

VS DONCASTER RLFC

13.5.18

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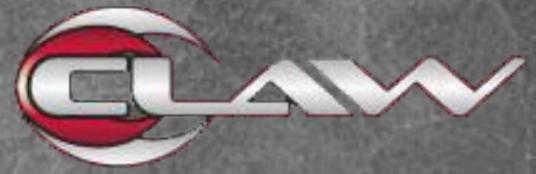
WELCOME TO STEBO

Ground Address
 Stebonheath Park, Llanelli, SA15 1EY

Website
www.raidersrugbyleague.co.uk

Social
 Twitter: @WWRaidersRL
 Facebook: facebook.com/wwraidersrl

Clubhouse
 Stebonheath Sports Bar, SA15 1EY
 Contact@stebomgt.co.uk
 01554 754087



Club Personnel

Directors - Andrew Thorne, Ian Curzon, Aneurin Gravell, Peter Tiffin
 interim Head Coach - Phil Carleton
 Head of Medical - Bianca Zeitsman
 Sports Therapist - Llyr Lloyd
 Strength & Conditioning - Liam Curnow / Rob Simon
 Website - Andy Thorne / Rob Butland
 Digital Media & Matchday Programme - Rob Butland (breakerfall.uk)

Vs Doncaster RLFC



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Peter Tiffin
Welcomes you to
Stebonheath Park

Firstly I would like to welcome Doncaster and their fans to Stebonheath Park.

It's been a very difficult couple of weeks at the club so it's really nice to be back at our home ground. Stebonheath Park our home ground of the last 3 years is such a wonderful place and I for one am proud to call it our home, the people behind the scenes from the ground-staff, stewards and hospitality staff work so hard to make it a top venue.

We have been very heavily spoken about recently all over the world with our recent results, we would like to thank everyone for their kind words and we will continue to proceed with our plans as we have so much going on behind the scenes, one of our big announcements will be revealed very soon so keep an eye out for that.

Hope you all enjoy your day at our home & if you see me walking around don't hesitate to stop me as I'm always happy to chat.

Diolch



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Phil Carleton ***Talks about a new start*** ***for Rugby League in*** ***West Wales.***

Afternoon all,
I hope some of this weeks sunshine has carried over to the weekend and the Stebo pitch is looking as good as ever. Thanks to the ground staff as always who somehow keep this pitch in immaculate condition.

Well its no secret and we are under no illusions who are the favourites for today. You'd have to have lived under a rock for a month not to know West Wales are very much in a transitional period at the moment.. And to all those sceptics and disbelievers out there; we know very much what and where we are. We aren't happy about the situation but the difference between you and I (us) is that we are working real hard to change that. In time you will see those steps forward and I hope, come to realise it ain't always easy. That said it doesn't mean it can't be done! Watch our media feeds for news this week!

Now on to today; The important stuff. As alluded to above Donny come here clear favourites. We have been working hard again, in the short time we have had, to get better and make their lives a little harder. Our aim is to send Donny home safely but having had a physical game and having worked for every inch of pitch they have gained.

Best of luck to both teams today and I hope you all enjoy the game.

An extended thank you to all you guys in support. your attendance is much appreciated and I hope the game is enjoyable. Also a final thanks to everyone at the club, on field and off. As mentioned it hasn't been easy the last few weeks, we could have easily folded and gone away. But through your commitment, dedication and belief we still stand. Soon i am sure those further a field will see us in a more favourable light. That's been down to you.. Thank you again.

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Register via link or e-mail peter.tiffin@walesrugbyleague.co.uk



LLANELLI KNIGHTS

FIXTURES 2018

BRIDGEND BLUE BULLS	AWAY	SATURDAY 12TH MAY
TORFAEN TIGERS	HOME	SATURDAY 19TH MAY
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SEMI FINAL PLAY-OFF	TBC	SATURDAY 4TH AUGUST
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GRAND FINALS DAY	TBC	SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST





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INTERNATIONAL SCENE

THE LATEST NEWS FROM WWW.WALESRUGBYLEAGUE.CO.UK



Wales captain Craig Kopczak has announced his retirement from international rugby league.

