

## **02.01.2006 - New arrival from Down Under**

Matt Jobson arrives today to join his team mates on the Crusade.

## **03.01.2006 - Crusaders start life on the road**

National League newcomers Celtic Crusaders will play their first three matches away from home after agreeing to switch their opening fixture.

The new Welsh professional outfit will kick off their Northern Rail Cup campaign at Hemel Hempstead Stags on Sunday, 12 February.

That is followed by trips to London Skolars and St Albans Centurions.

Home fans have to wait until 5 March to see their side in action at Bridgend's Brewery Field against the Skolars.

Crusaders chief executive Chris O'Callaghan said: "I've agreed to this change at the request of the Stags.

"I've always liked starting any campaign by playing away, it welds the team together.

"The coaches now have three away games to get their act together and get their team tight as a drum."

The Crusaders squad is almost complete for the coming season, with a list drawn mainly from domestic sides Bridgend Blues Bulls and Aberavon Fighting Irish.

But five recruits from Australia - Damien Quinn, Jace Van Dijk, Tony Duggan, Matt Jobson and Michael Ryan - bring experience of top level rugby league from down under.

Duggan and Ryan have been on the books of Brisbane Broncos, while Jobson played four times last season for NRL winners Wests Tigers.

Also on the roster is Ireland star Carl De Chenu, who joins from Sheffield Eagles, Scot David Simm, and Cardiff Demons' Andre Boon - who played union for Northland Taniwha before settling in Wales.

One player who may also join the Crusaders is Carcassone's Gareth Dean, who is believed to have held talks with the Welsh club.

Celtic Crusaders 2006 Fixture List:

Northern Rail Cup group stage:

Sunday 12 February - Hemel Hempstead Stags (a) 2:30pm

Sunday 19 February - London Skolars (a) 3pm

Sunday 26 February - St Albans Centurions (a) 2:30pm

Sunday 05 March - London Skolars (h) 3pm

Sunday 19 March - Hemel Hempstead Stags (h) 3pm

Sunday 26 March - St Albans Centurions (h) 3pm

Powergen Challenge Cup:

Sunday 12 March - Third round

Sunday 02 April - Fourth round

Sunday 21 May - Fifth round

Sunday 04 June - Quarter-finals

Sunday 30 July - Semi-finals

Saturday 26 August - Powergen Challenge Cup final

LHF Healthplan National League Two:

Sunday 09 April - Workington Town (a) 3pm

Friday 14 April - London Skolars (h) 6pm

Monday 17 April - Sheffield Eagles (a) 12pm

Sunday 30 April - Barrow Raiders (a) 3pm

Sunday 07 May - Hunslet Hawks (h) 3pm

Sunday 14 May - Keighley Cougars (a) 3pm

Sunday 21 May - Blackpool Panthers (h) 3pm

Sunday 28 May - Dewsbury Rams (a) 3pm

Sunday 04 June - Keighley Cougars (h) 3pm

Sunday 11 June - Swinton Lions (a) 3pm

Sunday 18 June - Sheffield Eagles (h) 3pm

Sunday 25 June - London Skolars (a) 3pm

Sunday 02 July - Swinton Lions (h) 3pm

Sunday 09 July - Hunslet Hawks (a) 3pm

Sunday 16 July - Barrow Raiders (h) 3pm

Sunday 23 July - Blackpool Panthers (a) 3pm

Sunday 30 July - Dewsbury Rams (h) 3pm

Sunday 06 August - Gateshead Thunder (h) 3pm

Sunday 13 August - Featherstone Rovers (a) 3pm

Sunday 20 August - Workington Town (h) 3pm

Sunday 03 September - Gateshead Thunder (a) 3pm

Sunday 10 September - Featherstone Rovers (h) 3pm

Sunday 17 September - First round of the play-offs

Crusaders squad:

Damien Quinn (Wynnum Seagulls)

Jace Van Dijk (Wynnum Seagulls)

Tony Duggan (Toowoomba Clydesdales)

Matt Jobson (West's Tigers)

Michael Ryan (Toowoomba Clydesdales; Brisbane Broncos)

David Owen (Bridgend Blue Bulls)

