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For immediate release

de la Rivière backs Hull for Nines

Rugby League World Editor Richard de la Rivière has encouraged struggling Hull FC to emulate the Huddersfield Giants and use the Carnegie Floodlit 9s as the springboard for future success. The Black and Whites currently in 11th place in the Engage Super League have found themselves in a similar position to that of Huddersfield Giants in 2008. The Giants stormed to victory in the inaugural Floodlit 9s and haven't looked back since with outstanding form in the League and Cup.

Speaking in this month's issue of Rugby League World which comes out on Friday de la Rivière said:

'Jordan Tansey, Gareth Raynor, Kirk Yeaman, Mark Calderwood and Jodie Broughton would be sensational 9s players and would give the club's fans something to cheer about if they're unleashed at Headingley'

Tansey and Broughton are no strangers to 9s having played for Leeds in last year's event. Their new club Hull FC have only a mathematical chance of making the play offs this season and their only opportunity of major honours would be the Carnegie Floodlit 9s.

'It could even galvanise the club, lift the morale and spring board them to better things as it Huddersfield, who were struggling near the foot of Super League a year ago. Look at the Giants now!'

The Carnegie Floodlit 9s is growing in popularity amongst the Super League Clubs with the further inclusion of a 6th team namely Warrington Wolves this year.

Hull FC will play in the first quarter final of the evening against the winners of qualifying Group A and could meet arch rivals Hull KR in the semi finals should they themselves beat Wakefield Wildcats in the second quarter final. The qualifying Group will be contested between Jamaica, Cumbria and Leeds Met Carnegie.

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

A Four Page Event Guide is also available in Rugby League World magazine

ENDS

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

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. The

competition will take place on Wednesday August 26 at Headingley Carnegie Stadium.

History of 9s:

The first recorded event was held in 1883 in Batley and was won by Batley.

In 1888 Kendal Hornets won the Northern Counties 9s Challenge Cup.

Schedule:

4pm Gates Open

4.30 - 6.30 Group Games

6.30 - 6.50 under 8s

6.50 - 8.10 Quarter Finals

8.10 - 8.30 under 8s

8.30 - 9.10 Semi-Finals

9.10 - 9.30 Sprint and Presentation

9.30 - 10.00 - Final and Presentation

RL's Fastest Man Sprint:

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
James Nixon	6/1	Barrow and Cumbria
Roy Calvert	6/1	Duhaney Park Sharks & Jamaica
Luke George	8/1	Wakefield Wildcats
Amos Roberts	12/1	Wigan Warriors
James Ford	12/1	Castleford Tigers
Johnny Leather	12/1	Blackpool Panthers
Kingsman Bulitautin	12/1	British Army
Tangi Ropati	tbc	Sheffield Eagles & Samoa
Hull FC and Huddersfield Giants - awaiting declaration		

The Carnegie 9s draw in full:

Qualifying Group A: Jamaica , Cumbria RL, Leeds Met Carnegie
Qualifying Group B: Army RL, Royal Navy, Blackpool Panthers

4.30 - 4.50 Leeds Met University v Jamaica

4.50 - 5.10 Army v Royal Navy

5.10 - 5.30 Leeds Met. v University v Cumbria

5.30 - 5.50 Army v Blackpool Panthers

5.50 - 6.10 Cumbria v Jamaica

6.10 - 6.30 Blackpool Panthers v Royal Navy

Quarter-Finals

6.50 - 7.10 Hull FC v Group A Winners

7.10 - 7.30 Hull Kingston Rovers v Wakefield Trinity Wildcats

7.30 - 7.50 Huddersfield Giants v Group B Winners

7.50 - 8.10 Leeds Rhinos v Warrington Wolves

Semi - Finals

8.30 - 8.50 Winners of QF 1 v Winners of QF 2

8.50 - 9.10 Winners of QF 3 v Winners of QF 4

Final

9.30 - 9.50 Winners of SF 1 v Winners of SF 2

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

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.