

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 5:30PM BRICK COMMUNITY STADIUM

GRAND FINAL

WARRIORS VS VALKYRIE





2017



2018



2019



2021



2022



2023



2024



2025

WHO'S NEXT?

Grand Final



FOREWORD

I am delighted to welcome everyone to the Brick Community Stadium for what promises to be a spectacular conclusion to another exciting season of the Betfred Women's Super League.

2026 has continued to be a great year within the women's competition with the introduction of the Super Four competition, designed to create an even more competitive and hard-fought conclusion to the regular season.

The format has tested our leading teams and athletes at the very highest level as we build towards the 2026 Rugby League World Cup. Many of England and Wales' strongest are on show tonight as we see the culmination of their 2026 season with two outstanding teams competing to be crowned Betfred Women's Super League champions.

We return to the home of Wigan Warriors, who have enjoyed another remarkable campaign under 2026 Coach of the Year, Denis Betts. The reigning champions have once again set the standard and, with the opportunity to secure back-to-back Grand Final successes, they have the chance to add another chapter to an already impressive story.

Their only defeat in all competitions this season came against tonight's opponents, York Valkyrie. York's journey has been one of transformation. Under former England and Super League player Leon Pryce, the Valkyrie began the season with a new-look squad and a period of rebuilding. They have grown in confidence and consistency throughout the campaign, finishing the Super Four strongly and recording impressive victories over both Wigan and Leeds Rhinos. With the added

history and competitive rivalry between Betts and Pryce, tonight promises another fascinating contest.

Before the Grand Final, we will see the Promotion Play-Off Final as Leigh Leopards take on London Broncos for a place in the 2027 Betfred Women's Super League. Leigh narrowly missed out on securing a Super League place on the last day of the season, while London arrive after overcoming unbeaten Manchester Swinton Lionesses 10-28 in the National Championship Grand Final to attempt to secure promotion at the 3rd time of asking.

Away from the field, 2026 has continued to see growth of Women's and Girls' Rugby League, with involvement now topping over 20,000 participants in all settings for the first time. That progress is built on the commitment of players, coaches, volunteers, clubs, supporters and partners across the game.

This season also marks the end of an era for several players who have played a significant role in establishing Women's Super League. We celebrate the careers of Jodie Cunningham, Emily Rudge, Zoe Harris and Vanessa Temple, alongside many others whose contribution has helped shape the competition we see today.

To every player taking the field tonight, enjoy the moment. You have earned your place here.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Betfred Women's Super League and the wider Women's and Girls' game throughout 2026. Your support continues to help us build a competition that puts players first and creates a bigger, stronger and more ambitious future for Women's Rugby League.

Thomas Brindle, General Manager Betfred Women's Super League



COACH'S COMMENTS

DENIS BETTS, HEAD COACH OF WIGAN WARRIORS WOMEN

Ahead of a second consecutive Betfred Women's Super League Grand Final, Wigan Warriors Women's Head Coach Denis Betts has reflected on another successful year for his Cherry & White outfit, who have secured a Betfred Women's Challenge Cup and League Leaders' Shield - with a treble-repeat firmly in their sights:

"We've had a great year, we've been very consistent" Betts said. "As a coach you want your team to play well every single week and I think winning the League Leaders' is a reflection of that."

He added: "We have the Challenge Cup and League Leaders' in the cabinet now but we took our foot off the gas a little bit in that last fixture of the Super Fours. We've had the week off now which has given us a focus on what we

can improve on, a chance to recover well and a good bit of time together heading into the Grand Final."

Looking ahead to the Final, Betts said: "We've got one last roll of the dice and the loss [against York] is probably going to help us. It gives us some learnings, gives us a focus and will sharpen us up a little bit. It makes us recognise what is important."

"We've played every side three times so far this year so there's not a lot of work to do on our opposition, as a group we will tidy ourselves up and focus on what we need to do, but with an eye on York."

"We are well aware, as with last year, that York are the only side to have beaten us this year so of course they will pose a threat to us. They were excellent in the Semi-Final against Leeds and we'll have to be at our best to get over the line but we also have confidence that if we utilise our togetherness and skill, we will put ourselves in a good position at the end of the 80 minutes."



COACH'S COMMENTS

LEON PRYCE, HEAD COACH OF YORK VALKYRIE

After a rollercoaster campaign, York Valkyrie have found their form at the perfect time, booking their place in the Betfred Women's Super League Grand Final in Leon Pryce's first season as Head Coach.

