

## **Clements is proud of young Crusaders September 5th, 2008**

Wales' have won the Rugby League under 18s European Championships in Prague after beating France 38-24 in the Final.

In the eight-nation knock-out tournament, the young Welshmen, many of whom play with the successful Celtic Crusaders Colts side, overcame the hosts in the first round match, then England in the semi-final to get to this stage.

Crusaders' Colts coach Dan Clements spoke proudly of his players who have represented Wales this week. "To play three games in five days is tough to start with," he said. "But to beat countries of the calibre of England on Wednesday and France today just shows how far we've come as a nation.

"I'm immensely proud of all of our players and our coach Stuart Williams, all of whom have done so well out there and I'm sure the matches this week have given them vital preparation for our play-off game against Bramley Buffaloes a week on Sunday.

"This result will send shockwaves around the rugby league world and bodes well for the future of Celtic Crusaders and Wales."

## **Mapp is man of the month September 8th, 2008**

CELTIC CRUSADERS' second-rower Darren Mapp has been named the official Cooperative National League One player of the month for August. This is the article that appears in today's League Weekly newspaper.

The back row forward was selected as the division's stand out player by a process involving match reporters for League Weekly newspaper and a panel of cooperative National League One coaches.

Despite missing the Crusaders' final game of the month against Salford City Reds, Mapp edged out teammate Neil Budworth to claim the individual honour.

The 27-year-old former Brisbane, Canberra and Cronulla player was man of the match as the Crusaders brushed aside Sheffield Eagles 42-6 at the Brewery Field on August 2, scoring a brace of tries. Mapp then followed up that performance with a try in the 38-28 victory over Leigh Centurions, in which hooker Budworth was the star man.

And he added another two as the Crusaders secured a vital win at Halifax a week later, the Welshmen again emerging with a 38-28 victory margin.

Whilst the Crusaders managed to beat table toppers Salford 20-10 in Mapp's absence in a dress rehearsal for Thursday's Grand Final qualifier at The Willows, Crusaders' boss John Dixon believes the second row has been the club's top performer during August.

“Darren’s a big leader for us – he’s been a very important player,” Dixon said. “The award is a fitting reward for his efforts, and for the efforts of our other senior players.

“We’ve had a very good run leading into the play-offs and players like Darren, Neil Budworth, Damien Quinn and Tony Duggan have come to the fore.”

Quinn and Budworth are also named in the co-operative National League One Team of the Month for August.

National League One Team of the Month - August

1. Ian Mort (Leigh Centurions)
2. Dean Gaskell (Widnes Vikings)
3. Ste Tyrer (Widnes Vikings)
4. John Wilshere (Salford City Reds)
5. Dave Alstead (Leigh Centurions)
6. Damien Quinn (Celtic Crusaders)
7. Ben Black (Halifax)
8. Karl Edmondson (Whitehaven)
9. Neil Budworth (Celtic Crusaders)
10. Craig Stapleton (Salford City Reds)
11. Richard Fletcher (Widnes Vikings)
12. Darren Mapp (Celtic Crusaders)
13. Jordan Turner (Salford City Reds)

### **Crusaders clear up at RFL awards September 23rd, 2008**

Celtic Crusaders’ stand-off Damien Quinn has picked up the Co-operative National League One Player of the Year Award.

This award was presented at a glittering event at Elland Road Stadium in Leeds.

He follows in the footsteps of teammates Jace Van Dijk and Tony Duggan who were National League Two’s Player of the Year in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Fellow Crusaders stars Tony Duggan, Mark Dalle Cort, Darren Mapp and Neale Wyatt joined Quinn in the National League One Team of the Year.

It is the second year in a row that Quinn, Duggan, Dalle Cort and Wyatt have made the Team of the Year selection, all being in the NL2 star line-up in 2007.

Crusaders Colts coach Dan Clements picked up the Conference National Coach of the Year award but first team coach John Dixon missed out on the big prize in National League One with Salford City Reds’ Shaun McRae scooping the prize.

