



Club Newsletter – Issue 7

Discover the latest news and highlights.

January 2025

Registered Charity Number 1178408

Service – Friendship – Trust – Loyalty

2024 Round Up

What a great year for Soldiers League and everyone involved here are a few snapshots of the 2024



The UKAF Masters had a great first season with many old faces from across all three-service coming together and rising the profile of the game and ensuring that the ethos is upheld. A big thank you to Andy Shute as club secretary for sorting everything out, our sponsor and of course the driving force ensuring all is above board our chairman Nav – 2025 will be a great season for the UKAF Masters - More details to follow



The Wheelchair team has now gone tri service and is now known as UKAF RL Wheelchair Team

Under Stevie Sampher the team is steadily developing, moving forward and gaining their own recognition and 2025 is going to be another fantastic season for them. It was hoped that they would play in Vegas against Queensland, but this has been postponed until 2026.



In remembrance.....

As many will know, Tony Chedle passed away peacefully surrounded by his family – Many of our members supported his family and celebrated the life of:

The Man – The Myth – The Legend

Tony was a very proud Sapper and played and coached The Royal Engineers, as well the Army Academy which develop many young players into the senior team.

There will be a Master memorial game in Tony's name at Ripon in Apr. Detail to follow.



Soldiers Leagues is committed to supporting our members and veterans if you know of a worthy cause or need assistance, please reach out to us and we will take each case by case in order to support the welfare of our members.

Armed Forces Day at Crosfields ARLFC featuring the Tom Sephton Trophy

Soldiers League were proud sponsor of the Army Senior Team again Crossfield ARLFC. Soldiers Leagues will continue to support Army Rugby League were ever possible.



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The UKAF RL Masters were in great form remembering Tony as they took to the field against Folly Lane Masters



Blast from the past.....

On a cold wet morning in the Lake District, just before a 50 miler, Nav and Swinners under the guidance of Brad, managed to surprise one of the original Army players *Curly Aires* – Nav presented him with his Army Cap just before he stepped off - welcome back !



2025

Fantastic news for Soldiers League and Army Rugby League, Congratulations in the Kings New Years Honours List



Sgt Merini Sevakasiga
MBE

Lt Col David Groce
OBE

Sgt Alan Boyle
MBE

Soldiers League are very proud to announce the new appointment of Vice President



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Richard Naivalurua MBE

Rich's name is synonymous with Armed Forces Rugby League. Having been the driving force for British Army (Germany) he subsequently catalysed the growth of REME, Army and subsequently CS Rugby League, as a player, coach, manager and administrator. Since retirement from the Army, Nav has been a trustee at St Peters Hospice and he is bring that heightened understanding of charity business practice to Soldiers League as the VP. In addition, Rich is also acting as the Chairman of UKAF Wheelchair Rugby League. On accepting the two new roles Rich said "I'm delighted, but Fi may take a wok to my head when I tell her" Best of luck Nav!

We also welcome back Chris and Steph Brown as our new club treasurers

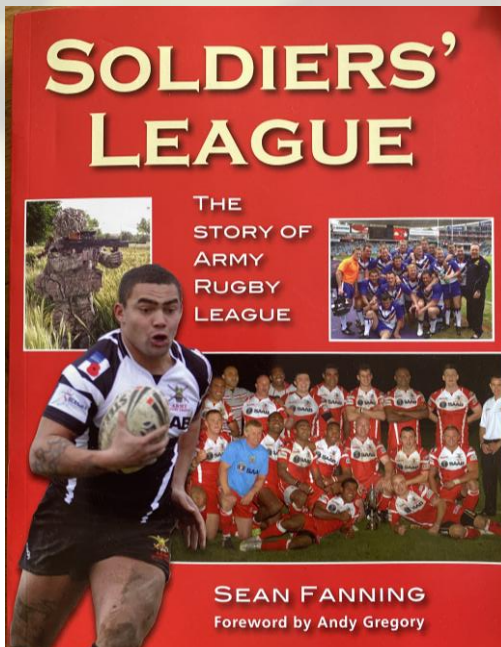
As the committee and organisation grows for the future.

Soldiers League are still always looking for volunteers and trustees, to come forward an assistant towards fundraising and raising the profile of soldier's league in the interest of welfare to veterans across all three services.



**2024 was the 30th Anniversary of
Army Rugby League**

Do you have your copy of the history of the games and the people who made it happen?



If you have any news stories or ideas for fund raising events, please contact us on events@soldiersleague.com

***Betfred Challenge Cup –
The Road to Wembley***

All three services started their campaigns - The British Army beat the RAF in the 1st Round and came up against a strong West London Warriors team meanwhile the Royal Navy also made it through to the 2nd round being beaten by Workington. Great performances by all.

The road to Wembley continues, join Soldiers League at our annually black-tie dinner in London on the Friday 6 June with ticket to the final on Saturday 7 June for more information visit

<https://soldiersleague.charityhive.co.uk/tickets/1/2025-soldiers-league-road-to-wembley-pre-challenge-cup-final-dinner-includes-club-wembley-challenge-cup-final-ticket>