Following an impressive Semi-Final victory over Leeds Rhinos, Pryce reflected on the resilience, growth and belief that have defined the Valkyrie's journey:

"I knew that we'd improve slowly as the season went on. We had new coaching staff, new players, new positions. The girls had to learn how I wanted to play and our standards as a new coaching staff, and I needed to learn about the girls, figure out what really made them tick and that takes time."

"We've slowly gradually improved, it's been a little bit inconsistent here and there but we've also been missing key personnel for long periods of this season."

"It just came together right at the end, we've got players back and other players coming into really good form at the back end of the season."

That belief will be vital as Valkyrie prepare for the biggest test of their season.

With just 80 minutes standing in their way, York will be looking to channel that hard-earned momentum into one final performance when they take to the Grand Final stage.

"I'm immensely proud to coach the Valks, and reaching the Grand Final is a huge achievement in itself. Between injuries, new coaching staff, and it being my first season at the club, we've had our fair share of struggles this year. But the girls have worked exceptionally hard, and we've developed constantly as the season has progressed," added Pryce.

"We felt written off by a lot of people and were seen as underdogs just to make the final, so we're incredibly excited for the challenge and ready to embrace the big occasion."



FOUBISTER AIMING HIGH WITH THE WARRIORS

Jenna Foubister has been a star player in the Wigan halves in 2026, establishing herself with consistent performances, none more than on the big stage at Wembley Stadium where she was named Player of the Match.

Looking back on 2026 for the Warriors, she said: "It's been a great season for us. We had a really outstanding run before unfortunately coming up short against York in the final round but that's okay as it just gives us a reminder ahead of the Grand Final that we do need to stay prepared but it's been an enjoyable season, we've loved every second."

Preparing for a second consecutive Grand Final, Foubister said: "Coming off the back of the loss there will be a heavy focus on ourselves and

where we went wrong last time but we will also have a look at the strengths and weaknesses within that York side which could help us on the day.

"It would be a dream come true if we can win again. It's hard to back-up a season like we had last season, for a lot of us it was our first trophy wins and wins in Finals so to be in the position to win a treble again is fantastic. To get that final win would be awesome for us as a team and would be a reward for all the hard work we've put in but we have to turn up on the day and execute against York to put ourselves in with a chance."

She added: "A big thing this year has been enjoying time with each other on and off the pitch and I think that has been a big factor in our successes so far, hopefully it will serve us well in this last game of the year."



WOODS TARGETING DREAM FINISH IN FIRST SEASON

Petra Woods has been at the heart of York Valkyrie's rise this season, making an immediate impact in her first campaign with the club and earning the 2026 Back of the Year award at York's end of season awards in recognition of her standout performances.

"I started Rugby League in 2016 in preparation for the 2017 World Cup. I came from a Rugby Union background and at the time Canada had been graced with a spot at the upcoming World Cup so a few players in our country tried to learn the rules of Rugby League and switch over the code so that we could attend," said Woods.

"That's when my journey started really and since then I've been involved with the Canada Ravens which is our national team."

The Valkyrie have had a turbulent campaign but have come back into form when it matters most, with the last meeting between the

sides resulting in the Warriors' first loss in all competitions this season.

"We've taken a lot of confidence in that must-win match against Wigan, the efforts from our middle specifically, for the full 80 was incredible," added Woods.

"Our team this year has faced so much adversity and we've shown resilience in most of the challenges that we've faced.

"York is an organisation that has undergone so many changes in 2026 and I know that the efforts and the passion from our current leadership and all the years past, will be rooting for us to come away with a win this week.

"A lot of the girls have had such long careers with York, but all the way through to people like myself and Monique Donovan, where it's our first season here in the Super League, to lift the trophy would be such a career highlight.

"We would be so proud of ourselves, our coaching staff, and everyone who's believed in us since day one if we're able to pull this off."



PROMOTION PLAY-OFF FINAL

LEIGH LEOPARDS V LONDON BRONCOS

London Broncos will face off against Leigh Leopards in the 2026 Promotion Play-Off Final ahead of the Betfred Women's Super League Grand Final in a bid to play in the competition's 2027 season.

Broncos are on the hunt for a place in the competition after defeating Manchester Swinton Lionesses in the National Championship Final.

