

Super League Show to be shown in Wales Feb 8, 2008

Celtic Crusaders have welcomed the BBC's decision to show their award winning programme, "The Super League Show" nationally on terrestrial TV for the very first time.

The Super League Show, a rugby league version of "Match of the Day", has been broadcast in the North of England only for a number of years and its unique presentation style has won it a number of awards including the Royal Television Society Sports Awards for best Nations and Regions Sports Actuality Programme for 2006.

But now, as rugby league has grown from its northern heartlands and is played at many levels throughout the United Kingdom, the BBC has chosen to show the programme nationally starting with Super League week two highlights on Sunday night / Monday morning 18 February from 12:25am - 1:10am on BBC2.

Crusaders' Chief Executive David Thompson was delighted at the news commenting: "The BBC's decision is yet another in a long line of endorsements of the progress rugby league has made outside the heartlands over recent years. The former regional programme being aired nationally shows that historical geographic barriers are being knocked down, and rugby league can and will be enjoyed by the whole of the UK.

"With submissions of the Super League licenses just around the corner, everyone involved at the Crusaders is working hard and hoping that we will be featuring on the programme in 12 months time."

All-time great and now with Salford City Reds, Robbie Paul, who is expected turn out against Celtic Crusaders later this year, is a regular studio guest and he'll be joined each week by other familiar faces from the world of rugby league.

The Crusaders play their first competitive home match of the season at the Brewery Field in Bridgend on Saturday 16th February against Sheffield Eagles in the Northern Rail Cup (kick-off 5.30pm).

2008 Yearbook on sale this Saturday Feb 13, 2008

The Celtic Crusaders 2008 Yearbook will be on sale in the clubshop this Saturday at the Sheffield Eagles match (kick-off 5.30pm).

To celebrate, we are introducing a special offer where you can buy this year's yearbook and get the 2007 book for half-price.

The Yearbook costs £4.99, exactly the same as last year's, so you can get both books for under £7.50. A special Northern Rail Cup programme will also be on sale.

Crusaders take advantage of science.....Body Science Feb 20, 2008

Celtic Crusaders are proud to announce that Body Science (BSc) will serve as the club's official supplement

supplier and official sports compression supplier for the 2008 Rugby League season.

Body Science is acknowledged as one of Australia's market leaders in dietary supplements and sports compression manufacturing, having worked with the Great Britain, Australian and New Zealand Rugby League teams.

Celtic Crusaders' chief executive David Thompson said: "We've always prided ourselves in supplying the players with the best supplements available which is why we've recruited Body Science. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the company and we look forward to seeing the results on the pitch at the Brewery Field this season."

UK General Manager for Body science, Martin Benetar said: "When I was contacted by Celtic Crusader we had no hesitation in sponsoring the Crusaders, our commitment will be ongoing, with the great working relationship we already have with the staff it will ensure the players are receiving the best and correct supplementation to help them achieve their goals.

"We endeavour to assist the coaching staff in bringing success to a club like Celtic Crusaders because we quickly realized the supporters, club and players deserve it.

"We would also like to extend the same personal touch we provide the players to ALL the supporters of Celtic Crusaders. So let us show you that sports and lifestyle Nutrition is not just for competitive athletes but also for those who have busy lifestyles. So whether you're a mum, dad or grandma our product range caters for all."

If your goals are to feel healthier, get leaner or perhaps lose enough weight to fit into your much loved Crusaders kit then e-mail info@bscbodyscience.co.uk and quote "Crusaders Well Being" for a complimentary "BSc Well being Pack" and start the journey today!

Wales Schools Finals Day

Feb 20, 2008

Tuesday 19th February saw the kick off of a new era for schools rugby league in the principality with the inaugural Wales Schools Finals Day, held on a bright sunny day at Celtic Crusaders' Brewery Field in Bridgend.

Schools rugby league in Wales has been going for some years now in the Carnegie Champion Schools tournament, with Brynteg Comprehensive's Year 7 side beating Castleford High to win the trophy at the Millennium Stadium in 2005. However this year, for the very first time, the two best teams in each year group were given the chance to compete for the Wales Schools Cup.

Both of the finalists in each year will progress to the national stages of the tournament, however the aim of this day, the first of an annual event, was to reward the best schools in Wales.

In the year 7 game Porthcawl Comprehensive enjoyed their first foray into the competition by beating Monmouth Comprehensive comfortably 60-16 with the wide expanses of the Brewery Field proving a big advantage for their pacy backs.

At year 8 it was much closer game with St Josephs of Aberavon facing Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. In what was the game of the day, Cwm Rhymni finished winners after a couple of late scores winning 28-18 with slick handling and robust defence proving a great combination.

The year 9 final was a tough encounter with Brynteg making the short trip across town to play Croesyceiliog Comprehensive. This was billed as a tight game and it lived up to the hype with outstanding performances from both teams. After some sterling defensive work and fluid attacking Croesyceiliog were triumphant 36-10. There were stand out performances from both sides, with a lot of the Wales under 14s squad on show. In the year 10 game, Brynteg continued their good run of form as a year group, running home comfortable winners over Brynmawr Comprehensive 46-0. Since winning the national competition at year 7 in the Millennium Stadium, this year group continue to excel as being the top team in Wales.

Celtic Crusaders' Neale Wyatt was on hand to present the trophies for the first two finals and he said: "I really enjoyed the matches. It was easy to see that they these games were finals as they were played at a very high standard. The games were competitive and also played in good spirit. I look forward to seeing all of the kids back at the Brewery Field this season as Crusaders fans."

To top the day off for the youngsters, Celtic Crusaders announced that as a reward for their dedication to the sport, all players would receive a free junior season ticket for 2008.

