THURSDAY THE 24TH
OF OCTOBER

1ST TEST PROGRAM

cash converters

NRL WA MENS

VS

ENGLAND COMMUNITY LIONS

CHARLES RILEY RESERVE
NORTH BEACH RLFC

7PM KICK OFF
12PM UK TIME

Fuel to Go & Play

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

healthway

ATLAS

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

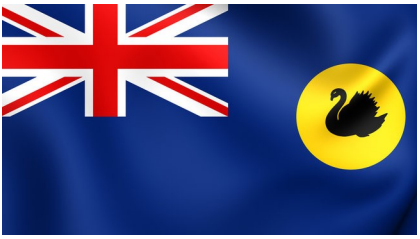
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Todays Program

West Australian Men's

7:00PM **VS**

England Community Lions



VS

Venue Information

Patrons are reminded that smoking & vaping is not permitted within any part of the venue as per our policy. Alcohol is not to be brought into the premises. Patrons are requested not to bring food or beverage products purchased at commercial outlets outside of the venue to the inside of North Beach Rugby League Club.

Also note, that there is to be no unsupervised children in the club rooms and bar area at any stage throughout the day.

Please use the rubbish bins provided. The day is run by volunteers. This Is Our House.

Always be courteous and aggressive or violent behaviour will not be tolerated.

Thank you for your assistance and understanding in these matters.

Operations Managers Address

On behalf of all the Team at NRL WA, I would like to welcome you to Blueforce Park, Charles Riley Reserve for the first of our International Tour Test Matches, with England Community Lions taking on our Men's State Team.

I would like to welcome the England Community Lions Squad, along with their staff, and friends and families who have made the journey to Western Australia, and hope they have a great experience while they are here in Perth.

It has been a big year here in WA, with the North Beach Sea Eagles taking out the Fuel To Go & Play Premiership Competition for the second year in a row, and we would like to thank their club for hosting our English guests while they are here in our beautiful part of the world.

Today we would also like to convey our sincere gratitude to our loyal partners and sponsors, particularly Cash Converters, Healthway, with our Healthy Lifestyles "Fuel To Go & Play" initiative, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries [DLGSC], ATLAS, Lion, Westpac, Fleetwood, ISS, the MMM WA Regional Radio Network, ISC and Dynasty.

Likewise our appreciation to all the respective club sponsors, referees, judiciary members, coaches, trainers and volunteers for your vital support during another long and demanding season.

We would also like to salute our WARL Life Members, and to remember those from our Rugby League community that have sadly passed over recent times.

To all the players who are competing today, play well, play fair, respect the officials and enjoy the experience and the memories. To all the families, friends and fans in attendance, thank you for supporting Rugby League.

Caleb Reedy
Operations Manager
NRL WA

THIS IS OUR HOUSE

NO SMOKING

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER THAT ALL NRL WA EVENTS AND VENUES ARE SMOKE FREE ZONES!

THIS INCLUDES E-CIGARETTES

THIS IS OUR FAMILY

REFEREES
PLAYERS
VOLUNTEERS
CLUB OFFICIALS
SPECTATORS

WE HAVE RULES IN OUR HOUSE, JUST LIKE YOU DO

NO BULLYING
DO NOT YELL ABUSE AT, SWEAR AT, OR BELITTLE OUR FAMILY

RESPECT AND ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

RESPECT OUR PROPERTY

IF YOU CANNOT ABIDE BY OUR RULES, YOU ARE NOT WELCOME

ATLAS PRECAST

Fuel to Go & Play.

Lions On Tour

While the England Community Lions are in WA, they have been sampling some of what Perth has to offer. Get on facebook and check out England Lions RL to follow their journey here in Western Australia.

Test Match Preview

Western Australia vs England Community Lions

By PETER ROWE

Having watched closely Saturday's warm-up game, WA State assistant coach Karl Harding knows Thursday evening's first Cash Converters Test against the touring England Lions will be no easy game.

The Lions went down 24-22 in that encounter at Charles Riley Reserve and Harding said the was impressed with many aspects of their play in what was a close encounter.

"Both sides made mistakes and I guess for the Lions, they were still adjusting to life here, a bit rusty, but they will be easy fixes for their coaching staff I'm sure," Harding said.

"They have some quality in their side and when their halfback came on in the second half they looked really good."

Harding and player-coach Delane Edwards had their final training run on Tuesday evening with the focus on what they could achieve rather than worry about what the opposition could do.

And there was a feeling of unfinished business for the Black and Golds, given their disappointment at the Combined Affiliated States championships in Victoria last month.

"Yes, I think we still have something to prove after that final game," captain Taurean Sheehan said.

