre
1997	England	38	V	France	22	at South Leeds
1998	France	2	V	England	50	at Villeurbanne
1999	GB & ISRL	52	V	France	8	at Wigan
2000	France	28	V	GB & ISRL	20	at Carcassonne
2001	England U15	14	V	France	16	at Hull KR
2002	France	12	V	England	10	at Lourdes
2004	France	10	V	England	32	at Limoux
	France	16	V	England	40	at Pamiers
2005	England	34	V	France	0	at Widnes
	England	28	V	France	23	at Keighley
2006	France	13	V	England	44	at Perpignan
	France	20	V	England	22	at Albi
2007	England	22	V	France	12	at Salford
	England	24	V	France	12	at Hull

E.S.R.L. v FRANCE 1967 - 1980

Anderson, Oldham	1980	Kettle, Leigh	1979	Tate, Leeds	1972
Appleyard, Bradford	1967	Lawson, Doncaster	1967	Taylor, Hull	1980
Arkwright, Bradford	1975	Larard, Hull	1980	Walsh, Wigan	1974
Arris, Leigh	1972	Lazenby, Hull	1975	S.Walsh, Oldham	1979
Bailey, Wigan	1980	Leary, Hull	1972	Wardle, Hull	1979
Barnes, W.Cumb	1972	Longbottom, Halifax	1967	Ward, Wakefield	1967
Bartle, Wakefield	1975	Lowndes, Warrington	1979	Wharton, Oldham	1977
Barraclough, Cas	1975	Lucas Castleford	1976	Whitehouse, Bradford	1975
Brettle, Warrington	1967	M.Marsh, Leigh	1977, 1978	Whittle, St.Helens	1978
Bell, Hull	1980	P.Marsh, Wigan	1978	Willis, Oldham	1979
Bentley, Widnes	1976	Mason, Hunslet	1978	Worgan, Leigh	1975, 1976
Birkby, Castleford	1978	Masterman, Hull	1975	Woolham, St Helens	1976
Brown, Warrington	1979	Mayor, Wigan	1967	Worsley, Castleford	1967
Bucys, Leigh	1976	McCarron, W.Cumb'd	1972		
Burke, Leigh	1974	McGowan, Wakefield	1977		
Burns, Wigan	1980	McTigue, Wigan	1976		
Byrne, Wigan	1978	Melling, Oldham	1980		
Cass, W.Cumberland	1972	Moorby, Wakefield	1976		
Charnock, Salford	1972	Morgan, Castleford	1976		
Chester, Barrow	1979	Murrell, Leeds	1972		
Clough, Wigan	1979	Mulvihall, Huddersfield	1967		
Conway, Wakefield	1980	Mycoe, Wakefield	1977		
Crooks, Hull	1979, 1980	Nicholson, Whitehaven	1972		
Davies, Leigh	1974	Nolan, Wigan	1977		
Dick, Leeds	1974	North, Bradford	1975		
Dickinson, Leigh	1972	O'Mahoney, Rochdale	1967		
Dickinson, Wigan	1974	M.O'Neill, Widnes	1977		
Dixon, Oldham	1980	P.O'Neill, Wigan	1976		
Douglas, Hull	1975	T.O'neill, St Helens	1967		
Edmunds, Hull	1974	Peake, Wigan	1976, 1977		
Evans, Hunslet	1967	Pearson, Castleford	1974, 1975		
Fairhurst, Leigh	1967	Pears, Warrington	1972		
Fieldhouse, Wigan	1978	Penrose, Hull	1978		
Ford, Castleford	1972	Pitts, Bradford	1974, 1975		
M.Foy, Oldham	1971	Platt, Leigh	1979		
D.Foy, Oldham	1979, 1980	Potter, St.Helens	1974		
France, Wigan	1976	Pollitt, Castleford	1972		
Garrod, Bradford	1972	Preston, Bradford	1975		
Gaskell, Wigan	1974	Proctor, Hull	1980		
Gill, Huddersfield	1977	Rabbitt, Leigh	1976		
Gormley, Wigan	1980	Ratchford, Wigan	1977		
Gowan, Hull	1979	Ratcliffe, St.Helens	1972		
Green, Oldham	1967	Rathbone, Warrington	1975		
Greenhalgh, Salford	1967	A Rose, Leeds	1977		
Gregory, Wigan	1980	P Rose, Hull	1967		
Hall, Hull	1979	M,Robinson, Swinton	1967		
Haller, Leeds	1967	Sanderson, Hull	1978		
Hanley, Leeds	1977	Sarsfield, St.Helens	1976		
Hart, Leigh	1974	Saxon, St.Helens	1974		
Hartigan, Warrington	1974	Scanlon, Dewsbury	1967		
Henney, Whitehaven	1967	Seabrook, St.Helens	1978		
Henderson, Oldham	1980	Sheldon, Castleford	1979		
Hewitt, Leigh	1979	Slater, Wakefield	1974		
Hinchley, Barrow	1978	A. Smith, Castleford	1976		
Holding, St. Helens	1977	L.Smith, Whitehaven	1967		
Hopkins, Hunslet	1978	M.Smith, Hull	1974		
Horne, Barrow	1976	R.Smith, Castleford	1980		
Hughes, Leeds	1978	Stradins, Leigh	1979		
Jackson, Hull	1978	Stockley, Wigan	1976		
Johnson, Bradford	1975	Strickland, Barrow	1967		
Johnston, Leigh	1980	Suddaby, Hull	1978		
Kelly, Wakefield	1977	Sutton, Warrington	1972		

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1981 (Lost 8 - 12)

Philip Pendlebury	Wigan
Gary Clark	Hull
David Creaser	Hunslet
Nicholas Marner	Oldham
Mark Forster	Warrington
Deryck Fox	Dewsbury (Capt.)
Anthony Collinson	Hull
Chris Swann	Wigan
Neil Puckering	Hull
Shaun Wane	Wigan

Andrew Dannatt	Hull
Jeff. Clare	Wigan
Mark Ragan	Hunslet
Gary Schofield	Hunslet
Simon Leary	Wakefield
David Hatch	Wigan
Paul Lyman	Castleford
Paul Morris	Castleford
W Baldwinson	Hunslet

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1982 (Won 15 - 21)

David Fairclough	Wigan
Tony Hewitt	Leigh
Steven Morrison	Leigh
Graham Wilkinson	Hull
Ian Marsh	Wigan
Shaun Edwards	Wigan
Daren Beazant	Leigh
Andy Dannatt	Hull
Gary Hughes	Leigh
Andrew Tomlinson	Hull
Chris Wilson	St.Helens
Neil Puckering	Hull
John Westhead	Leigh

Andy Kamis	Hull
John Mayo	Wigan
Andy Holland	Hull
Shawn Allen	St.Helens
Matthew Chapman	Huddersfield
Anthony Collinson	Hull
Wayne Fenton	Castleford
Simon Moore	Salford
Paul Morris	Castleford
Gary Sidebottom	Leeds
Mark Taylor	Hull

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1983 (Won 28 - 4)

Steven Hick	Hull
Paul Garnett	Oldham
Kevin Robinson	Hull
Stuart Vass	Hull
Kevin McCormack	Widnes
Shaun Edwards	Wigan (Capt.)
Mark Dobson	Wigan
Roger Shepherdson	Hull
Ian Lucas	Wigan
Chris Whiteley	Wigan
Jason Whittle	Wigan
Peter Moran	Wigan
Nick Elgar	Hull

John Sharp	Castleford
Richard Gunn	Castleford
Peter Sedgwick	Wigan
Dene Isherwood	Warrington
Thomas Breheny	Wigan
Lee Easter	Hull
Brendan Hurley	Hull
Sean Nicholson	Castleford
Kenneth Smith	Hull
Paul Speckman	Hull
Martin Wilson	Leeds

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1984 (Won 8 - 22)

Chris Connelly	Warrington
Darren Wright	Leigh
Simon Wilson	Dewsbury
Richard Russel	Oldham
Mark Bailey	Leigh
Mark Oglesby	Hull
Gary Lawless	Wigan
Ian Lucas	Wigan
Martin Dermott	Wigan
Peter Moran	Wigan (Capt.)
Martin Wilson	Dewsbury
Nick Elgar	Hull
Gerard Stazicker	Wigan

Anthony Rowbottom	Castleford
Roy Southernwood	Castleford
Paul Beddows	Hull
Alan Burrows	St. Helens
Paul Connell	Wigan
Richard Horn	Leeds
Frank Hughes	St.Helens
John Hurley	Wigan
Chris Harrison	Hull
Gavin Smith	Hull
Tim Street	Oldham

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1985 (Won 22 - 16)

Lee Mason	Hull
Phil Mulqueoney	Wigan
Shawn Irwin	Castleford
Ian Gildart	Wigan
Giles Boothroyd	Castleford

