

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAPLAINCY

— SUPPORTING THE FAMILY OF THE FAMILY GAME —

**SPORTS
CHAPLAINCY UK**
SERVING SPORT THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN CHAPLAINCY

IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Our Focus

Sports Chaplaincy UK works in partnership with the RFL and the rest of the rugby league community to support, encourage and to be a safe port of call for those who may need support.

Our Objectives

Sports Chaplaincy UK is the charity that facilitates, trains, supports and encourages chaplains for the benefit of the whole rugby league community; people of faith and of no faith. It is recognised that there is a need for high quality pastoral and spiritual care. This generally involves visiting offices and training facilities on a weekly basis and being available to listen and bring support to all. Each chaplain will bring with them a vast range of skills, knowledge and expertise. A chaplain should be extremely supportive, bring a non-judgemental, listening ear and an empathetic and compassionate presence.

Sports Chaplaincy UK Values

Presence, talks about being there. A Chaplain becomes a connection point from which a journey of building trust and building relationship begins.

Excellence, in everything that a Chaplain does and say, a Chaplain should be continually looking to improve their pastoral skills which are extremely valuable.

Relationship, Chaplains are by their very nature relational, so when engaging with people they need to be sensitive and compassionate.

Confidential, a Chaplain must be a trusted and safe port of call.

Humility, a Chaplain must be beyond reproach which talks about integrity with a focus on serving and not seeking kudos for themselves.

A photograph of a rugby player in a red jersey being supported by others on a field. The player is lying on their back, and several people are holding them up. The background is a green field.

Sports Chaplaincy UK has had the privilege of providing chaplaincy to the rugby league community for over 20 years. More recently this work was headed up by Warren Evans (Sports Chaplaincy UK CEO) and now by Paul Johnson, who became chaplain at St Helens RFC in 2012. Throughout these years, relationships have been built with players, coaches and the whole staff and volunteer base at clubs and with match officials via visits to training facilities, stadia and community clubs. Chaplaincy recognises that a healthy heart and mind is needed to go alongside the physical strength and tactical awareness that rugby league staff need to achieve their potential and achieve their dreams.

The Need For A Chaplain

Pastoral care encompasses a wide variety of issues and offers support at times of personal crises as well as during everyday life. Problems faced by the rugby league are no different to those faced by society as a whole but, there are some features unique to the sporting world, which create an additional need for chaplaincy support:

- * The highs and lows of the rugby league lifestyle.
- * A high number of young people who are forging a career in the spotlight of their own communities, often needing a confidential listening ear.
- * The need to incorporate overseas players and their families into local life.
- * High odds against becoming a successful player can lead to feelings of failure and despair.
- * The work is physically demanding and potentially dangerous.
- * Injured players often require ongoing care to keep mentally fit whilst recovering physically.
- * Intense and unique working hours.
- * Preparation for life after rugby league, in collaboration with player welfare services.

Sporting Life



“I would encourage all players the importance of talking and getting things off their chests. Chaplains need to remind the players that the support is there and they can talk to them about anything - talking is so important”