Wales Rugby League development officer Dan Clements said: "This is a great way for the Celtic Crusaders to recognise the efforts of everyone involved in the schools rugby league programme. The teachers and pupils worked tirelessly from September leading up to today's games, often giving up their spare time after school.

"This year's Carnegie Champion Schools tournament has been a resounding success in Wales with more participants right across the board and it has led to more games and improved performances on the pitch. To cap it off at a Welsh Schools finals day has been great. Being at the home of the Celtic Crusaders has added to the occasion immensely, in terms of enjoyment and experience and all the participants had a smile on their face all day".

Whitehaven switch Crusaders matchdate Feb 26, 2008

Celtic Crusaders have agreed to switch their away tie against Whitehaven to a Friday night.

The match, that was originally due to be played on Sunday 13th April, will now be played two days earlier with a 7pm kick-off.

The Cumbrian side are making the move to try to boost attendances and Celtic Crusaders Supporters Club Chairman Andy Burns is encouraging fans to make an overnight trip to boost the following and to support the Crusaders Colts on the Saturday.

"This is our longest trip of the season and a tough place to get to," he said. "However, the Colts are facing a tough trip to Featherstone Lions on Saturday 12th April and they're going to need our support as much as the first team that weekend."

“If we get enough interest, we’ll go up on the Friday, support the first team at Whitehaven, stay overnight in Cumbria, before cheering the youngsters on the next day. Hopefully we’ll see two Crusaders wins in the space of 24 hours.”

“Celtic Crusaders are full-time and we thought it realistic to ask them,” said Whitehaven director Barry Richardson.

“With the side they are building, it should be an attractive game.”

Doncaster thank Crusaders fans for support

Feb 26, 2008

Doncaster RLFC have thanked the Crusaders fans for adding to the atmosphere on a classic night of rugby league at the Keepmoat Stadium last Friday.

The Crusaders beat the Dons 30-22 in an exciting finish after the Dons led by two points with just four minutes left on the clock.

Their chairman Craig Harrison and CEO Shane Miller have contacted the Crusaders to say how much they enjoyed the support that their fans gave to the game and thanks them for making the long trip to South Yorkshire on a cold Friday night.

“We’re very much looking forward to the return game in Bridgend on Saturday March 15th” they said in a joint statement.

Brewery Field extravaganza planned for Saturday

Feb 27, 2008

Celtic Crusaders are planning an extravaganza for St David’s Day when they host London Skolars at the Brewery Field (kick-off 5.30pm).

The first event is a traditional Welsh costume fancy dress competition for all primary school children. This will be judged by members of the Crusaders’ side and the winner with the best looking costume will be presented with their prize at half-time by Crusaders season ticket holder, Carwyn Jones AM.

In addition to the individual prize for the winner, which is a Crusaders goodie bag containing a season ticket and other souvenirs, the entire winner’s school will be invited to attend the Crusaders v Doncaster match on Saturday 15th March free of charge.

Also at half-time, a world record attempt will be judged.

Bridgend College are attempting to beat the world record for the largest Welsh Cake which currently stands at 4ft 6 in diameter. Their aim is to top five foot to get themselves in the record books.

The cake is being rolled at the college at midday and will be baked by 2pm before being transported to the Brewery Field. After the official measurements have been completed, the cake will be cut and sold to the

fans with all money being split between the Samaritans and to the Porthcawl Counselling Service.

Carwyn Jones said: "If we can pull this off, it will be a great Welsh achievement.

"I thank the Crusaders for hosting the world's biggest Welsh Cake record attempt and the hard working students and staff at Bridgend College for their efforts. Brackla Co-op kindly donated the ingredients and Burnt Tree supplied the transport, so my thanks also go out to them.

"What better way to celebrate St. David's Day than with the best in Welsh rugby, and a slice of Welsh Cake?"

Challenge Cup Third Round Draw Feb 28, 2008

Celtic Crusaders have been drawn at home to Russian champions Lokomotiv Moscow in the Third Round of the Carnegie Rugby League Challenge Cup in a repeat of the 2006 tie.

The match will be played on Sunday 9th March, kick-off 12pm and a win for either side could mean a draw against a Super League club in Round Four.

The Muscovites will be hoping to improve on their 64-4 third-round defeat in Bridgend in 2006 when they make a return visit to the Brewery Field next month.

The Russians lost 60-20 at Swinton last year and face another stiff test against the Crusaders, who were National League Two champions in 2007.

Leading French club Pia, who beat Blackpool last year to reach the fourth round, will fancy their chances of overcoming Gateshead Thunder – while Toulouse and Lezignan meet Keighley and Sheffield Eagles respectively.

In the two all-National League club ties, York meet Halifax and Featherstone go to Blackpool.

Leeds Metropolitan University, the competition sponsors' own team, have landed something of a plum home tie with Ellery Hanley's Doncaster.

The draw (ties to be played on March 8 and 9) is: Sheffield Eagles v Lezignan, York City Knights v Halifax, Leeds Metropolitan University v Doncaster, Blackpool v Featherstone Rovers, Wath Brow Hornets v Swinton, Rochdale v York Acorn, London Skolars v Queens Bank, Quay Bulls v Hunslet, British Army v Oldham, Leigh Centurions v Featherstone Lions, Batley v East Hull, Wigan St Pats v Workington, Keighley v Toulouse, Gateshead v Pia, Celtic Crusaders v Lokomotiv Moscow, Mayfield v Barrow, Widnes v Skirlaugh, Oulton Raiders v Dewsbury, Salford v Warrington Wizards, Leigh Miners Rangers v Whitehaven.