Craig Rodgers	Wigan
Stephen Blowers	Hull
Patrick Khan	Hull
Kenny Hill	Castleford
Steve Molloy	Oldham

Craig O'Brian	Hull	Steve Dunbar	St. Helens
Dave Busby	Hull	Chris Bretherton	Wigan
Ian Smales	Castleford	Sean Chambers	Castleford
Andrew Eyres	St. Helens		
Neil Harman	St. Helens		

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1986 (Won 12 - 20)

Simon Longstaff	Castleford	Sean Devine	Wigan
Mark Tennyson	Hull	Gary Price	Wakefield
Richard Price	Leeds	Nick Sykes	Leigh
Neil Roebuck	Castleford	Anthony Conroy	Wigan
Ian McClure	Warrington	David Aspey	Wigan
Wayne Reid	Wigan	Damien Brice	Hull
Martin Crompton	Wigan	Paul Crabtree	Wakefield
Lance Cator	Hull	Paul Fraser	Wakefield
Sean Hodgkiss	Leigh	Gerard Groom	Wigan
John Thursfield	Warrington	Colin Handford	Castleford
Ian Gildart	Wigan (Capt.)	Karl Harold	Hull
Denis Betts	Salford		
Mike Forshaw	Wigan		

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1987 (Won 14 - 4)

Chris Moon	Castleford	Philip Clarke	Wigan
David Bradshaw	Wigan	Graham Southernwood	Castleford
Steve McNamara	Hull	Mike Devine	Wigan
Martin Brown	Hull	Gary Pullen	Hull
Vince Fawcett	Leeds	John Hirst	Wakefield
Chris Palmer	Castleford	Paul Hunter	Hull
Mike Williams	Wigan	Dave Mallinson	Wigan
Brendan Barr	Wigan	Neil Sheperdson	Hull
Augustine O'Donnell	Wigan	Gerard Whitehead	Bradford
Jon Thorpe	Hull	Malcolm Whitham	Castleford
Paul Sumner	Salford	Steven Jackson	Hull
Jason Critchley	St. Helens		
Lee Whiteley	Wakefield (Capt.)		

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1988 (Won 10 - 32)

Aidan Halliwell	Wigan	Dave Whittaker	Wigan
Paul Black	Hull	Damion Lee	St. Helens
Andy Smith	Hull	Paul Whitehead	Castleford
Scott Naylor	Leigh	Antony Barrow	St. Helens
Terry McCallister	Castleford	Chris Bennett	St. Helens
Andrew Fairclough	Wigan	Gareth Hatton	Leigh
Bobbie Goulding	Widnes	Chris Joynt	Wigan
Peter More	Hull	Simon Lyon	Wigan
Graham Southernwood	Castleford	Martin Pearson	Wakefield
Paul Bonson	Castleford	Neil Poppleton	Bradford
Iyan Green	Wigan	Barry Stenson	St. Helens
Ian McRay	Hull		
Steve McNamara	Hull (Capt.)		

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1989 (Won 24 - 6)

Craig Driver	Hull	Steven McCormack	Wigan
Patrick Mitchell	Oldham	Craig Mort	Oldham
Paul Gartland	St. Helens	Tony Welsh	Huddersfield
Daio Powell	Hunslet/Morley	Steve Chambers	Wigan
Neil Wardrobe	Hull	Michael Foster	Dewsbury
Steven Blakeley	Leigh (Capt.)	Stephen McMullen	Hull
Simon Rhoades	Hull	Steven Bate	St. Helens
Malcolm Moran	Huddersfield	Colin Hodkinson	Leigh
Richard Chamberlain	Hull	Francis Maloney	Dewsbury
Roy Calvert	Hull	Chris Melling	Wigan
Michael Cassidy	Wigan		

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1990 (Won 8 - 26)

Richard Goddard	Hull
Chris Eckersley	Oldham
Andy Farrell	Wigan
Chris Melling	Wigan
Karle Hammond	Widnes
Steven Witkiewicz	Wigan
Gareth Stephens	Castleford
Shaun Moran	Warrington
Colin Hodgkinson	Leigh (Capt.)
Billy Arnold	Leigh
Stephen Chambers	Wigan
Andrew Hay	Castleford
Steven Pickles	Hunslet

Danny Barker	Wigan
Lee Markham	Hull East
Glynn Davies	Leigh
James Leighton	Hull East
Anthony Barrett	Huddersfield
Simon Child	Castleford
Mark Dusher	Hull
Peter Ferris	Oldham
Neil Young	Leeds
Mike Neal	St. Helens
Nathan Sykes	Huddersfield
Nigel Wright	Wakefield

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1991 (Won 16 - 8)

Lee Penny	Wigan
Lee Child	Hunslet/Morley
Glynn Davies	Leigh
James Mosley	Huddersfield
Scott McCrickard	Hunslet/Morley
Michael Martindale	Hull
Paul Stevens	Wigan
Scott Walker	Whitehaven
Stephen Handford	Castleford
Nathan Sykes	Hull
Lee Rumford	Castleford
Barry Moxham	Leeds
Andrew Farrell	Wigan (Capt)

Chris Eckersley	Oldham
Christian Wilson	Wigan
Paul Barrow	St. Helens
Scott Martin	Leigh
Scott Aspinall	Leigh
Danny Evans	Castleford
Howard Hill	White
Nigel Morris	St. Helens
Lee Roper	Hull
Lee Sampson	Warrington
David Smith	St. Helens

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1992 (Won 6 - 25)

Chris Smith	Castleford
Andrew Craig	St. Helens
Jon Roper	West Cumbria (Capt.)
Anthony Hatton	St. Helens
Paul Cook	Hull East
Lee Conroy	Wigan
John McAtee	Salford
Francis Stephenson	Dewsbury
Philip Cantillon	Wigan
Jody Moran	Wigan
Iestyn Harris	Oldham
Mark Baines	Hull East

Marcus Vass	Hull East
Kieran Allen	Wakefield
David Varley	Hull East
Gareth Cunningham	St. Helens
Ian Tonks	Castleford
Jonathan Adams	Hull
Stephen Barrow	St. Helens
Stephen Goodwin	Wakefield
Kevin Grey	Hull
Stephen Roberts	St. Helens

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1993 (Won 42 - 14)

Gary Broadbent	Barrow
Robert Smyth	Wigan
Francis Cummins	Dewsbury
Ian Knott	Oldham
Warren Barrow	St. Helens
Sean Long	Wigan
Craig Dean	Leigh
Stephen Hill	Castleford
Keiron Cunningham	St. Helens
Chris McKinney	Whitehaven
Anthony Murray	Leigh
Chris Holden	Wigan
Marcus Vass	Hull East (Capt.)

James Briers	Widnes
Lee Hepworth	Castleford
Andrew Leatham	Warrington
Sam Whittaker	Hull East
Greame Close	Wigan
James Coventry	Castleford
Wayne Flynn	Hull
Paul Hicks	Dewsbury
Ben Mills	Castleford
Anthony Price	Wigan
Eddie Swales	Hull

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1994 (Won 0 - 40)

Jon Gwilliam	Wigan
Martin Halliwell	Wigan
Paul Gardner	Barrow

Paul Wingfield	Leigh
Daryl Cardiss	Hunslet
Phil Kendrick	Wigan

Gavin Brown	Leeds
Andrew Grundy	Wigan
Lorenzo Laynez	Hull
Wesley Rogers	Oldham
Anthony Roberts	Leigh
Rob McAvoy	Cumbria
Paul Sculthorpe	Oldham (Capt.)
Paul George	Widnes
Ian Nicholl	Salford
Adam Hughes	Leeds

Martin Carney	Wigan
Emlyn Davies	St. Helens
Ryan Horsley	Wakefield
Carl Riley	Dewsbury
Robert Roberts	Leeds
Tom Sampson	Wakefield
Ian Crooks	Hull
Andrew Wray	Castleford

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1995 (Won 52 - 6)

Oliver Marns	Halifax
Anthony Stewart	Wigan
Paul Johnson	Wigan
Liam Bretherton	Wigan
Jason Johnson	St. Helens
Chris Chester	Wakefield
Paul Deacon	Wigan
James Day	Hull
Jonathon Clarke	Leigh
Terry Newton	Wigan
Warren Stevens	Wigan
Chris Causey	Wigan
Martin Carney	Wigan

Chris Allen	Doncaster
Lee Bardauskas	Castleford
Gareth Dobson	Wakefield
Andy Fisher	St. Helens
Mark Campbell	Leeds
Paul Fisher	Wigan
Neil Gregg	Whitehaven
Neil Kite	Barrow
Graham Law	Castleford
Lee Taylor	Leeds
Chris Windass	Hull

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1996 (Lost 28 -22)