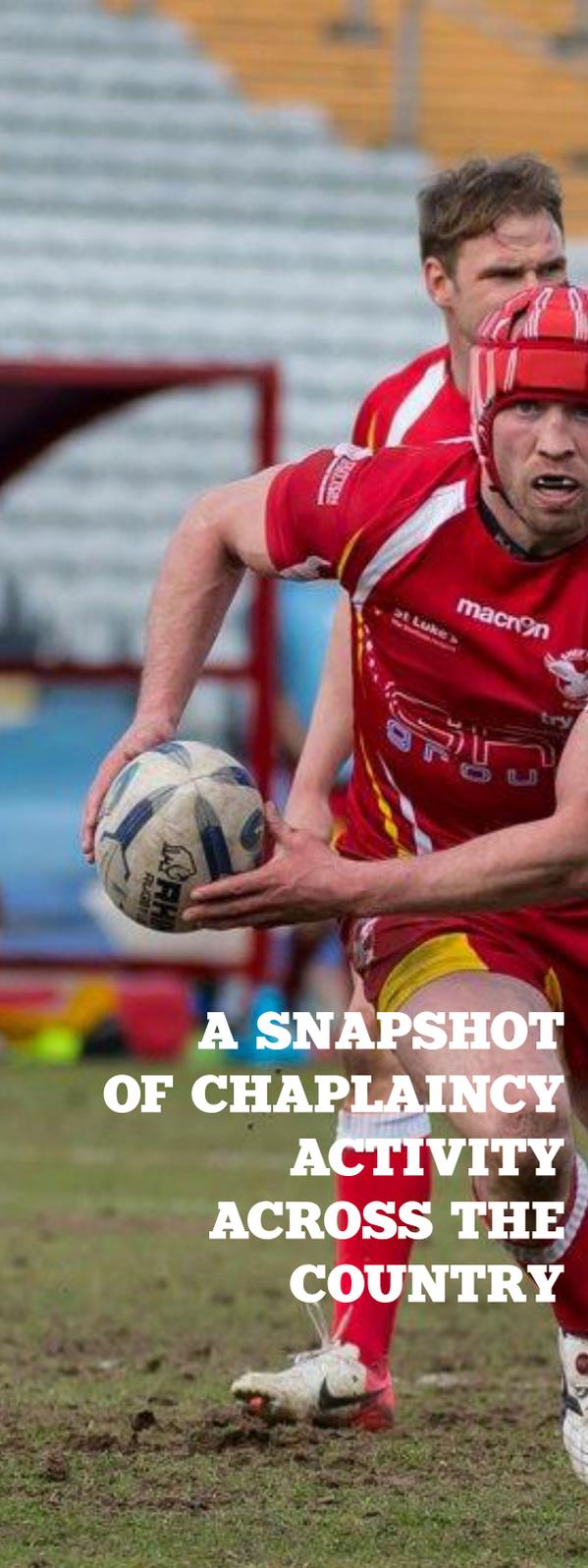
Robbie Hunter Paul
CEO Bradford Bulls



“I am delighted to have been asked to be an ambassador for Sports Chaplaincy UK recognising the great work they do across the Rugby League community”.

Brian Noble

**A SNAPSHOT
OF CHAPLAINCY
ACTIVITY
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY**



What We Give



We currently have 36 chaplains who are supporting professional and semi-professional rugby league clubs up and down the country. We also have two chaplains who are working to support match officials. Many of those chaplains are also working to support their community clubs, as the need arises. Those chaplains are working on a voluntary basis and are dedicating a minimum of 6 hours per week to supporting their clubs (both sporting and non-sporting staff). Many chaplains are giving significantly more time, but as a conservative estimate, Sports Chaplaincy UK are helping to resource rugby league to the tune of over 13,000 hours of support each year. That equates to over £260,000 worth of in kind support.

Training



Sports Chaplaincy UK has worked to ensure that there is a level of consistency across chaplaincy within rugby league. To this end, each chaplain should have attended an induction training day, covering issues ranging from safeguarding to the unique role of being a professional sportsperson. Following the decision, taken by Super League CEOs in 2015, for chaplaincy to be a requirement within player welfare policy; Paul has liaised with clubs and local faith communities to find, equip, release and support chaplains across the leagues. Chaplains are there to support the whole club and so many clubs have more than one chaplain in post. For some clubs, that means having someone who is responsible for the stadium and support staff alongside the first team with a second chaplain for the Academy and scholars; for other clubs, one chaplain will support the playing staff and coaches with the second chaplain supporting all sides of the business which don't involve sport. All chaplains are actively involved in their community foundations also.

And Beyond



Sports Chaplaincy UK place a great deal of importance on the training of new chaplains. 10 potential chaplains have been identified and trained over this last year. Out of these, 6 have been appointed, 5 of these were replacement chaplains. Club chaplains have been trained on various issues including working with the media, stress management and understanding and addressing gambling addiction. Sports Chaplaincy UK values the Rugby League community and actively works in partnership with the wider community. Paul has personally supported 3 players with gambling problems and made numerous referrals to Sporting Chance and State of Mind.



