

Notes from 2nd Rugby League Heritage Forum 7.3.2015

1) Attendees

Phil Caplan, Andrew Hardcastle, Mick Harrop, Chris Heinitz, David Hinchliffe, Kathryn Hughes, Julia Lee, Brian Sanderson, Stuart Sheard, David Smith, Michael Turner.

2) Updates

DS reported that the cataloguing project to list all of the RFL collections had been completed. For the details, please read Kelda Roe's blog about the process. <http://heritagequay.org/2015/03/rugby-football-league-catalogue-online/>. The cataloguing means that the collection is easier to search and ready for more item level listing by volunteers in the future.

DS also reported that the Challenge Cup 3rd round draw was held at HQ, which was identified as a target at the previous meeting

3) Heritage Forum

The main focus of the meeting was around the 1st Heritage Forum on the 25th April. There was a lot of discussion around content and themes, with some great ideas. For the first Forum, it was decided that the theme should be the 120th Anniversary of the birth of Rugby League. Another key decision was to structure the day to make it appealing to a wider audience, not just rugby league historians. A draft list of activities was created, with tasks assigned to members of the group to enlist contributors.

An addendum to the meeting is that Tony Collins is now available to speak.

The potential line-up (order tbc) is:

10-11am Tony Collins, '1895 and all that' the birth of RL

11am-12pm Neville Smith talking about the Summer Era. **DH has agreed this with Neville already**

12-1pm Lunch

1-2pm Progression of RL through the years. DS to work with RLC on the content and speaker for this

2-3pm Neil Fox and Kevin Sinfield (or equivalents) in conversation. PC and DH working on recruiting speakers

3-4pm Talk on the Giants RL Heritage project. SS asked Brian Heywood who is unavailable. **DS to ask David Thorpe instead**

Concurrent to these talks there will be tours of the archives, drop in sessions on how to use the Heritage Quay collections and opportunities to identify photos from the archives in the Searchroom.

DS is working on a new poster – when some of the higher-profile speakers have been confirmed this will be distributed and sent to RL publications and the group to share. There was also discussion about changing the name of the event as the word Forum was considered off-putting to a wider audience. At the moment it is going by “rugby league history day” – comments welcome

For future events it was decided that team historians and collectors should be invited to bring their own memorabilia to show too. Those who kindly offered their services as a speaker will of course be a key part of future Forums where their work fits the theme.

Other themes (for future days): Rugby and Industry, First World War, Family History (and RL dynasties)

4) Films

It was decided to trial the film night idea with a “New Zealand on tour” theme, inspired by the autumn internationals. DS is now investigating film clips from various archives to use in consultation with Tony Collins and is also researching the possibility of showing one of the 2015 tour matches live after the archive films. The event may require a host to talk over some of the (silent) archival footage. A potential package of films will be shared at the next meeting for selection.

5) RL inspirations

The group agreed that a “Rugby League Inspirations” series of evening events would be a good idea, using the brand created by Scratching Shed/Rugby League Cares as a starting point. All members of the group are asked to think about potential people to ask to speak who will then be approached by RLC/Scratching Shed. The format would be a discussion between the inspirator (or someone representing them) and the person they have inspired. These could be filmed for free streaming or sale and annotated to form part of any future publications.

6) Family History days

DS reported that a family day is being planned, working closely with a local school, to take place on the 7th June 2015. The school will be researching Giants history and producing a display to go up in HQ on the day. There will then be family activities for those visiting to see the exhibition. This approach has been designed based on the feedback of the group in the previous meeting and will hopefully ensure a good attendance. JL suggested linking with Sky Try to bring added benefit to the day/project.

7) Training

It was agreed that the first training session will be on Archiving and will take place in Heritage Quay directly after the next meeting. The training will be run by Kelda Roe, who catalogued the RFL collection for Heritage Quay. The training will also be advertised to those attending the Heritage Forum day and will be open to any others who are interested. If demand is high (above 15 people) the training may have to be run twice or in two groups.

8) Collectors fair

It was agreed that AH would approach Peter Lush with the view to arranging a Collectors Fair at HQ in the future.

9) AOB

DS requested information from members of the group to add to the Heritage Quay catalogue which would signpost readers to other places for more in depth research, ie a club history. Please send these on as and when

A few other issues were raised towards the end of the meeting, including advocating for future generations. **DS suggests that something like a Young RL Historians Club assembled with the help of the foundations might be a way to go and will discuss with RLC before the next meeting**

There was also discussion about mapping the repositories of RL heritage out there, partly to aid with research but also to identify when these collections are at risk of destruction when their owners pass away. To be discussed in more depth at later meetings perhaps

We also talked about a RL history/heritage contacts list. DS advised that his list was incomplete. JL offered to take the issue to the Foundations to fill out the blanks – this can then be circulated amongst the group and wider community.

Final thing that was discussed was photo IDing being something that could be taken out to clubs. DS advised that this may fit the RL Heritage Manager's remit.

10) Next meeting

18 July 2015, Heritage Quay 11am-2pm