



FINAL

LONDON BRONCOS V WIDNES VIKINGS
HALLIWELL JONES STADIUM, WARRINGTON
MONDAY AUGUST 31, KICK-OFF 3PM

TOGETHER
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World Cup Kit



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CHAIR'S WELCOME

Welcome to the Halliwell Jones Stadium for today's 1895 Cup Final between London Broncos and Widnes Vikings.

This competition was inaugurated in 1919 to provide clubs outside Super League with a national stage of their own and the chance of glory.

These finalists are certainly worthy representatives. London, under their ambitious new ownership team led by Grant Wechsel and Kangaroos legend Darren Lockyer, arrive having set an impressive pace in the Betfred Championship.

They have made it clear that they hope to soon reach the top-flight and making the 1895 Cup final for the first time in their history is another step in the right direction.

Widnes, of course, were famous Cup competitors back in the 1980s with such luminaries as Andy Gregory, Joe Lydon and Eric Hughes helping them lift the Challenge Cup under the indomitable Vince Karalius at Wembley in 1984.

And who can forget iconic players like Martin Offiah, Jonathan Davies, Alan Tait and the formidable Kurt Sorensen who underpinned the glorious World Club Challenge success over Canberra Raiders at Old Trafford five years later?

During their time in the second tier, they played in the maiden 1895 Cup final, losing out to Sheffield Eagles, and now they will hope to spring a surprise and lift that trophy for the first time.

Finals, though, are about more than just the 80 minutes on the field; they are a reward for players, coaches, volunteers, staff, sponsors and supporters who give so much to sustain and grow our clubs week after week.

For London, today is another marker of the resilience and importance of rugby league in the capital. For Widnes, it is a reminder of the heritage, identity and passion that continue to make the club such a significant part of our sport.

After an overdue reset of the Championship eco-system, it's been a vibrant first season of the new-look, one division competition. As it reaches the business end, their remains much to fight for with an enticing play-offs series ready to get underway later this week.

Furthermore, plans are in place to enhance the competition in 2027, with the introduction of a new salary cap one of the new measures brought in.

Firstly, though, comes the action this afternoon in what could be a classic showpiece.

On behalf of the Rugby Football League, I congratulate both clubs on reaching the final and wish the players, coaches and match officials the very best while thanking our hosts Warrington Wolves.

Today we will pay homage to Sir Billy Boston, one of our sport's greatest figures, following the announcement of his passing earlier this week.

Sir Billy will be forever remembered for his tenacity, coming from a working-class background in Cardiff, to legendary status at Wigan RLFC, and eventually becoming the most prolific British try-scorer in the 130-year history of Rugby League.

A smile that will forever be remembered, we extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

Enjoy the occasion.

Nige Wood OBE

RFL Chair and RL Commercial Chair



COACH'S COMMENTS

LONDON BRONCOS' JASON DEMETRIOU

I'm loving being back in the UK and enjoying what we're doing at London Broncos.

I've always said it wouldn't be hard for me to come back because of the time that I've spent over here before.

That includes three great years from 2001 to 2003 with the club we're facing in today's 1895 Cup final: Widnes Vikings.

I said it when I went back there and was presented with my heritage number, it's a club that's always dear to me. Had I not had that experience at Widnes - if David Hulme hadn't signed me when he did - I wouldn't be sat here today.

It was a pivotal moment in my career where I needed to go to a club that had ambition and wanted to be in Super League - and they backed someone with no Super League experience to help them do it.

I'm very grateful for the three years I had there. We were very successful and built a pretty decent team in those first couple of years. We probably should have made the play-offs in our first year up in Super League and weren't far off the second year.

So, I had some great memories. It was a club I didn't really want to leave. But in the end, I was then fortunate to find a new home that lasted for a long time at Wakefield Trinity.

And now, of course, it's London Broncos. I am enjoying it. It's very different being down here in the south, trying to grow the game and give it the awareness that it deserves.

It is obviously a challenge, but it's a challenge I'm embracing. We've put some foundation in place for the club to grow beyond this year. First and foremost, what we needed to do was be successful on the field and there's no doubt we've been doing that.

Although the London owners were really disappointed that we didn't get an opportunity to play in Super League this season, I've personally felt that this was the best route for us to build a club, a culture, and then most importantly, a roster that we can grow from year to year. We're definitely doing that.

There's work still to do. We're not at the destination we're chasing, but we're well on our way.

And as well as going for the Championship title, we said at the start of the season that the 1895 Cup was another trophy that we potentially had the ability to go after. The players are committed to do that. We're in the final now and looking forward to what should be a good day.