David Riley	Hunslet/Morley
Rick Darwin	Wigan
David Winstanley	St. Helens
Kevin Sinfield	Oldham
Duane West	Wigan
Karl Pratt	Hunslet/Morley
Scott Rhodes	York
Daniel Sculthorpe	Oldham (Capt.)
David Patrickson	Leeds
Andrew Speak	Wakefield
Andrew Isherwood	Leigh
Graeme Howard	Wigan

Paul Aston	Wigan
Gary Smith	Hunslet/Morley
Phil Kelly	Wigan
Gareth Barber	Oldham
Stuart Dickens	Wakefield
Neal Brough	Warrington
Steven Campbell	Leeds
Richard Gibson	Dewsbury
John Hamilton	St. Helens
Derek Harper	Hunslet/Morley
Ian Ure	Oldham

ENGLAND V FRANCE 1997 (Won 28 - 22)

Daryl Lacey	St. Helens
Paul Salmon	Barrow
Gary Smith	Leeds/Hunslet
Karl Long	Wigan
George Rayner	Leeds/Hunslet
Gareth Barber	Oldham
Karl Fitzpatrick	Wigan
Ben Simpson	Rochdale
Mark Smith	Wigan
Stephen Dootson	Wigan
Paul Noone	Widnes
Craig Winfield	Leigh
Kevin Sinfield	Oldham

Philip Finney	Widnes
Jamie J. Buchanan	Leeds/Hunslet
Leon Pryce	Bradford
Ian Parry	Wigan
Lee Baines	Leeds/Hunslet
David Bates	Castleford
Craig Lee	Warrington
Kelvin Peet	Wigan
Chris Redfearn	Castleford
Paul Rustchynsky	Oldham
Mark Yates	Wigan

FRANCE V ENGLAND 1998 (Won 2 - 50)

Danny Cook	Leeds/Hunslet
Waine Pryce	Bradford
Andy Barr	Widnes
Robert Parker	Leigh
Chris Irwin	Salford
Leon Pryce (Capt)	Bradford

James Hitchmough	St. Helens
Richard Moore	Keighley
Sean Penkywicz	Leigh
Ricky Bibey	Leigh
Gareth Haggerty	St. Helens
Ryan Angus	Leeds/Hunslet
John Hill	Wigan

Chris Dootson	Leigh	Andy Gornik	Wigan
David Hughes	Wigan	Chris Hartley	Halifax
Matthew Cornell	Leeds/Hunslet	Robert Jackson	Leigh
Adam Hayes	Leeds/Hunslet	Keith Mason	Dewsbury
Matthew Diskin	Dewsbury	Danny McGuire	Leeds/Hunslet
		Lee Parker	Wakefield

GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND V FRANCE 1999 (Won 52-8)

Richard Mathers	Leeds	Robert Burrow	Castleford
Christopher Hill	St. Helens	Malcom Riley	Wigan
Chev Walker	Leeds	Aaron Smith	Leeds
Gareth Morton	Widdnes	Shaun Briscoe	Wigan
Alex Wilkinson	Oldham	James Agus	Halifax
Danny McGuire	Leeds	Thomas Cowen	Hull
Billy Jo Edwards	Wigan	Anthony Henderson	Leeds
Jamie Bovil	Hull	Joe Horrie	Salford
Andrew Crabtree (Capt)	Wigan	Anthony Irvine	Halifax
Ben Thornton	Leeds	Gareth Jones	Leigh
Adan Sullivan	Hull	Michael Lyons	Leeds
Jason Netherton	Hull	Vinny Myler	Widnes
Sean O'Loughlin	Wigan	Bobby Wallis	London
Damien Simms	Wigan		

FRANCE V G.B.& I.SRL. 2000 (Lost 28 - 20)

Richard Mathers	Leeds	Tom Gallagher	Batley
Sam Reay	Wigan	Gareth Hock	Wigan
Craig Stanley	Leeds	Bruce Johnson	Wigan
Dwayne Barker	Leeds	Tim Spears	Castleford
Zak Nasr	Hull	Liam Williams	St. Helens
Dean Ripley	Leeds	Michael Griffen	Salford
Luke Robinson	Halifax	Jamie Maxfield	Wigan
Luke Richardson	Wigan	Chris Maye	Wigan
Peter Robinson	Huddersfield	Karl Mills	Doncaster
Mark Costello	St. Helens	Galy O'Reagan	Salford
Jon Wilkin	Hull	Adam Thaler	Castleford
Joe Mbu	London		
Jamie Langley	Castleford		

ENGLAND V FRANCE 2001 (Lost 14 - 16)

David Allen	Widnes	Danny Inman	Warrington
John Boland	Wigan	Ryan Jarvis	Warrington
Matthew Cook	London	Andrew Kain	Castleford
David Doherty	Leeds	Danny Lowe	Oldham
James Graham	St. Helens	Scott Murrell	Leeds
John Gallagher	Batley	Arron Pratt	Leeds
Simon Grix	Halifax	Karl Pryce	Bradford
Harrison Hansen	Salford	Danny Speakman	Wigan
Danny Herbert	Bradford	Desi Williams	London

FRANCE V ENGLAND 2002 (Lost 10 - 12)

Robert Blakeborough	Hull	Thomas Hemingway	Huddersfield
Thomas Brindle	Bolton	Charlie l'Anson	Hull
Matt Brooks	Hull	Darryl Kay	Leigh
Craig Derrick	Wakefield	Joseph McLocklan	Hull
David Doherty	Leeds	Steven Mullaney	Leigh
Jay Duffy	Wigan	Daniel Pyke	Wigan
Grant Edwards	Sheffield	Steven Roper	Wigan
James Endersby	Wakefield	Dane Shepherd	St. Helens
Ross Greenwood	Halifax	John Sullivan	London
David Halley	Bradford	Joel Tomkins	Wigan

Due to policy changes in France re-ages of players, it was not possible to stage the annual games with English Schools' Rugby League. All preparations had been made to field an under 15 International side, English schools arranged an International game with Wales to replace the French Test.

WALES V ENGLAND 2003 (Won 40 - 0)

Ashley Thackeray	Hull	Robert Draper	Wigan
Lewis Salmon	Whitehaven	Ben Harrison	Wigan
Thomas Lee	Hull	Matthew Bower	Hull
Darrell Goulding	Wigan	Scott Moore	Leigh
Craig Rennison	Salford	Keith Shackleton	Keighley
Marc Bainbridge	Whitehaven	Ashley Easley	Whitehaven
Thomas Coyle	Wigan	Michael Ratu	Rochdale
Paul Clough	St. Helens	Adam Janowski	Kent
Dean Hatton	Wigan	Daniel Richardson	Hull

FRANCE V ENGLAND 2004 (Won 32 - 10 & 40 - 16)

Marc Bainbridge	Whitehaven	Michael McIlorum	Leeds
Stephen Bannister	St. Helens	Scott Moore	St. Helens
Matthew Bower	Hull	Michael Ratu	Rochdale
Paul Clough	St. Helens	Nick Reddyoff	Halifax
Thomas Coyle	Wigan	Craig Rennison	Salford
Robert Draper	Wigan	Daniel Smith	Whitehaven
Darrell Goulding	Wigan	Ashley Thackeray	Hull
Craig Hall	Hull	Dean Townsend	Leeds
Ben Harrison	Barrow	Joe Walsh	Halifax
Dean Hatton	Wigan	Matthew Whittaker	Leeds
Thomas Lee	Hull	Taron Wildey	Wakefield

ENGLAND V FRANCE 2005 (Won 34 - 0 & 28 - 23)

Danny Allan	York	Jack Lee	Castleford
Nathan Armitage	Wakefield	Sam Millward	Scarborough
Ross Bradley	Leigh	Lee Mitchell	St. Helens
Sam Burgess	Kirklees	Adam Myers	Castleford
David Clayton	Dewsbury	Tony Rourke	Warrington
Mike Cooper	Warrington	Marc Shackley	Whitehaven
Ross Divorty	Hull	Thomas Sheldrake	Leeds
Jake Emmit	Warrington	Nicky Stanton	Wigan
Danny Houghton	Hull	Steve Tyrer	St. Helens
Ben Kaye	Leeds		

ENGLAND V FRANCE 2006 (Won 44 - 13 & 22 - 20)

Shaun Ainscough	Wigan	Gareth Frodsham	St. Helens
Karl Ashall	St. Helens	Stuart Howarth	Wigan
Jake Bassinder	Castleford	Adam Jones	York
Keal Carlile	Wakefield	David Leeke	York
Jason Crookes	Huddersfield	Richard Lopag	Halifax
Steve Crossley	Bradford	Richard Myler	Wigan
Dominic Dee	Hull	Richard Owen	Wakefield
Andrew Dixon	St. Helens	Brett Robinson	Wigan
Liam Farrell	Wigan	Liam Watts	Castleford
Jamie Foster	St. Helens	Joe Westerman	Castleford
Matthew Fox	Leeds	Gary Wheeler	St. Helens

ENGLAND V FRANCE 2007 (Won 22 - 12 & 24 - 12)

Jack Bradbury
Tom Olbison
John Davies
Ryan Owen
Ryan Gaunt
Nathan Powley
Mark Harmon
Jack Reid
Liam Kent
Jack Spencer

Oldham
Leeds
Wakefield
Wigan
Leeds
Hull
St. Helens
Warrington
Hull
Salford

Jonathan Lomax
Kallum Watkins
Stefan Marsh
Matthew Wildie
Gareth Melling
Max Wiper
Joseph Molyneux
Scott Leatherbarrow
Jonathan Youds
Tom Stanniciffe

St.Helens
Warrington
Wigan
Wakefield
Leigh
Barrow
St.Helens
Wigan
Leigh
North Yorks



ESRL v AUSTRALIA

As with the International games with the French, English Schools' Rugby League was the first organisation, outside of The Rugby Football League to arrange international contact with the Australians. The English Schools' Executive, with the full backing and support of The Rugby Football League, invited the Australian High Schools to visit this country, the tour commencing in late November 1972.

