

## **Ellis comments on new points system**

Feb 8, 2007, 12:58pm

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Celtic Crusaders v Widnes Vikings (Fri)

Friday, 9 February

Brewery Field

Kick-off: 1930 GMT

Northern Rail Cup

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Celtic Crusaders and Widnes Vikings will be the first sides to compete under the new Rugby League points system when they open the new season at the Brewery Field this Friday (kick-off 7.30pm).

Three points will now be awarded for a win, two for a draw and one point to a side who loses by less than 12 points. This points system will be used in both the Northern Rail Cup and the National Leagues but not in Super League.

Crusaders' assistant coach Kevin Ellis, who played for Widnes for three months back in 1997, believes that this is a good system.

"It means that teams will play right up to the 80 minutes," said Ellis. "Last season, once teams knew that the game was lost, they would sometimes take their foot off the gas. Now, with the option of a point, teams will keep going right up until the end and this will lead to even more exciting games than we have already."

Ellis enjoyed his brief stay at Widnes but says that there is little chance of him pulling on his boots again to face them or any other professional rugby league team this season.

"My professional playing days are over unless we get a horrendous injury count," Ellis smiles. "I'll still be turning out for Maesteg in the rugby union premierships until the end of this season, I'll hopefully have one or two games with the Blue Bulls this summer and we'll see what happens with Maesteg next season."

The match between Crusaders and Widnes is the opening match of a four-team Northern Rail Cup group. London Skolars and Leigh Centurions are the other two sides and they face each other at the New River Stadium in London on Sunday.

A special souvenir brochure will be on sale at the match on Friday previewing the entire Northern Rail Cup group. Priced at just £3, it contains information on all of the Crusaders' opponents in the group stages, a new team poster, all the squads plus news on the Supporters Club and Junior Cru.

## **Rugby legend appointed Crusaders president**

Feb 15, 2007, 3:02pm

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RUGBY legend Jonathan Davies has been appointed President of Celtic Crusaders. His role will be an honorary position but he will be attending Crusaders games and was a guest of honour at the Brisbane Broncos match on Thursday night.

Davies, who played for Widnes, Warrington, Canterbury Bulldogs, North Queensland Cowboys, Wales and Great Britain during his illustrious career, said: "I was pleased to

accept the role of Honorary President of Celtic Crusaders and I hope my appointment will go a step further to raising the profile of the game in Wales.

"There's a place in Wales for both codes as the seasons are mainly at different times of the year so this gives players the opportunity to try their hands at both codes with the Crusaders or the Conference sides.

"I hope the Crusaders make it into Super League in a few years. They need to make sure that they have their structure in place and they need a lot of support from the Rugby Football League as well to make this possible."

Davies will be talking about his appointment on the ITV1 Wales news programme, Wales Tonight, this Friday (16th) from 6pm.