The current skipper of Salford Red Devils, the 31-year old has also turned out for Bradford Bulls, Halifax and Huddersfield Giants in this, his 13th season in the professional game.

Wales heritage #442, he made his debut on October 28th 2007 in Wales' 50-10 friendly win over Papua New Guinea. He won the last of his 22 caps just over 10 years later in last year's World Cup. He scored his only international try against England in 2009. He is in eighth place in the list for most caps for Wales.

He was appointed Wales captain in 2012 and became the national side's 44th skipper. He led Wales 13 times, joint second in the country's history, the same number of times as David Watkins and Lee Briers, and just five behind Jim Sullivan's 18 games as captain.

Wales' player of the tournament during the 2011 Four Nations and captain during the 2013 and 2017 Rugby League World Cups, his greatest success as skipper was when he led Wales to beating France, Scotland and Ireland to win the 2015 European Championships.

But Kopczak was more than a captain on the field for Wales, his responsibilities went far further than that. His final contribution as Wales captain came in February this year when the Wales under 23 side needed a boost for day two of the Commonwealth Championships in Australia. He took time out to send a video message over to Australia wishing them luck, such was his commitment to the cause at every level for Wales Rugby League.

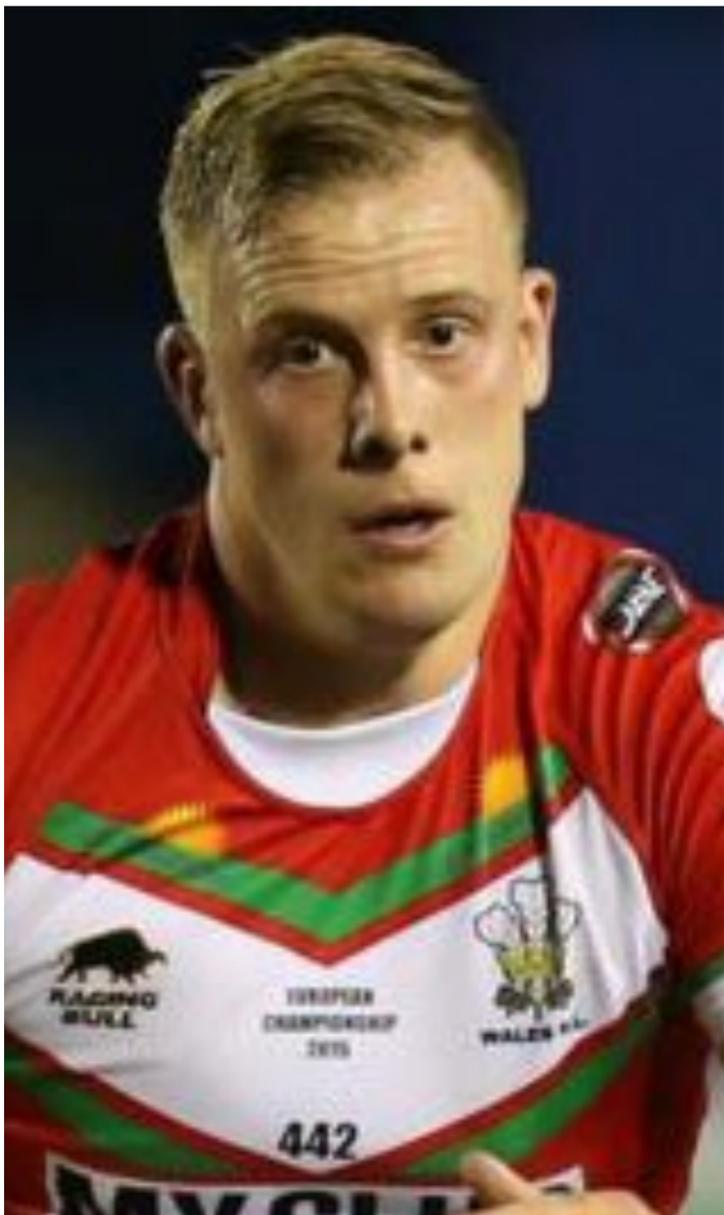
Kopczak said: "I have had the honour of representing Wales Rugby League on 22 occasions over the last 10 years and captaining the side for 13 games, and each and every game has been an absolute privilege.