This was a bold venture and a step into hitherto uncharted waters, so the decision to invite the visitors from the antipodes was a very brave one. The difference in system of the academic years meant that the Australian boys were anything from 8 months to a year older than their English counterparts and it soon became obvious that this difference in age was very significant. It is also true that touring sides do have a distinct advantage due to training together constantly which gives them a united sense of purpose. The English boys, having but a couple of training sessions together, due to it still being term time, could not compete with the visitors in terms of preparation. That being said, the Australians were awesome. The ferocity of their training sessions had to be seen to be believed. Despite it being winter, and a cold one at that, the amount of ice used to assuage bumps and bruises caused eyes to lift and jaws to drop. They seemed to expend more physical energy in training sessions than even some professional teams did in games. Their skill levels, passing, catching, support play and tackling were outstanding. Unsurprisingly they went through their Tour undefeated but the English boys were not disgraced in any of the games played.

The first Test played at Wigan on 30th December 1972, attracted more than 2000 spectators, which may not seem over many, but this was at a time when attendances in Rugby League were generally not too high, so this crowd was extremely encouraging. The second Test was played at Wakefield and the third in London.

The visit of these young, fit and physical athletes from Australia was a wake up call to The Rugby League in Britain, for even then it was clear that the Australians had stepped up a gear in their approach to skill and fitness levels. There were many fine players to emerge from that Tour, but one cannot forget the presence of three future "Green Jumper" players, Ian Schubert, Craig Young and Les Boyd. This Tour was really a watershed but quite a few more years had to pass before the realisation dawned that the Australians had moved on significantly.

Sadly, the Tour was not reciprocated, despite valiant efforts by English Schools' Rugby League, until 1999 when bearing the title of Great Britain and Ireland Schools' Rugby League (a change of name due to a short lived marketing device) a visit to Queensland was made. The Tour was a great success, although it has to be said that the Australians did not put on their strongest sides in all of the games. A glance at the names of those players who made the Tour, will show that there was a rich crop to be harvested from that squad.

Three Test Matches were played at Wigan, Wakefield and London. The Australians were victorious in all three.

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 1972 – JANUARY 1973

Tony Blakeway	Castleford
John Burke	Leigh
Paul Coupe	Leeds
John Crossley	Castleford
Stephen Davies	Leigh
S. Davies	St. Helens
Edward Doran	Whitehaven
Frank Gaskell	Wigan
Stephen Hannah	W.Cumberland
Stephen Herbert	Leigh
Stephen Lund	Castleford
David Ratcliffe	Wakefield
Peter Shaw	Widnes
Michael Smith	Hull
Paul Spence	Leeds
Graham Webster	St. Helens

GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND TOUR OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA 1999

James Agus	Halifax
Jamie Bovill	Hull
Shaun Briscoe	Wigan
Robert Burrow	Castleford
Alistair Cook	Widnes
Thomas Cowen	Hull
Andrew Crabtree (C)	Wigan
Billy Joe Edwards	Wigan
Anthony Henderson	Leeds
Christopher Hill	St. Helens
Joe Horrie	Salford
Anthony Irvine	Halifax
Gareth Jones	Leigh
Michael Lyons	Leeds
Danny McGuire	Leeds
Richard Mathers	Leeds
Gareth Morton	Widnes
Vinny Myler	Widnes
Sean O'Loughlin	Wigan
Jordan Precious	Hull
Malcolm Riley	Wigan
Damian Simms	Wigan
Aaron Smith	Leeds
Adam Sullivan	Hull
Ben Thornton	Leeds
Chev Walker	Leeds
Alex Wilkinson	Leeds

Results: South Brisbane 14 v GB&I 28
Wide Bay 6 v GB&I 48
Bundaberg Select 12 v GB&I 8

Toowoomba 4 v GB&I 36
Rockhampton 4 v GB&I 14
Brisbane Select 6 v GB&I 26



INTER-TOWN COMPETITONS

These competitions were first introduced throughout English Schools' Rugby League in 1967 with the inauguration of the Knockout Trophy. The first Final was played between Wigan and Widnes and staged as a Curtain Raiser to the replayed Championship Final between Wakefield and St. Helens. Remembering that the first Champion School Final in Lancashire in 1926 was between a Wigan and a Widnes School, the first English Schools' Final provides a fine symmetry. In later years the Competitions were expanded to include full League and Cup Fixtures at both the highest age level, and later the Under 15, 13 and 11 age groups. Saturday mornings in the 70's, 80's and 90's were very busy times for many teachers throughout English Schools' Rugby League, these teachers showing a commitment to the games which today is quite often forgotten.

Due to the new development programme embarked upon by The Rugby League Football, these competitions finally ceased in the year 2000. It is fashionable in some quarters to criticise certain aspects of these Competitions, but ask so many of the ex and current professional players who played in them for their opinion, and you will find that almost without exception, they remember them with fondness for their skill levels and good sportsmanship. There are many professional players who first tasted Rugby Football League at a high level through the medium of these Competitions.

E.S.R.L. TROPHY (Under 16)

1967	Wigan	v	Widnes
1968	Castleford	v	Hull
1969	Wigan	v	Hull
1970	Hull	v	Wakefield
1971	Leeds	v	Hull
1972	Leeds	v	Warrington
1973	Leigh	v	Hull
1974	St. Helens	v	Leigh
1975	Hull	v	Bradford
1976	St. Helens	v	Oldham
1977	Hunslet	v	Wigan
1978	Hull	v	Hunslet
1979	Oldham	v	Hull
1980	Hull	v	Oldham
1981	Wigan	v	Hull
1982	Hull	v	Castleford
1983	Hull	v	Wigan
1984	Wigan	v	Oldham
1985	Hull	v	Castleford
1986	Wigan	v	Warrington
1987	Wigan	v	Castleford
1988	Leigh	v	Hull West
1989	Leigh	v	Wigan
1990	Hull West	v	Wigan
1991	Wigan	v	Castleford
1992	Oldham	v	Wigan
1993	Wigan	v	St. Helens
1994	Wakefield	v	Barrow
1995	Wigan	v	Castleford/Featherstone
1996	Oldham	v	Hull
1997	Leeds	v	Wigan
1998	Allerdale	v	Leigh
1999	Leeds	v	Wigan

E.S.R.L. TROPHY (Under 15)

1972	Swinton	1987	Wigan
1973	Swinton	1988	Castleford
1974	Leigh	1989	Castleford
1975	Leigh	1990	Wigan
1977	St. Helens	1991	Wigan
1978	Oldham	1992	Castleford
1979	Oldham	1993	Castleford

1980	Oldham	1994	Wigan
1981	Wigan	1995	Wigan
1982	Wigan	1996	Castleford/Oldham
1983	Wigan	1997	Leigh
1984	Castleford	1998	Leeds
1985	Wigan	1999	Leeds
		2000	Hull

E.S.R.L. TROPHY (Under 13)

1990	Oldham	v	Castleford
1991	Leeds	v	Wigan
1992	Wigan	v	Hull East
1993	Wigan	v	Barrow
1994	Widnes	v	Leigh
1995	Bradford	v	Leigh
1996	Wigan	v	St. Helens
1997	Leeds	v	St. Helens
1998	Widnes	v	Leigh
1999	Wigan	v	Widnes

E.S.R.L. TROPHY (Under 11)

1990	Wigan	v	Widnes
1991	St. Helens/Wigan	v	Joint Winners
1992	Widnes	v	Wigan
1993	Widnes/Wigan	v	Joint Winners
1994	Widnes/Wigan	v	Joint Winners
1995	St. Helens	v	Leeds
1996	Wigan	v	St. Helens
1997	Wigan	v	St. Helens
1998	Widnes	v	Leeds

