



August 2009

Cummings Comments

Stuart Cummings, the RFL's Match Officials Director, is a great advocate of the 9s brand of rugby league

" We were delighted to officiate at the inaugural Carnegie Floodlit 9s in 2008.

The full panel of selected referees enjoyed the whole occasion."

The RFL's match officials department has been instrumental in the rise of 9s as Neal Coupland, Carnegie Floodlit 9s and Cheltenham 9s Director, points out

" The 9s circuit of events is developing apace.

Without the guidance and support of Stuart and his colleagues we would not have achieved the current rate of success.

At the end of each tournament in Leeds and Cheltenham we consult with the match officials to determine whether the rules need any refining or adjusting. "

Cummings continues " We had a full debrief after the Headingley Carnegie event last year and remain confident that the rules enable the players to display their great skills and fitness and the fans to be thrilled by the non-stop action. "

The one amendment to this year's competition will be the reduction of the sin bin to two minutes instead of five.

As Stuart stresses " this is more in proportion to the length of each match as the duration of 9s ' games is 15 minutes. "

All routes lead to Headingley Carnegie Stadium on Wednesday August 26 when Huddersfield Giants will defend their 9s title against a strong field including the winners of the Northern Rail and Cheltenham competitions.

A significant benefit of the 9s series of matches is that it enables countries new to the sport to experience the thrill and excitement of the short form of the game.

Jamaica will provide intriguing viewing this year for the game's fans.

There is also an extra bonus as Stuart Cummings concludes

" We are optimistic that Jamaica's entry will produce - alongside ever increasing popularity in the sport - a further cementing of the match officials structure in that country. "

The 'Rugby League's fastest man' competition will be held before the showpiece final of the Carnegie Floodlit nines. Stars from the game including Scott Donald, Kevin Penny and James Ford will bid to be crowned the quickest player in rugby league. The challenge was devised by the Carnegie Nines organisers, who have partnered with tournament sponsors Carnegie, Northern Rail and Totesport, to bring this exciting event to build on the burgeoning reputation of the Headingley floodlit event. The competitors will line up in full playing kit and sprint 90m along the famous Headingley turf without a ball.

Tickets are on sale now for the Carnegie Floodlit Nines from the Headingley Carnegie ticket office. You can book them in person or by calling 0871 423 1315 or you can buy online 24 hours a day by logging on to www.floodlit9s.co.uk

The 2009 Carnegie Floodlit Nines will host 12 senior teams including six engage Super League clubs. 9s Rugby has a heritage which can be traced as far back as 1883 when the Batley club became the first ever 9s winners in a tournament played in their home town.

ENDS

For further details please contact Mark Dorey at Leeds Met on 0113 812 3021 or email m.dorey@leedsmet.ac.uk

Totesport has also compiled odds on all of the confirmed competitors for the race to find 'Rugby League's fastest man'

Current odds are:

Kevin Penny	2/1	Warrington Wolves
Scott Donald	4/1	Leeds Rhinos
Dave Halley	9/2	Bradford Bulls & Wales
Peter Fox	5/1	Hull KR & England
Craig Calvert	6/1	Whitehaven and Cumbria
Roy Calvert	6/1	Duhaney Park Sharks & Jamaica
Johnny Leather	10/1	Blackpool Panthers
Luke George	8/1	Wakefield Wildcats
Amos Roberts	12/1	Wigan Warriors
James Ford	12/1	Castleford Tigers
James Nixon	6/1	Barrow & Cumbria

Kingsman Bulitautin 12/1 Army 2 Lancs

The Carnegie 9s draw in full:

Qualifying Group A: Jamaica, Cumbria RL, Leeds Met Carnegie

Qualifying Group B: Army RL, Royal Navy, Blackpool Panthers

Round 2

Hull FC v Group A winners

Warrington Wolves v Leeds Rhinos

Hull KR v Wakefield Wildcats

Huddersfield Giants v Group B winners

Please see www.floodlit9s.co.uk for ticket info.

Notes for editors:**Carnegie Floodlit Nines**

The Carnegie Floodlit 9s will be a one-day rugby league 9s tournament, which will host 12 senior teams including six engage super league clubs. Preceding the showpiece event, an invitational junior tournament will take place. The competition will take place on Wednesday August 26 at Headingley Carnegie Stadium.

Leeds Metropolitan University

- Leeds Metropolitan University has 30,000 students and over 300,000 associate students through its partnerships with 24 colleges.
- The University is home to The UK Centre for Coaching Excellence.
- Leeds Met Carnegie is the primary partner of rugby league's Carnegie Challenge Cup.