"It's a chance for us to show what we can do in front of a home crowd as we are usually playing these states representative games over east.

"We have trained well and having watched the Lions first game, we know what to expect. They (Lions) have some strong running forwards and outside backs so we will have to be prepared for that.

"They are very good controlling the ruck and their defence looks pretty solid."

Harding was also quick to point out the Lions' defence, particularly their ability to slide quickly.

"And they gang tackle - it will be an interesting challenge," he added.

For the WA team there will be no Ken Allen medallist. Tom Murphy is away working, so expect a few minor changes to the lineup.

But the majority of the team that played in Victoria are there, with lots of firepower down both edges and through the middle.

For Sheehan it is the chance to again match up against English opposition - he played for Rochdale in the UK back in 2011.

"A while ago now," he joked. "But I enjoyed a couple of seasons over there. The game is essentially the same, with a few minor differences in rule interpretation, which is why I think this will be another game too close to call."

Both coach and captain agree their opponents will be the better for that first game and both know it will be an 80-minute battle.

Test Match Preview Cont.

Western Australia vs England Community Lions

By PETER ROWE

Both sets of forwards have plenty of motor and will push each other to the limit through the middle. And both teams have quality in the back row, with the Lions showing what they can do with the ball in that second half last weekend.

In the halves Danny Rowse is quality as is fullback Craig McShane. With North Beach star Korey Craig WA also have a player who can make things happen, some individual skills to break open a game. And if player-coach Edwards injects himself into the game, as he so often did for the Fremantle Roosters during the recent NRLWA Premiership season, we could see some great league.

It's those off the cuff plays that Lions coach Paul Couch knows his side will have to watch out for.

"We now know how the Aussies are likely to play, not so much as structured as us, but dangerous," Couch said.

"We've got a full squad and we've trained under the lights. We know it's going to be a hot day before kickoff so we're prepared for that.

"We made some errors in the first game and we've worked to rectify that - but we also had three tries called back for what I might call 'dubious' calls, so I know we can play better."

Couch will name his team today, knowing it's now just 17 players and limited interchange and he is toying with who to start, intimating he might keep gun halfback Danny Rowse on the bench and introduce him later in the game.

"Danny and Craig at fullback give me some options, so it's something I'm thinking about," he said.

Couch also knows his back three struggled early in Saturday's game and has worked on kick defence and turning possession into effective attack in training this week.

"I also think we need more beef in the middles and our sliding defence could be better," he said.

"But we have settled well, got the cobwebs out of our system and now know what to expect from Western Australia on Thursday night.

"It obviously wasn't nice to lose on Saturday, no team likes that, but we're ready to go again. It should be a great game."

International Test Match
Game One

7:00pm Kick-Off
Referee: Byron Devene
Touch Judges: Alex Maggio & Jahraiah Getawan
In Goal Judges: Joseph Fullarton & Bailey Lawrence
Interchange: Paul Lawrence & Colleen Lawrence

Western Australia		England Lions
Bailey Millar	1	Craig McShane
Ryan Woolley	2	Connor Parkinson
Corban Daniels	3	Leon Crellin
Rangitukia Teirney	4	Jake Dearden
Te Toa Parkinson	5	Lewis Price
Delane Edwards	6	Dom Wear
Edward Shand	7	Danny Rowse
Joell Irvine	8/16	Jamie Tracey
Taurean Sheehan (C)	9	Jack McShane
Onisimo Tagicakibau	10	Chris Siddons (C)
Tyler Moeau	11/21	Jacob Moore
Brandon White	12	Ben Shulver
Duane Butler	13	Charlie Tomlinson
Luke-David Wells-Talamaivao	14	Ellison Holgate
Jarrad Smith	16/15	Keiran Glen
Keelyn Tuuta-Edwards	20/8	Matty Stableford
Julian Wilson Wyllie	19	Elliot Cousins
Tom Fry	23/20	Conor Taylor

Delane Edwards	Coach	Paul Couch

Team Captains

TAUREAN SHEEHAN - WA - Hooker

A player who seems to be getting better with time, Taurean just continues to defy father time. Like a fine wine, he just seems to get better with age. A dangerous strategic player, he is just as comfortable at hooker as he is at lock, and is capable of immense involvement for the whole 80 minutes. A Ken Allen Medallist in 2021, he sniping runs, dangerous passing game and above average kicking game make him a dangerous proposition for the Lions in todays game. A verbal and physical leader, the chance to play at home in front of loved ones is a chance he will cherish.