E.S.R.L. TROPHY (Under 16)

1975	St. Helens	v	Bradford
1976	Castleford	v	St. Helens
1977	Hunslet	v	Wigan
1978	Hull	v	Wigan
1979	Hull	v	Oldham
1980	Hull	v	Oldham
1981	Wigan	v	Hull
1982	Hull	v	Wigan
1983	Wigan	v	Hull
1984	Wigan	v	Hull
1985	Hull	v	Wigan
1986	Wigan	v	Warrington
1987	East Hull	v	Wigan
1988	East Hull	v	Leigh
1989	East Hull	v	Wigan
1990	Wigan	v	Castleford
1991	Wigan	v	Leigh
1992	East Hull	v	Wigan
1993	Wigan	v	Oldham
1994	Hunslet/Morley	v	Wigan
1995	Wigan	v	Castlrford/Featherstone
1996	Wigan	v	Hunslet

E.S.R.L. DIVISION 2 (Under 16)

1975	Hull	v	Whitehaven
1976	Whitehaven	v	Widnes
1977	Widnes	v	Leeds
1978	Oldham	v	Dewsbury
1979	Dewsbury/Warrington	v	
1980	Wakefield	v	Huddersfield
1981	Hunslet	v	Salford

2000 Wigan v Dewsbury

JUNIOR DIVISION 2 (Under 11)

1988	West Cumbria	v	East Hull
1989	Warrington	v	Castleford
1990	Leeds	v	West Cumbria
1991	St. Helens	v	Castleford
1992	Dewsbury	v	Sheffield

ASSOCIATED BISCUITS SEVENS (Under 13)

1972	Cardinal Newman	v	Wigan
1973	Thomas á Becket	v	Wakefield
1974	Castleford C.H.S.	v	Castleford
1975	Arthur Greenwood	v	Hunslet
1976	St. John Fisher	v	Dewsbury
1977	Campion	v	St. Helens
1978	Thomas More	v	Wigan
1979	Bedford H.S.	v	Leigh
1980	No Competition		
1981	Wilberforce J.H.S.	v	Hull
1982	St. Thomas	v	Pontefract
1983	St. Peter's	v	Wigan



1982	Salford	v	Leeds
1983	Wakefield	v	St. Helens
1984	Leeds	v	Oldham
1985	Bradford	v	Castleford
1987	Bradford	v	Castleford
1988	Castleford	v	Barrow
1989	St. Helens	v	Huddersfield
1990	East Hull	v	St. Helens
1991	East Hull	v	Castleford

E.S.R.L. 16 PREMIERSHIP

1997	Hull	v	Wigan
1998	Leigh	v	Wigan
1999	Wigan	v	Leeds
2000	Leeds		

UNDER 13 DIVISION 1

1976	Leigh	v	Wigan
1977	Wigan	v	Warrington
1978	Wigan	v	Hunslet
1979	Wigan	v	Hull
1980	Wigan	v	Hull
1981	Wigan	v	Hull
1982	Hull	v	Wigan
1983	Hull	v	Wigan
1984	Wigan	v	Leeds
1985	Hull	v	Wigan
1986	Hull	v	Warrington
1987	Wigan	v	Leigh
1988	Wigan	v	Wakefield
1989	Wigan	v	East Hull
1990	Castleford	v	Oldham
1991	East Hull	v	Barrow
1992	Wigan	v	Leigh
1993	Wigan	v	St. Helens
1994	Widnes	v	Wigan
1995	Wigan	v	Bradford
1996	Wigan	v	Leeds
1997	Wigan	v	Leeds
1998	Wigan	v	Leeds
1999	Wigan	v	St. Helens
2000	Widnes	v	Dewsbury

UNDER 13 DIVISION 2

1988	Huddersfield	v	Warrington
1989	Warrington	v	Castleford
1990	Warrington	v	St. Helens
1991	Wigan	v	Leeds

UNDER 11 DIVISION 1

1988	Wigan	v	Oldham
1989	Wigan	v	Leigh
1990	Widnes	v	Wigan
1991	East Hull	v	Wigan
1992	Widnes/ Wigan	v	
1993	Leigh	v	Wigan
1994	Wigan	v	Widnes
1995	St. Helens	v	Dewsbury/Batley
1996	Wigan	v	Leeds
1997	Wigan	v	Dewsbury/Batley
1998	Wigan	v	Leeds
1999	Wigan	v	Leeds

CHAMPION SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

The present day competitions began their English Schools' life in 1981 although Regional Champion School Competitions were organised for many years prior to that. It is a matter of regret that much of Yorkshire Schools' records have been lost but Lancashire Schools' (North West Counties) records show that the Champion School Competition began in season 1926-1926. The final of this competition was played at Central Park, Wigan in 1926 between St. Patrick's of Wigan and St. Bede's of Widnes, before a crowd of 20,000 people, yielding gate money of £235. St. Patrick's won by 6-3. The trophy played for was The Daily Dispatch Shield, now The Manchester Evening News Shield, one of the finest trophies still played for in Schools' Rugby League in North West Counties.

Today, thanks to the full backing of The RFL and Carnegie, this Tournament has become the largest within Rugby League, embracing schools from all areas of the country. They are a significant feature of the Rugby League playing season with the Finals being played on Carnegie Challenge Cup Final weekend. The success of these Competitions has been outstanding, and how fitting that is when considering the statistics of the very first Champion Schools' Competition way back in 1926. That early piece of initiative and foresight in the 1920's has flowered magnificently in this modern age.

E.S.R.L. CHAMPION SCHOOL (Under 16 - Year 11)

1981	St. John Fisher	v	Parkside/Hunslet
1982	Bedford, Leigh	v	Whitley, Wigan
1983	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Featherstone H.S.
1984	Bedford, Leigh	v	St. Cuthberts, St. Helens
1985	St. Mary's, Leigh	v	St. Bede's, Bradford
1986	No Competition		
1987	Bransholme, Hull	v	Whitley, Wigan
1988	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Castleford H.S. (Cas)
1989	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	St. Augustines, Oldham
1990	Deanery, Wigan	v	St. Aelred's, St. Helens
1991	Bedford, Leigh	v	St. Mary's, Leigh
1992	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	Cowly, St. Helens
1993	Deanery, Wigan	v	Bedford, Leigh
1994	Rainford H.S., St. Helens	v	Mornington H.S., Wigan
1995	St. Edmund Arrowsmith, Wigan	v	Winfred Holtby, Hull
1996	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	De La Salle, St. Helens
1997	William Beamont, Warrington	v	Castleford, Castleford
1998	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	St. Mary's, Leigh
1999	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Andrew Marvel, Hull
2000	Normanton Freaston (Cas)	v	Deanery, Wigan
2001	Tong Comm College, Bradford	v	
2002	St. Augustines, St. Helens	v	St. Edmund Arrowsmith, Wigan
2003	Andrew Marvel, Hull	v	St. John Fisher, Wigan
2004	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Counthill Oldham
2005	SS. Peter & Paul, Widnes	v	Whitehaven High
2006	St. Peter's, Wigan	v	Airedale High, Wakefield
2007	Whitehaven High	v	Malet Lambert, Hull

E.S.R.L. CHAMPION SCHOOL (Under 15 - Year 10)

1984	St. Mary's, Leigh	v	St. Cuthberts, St. Helens
1985	Carndinal Newman, Wigan	v	Sidney Smith, Hull
1986	No Competition		
1987	Bransholme, Hull	v	St. Cuthberts, St. Helens
1988	Bransholme, Hull	v	Airedale, Castleford
1989	St. Peters, Wigan	v	Perronet Thompson, Hull
1990	Bedford, Leigh	v	Featherstone, Castleford
1991	Cowley, St. Helens	v	Winfred Holtby, Hull
1992	Deanery, Wigan	v	David Lister, Hull
1993	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	Counthill, Oldham
1994	Mornington H.S., Wigan	v	Kettlethorpe H.S., Wakefield
1995	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	Hawkey Hall, Wigan
1996	William Beamont, Warrington	v	Winfred Holtby, Hull
1997	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	St. Mary's, Leigh
1998	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Andrew Marvel, Hull

1999	Normanton Freeston (Cas)	v	Castleford H.S.
2000	Bedford, Leigh	v	St. Bernard's, Barrow
2001	Castleford , Wakefield	v	
2002	Rainford, St. Helens	v	Cowley, St. Helens
2003	Whitehaven, Whitehaven	v	Brooksbank, Halifax
2004	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	William Beamont, Warrington
2005	Airedale, Castleford	v	Rainford High, St.Helens
2006	Malet Lambert, Hull	v	Outwood Grange, Wakefield
2007	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Great Sankey, Warrington