Paul Morgan (Bridgend Blue Bulls; Wales RL)

Grant Epton (Bridgend Blue Bulls; Wales A)

Lenny Woodard (Bridgend Blue Bulls; Wales RL)

Karl Hockin (Bridgend Blue Bulls; Wales RL)

Carl Ellis (Bridgend Blue Bulls; Wales A)

Lloyd O'Connor (Bridgend Blue Bulls; Wales A)

Marcus Sainsbury (Bridgend Blue Bulls; Wales A)

Hywel Davies (Bridgend Blue Bulls)

Carl De Chenu (Sheffield Eagles; Ireland RL)

Mark Burke (Aberavon Fighting Irish; Wales A)

Scott O'Kelly (Aberavon Fighting Irish; Wales A)

Dean Scully (Aberavon Fighting Irish; Wales A)

Lee Jones (Aberavon Fighting Irish)

Phil Cushion (Aberavon Fighting Irish)

David Simm (Edinburgh Eagles; Scotland RL)

Neil Davies (Aberavon Fighting Irish; Wales RL)

Geraint Davies (Aberavon Fighting Irish; Wales Students)

Gareth Lewis (Aberavon Fighting Irish)

Andre Boon (Cardiff Demons)

Coach: John Dixon.

Assistant coach: Kevin Ellis.

Fitness coach: Anthony Seibold.

### **07.01.2006 - Crusader Supporters Bus**

The Crusaders have supporter's buses going to the three Northern Train matches for just £20 return! Please take this opportunity to show the English Clubs how the Welsh can play Rugby League.

### **09.01.2006 - Crusading through McArthur Glen**

Please see below the winners of The Crusaders Draw that was successfully held at McArthur Glen over the weekend.

#### **PRIZE DRAW WINNERS**

- \* Limited Edition Celtic Crusaders Autographed Jersey-Kyle Black, Brackla, Bridgend.
- \* Adult Season Ticket-Tina Davies ,Swansea
- \* Junior Season Ticket-Liam O'Connor, Maesteg
- \* VIP Hospitality For Home Game-Stephen Rees, Newport
- \* Travel with 1st Team to an away game for 2-Gareth Padfield, Cardiff
- \* Train with 1st Team-Ian Jones, Blaengarw, Bridgend.

#### **MATCH TICKET FOR CELTIC CRUSADERS 1ST HOME GAME V LONDON SKOLARS 5/3/06**

- \* Kane Smith - Cwmfelin, Maesteg
- \* Justine Thomas - Kenfig Hill
- \* Vicky Elsbury - Bettws, Bridgend
- \* Victoria Davies - Glyncorwg, Port Talbot
- \* Matt Sully - Treos
- \* Andrew Hill - Blaengarw, Bridgend
- \* Harry Davies - Cross Inn, Llantrisant
- \* Ralph Jones - Brackla, Bridgend
- \* Robert Williams - Bargoed

- \* Paul Hughes - Pencoed, Bridgend
- \* Daffyd Williams - Ogmore Vale, Bridgend
- \* Jamie Jones - Neath
- \* Emyr Jones - Ogmore-By-Sea
- \* Julie Williams - Gilfach Goch
- \* Jake Roberts - Bridgend
- \* Jemma Evans - Ystrad,Rhondda
- \* Mark Prime - Bridgend
- \* Colin Lewis - Cardiff
- \* Tony Berry - Gelli,Rhondda
- \* Gareth Carpenter - Caerphilly

#### **11.01.2006 - Sponsor A Try - Launched**

A scheme has been set up to enable true Crusaders as much or as little as they like by 'sponsoring a try.' You can donate the try to someone you wish to remember or as a contribution to a close friend. Please [CLICK HERE](#)

#### **13.01.2006 - O'Callaghan and Seibold Depart for Dublin**

Chief Executive Chris O'Callaghan and Fitness/Conditioning Coach Anthony Seibold depart for Dublin this weekend to watch our opponents in the Northern Rail Cup - The London Skolars.