Engages with communities nationwide

CLUB	CHAPLAIN
Batley	✓
Barrow	
Bradford	✓
Castleford	✓
Catalans Dragons	
Coventry Bears	
Dewsbury	✓
Doncaster	✓
Featherstone Rovers	✓
Gloucestershire All Golds	
Halifax	✓
Hemel Stags	
Huddersfield	✓
Hull FC	✓
Hull Kingston Rovers	✓
Hunslet	✓
Keighley	
Leeds	✓
Leigh	✓
London Broncos	✓
London Skolars	
Newcastle Thunder	✓
North Wales Crusaders	✓
Oldham	✓
Oxford	✓
Rochdale Hornets	✓
St Helens	✓
Salford	✓
Sheffield Eagles	✓
South Wales Scorpions	✓
Swinton	✓
Warrington	✓
Wakefield Trinity	✓
Whitehaven	✓
Widnes	✓
Wigan	✓
Workington Town	✓

- Super League Clubs – 11 clubs have chaplains, one actively exploring the role.
- Championship- 11 clubs have chaplains, one actively exploring the role.
- Championship 1 – 8 clubs have chaplains, two actively exploring the role.
- 300+ hours of chaplaincy training delivered.
- 13,000+ hours of in kind support.
- 30 clubs have chaplains.
- In the region of a £800K of in kind support and training given in the last 3 years.
- 10 potential new chaplains trained.

Helping others - it's what we are about

SOME STATISTICS ABOUT SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK AND RUGBY LEAGUE CHAPLAINCY

EVERYDAY RUGBY LEAGUE CHAPLAINCY:

- 15+ hours per week from Paul to support players, coaches, chaplains and staff across the rugby league community.
- 13,000+ hours of in-kind chaplaincy support provided over the last 12 months.
- 20+ chaplains trained through Sports Chaplaincy UK, regionals and induction days.
- 300+ hours of training and support provided by Sports Chaplaincy UK.
- 36 chaplains in post.
- 2000 people engaged and supported.

MATCH DAY CHAPLAINCY:

- A chaplain's work is not just with players but can be with all those at a club.
- On match day, this can be supporting a wide variety of individuals including offering support in times of crisis at a stadia.
- A chaplain may offer support to the team's chairman, CEO, office staff, coaching staff, players' families, hospitality staff, stewards as well as supporters.
- 2000+ hours of support per year to match day chaplaincy support.
- 50+ club staff given bereavement support.

INCIDENT INTERVENTIONS AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUPPORT:

- Suicide intervention
- Bereavement
- Funerals
- Mental health and wellbeing issues
- Eating disorders
- Relationship breakdown and counselling
- Addictions
- Job issues
- Hospital visits
- Faith Matters
- Pre match prayers

TOTAL:

In-kind hours: 13000

Sports Chaplaincy UK Training & Support: 300 hours

Total Chaplains No: 36

Incident Interventions: 44

ROI: £260,000 not including Paul's time or interventions

*A suicide intervention alone has a value of £750K to the wider society - Intervention

ROI: £1.7 million

It is our plan and hope to offer a chaplain who is local and on call to all areas of the Rugby League community.

“It’s really useful to have the moral support of a person away from your team mates and coaching staff to discuss the things that you might not want to discuss in front of other people. Chaplaincy is a strong part of what we need in a game where there are ups and downs and it is really important part of our club.”

*Alex Walmsley,
St Helens RFC*

“Players may be having personal issues that they feel more relaxed speaking to the chaplain about than anyone else at the club.”

*Chris Hamilton,
Chairman, Oldham RLFC.*

“Players should always know that the chaplain is there to help them to see that their mind is a muscle, which needs attention like any other.”

*Robbie Hunter Paul,
CEO, Bradford Bulls.*