E.S.R.L. CHAMPION SCHOOL (Under 14 - Year 9)

1984	St. Mary's, Leigh	v	Bransholme, Hull
1985	Whitley, Wigan	v	Bransholme, Hull
1986	No Competition	v	
1987	Bransholme, Hull	v	St. Augustines, Oldham
1988	St. Peter's, Wigan	v	Thornhill, Dewsbury
1989	St. Mary's, Leigh	v	Outwood Grange, Wakefield
1990	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	St. Peter's, Wigan
1991	North Chadderton, Oldham	v	Deanery, Wigan
1992	Lowton, Leigh	v	Counthill, Oldham
1993	Cowley, St. Helens	v	Thornhill, Dewsbury
1994	Bedford, Leigh/Outwood Grange, Wakefield	–	Joint Holders
1995	St. Thomas More, Wigan	v	Castleford H.S., Castleford
1996	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Rainford H.S., St. Helens
1997	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Deanery, Wigan
1998	Normanton Freeston, Castleford	v	St. Cuthberts, St. Helens
1999	Bedford, Leigh	v	Normanton Freeston, Castleford
2000	St. Edmund Arrowsmith, Wigan	v	St. Benedict's, Whitehaven
2001	No competition		
2002	Whitehaven, Whitehaven	v	Endeavour, Hull
2003	William Beamont, Warrington	v	Byrchall, Wigan
2004	St. Cuthberts, St. Helens	v	Airedale, Wakefield
2005	St.Augustine's, St.Helens	v	St.Peter's, Wigan
2006	St.John Fisher, Wigan	v	St.Wilfred's, Featherstone
2007	Airedale, Wakefield	v	Castleford High

E.S.R.L. CHAMPION SCHOOL (Under 13 - Year 8)

1984	Goldborne, Wigan	v	Culcheth, Warrington
1985	Whelley, Wigan	v	Leigh C.E., Leigh
1986	No Competition		
1987	St. Peter's, Wigan	v	St. Mary's, Leigh
1988	Outwood Grange, Wakefield	v	Woodkirk, Hunslet & Morley
1989	Bedford, Leigh	v	St. Thomas More, Wigan
1990	David Lister, Hull	v	Cardinal Newman, Wigan
1991	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	Rainford, St. Helens
1992	St. Mary's, Leigh	v	Winfred Holtby, Hull
1993	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	William Beamont, Warrington
1994	Rainford H.S., St. Helens/Andrew Marvell, Hull	–	Joint Holders
1995	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Outwood Grange, Wakefield
1996	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Outwood Grange, Wakefield
1997	Normanton	v	Castleford, Castleford
1998	Bedford, Leigh	v	Winfred Holtby, Hull
1999	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Bedford, Leigh
2000	Airedale, Castleford	v	Outwood Grange, Wakefield
2001	Deanery, Wigan		
2002	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Castleford High, Wakefield
2003	St. Peter's, Wigan	v	Normanton Freeston, Castleford
2004	Outwood Grange, Wakefield	v	St. Augustines, St. Helens
2005	Castleford High	v	Outwood Grange, Wakefield
2006	Castleford High	v	Brynteg, Bridgend
2007	Castleford High	v	Wade Deacon, Widnes

E.S.R.L. CHAMPION SCHOOL (Under 12 - Year 7)

1984	Leigh C.E., Leigh	v	Pearson, Hull
1985	St. Mary's, Leigh	v	Whelley, Wigan
1986	No Competition		
1987	Goldborne, Wigan/Ings, Hull – Joint Holders		
1988	St. Thomas More, Wigan	v	Biggin Hill, Hull
1989	St. Joseph's, Widnes	v	Deanery H.S., Wigan
1990	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	St. Thomas More, Wigan
1991	Mornington, Wigan	v	St. Joseph's, Widnes
1992	Winfred Holtby, Hull	v	Hawkley Hall, Wigan
1993	St. Mary's, Leigh	v	Rainford H.S., St. Helens
1994	St. Mary's, Leigh	v	Deanery H.S., Wigan
1995	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Castleford H.S., Castleford
1996	Castleford H.S., Castleford	v	Deanery H.S., Wigan
1997	Bedford, Leigh	v	Winfred Holtby, Hull
1998	St. John Fisher, Wigan	v	Bedford, Leigh
1999	St. John Fisher, Dewsbury	v	St. John Fisher, Wigan
2000	Deanery, Wigan	v	St. Augustine's, St. Helens
2001	St. John Fisher, Wigan		
2002	William Beamont, Warrington	v	Oakwood Grange, Wakefield
2003	St. Augustine's, St. Helens	v	St. Peter's, Wigan
2004	Wade Deacon Halton	v	Whitchurch, Cardiff
2005	Brynteg Bridgend	v	Castleford High
2006	Wade Deacon, Widnes	v	Abraham Guest, Wigan
2007	Freeston, Wakefield	v	Castleford High

E.S.R.L. CHAMPION SCHOOL (Under 11)

1984	Biggin Hill, Hull	v	St. Peter's, Leigh
1985	Goldborne C.P., Wigan	v	Wakefield
1986	No Competition		
1987	St. Cuthberts, Wigan	v	Biggin Hill, Hull
1988	Sutton Park, Hull	v	St. Basil's, Widnes
1989	Carr, York	v	Churwell, Hunslet & Morley
1990	St. Peter's, Leigh	v	Sandal, Wakefield
1991	St. Peter's, Leigh	v	St. John Fisher, Leigh
1992	St. Cuthberts, Wigan	v	Kippax, Leeds
1993	St. Peter's, Leigh	v	St. Thomas, Featherstone
1994	Sacred Heart, Wigan	v	St. Richards, Hull
1995	Sacred Heart, Wigan	v	Buckingham, Hull
1996	St. Edwards, Oldham	v	Sharlston, Wakefield
1998	St. Jude's, Wigan	v	Clapgate, Leeds

E.S.R.L. CARNEGIE GIRLS' CHAMPION SCHOOLS (Under 15 - Year 10)

2007	Cardinal Newman, Warrington	v	All Saints, Huddersfield
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E.S.R.L. CARNEGIE GIRLS' CHAMPION SCHOOLS (Under 14 - Year 9)

2006	Cardinal Newman, Warrington	v	All Saints, Huddersfield
2007	Castleford High/Holy Family, Bradford – Joint Holders		

E.S.R.L. GIRLS' CARNEGIE CHAMPION SCHOOLS (Under 13 - Year 8)

2005	Cardinal Newman, Warrington	v	Queensbury, Bradford
2006	Holy Family, Keighley	v	St John Fisher, Wigan
2007	Castleford High	v	Cardinal Newman, Warrington

E.S.R.L. GIRLS' CARNEGIE CHAMPION SCHOOLS (Under 12 - Year 7)

2004	Queensbury, Bradford	v	Cardinal Newman, Warrington
2005	Airedale High, Castleford	v	Holy Family, Keighley
2006	Castleford High	v	South Craven, Keighley
2007	Castleford High	v	Lowton, Wigan

WEMBLEY CURTAIN RAISER & REFEREES

1975	Widnes	v	Wigan	Mr. S.Bateson, Leeds
1976	Hull	v	Leeds	Mr. D.McHugh, Wigan
1977	Oldham	v	Hull	Mr. F.Lofthouse, York
1978	York	v	Leigh	Mr. P.Flanagan, Hull
1979	St. Helens	v	Wakefield	Mr. G.Hurst, Wigan
1980	Warrington	v	Hunslet	Mr. R.Needham, Wfd
1981	Salford	v	Cstleford	Mr. G.Lightfoot, Bolton
1982	Wigan	v	Morley	Mr. B.Skerry, H'field
1983	Widnes	v	Dewsbury & Batley	Mr. M.Loftus, Warrington
1984	Oldham	v	Hull	Mr. A.Haythorn, Barrow
1985	Huddersfield	v	Leigh	Mr. T.Tucker, St. Helens
1986	St. Helens	v	Wakefield	Mr. D.Brabbs, Hull
1987	Leeds	v	Warrington	Mr. F.Grist, Wigan
1988	West Cumbria	v	York	Mr. J.Calvert, Castleford
1989	Castleford	v	Wigan	Mr. F.Hawley, Warrington
1990	Doncaster	v	Widnes	Mr. D.Milburn, York
1991	Halifax	v	Runcorn	Mr. A.Twist, St. Helens
1992	Dewsbury	v	Oldham	Mr. P.Woodhead, Leeds
1993	Rochdale	v	Sheffield	Mr. R.Harrison, Widnes
1994	Hunslet & Morley	v	Leigh	Mr. S.Boothroyd, Leeds
1995	Bradford	v	Warrington	Mr. T.Hurst, Widnes
1996	Leeds	v	West Cumbria	Mr. I.Scott, Hull
1997	Batley	v	St. Helens	Mr. I.Howarth, Leigh
1998	Hull	v	Salford	Mr. D.Tidman, Leeds
1999	Gateshead	v	Dublin	Mr. P.Todd, Leeds
2000	Glasgow	v	Scarborough (at Murrayfield)	Mr. D.Gilmore, Salford
2001	South London	v	Thames Valley (Twickenham)	Mr. R.Hayes, Doncaster
2002	Glasgow	v	Edinburgh (Murrayfield)	Mr. I.Davies, St.Helens