Chris Siddons - England Lions - Prop

The prop forward from Lock Lane has already made a huge impression on tour here in WA, carving out an 80 minute stint against the Chairmans XIII in a man of the match performance. A strong ball runner, with an aggressive attitude on both sides of the ball, he is a natural leader of men. Hungry for work no matter the situation, he is just as willing off his own try line as he is going into the attacking zone. While not a spring chicken in his own right, his experience will help steer the tourists around the ground, while a nice short passing game allows him to play before the line with dangerous accuracy.

Match Preview - Key Match Up's

How do we split the teams? Let's look at the key match ups that will go a long way to deciding the outcome of this one.

Bailey Millar vs Craig McShane

Millar has come back with flames on his boots to finish off the back end of 2024. Fast and elusive, he is a tough mark at the best of times, but his ability to find gaps in the defensive lines is a trademark of his play, while he is a superb support player. With a licence to inject himself anywhere he remains a threat at any stage of the game.

McShane is one word. Class. A great ball runner, who is safe as houses at the back, don't let his non-descript appearance fool you. Craig is an aggressive and ultra strong player. An astute ball player in his own right, he can sniff out an opportunity from anywhere on the field, and has been a mainstay of the Hunslet Premiers for some time now.

Delane Edwards vs Danny Rowse

Delane has done it all in WA. A Ken Allen Medallist, multiple premiership winner, and successful player and coach, there isn't much he hasn't done. Comfortable from fullback to front row, Delane is a master tactician, who can use his passing or running game to create dents in the opposition. Strong, with great footwork, he is a hard mark all by himself.

Danny looks a dangerous prospect. An energetic and thoughtful player, Rowse contains a great kicking game, and has the air of a general about him. A natural leader and as smart as they come, he will guide this side around the field with aplomb. With a great club combination with both the fullback and hooker, their spine runs through Danny and he will need to be watched.

Tyler Moeau vs Ben Shulver

Moeau is an absolute firebrand on the left edge for WA. Physical, with great speed and the attitude to match, he is a sledge hammer who will continue to pound at the wall until it comes crashing down. With subtle footwork before the line, his combination with Edwards on that edge will be crucial.

Shulver seems to be more than a match though. Confrontational and willing, he won't take a backstep with or without the ball. Strong and with great lateral movement he seems a defensive leader in the Lions lineup, and will be hungry for work on the edge and the middle. A rangy type, he is a hard ball runner to bring down and can cause issues for WA if not handled properly.

Let The Battle Begin.....

Western Australia and England have a bit of rivalry over the years. Whether it be the full England side or the British Amateur Rugby League Association, the England Community Lions continue a rich rivalry between the two regions.

They have met seven times in their history in different iterations with the results as follows -

1950 - Western Australia **def by** England

1957 - Western Australia **def by** England

1958 - Western Australia **def by** England

1975 - Western Australia **def by** England

1982 - Western Australia **def** BARLA

1986 - Western Australia 18 **def** BARLA 11

2011 - Western Australia **def** BARLA

With the ledger currently at 4-3 to the English, it's a rivalry that continues to grow!

1982 –Western Australia vs British Amateur Rugby League

Harmony Cup #8 Is On Its Way

November 1st, 2nd & 3rd

WHERE - Lark Hill Sportsplex, Port Kennedy

WHAT AGES - Men's (Comp & Social),
Women's
Masters Men's
Masters Women's
U16 Boys
U16 Girls

WHO - Over 10 different cultural communities along with some invited regional teams, the England Community Lions will also be taking part!

The biggest event of its kind, get down to Harmony Cup. With great food, people, and enormous amount of cultural pride and some fast paced rugby league on display, you'd be crazy to miss it!

CORPORATE PARTNERS

NRL WA is proudly supported by sponsors and partners who are dedicated to the development of Rugby League in Western Australia. From grassroots Rugby League through to the Fuel To Go & Play Competition, elite player and coach development, Rugby League continues to develop and grow with the assistance of our generous supporters.

MAJOR PARTNERS

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LMSC LOCAL MEDIA SERVICES COMPANY

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NRL WA is responsible for providing competition playing structures, coaching and development services and sport specific educational programs for junior and senior, male and female players and volunteers across the state and support from the corporate sector is a critical to our long term success.

For further information on how your organisation can get involved with NRL WA in 2025, please email **bwoolley@nrl.com.au**

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NRL WA

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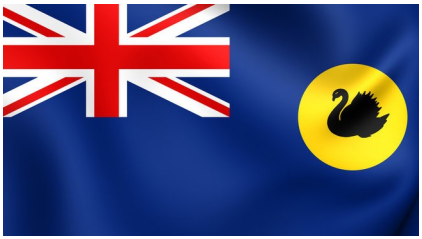

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#LionsWATour2024