London have had a strong season in the National Championship, giving the Lionesses their first loss of the season on the competition's biggest stage last weekend.

No stranger to reaching the finals, Broncos have made it to the last two consecutive league finals, narrowly missing out on the last step in their hopeful BWSL journey and losing to northern sides the Leopards and Featherstone Rovers.

In their test against the Lionesses, London were hot off the mark, racking up a 14-0 lead going into the second half and continuing to be a force to be reckoned with.

The Lionesses fought back through Sydney Alderman-Smith and Tamika Bull tries, but it

was too late to claw back against the Broncos' dominance, leaving them sailing into the Promotion Play-Off Final.

As title winners, Broncos will now face off against the Leopards who are fighting to stay in the competition after finishing bottom of the table in the 2026 season.

The Leopards have had a mixed season, starting out strongly but making some mistakes in the second half of the competition that have proved costly.

In the final round, they narrowly lost to Barrow Raiders, as both sides battled to avoid the play-off and secure their spot in the 2027 season.

The Raiders pulled off a dramatic 24-20 win at Leigh to preserve their status in the competition, with their only previous victory this season being in the reverse fixture.

Raiders needed two points to draw level with Leigh, knowing they had a far superior points difference.

Tries from Sam Norman, Leah Clough, Emma Hutchinson and Maddie Houghton kept them on top leaving the Leopards fighting for their place in the top-flight.



Image Credit Stuart Prescott



TRAILBLAZERS BID FAREWELL TO RUGBY LEAGUE

As the 2026 season reaches its conclusion, the Betfred Women Super League recognises two outstanding Rugby League careers as Jodie Cunningham and Emily Rudge bring their time on the field to a close.

Cunningham and Rudge have been central to the St Helens Women's journey since the team's formation in 2018, helping to establish the Red V as one of the leading forces in the women's game. Their influence has stretched beyond club level, with both players captaining England and becoming the two most-capped players in England Women's history.

Cunningham made her England debut against France in 2009 and has earned 35 caps, scoring 10 international tries and representing her country at three Rugby League World Cups. At Saints, she was named co-captain in 2019 and sole captain in 2021, leading the side through a historic treble-winning year and being named Woman of Steel.

Her leadership helped Saints win a Women's Super League title, two League Leaders' Shields and four successive Women's Challenge Cups from 2021 to 2024. Off the field, she has also helped develop the next generation, first with the RFL and now as St Helens' Head of Women's Pathways & Performance.

Rudge made her England debut during the 2008 Rugby League World Cup against Australia and became a mainstay of the national side. One of her standout international performances came in 2019, when she became the first England Women player to score four tries in a single

match, against Papua New Guinea in Goroka.

For Saints, Rudge has been integral since the beginning of the Women's team's story. A winner of the Women's Super League, two League Leaders' Shields and four Challenge Cups, she became only the second women's player to reach 100 appearances for the club.

Together, Cunningham and Rudge have been trailblazers for Women's Rugby League as leaders and teammates who have helped drive the sport forward.

Their contribution to St Helens, England and the wider game will be remembered as part of a defining era for Women's Rugby League.

The pair are part of a wider group of players across the women's game who will also step away at the end of the season, and whose contributions deserve recognition:

- Fran Copley (Huddersfield Giants)
- Jodie Cunningham (St Helens)
- Alice Fisher (Leigh Leopards)
- Becky Greenfield (Leigh Leopards)
- Zoe Harris (St Helens)
- Lacey Owen (Leeds Rhinos)
- Ashley Prescott (Featherstone Rovers)
- Mairead Quinn (Leigh Leopards)
- Sade Rihari (York Valkyrie)
- Emily Rudge (St Helens)
- Vanessa Temple (Barrow Raiders)
- Sammy Watts (Featherstone Rovers)





WOMAN OF STEEL FINALISTS

WIGAN WARRIORS DOMINATE 2026 WOMAN OF STEEL AWARDS

Wigan Warriors will dominate the 2026 Woman of Steel awards, with three players from the reigning Betfred Women's Super League champions shortlisted for the competition's most prestigious individual honour.

Jenna Foubister, Eva Hunter and Megan Williams have all been named on the three-player shortlist ahead of the Rugby League Awards Night in Manchester, which will take place on the evening of Tuesday 29 September.

The shortlist reflects another exceptional campaign for the Warriors, who could complete a second successive domestic treble should they be victorious in the Betfred Women's Super League Grand Final.