#### **15.01.2006 - Crusaders Academy v London Harlequins**

The Crusaders coaching staff are to announce their squad for this fixture by the beginning of next week, some of our Crusaders will feature in this game and we welcome all supporters. Kick off is at 2pm on 29.01.06

#### **17.01.2006 - Builder Cements ties with The Crusaders!**

A 55 year old self employed builder from York, became the Celtic Crusader's first ever shirt sponsor, when he won a sponsorship package worth £30K on Tuesday. Drawn live on air during 'Drive Time,' Bridge FM's popular evening show, Malcolm Walker professed to be 'gob smacked' when notified later of his win.

'I was down in Wales to watch the London Broncos v Hull Super League game in the summer and I saw the sponsorship draw scheme being advertised' he said. 'I thought at £299 it was definitely worth a punt. I never thought I'd win but with odds at 100-1 it was better than the Lottery!' he added.

Mr Walker, a York City Knights supporter said that he had friends and family down in Wales, who would share in his windfall. As well as his name on all the shirts, Mr Walker won use of a fully catered hospitality box for a season, programme and perimeter ads and corporate season tickets. 'I'm working with the Crusaders staff to see how I can best utilise my winnings' he said, 'I'm almost sad that York got promoted last year, as I could have entertained all my friends down at Bridgend when both teams played each other' he added.

Crusader's Chief Executive Chris O'Callaghan professed to be a little 'gob smacked' himself when he heard the result. 'We had a great response to the scheme, all hundred tickets were sold and right at the very end we even had a waiting list, some companies bought multiple tickets to shorten their odds of winning. But when I heard the draw on Bridge FM, I had to check on my list to see who MW Builders were.' He went on to add that 'But it just goes to show, that anyone has a chance of winning, we'll be proud and privileged to help Mr Walker market his business, by wearing his company's name on our shirts.'

The Crusaders are already marketing the draw for 2007. 'Mr Walker is so delighted that he's already purchased a ticket for next season', said Chris O'Callaghan 'one down and 99 to go' he said.

If you are interested in finding out about The Celtic Crusaders Shirt Sponsorship Draw then visit [www.celtic-crusaders.com/sponsor\\_shirt.htm](http://www.celtic-crusaders.com/sponsor_shirt.htm) or telephone the Crusaders office on 01656 658535.

### **19.01.2006 - London Skolars - Supporters Tickets**

In conjunction with the Skolars, the Crusaders are delighted to be able to offer supporters who book a place on the supporter's bus for this important away Northern Trains cup match, a discount on their match ticket.

By booking your place now, we will pass on a price reduction directly to you. In the next few weeks our online ticketing system will be going live. You will be able to buy a ticket for the above game from our website £8 adult instead of £12 or £3 junior ticket instead of 35, providing that you are booked on the supporters coach. Join the Crusade.

### **20.01.2006 - Ticketing System to be launched**

The Crusaders ticketing system is to be launched by the end of January. Supporters will be able to successfully buy tickets online, which entitles supporters to a discounted drink at the bar.

### **23.01.2006 - John Dixon arrives 'home'**

John Dixon announces his flight back 'home' to Wales for the 1st February 2006. He welcomes all supporters to let him recover from his flight and join him with the Crusaders at the training sessions, the Northern Rail matches and the road into Super League.

### **27.01.2006 - The Black Stuff**

Crusaders hope to confirm a date for the delayed visit of St Helens RLC. Coach Seibold and Chief Executive Chris O'Callaghan visited Dublin on the weekend to meet with the Mighty Saints – Head

Coach Dan Anderson and CEO Sean McGuire. Pictures will be posted shortly in the photo gallery showing the boys 'on the black stuff'

### **29.01.2006 - Crusaders First Flash**

The Crusaders first every 'streaker' joined us at The Brewery Field this weekend, demonstrating how excited he was at The Crusaders taking the lead for the first half. This unnamed gentleman was eager to show the Australian Players, who were watching in the crowd, how the cold weather effects us all.

### **31.01.2006 - Welcome home John**

CEO Chris O'Callaghan and his Crusaders are looking forward to welcoming John Dixon and his family back into the UK. He arrives tomorrow afternoon, where he will land, be collected from the airport and get dropped straight into Llandarcy to watch his team train.