WEMBLEY CURTAIN RAISER (Ball Boys/Girls)

1976	Oldham	1991	Barnsley
1977	Cumberland	1992	Salford
1978	Warrington	1993	Castleford
1979	Huddersfield	1994	Widnes
1980	Salford	1995	York
1981	Dewsbury/Batley	1996	Stockport
1982	Leigh	1997	Gateshead
1983	Leeds	1998	Warrington
1984	St. Helens	1999	Cardiff
1985	Wakefield	2000	Keighley (at Murrayfield)
1986	Wigan	2001	Whitehaven (Twickenham)
1987	Hunslet & Morley	2002	Gateshead (Murrayfield)
1988	Barrow		
1989	Hull		
1990	Oldham		

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TIMELINES - CARNEGIE CHAMPION SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT 2007/08

The Carnegie Champion Schools Tournament fits comfortably into the new National Competition Framework; it is inclusive for both boys and girls at all year groups with a progressive structure which offers competition at local, regional and national levels. It is branded throughout and has a high profile final at every stage.

BOY'S YEAR 7 TO 10

Local Stage		Completed by Friday 19th October 2007 (before October half-term)
Regional Stage		Completed by Friday 8th February 2008 (before February half-term)
National Stage	Rd 1	Completed by Friday 7th March 2008
Quarter Finals		Completed by Friday 11th April 2008
Semi Finals		22nd April 2008 (Y8 and Y10) 24th April 2008 (Y7 and Y9)

GIRL'S YEAR 7 TO 10

Local Stage		Completed by end of March 2008 (before Easter)
Regional Stage		Completed by end of April 2008
National Festival		20th May 2008 (Y7 and Y9) / 22nd May 2008 (Y8 and Y10)

BOY'S YEAR 11

Local Stage		Completed by Friday 19th October 2007 (before October half-term)
Regional Stage		Completed by Friday 1st February 2008 (before February half-term)
National Stage Q/F		Completed by Friday 8th February 2008 (before February half-term)
Semi Finals		W/E 29th February 2008
Final		W/E 14th March 2008

GIRL'S YEAR 11

Local Stage		Completed by Friday 19th October 2007 (before October half-term)
Regional Stage		Completed by end of November 2007
National Festival		28th February 2008
National Final		W/E 14th March 2008

It may be deemed necessary to move some National round games to neutral venues to ease travel time, cost and distance.

Schools will be eligible for travel subsidy during the National Stage when travelling over 100 miles, (claim 50% support – subject to Andy Harland's approval).



England Expects

The Carnegie Champion Schools tournament has rejuvenated schools rugby.

That's the bold claim made by Ron England, a highly experienced rugby league administrator who is currently fixture secretary of the English Schools Rugby League.

And when a man with as much knowledge and expertise as Mr England makes that kind of statement, you know there's something in it.

"It has completely rejuvenated schools rugby," he said. "It's given us a real focus to spread rugby league to as many schools as we can and get all the schools playing. We've got a high profile competition, there's a lot on offer and teachers have really taken it on board."

Mr England believes there are many reasons behind the success of the Carnegie Champion Schools tournament, but he is quick to highlight the high profile nature of the finals as one key factor.

He said: "The big thing is that we've got this fantastic weekend away connected to Wembley. The exposure the schools and the competition gets is fantastic.

"The other part is that there are so many really enthusiastic teachers who are delivering good quality teams. Most of the successful schools have developed a support team around them.

"They've linked in with the local service area and professional clubs, but it's the enthusiasm of the teachers and the way they've worked that's driven us on."

Mr England also believes that the year-on-year development of the competition, which has seen increasing participation figures every season, will soon begin to tell in the final results of each competition.

"I don't think it will be long before London and Welsh schools start winning this competition,"

he said. "They're at a terrific standard and this competition is getting very popular regularly in all corners of the UK.

"It's just such a good experience for the kids to be able to play against other kids from across the country. It's a unique atmosphere when kids come together from all over the place. That national flavour about it means the competition already meets one of the key things in the national framework that we have had to produce along with the Youth Sport Trust.

"Through the Youth Sport Trust, every national sporting governing body has to provide a framework explaining how it's going to deliver its sport on a national, competitive basis in schools.

"Our framework has now been accredited and, in a lot of ways, the Carnegie Champion Schools tournament has put us a bit ahead of the game. The competition has a lot of good implications for rugby league and has really shot us forward."

Mr England reckons that some of the best boys' schools teams are now well ahead of their predecessors due to the increased competition available to the schools.

He said: "I think the best individual schools now are at a level that the old district teams were at four or five years ago. Schools have got more ambitious and there's a strong link with service areas and professional scholarships.

"There are such a lot of quality boys about that are being really well looked after and that's had a massive impact on the quality of the game and will have an impact on the future of the professional game in this country."

"As for the girls, we are seeing the talent emerge and we are now attracting a whole new concept and depth to the development of girls quality competition, it is very satisfying to see the enthusiasm that we have been able to attract from the female teachers involved, who have all embraced the game".

PROCEDURES FOR ALL GAMES for BOYS

1. 13-a-side games
2. Winning team must telephone the result to school convener on list
3. A convener will be appointed by RFL
4. No player may play for more than one team on any given day
5. Pitches must be of good standard, properly marked out with padded posts
6. RFL to organise neutral referees for Semi-finals
7. Any disputes re delays of matches etc. should be referred to ESRL Convener on the day
8. Duration of Match
Yr 7, Yr 8 25 minutes each way
Yr 8,9,10 and 11 30 minutes each way
9. In the event of a draw in Knock out competitions in all rounds up to the Final, the team scoring the most number of tries will be declared the winner. If both teams score the same number of tries, the visiting side will be declared the winners. In the event of a draw in the Final, the trophy will be shared for six months each and both teams will receive winners' souvenirs.
10. 17 Players only
11. Team sheets must be completed and sent to local or regional conveners
Team sheets will be made available
12. A Gate of £2.00 will be taken/ U16 Free
13. Refreshments will be provided for all players
14. Team colours shall be sent in to RFL
15. Balls & Branding will be used subject to availability
16. Size 4 balls for Yr 7 and 8 matches
17. Size 5 balls for Yr 9, 10 and 11
18. English Schools Code of conduct will be strictly enforced

Girls Schools Rugby League Festivals Nine a Side Rules

1. The number of players per team is nine with as many substitutes as is needed.
2. Size of the playing area 60 x 40 metres (maximum) with a minimum of 50 x 30 metres but the game can be played on any grassed area.
3. The size of the ball should be size 4
4. The normal 6 tackle rule applies
5. A try scored in the normal way by placing or touching the ball down on or over the opponents try line
6. All defending players must retire 5 metres at the play the ball except for a single marker who must be square to the play the ball without interfering. The marker is not allowed to strike for the ball or move until the ball is passed by the acting half back or the acting half back clears the ruck (runs with the ball). The tackled player should restart the game by way of a play the ball. The ball must be played backwards in the correct manner and where the tackle occurred.
7. If the acting half back is tackled, in possession of the ball, it will result in a hand over of possession to the opposition.
8. a. No kicking for goal after a try has been scored.
b. Kicking in open play from the hands i.e. bomb, punt, chip, grubber is allowed. Secondary kicking is not (fly kicking, dribbling)
9. The game will commence with a place kick off from the centre line at the beginning of each half by:
a. At the start of the first half the team who loses the toss of a coin for choice of playing ends
b. At the start of the second half by their opponents.
All starts and restarts, other than at the commencement of each half will be with a play the ball as described in rule 5
10. A passive scrum shall be formed by no less than 5 players from each team. The scrum will be formed no nearer than 10 metres from all touch lines or the try lines after the following situation.
• If the ball goes out of play in touch (not touch in goal) the scrum to form 10 metres in from touch opposite where the ball last made contact with the field of play or a player (but no nearer than 10 meters to the goal line)

- The team NOT responsible for the first, or only infringement or making the ball go out of play will have the head and feed.
 - The ball must enter the tunnel of the scrum and both scrum halves must retire behind their forwards' rear feet.
 - The scrum half must feed the ball in the correct manner, it is then struck (won) by the hooker of the feeding team, to enable the ball to leave the scrum through a legitimate route and according to the rules of the game.
 - The scrum shall be formed. No pushing is allowed and the team without the feed of the ball cannot strike for the ball.
11. All other infringements (Knock ons, forward passes, off etc.) will result in a hand over to the non-offending team and they will resume play using a play the ball restart which will not count as part of the six-tackle count.
 12. Any infringement in the in goal area will result in play restarting 15 metres from the goal line in a central position.
 13. No ball stealing
 14. Any act of foul play will result in a 10-metre advance up the field of play to the non-offending side. The game will recommence with a tap restart 10 metres infield from the nearest touchline.
 15. Any rule not covered will be as per international rules

Please note that for the Carnegie Champion Schools Final in London game length and pitch dimensions will differ.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The National finals are the culmination of a lot of hard work by many people. It is vital that we use this competition to raise the profile of schools, Rugby League and to show people that we can sustain such a major competition, consequently we are all on show teachers, assistants, boys, girls, administrators and we must maintain high standards of conduct both on and off the field.