"My highlight was captaining Wales in both the 2013 and 2017 World Cups. This was more than I ever imagined possible after making my debut in 2007 and these memories will stay with me forever



INTERNATIONAL SCENE

THE LATEST NEWS FROM WWW.WALESRUGBYLEAGUE.CO.UK



“Unfortunately the time has come where I am to retire from international Rugby League and concentrate on my club rugby with Salford, allowing the new generation of Wales youngsters to take the mantle into the 2021 World Cup.

“I would like to personally thank all the coaches and players who I have worked with over the years and we will always remain friends. Mostly I’d like to thank my family who have supported me when Wales and international Rugby League has taken my downtime away at the end of every Super League season. This is never easy but never have they complained.

“I will always hold Wales Rugby League in my heart and hopefully have an involvement in the future in some capacity.”

Wales head coach John Kear has paid tribute to his outgoing skipper.

He said: “Craig’s been a great servant to Wales Rugby League. He’d lead Wales into two World Cups, won the European Championship as captain and spearheaded World Cup qualification in 2016.

“His achievements are well documented, his contribution to the cause can’t be faulted. We had a disappointing World Cup campaign last time around, which I’m sure isn’t how he wanted to go out, but he’s put in lots of hard work in over the numerous years.

“Craig will be missed as he led well on and off the field. There will be a get together of possible squad members in August and after that meeting, we’ll speak to some senior squad members to decide on a new captain, but right now, it’s respectful for Craig to thank him personally as coach and from Wales Rugby League as an organisation for his fantastic contribution over the last 11 years.”

(Images - www.ianlovell.com) (bottom left - BBC)

A LOOK AT THE DONCASTER OPPOSITION



Nickname - The Dons

Donny keyfacts

Stadium - Keepmoat Stadium

Founded - 1951

Home Colours - Royal Blue with Yellow Detail.

Chairman - John Scarrow

Coach - Richard Thorne

Interesting fact - The club is run by the same operators who oversee Doncaster Rovers Football Club. Both clubs share resources and staff in some areas to cut costs and provide a 'one club' approach to the two largest sports in the town.

Vs Doncaster RLFC





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With Director,
Andy Thorne

CLUB UPDATE

With everything going on at the club, we took the opportunity to catch up with club chief Andy Thorne and find out a little more about the current situation!

1. Andy tell us more about what prompted the decision to change the coach?

Changing a coach mid season is never a good thing, particularly for a new club like us. Jon has done some great things with the Raiders to help us get where we are but for the club to move on we needed to make a change. Some people will say the club are in the wrong regarding replacing Jon, but with all things there is always more to the story, which will remain between the Club and Jon.

2. What changes have you seen so far since the decision? What has the reaction been like?

I think the difficulty we had was the ability to recruit players and get the best out of the players we have. That's started to change now and we are recruiting experienced players.

3. What news can we expect to hear coming out of the club in the coming weeks?

I can't give to much away yet as we still have some moving parts to sort out, but there will be some changes both on and off the field.

4. Away from the pitch, how's the club faring?

We have had a tough start to the season, we have played 7 games all away except for 1, with 2 of them being over night stays, so financially we have had to work hard, this added to sorting out the financial mess left by the old ironmen board has definitely kept us on our toes. On the rugby side we have been been working hard on developing the future, we have worked closely with coleg cymoedd to get the category 3 academy full established, we have been working with two universities to give players from outside of





CLUB UPDATE



wales another option, and finally we have established a new community Club who currently have a senior team, under 13 and under 15. The junior sections currently have over 70 kids registered. That in itself shows the growth of the sport in this area due to the work being put in by the Club.

5. It's nice to finally have a home game after such a long time, what is your message to fans who are discouraged by the recent scorelines?

I think fans who actually follow the club will know what's going on, the clubs we have played against who have put big scores past us are either a full time club or have a team with half of their players coming from super league, the standard in this league is really high and getting players ready for this league is not going to happen over night. As a Club we decided that money would be best spent on developing the future welsh players rather than buying playing from the north, however we do understand that we need to be more competitive so we will look at what players we need to help develop the future players. All I can ask is stick with us we will get there

6. Finally, what positives are you taking from the first part of the season? And what changes do you want to see approaching the half way mark?

