

## **New beginning for the Crusaders**

Jun 9, 2006, 8:57am

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Wales' only professional rugby league club are searching for a new chief executive following Chris O'Callaghan's resignation yesterday.

O'Callaghan said: "After 13 months of working hard, it was time for a change and for me to move on. I want them to succeed and I look forward to see them doing well."

Crusaders' owner Leighton Samuel said: "Chris came on board 13 months ago to oversee the project of creating Wales' first professional rugby league club and has done a magnificent job in recruiting quality coaching staff and players and putting in the infrastructure for the club to move forward. Chris felt that it was time to move on to pastures new and we'd like to thank him for all the hard work he's put in and we wish him well for the future in his new venture."

Leighton Samuel would also like to assure fans that all is well within the club and that this is simply the beginning of a new chapter in the Crusaders' story.

"This is not a negative situation for the Crusaders. In fact, as of today, we would like to announce that the playing squad has been strengthened by the signing of Aled James from Sheffield Eagles. He has been drafted into the squad for the visit to Swinton on Sunday. We will announce the signing of two more top rugby league players early next week.

"The coaching staff and players have been fully informed of what is happening with the club. There is no discontent whatsoever and they are looking forward to meeting the new players. There will also be more money available to bring in more players to strengthen the squad. This signifies the intention that we want to gain promotion this season."

The Crusaders have also announced a new pricing structure for the remainder of the season. Admission prices have been HALVED for everyone, with the new prices being £5 for adults and £2.50 for children. This will take effect from the home match against Sheffield Eagles on Sunday 18th June. Existing season ticket holders and gold members will receive free food and drink from the bar.

Also, 2,000 free tickets are being given out in schools in the valleys and in the Bridgend-Port Talbot areas while special match buses will run from the valleys for a small charge (around £2) starting at Aberdare and working it's way down to Bridgend. Further information about both of these offers will be released next week.

The Crusaders will be advertising for a new chief executive officer and support team early next week.

## **Crusaders make double Welsh international signing**

Jun 13, 2006, 1:27pm

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Celtic Crusaders have today completed a double Welsh international signing with Carcassonne's Gareth Dean joining Aled James at the Brewery Field.

James signed for the Crusaders from Sheffield Eagles last Friday and made his debut in their 50-18 win at Swinton Lions at the weekend while Dean may make his debut against the Eagles at the Brewery Field this Sunday (kick-off 3pm). All match tickets for this

game and for the rest of the season have been reduced to £5 for adults and free for accompanied children.

Aled James started his rugby league career with Cardiff Demons helping them to win the South-West Conference title in 2003. Because of his and the Demons' good form, he was signed by Super League club Widnes Vikings, making three appearances for their first team. Following this, he was released to play a season of union in Wales for Aberavon before making his next move up to Sheffield Eagles in 2004. Making 30 appearances and scoring 10 tries and 12 goals, he also played alongside two other former Cardiff Demons players, Jon Breakingbury and Pete Moore.

Playing at centre, Aled is a former student international and is now a regular with the full Welsh international side, making his debut in Wales' 74-4 win over Russia in 2003. He hasn't missed a Welsh match since and now has eight full caps to his name scoring his lone international try against Scotland in Glasgow in 2004.

Pontypridd born, Gareth Dean also started his rugby league with Cardiff Demons and led them to the Division Two Academy Grand Final in 1998 where he played alongside Cardiff Blues' Gethin Jenkins.

He was signed by Wigan in 1999 and although he failed to break into the first team while he was there, he was a regular for their Academy side and came off the bench to win his first Welsh cap while still with the Warriors, appearing in Wales' 42-33 defeat against England in Wrexham in 2001.

He made his Super League debut for London Broncos in 2002 before spending a successful two years with Workington Town where he made 25 appearances and scored six tries and helped them to the National League Two play-offs in 2004. He has just finished playing a full French Elite League season - a league that is easily equivalent in standard to National League One - playing for Carcassonne.

Gareth has won seven caps for Wales and appeared alongside Aled in every game in Wales' European Championship campaign last year, and although Wales were playing away from home in the Final, for Gareth it was familiar territory as the match was played at Carcassonne's Stade Albert Domec ground.

### **Crusaders sign another Welsh international**

Jul 28, 2006, 12:00pm

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Celtic Crusaders have just completed the loan signing of Welsh international Gareth Price from National League One leaders Hull Kingston Rovers.

Price made his debut for Wales against Ireland in Swansea in 1999 while he was playing for St Helens and has since won 10 caps, scoring his only international try in Wales' 74-4 win over Russia in Swansea in 2003.

Swansea born, the 26-year old prop started his rugby career with Hendy, going on to play for Llanelli before St Helens snapped him up in 1999. He went on to make appearances for Leigh Centurions, London Broncos and Rochdale Hornets before Hull KR signed him last year.

He will be at the Crusaders for the rest of the season and has been drafted into the squad for the top of the table clash against Dewsbury Rams at the Brewery Field on Sunday.