Off the Field

1. Be aware of the timings of all arrangements. Be punctual and co-operative.
2. Courtesy and awareness of other people are very important. Group behaviour must be of the highest standard.

On the Field

1. Play to the rules and in the true spirit of the game.
2. Give total respect to match officials and opponents.
3. No bad language or dissent at any time.
4. Only official coaching staff can be allowed in the dugouts. They must remain in this area throughout the matches. It will be inappropriate for any coach or assistant to encroach on the touchline.
5. At the end of any game show respect to opponents and match officials.

All players and staff to observe code of conduct at all times and referee abuse and behaviour likely to cause offence will not be tolerated.

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YEAR 7 GIRLS CHAMPIONS - CASTLEFORD HIGH



YEAR 8 GIRLS CHAMPIONS - CASTLEFORD HIGH



YEAR 9 GIRLS CHAMPIONS - CASTLEFORD HIGH & HOLY FAMILY



YEAR 10 GIRLS CHAMPIONS - CARDINAL NEWMAN

YEAR 8 BOYS CHAMPIONS - CASTLEFORD HIGH



YEAR 9 BOYS CHAMPIONS - AIRES DALE HIGH



YEAR 10 BOYS CHAMPIONS - ST JOHN FISHER



YEAR 11 BOYS CHAMPIONS - WHITEHAVEN



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A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Following its successful launch at end of 2005, Rugby League's RESPECT campaign has used this current season to build on the solid foundations it established. And now as 2007 comes to an end, there is set to be an increase in activity that means these important messages will continue to reach every level of the sport.

For those who are not yet familiar with it, 'RESPECT' is an all-encompassing code which promotes Rugby League's highly prized values of sportsmanship, discipline, fair play, tolerance and inclusivity.

RESPECT started with the distribution of a Code of Conduct to every club and participant in the country, with 50,000 copies in the first print run!

Now Rugby League Services Manager Niel Wood explains the next steps that will be taken by both the RFL and the entire game: "Although we launched RESPECT nine months ago, that was only the start. "The education process is now kicking in, and we have been working with all playing Leagues to implement improvements. "These include the installation of technical areas on playing surfaces, referee report forms and the identification of all club staff. All Rugby League coaching courses will also now have an element of RESPECT built into them, too.

Wood added: "We want to take advantage of our position and develop this activity over the coming years, and when it is a success we will gladly share it with other sports. "I and our Executive Chairman Richard Lewis have already met with the Home Office in London, and they were very impressed by what we had achieved so far."

"The RESPECT campaign is aimed at ensuring that in times of social change Rugby League is well positioned to maintain our high standards and to even enhance them"; Wood also explained.

"It will allow us to build on the existing good record and values of fair play that are synonymous with our sport. We are very proud of how the game is perceived and the values it has. He added: "Every single person who has any association with our sport also has a responsibility to maintain its reputation".

And as if to endorse Wood's comments, Leeds Rhinos' captain and Great Britain international Kevin Sinfield is among those to have already given their backing to RESPECT. Sinfield's image has featured on RESPECT information packs and promotional literature adding tremendous credibility to the important messages targeted specifically at players.

As Sinfield says in the RESPECT Code of Conduct: "I'm marked, watched and scrutinised, so I must be responsible". And the Rhinos' hero is not on his own in lending his support to RESPECT. No less a figure than England cricket star Andrew Flintoff –a keen fan of Rugby League – was happy to give his backing to RESPECT's Code of Conduct for spectators which stresses the need for positive cheering that encourages players in a team and not engaging in taunts that intimidate opponents, fans or officials.

As RESPECT reaches further and further into Rugby League, the RFL's Executive Chairman Richard Lewis, believes in its benefits. He said: "The RESPECT campaign represents a significant step forward for the sport of Rugby League as we seek to reinforce our well-earned reputation as an inclusive, family-friendly sport.

"Our Code of Conduct sets out what the game expects from itself as well as all those who participate in it."

**For further information about RESPECT please contact the Rugby League Services on:
(01484) 544 131 or click www.rfl.uk.com**



EUROPEAN CHAMPION SCHOOLS CHALLENGE **St John Fisher (Wigan) 26 v 4Toulouges (Perpignan)** **AT WIGAN ST JUDES, NOVEMBER 2006**

Liam Thompson grabbed a brace of tries in a tremendous captain's display as St John Fisher overcame their spirited but outclassed French counterparts in the first European Champion Schools Challenge.

Thompson's tries were the highlight but it was a solid team-display that saw the hosts emerge victorious from a fiercely fought contest.

Thompson opened the scoring with an opportunistic try following a fortunate bounce of the ball and from there St John Fisher never looked back.

The French offered a quick reply when back row Julian Lafitte gathered a towering kick to the corner but it was the Wiganers who made the most of their possession as the game intensified.

Centre Michael Connor dived over in the corner just before half time and when Thompson crossed soon after the restart, Toulouges were left facing an uphill battle.

Prop Greg Burke powered through following an excellent team move to extend the lead and, while the French could have replied with more clinical finishing, it was Matthew Meaden who completed the scoring just before the hooter.

"In the worst possible weather conditions and supported by a great Wigan crowd, both teams offered an outstanding display of Rugby League skills," said a delighted RFL national development manager Andy Harland.

"This European Champion Schools Challenge has been a complete success and we look forward to more international exchanges in the future at schools level."

EUROPEAN U16 CHAMPIONSHIPS

England beat France 14-12 in the final of the European under-16's championships which was held in Serbia, with halfback Greg McNally scoring all of England's points. McNally along with centre Darren Seeds and props James Donaldson and Michael Lithgow made the competitions Dream Team.

England were represented by Whitehaven School's Year 11 squad, who were selected after winning the 2006/07 Carnegie Champion Schools tournament.

Tracey Clooney head of PE at the school said "It was a real honor and something that we couldn't turn down although raising all the money we needed, in just four weeks, was a massive task".

"It didn't hit the kids at first because they were still doing there GCSE'S. But once we were there, the fact that it was an international competition hit them, with the national anthems being sung before each game. We were there for a week and three games in six days was a big ask. But the whole thing has created a huge buzz in Whitehaven and we couldn't have done it without the support from local businesses and clubs."

The European Celts (Wales and Czech Republic) finished third with Serbia finishing fourth.





A Tale Of Success

St John Fisher High School (Wigan) is celebrating after receiving a “highly commended award” at the Daily Telegraph School Team of the year awards.

Mr. Hill (Head of PE), Mr. Unsworth (PE Teacher), Liam Thompson (Captain of the Team) and David Carney (Players Player of the Season), represented the team at the Awards ceremony held at The Emirates Stadium, home of Premiership giants Arsenal, and were presented with their award from Surrey and England cricketer Mark Ramprakash.

Also in attendance at the star studded event were Olympic gold medalists Dame Kelly Holmes, James Cracknell and Darren Campbell.

Mr. R. J. Ward, St John Fisher High School Head Teacher, commented: “This team has been outstanding in so many ways. Their commitment to the school and to the sport has been exemplary.

I had the pleasure of watching them in the Carnegie Champion Schools National Final and their determination to succeed was inspiring. They along with their teachers, and with the

support of the local amateur clubs and parents, have worked consistently hard to perform at the highest level.

The team have been excellent ambassadors for the school and I am sure their families and friends are immensely proud of all that they have achieved.”

Matt Birkett, the RFL’s North West Regional Development Officer, added: “The RFL would like to congratulate St John Fisher Catholic High School on their award. The school staff and players regularly support Rugby League initiatives through facility use and participation, and this award not only signifies an outstanding achievement by a very successful team, but the hard work put in by the school, parents, local amateur rugby league clubs and the Wigan & Leigh Service Area.”

The school will be looking to defend their North West and National titles in the 2007 / 08 Carnegie Champion Schools Tournament. They have already recaptured the Wigan & Leigh crown after defeating St Mary’s High School from Leigh 13 - 6 in the local stage final.