The Co-operative National League One team of the year

1. Tony Duggan (Celtic Crusaders)
2. Dean Gaskell (Widnes Vikings)
3. Mark Dalle Cort (Celtic Crusaders)
4. John Wilshere (Salford City Reds)
5. Paul White (Salford City Reds)
6. Damien Quinn (Celtic Crusaders)
7. Richard Myler (Salford City Reds)
8. Craig Stapleton (Salford City Reds)
9. Sean Penkywicz (Halifax)
10. Phillip Leuluai (Salford City Reds)
11. Lee Doran (Leigh Centurions)
12. Darren Mapp (Celtic Crusaders)
13. Neale Wyatt (Celtic Crusaders)

### **Brains Beer enters Super League with the Crusaders September 24th, 2008**

A major Welsh sports sponsorship deal has been announced which will brand the Celtic Crusaders shirts with 'Brains Beer' when the rugby league team bring engage Super League to Wales for the first time in 2009.

David Thompson, Chief Executive of Celtic Crusaders said, "This is the first of a number of exciting announcements we will be making ahead of Super League coming to Wales next February – and what a way to start! To have a brand of the stature of Brains on the shirt demonstrates just how far the club has come over the last 3 years and signals our intent of becoming a major force in Welsh sport and in rugby league. We are very excited by the opportunity of working in partnership with Brains to develop our brand and promote rugby league in Wales."

Stewart Dobson, Head of Marketing at Brains said, "The unique position of Brains in support of worldclass sport in Wales is further cemented by this deal. The whole organisation at Celtic Crusaders is highly focussed and professional in its approach to the arrival of Super League next year and it's great to form a sponsorship partnership with them. For the fans, we're delighted that the shirts will carry a truly Welsh brand home and away. At The Brewery Field, the people of Bridgend have a premier venue for functions and parties as well as for great sporting occasions, at which Brains Beers will be available for the next four years."

Next Sunday, September 28th, sees the climax of Crusaders period in National League One, at the Grand Final in Warrington. For tickets, please [click here](#).

The announcement was made at the historic Coity Castle, just outside Bridgend, where coincidentally there is a relic of a circular malt kiln hinting at further evidence of Wales's long affection for beer.

## **Seven Crusaders in Wales squad to face England September 30th 2008**

Welsh Rugby League coach John Dixon has included seven Celtic Crusaders players in 18-man squad for his first ever match in charge of the national side.

Wales face England in a one-off friendly match at Doncaster's Keepmoat Stadium on Friday 10th October. The squad contains a blend of youth and experience as Wales look to build for the future.

There are four possible debutants for Wales, Geraint Davies, Lee Williams, Ben Flower, who play for the Celtic Crusaders, and also Rhys Williams who is on the books with Warrington.

Davies has been in the Crusaders' first team squad for all three years of their existence and starred in their first ever game. He was in the Welsh training squad last year but failed to gain selection by then coach Martin Hall.

Lee Williams has also been with the Crusaders for three years but has played for their successful Colts side throughout 2008 and was their top try scorer this season.

Flower has been a Welsh success story this year. Formerly with Cardiff Demons academy, the 20-year old is in his first season in professional rugby league. He started 2008 with the Colts side but is now a first team regular.

Probably the most surprising name in the squad is that of 18 year-old Rhys Williams. Williams who hails from Rhyl Coasters in North Wales was the star performer for the Wales under 18s who won the European Under 18 Championships in Prague in September.

There are five Super League players in the Wales side – David Mills from Hull Kingston Rovers, Dave Halley, Craig Kopzack and Matt James from Bradford Bulls and Andy Bracek from Warrington Wolves.

Leigh Centurions' Ian Watson is Wales' most experienced player. Making his debut in 1995 in Wales' 92-4 win over USA in Philadelphia, he will win his 22nd cap on Friday week if selected, just six behind all time Welsh record holder Jim Sullivan.

The squad will go into camp this Sunday and train in Wales until Thursday when they will travel to Yorkshire for the match on Friday.