

10.04.2006 - Crusaders to play in Aberavon

Professional Rugby League will return to Port Talbot on Sunday 7th May as Wales' only professional club, the Celtic Crusaders, will be playing a "home" match at Aberavon RFC's "The World of Hurt".

The clash against Leeds-based Hunslet Hawks will be the Crusaders' second home National League Two encounter of the season following the tie against London Skolars at the Brewery Field on Good Friday.

This match is the first of the Crusaders' two "on the road" home games for 2006, introduced so that more of the Welsh public can enjoy the exciting experience of live professional rugby league.

The Crusaders, playing in their debut season, have taken rugby league by storm, winning their first seven matches of the season, scoring 438 points in the process. The bookies currently rate them as 5-1 second favourites to win National League Two and be one step away from Super League.

Crusaders' chief executive Chris O'Callaghan said: "The World of Hurt was always going to be our first choice to take a game on the road. Aberavon has a long and successful rugby league history and the sport has never been bigger in the town. Aberavon Fighting Irish are always successful and attract large crowds while over 600 children from Port Talbot alone played rugby league last year. This success is already rubbing off on the Crusaders and I'm certain that local fans of all sports will flock to the World of Hurt to be entertained on Sunday 7th May."

25.04.2006 - Scully looking forward to Port Talbot return

Celtic Crusaders are looking forward to playing an on the road "home" match in Port Talbot on May 7th when they host Leeds-based Hunslet Hawks at the Talbot Athletic Ground aka The World of Hurt, the home of Aberavon Wizards RFC.

Wales' only professional club has had an outstanding start to the season, winning nine out of their first ten matches, scoring an average of 56 points a game in the process. They have attracted fans the length and breadth of the country because of this, and a few old Aberavon favourites are now hoping to win over a few of their old supporters.

Former Fighting Irish stars, Scott O'Kelly, Geraint Davies, Andy Llewellyn, Phil Cushion, Lee Williams, Liam Gadd, Richard Johnson and Dean Scully have all starred in the Crusaders success this season while Johnson and Scully will also be remembered by Wizards fans due to their time at The World of Hurt.

Local lad Scully is the only Welshman to have played in all of the Crusaders matches so far this season. He is enjoying his time at the club and is looking forward to coming back to The World of Hurt.

Scully said: "It will nice to go back there – Aberavon was a great club to play for – the fans were superb and as a pitch, it's not too different from Brewery Field. It's a big pitch with wide open spaces and I always enjoyed playing there.

"I'm looking forward to the match on Sunday May 7th and I think that the Port Talbot locals will come out and support us as we always had massive crowds when I played for the Fighting Irish. They love their rugby league in the area and it's good to bring the Crusaders further down west so people can taste the big match atmosphere."

For ticket information, call 01656 651515 / 658535 or log onto www.celtic-crusaders.com