The first part of the season has definitely been a steep learning curve both on and off the pitch, however the lessons have been invaluable, we have seen lots of positives since starting, crowds are up on what they have been the last couple of years, we have plenty of support from business through sponsorship and partnerships and kids playing the game has increased. For the second part of the season we need to stabilise our squad and become more competitive. I'm confident we will turn the corner and get the Club on the map for the right reasons.





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Vs Doncaster RLFC





Name - Morgan Evans

Age - 26

Hometown - Caerphilly

Position - Prop

Representative Honours - Wales

Favourite RL Player - Shaun Johnson

First Car - Ford Fiesta

Favourite Restaurant - Wetherspoons with the lads

Worst Dressed player - Stevie "batman daps" Parry

Biggest Joker in the team - Shaun "tinder" Tennant

Most intelligent player in the team - Nye "chicken baahht" Walker

Favourite Film - Twin Town

If someone was to play you in a film about yourself who would it be - Ryan Reynolds

Q&A...

Name - Connor Parker

Age - 20

Hometown - Aberdare

Position - Prop

Representative Honours - Wales 16's

Favourite RL Player - Sam Burgess

First Car - Mercedes A-Class

Favourite Restaurant - Viva Brazil

Worst Dressed player - Morgan 'Crocs' Evans

Biggest Joker in the team - Shaun Tennant

Most intelligent player in the team - Macauley Harris

Favourite Film - Step Brothers

If someone was to play you in a film about yourself who would it be - Johnny Sins





2018 FIXTURES

FEBRUARY

18 NEWCASTLE THUNDER (H)

MAY

6 BRADFORD BULLS (A)

19 OLDHAM (H)

27 HUNSLET (A)

AUGUST

4 HUNSLET (H)

11 YORK CITY KNIGHTS (H)

18 COVENTRY BEARS (H)



MARCH

4 DONCASTER (H)

11 WORKINGTON TOWN (A)

25 COVENTRY BEARS (A)

30 NOR. WAL. CRUSADERS (H)

JUNE

9 HEMEL STAGS (H)

17 KEIGHLEY COUGARS (A)

23 WHITEHAVEN (H)

30 LONDON SKOLARS (H)

SEPTEMBER

2 NOR. WAL. CRUSADERS (A)

9 BRADFORD BULLS (H)

16 KEIGHLEY COUGARS (H)

23 NEWCASTLE THUNDER (A)



APRIL

7 LONDON SKOLARS (A)

15 WHITEHAVEN (A)

29 YORK CITY KNIGHTS (A)

JULY

8 OLDHAM (A)

15 DONCASTER (A)

21 WORKINGTON TOWN (H)

29 HEMEL STAGS (A)

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New Kids on the Block!



Llanelli Knights are the brand new amateur side set up to replace the West Wales Raiders in the welsh premier league.

The Llanelli Knights will play and train from a Llanelli based location and will also play a few games as curtain raisers to the West Wales Raiders at Stebonheath Park.

Even though the Raiders have set up the Llanelli Knights not all players will play for the knights if not selected for the raiders. To keep the amateur game strong we want all players to return to their local side.

If anyone would like anymore information please contact us on info@raidersrugbyleague.co.uk

LLANELLI KNIGHTS

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THE RUGBY LEAGUE PATHWAY



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TOUCH JUDGES:
T SCOTT & A GILL



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SHAUN TENNANT
NYE WALKER
SAM BAKER
KARLIN CLARIDGE
DANNY HUNTER
MORGAN EVANS (C)
MACAULEY HARRIS
ALAN POPE
CONNOR PARKER
ARCHIE SNOOK
STEVE PARRY
CONNOR FARRER
DALTON D-WALKER
ELLIS SIMON
HARRY BOOTS
ROB BONEHILL
LOUIS FORD

CONNOR BOWER
RYAN BOYLE
ZAC BRAHAM
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JACK DOWNS
JORDIE HEDGES
AARON JONES-BISHOP
KYLE KESIK
FRANKIE MARIANO
JACK MILLER
HAKIM MILOUDI
JASON MURANKA
ROSS OSBORNE
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JACK SANDERSON
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JASON TALI
LIAM WELHAM
BRENDAN WILKINSON