Jenna Foubister's nomination comes after another influential season at the heart of Wigan's attack in 2026. The 19-year-old half-back contributed an impressive return of 9 tries in 18 appearances across all competitions

and has continued to establish herself as one of the leading playmakers in the women's game. Foubister also produced a Player of the Match performance in the Women's Challenge Cup Final at Wembley Stadium, creating two tries and providing three line-break assists as the Warriors lifted the trophy for a second successive year.

Reigning Woman of Steel Eva Hunter has enjoyed another prolific campaign under Denis Betts, crossing for 23 tries in all competitions. The dynamic second-rower has continued to showcase her devastating pace, powerful ball-carrying and defensive intensity throughout the season, while also writing her name into the history books by becoming the first woman to score four tries in a Challenge Cup Final at Wembley Stadium.

Megan Williams' place on the Woman of Steel shortlist follows a remarkable first two seasons with the Cherry & White, having quickly established herself as one of the competition's most consistent forwards. Since joining the club ahead of the 2025 campaign from St Helens, the England Knights international has become a

key figure in Betts' side. The loose forward has scored four tries since the competition split into the Super Four phase, helping Wigan maintain their push for another historic season.

Meanwhile, Amelia Brown finished as the leading try-scorer in 2026, crossing for 31 tries in all competitions for Huddersfield Giants, including 26 in the Betfred Women's Super League and five in the Women's Challenge Cup.

Betts has been awarded Coach of the Year after leading the Warriors to a second consecutive Grand Final following another remarkable season with the side. The Warriors made it to

the final round of the season unbeaten and will face off against the team who gave them their only loss of the season, York Valkyrie, for the Super League title.

Connie Boyd and Ruby Bruce of Leeds Rhinos and Isabel Rowe of Wigan Warriors complete the awards line-up as the nominees for Young Player of the Year following three impressive individual seasons.

Betts will receive his award on September 29 when the winners of the 2026 Woman of Steel and Young Player of the Year awards will be announced.





WOMEN'S AND GIRLS COMMUNITY SEASON WRAP-UP

The 2026 Women and Girls season has seen the game progress in leaps and bounds, with new teams, titles and experiences at all levels of the game.

In the education season, the Year 10 Girls Champion Schools Final made its return to Magic Weekend, with Liberty Academy claiming the title after a dominant performance against St John Fisher, Dewsbury at the Hill Dickinson Stadium. In the Year 7 Girls event, a new champion emerged in the form of Welsh school Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr, who had an incredible run in their debut season to claim the top honours at the National Final in Goole.

Leeds Academy came back with a vengeance after a shaky start to the season to claim the title in the Girls College League over a consistent Halifax Panthers side from Calderdale College. Meanwhile, Northumbria University completed their hat-trick of titles in the Women's University League after yet another dominant season.

The 2026/27 education season kicks off this week, with 21 Girls college teams registered to take part – nearly doubling last year's

participation. The university season is also rapidly approaching with the first ever Women's BUCS Rugby League event at the Women's University 9s next month.

In the Community Girls space, the game continues to grow rapidly, with over 90 clubs now offering a girls' team, and a total of over 200 girls' teams across the community leagues. A massive congratulations to Thatto Heath Crusaders, Hull KR and Drighlington who secured the girls premier titles for U14s, U15s and U16s respectively.

The Women's NINES competition is also set to return in 2027. After another highly successful iteration in 2026 which saw Leeds Rhinos crowned champions, and Rochdale Hornets taking out the community grade title, the celebration of Women's Rugby League is set to return in May 2027.

The NINES is the ultimate celebration of the Women's game, with teams from across the Super League, Championship and Community game all taking part, to put on a fast-paced, skilful and exciting display of Rugby League.

Save the date! Women's NINES returns on Saturday 29th May 2027 (Bank holiday weekend). Watch this space for the venue announcement and team entries opening.

Northerners slice the price by train



Save up to 60%*
with an Advance ticket



NORTHERN

Reserved

Go do your thing

*T&Cs apply. Save up to 60% with Advance Purchase tickets. Advance Purchase tickets are subject to availability. Saving vs. anytime day single or off-peak day single ticket. Tickets can be purchased up to 12 weeks in advance on some routes. Visit northernrailway.co.uk/advance for full details.

TOGETHER
WE ARE
ENGLAND



World Cup
Kit



rugby-league.com/england