Widnes were outstanding when we played them recently and I knew it'd be difficult. Some of our boys hadn't been in a real northern atmosphere before - and the Widnes fans bring that with their vocality. They're in your face. It can be an intimidating place.

We didn't handle the start of that game and Widnes played some really good footy. They tested us. It definitely gave us some things to look at and some areas we know we'll need to be better at today.

But it's set up for a great final. It should be a cracking game and our boys are excited. I know the Widnes supporters would have come off the field confident and excited as well.





COACH'S COMMENTS

WIDNES VIKINGS' ALLAN COLEMAN

Everyone at Widnes Vikings is excited about taking part in the 1895 Cup final – knowing this is our big chance to achieve success.

Obviously, seeing what London Broncos have done in the Championship this season, being runaway leaders, everyone knows they are favourites.

But pushing them as close as we did in the recent league game [a narrow 42-36 loss] gives us a lot of encouragement. It was vital we did that and, deep down, we knew we could.

However, it was also a hard angle for those players selected in that game to perform. They had to do so, to show that they could compete. If they didn't, they knew they wouldn't have a chance of playing in this final.

There was a couple of different players in there, so it was vital to see the performance level and they delivered which bodes well for this afternoon.

Admittedly, you can look at it two ways: did we

wake a monster in London and they realise they may have been in cruise control a bit, allowing them to reset for today?

Or did we wake a monster within ourselves and gain that belief where we can be the team that actually wins this Cup? It certainly did give us some confidence.

In truth, it works in both clubs' favour – and also in the game's favour because hopefully this final now turns out to be a cracker.

Obviously, a lot of our lads also played against Leeds Rhinos in the Challenge Cup right back in February and really gave a good account of themselves.

That was massive and should also be a positive for us today. But, since I've been here over the last three years, we tend to do it as a club: rise in big games.

Every time we've played in a real big game with a big crowd and an atmosphere, we've turned up. It seems as though I've got a team that are desperate for that which gives me quite a bit of excitement.

We'll go into it quite confident and not nervous because a lot of people could get tense. But I've got quite a real experienced team with some talented young stars mixed in who are desperate to impress. I think our experience will carry our talent through.

It's also huge day for the town. I'm old enough to remember Widnes' glory days of the '80s and what that was like.

People might say 'this is just the 1895 Cup' but it's silverware, isn't it? How big would it be? It's our Wembley, isn't it?

In the Championship, over the last three or four years, there's been a full-time team in the competition each season so, if we're honest, it's very rare a part-time team would ever win the title.

But with the 1895 Cup, an opportunity's arisen for us.

We've not been in a final for seven years and we've not won one for something like 17. So, this is really important. Widnes is a sleeping giant of the sport and we get an opportunity as a group to change things.

There's a real buzz around the place, on and off the field. You can see it around the town and with the kids and all the junior clubs organising coaches and days out for this final.

If we could go on and do it, it'd really massively lift everyone and it'd also put some pride back into the place because it has been a tough few years. We want to be that group who bring a trophy home – and it could kick-start something real special for Widnes Vikings.





MOREA MOREA	1	1	MATT FLEMMING
ELLIOT WALLIS	2	2	MIKE BUTT
ROBERT MATHIAS	3	3	JACK OWENS
ALEX MAX	4	4	JOE EDGE
LIAM TINDALL	5	5	RYAN INCE
CONNOR O'BEIRNE	6	6	JOE LYONS
DEAN HAWKINS	7	7	TOM GILMORE
REAGAN CAMPBELL-GILLARD	8	8	DAN MURRAY
SAM DAVIS	9	9	JORDAN JOHNSTONE
EMARLY BITUNGANE	10	10	LIAM BENT
LUKE SMITH	11	11	SAM WILDE
JACK CROFT	12	12	MAX ROBERTS
SILIVA HAVILI	13	13	NICK GREGSON
FINLEY GLARE	14	14	MATTY FOZARD
SADIQ ADEBIYI	15	15	LEWIS HALL
EPEL KAPINIAS	16	16	DANNY LANGTREE
MARCUS STOCK	17	17	DANNY RICHARDSON
JIMMY MEADOWS	18	18	MORGAN MCWHIRTER
BEN HURSEY-HORD	19	19	ADAM LAWTON
BRANDON WEBSTER-MANSFIELD	20	21	JAY CHAPELHOW
WILL LOVELL	21	23	NATHAN CONNELL
ALEX WALKER	22	24	FRANK SERGENT
GAIRO VORO	23	25	KIERAN TAYLOR
LEWIS BIENEK	24	27	DEACON CONNOLLY
JEREMIAH SIMBIKEN	25	28	JACK HOUGHTON
NEIL TCHAMAMBE	26	33	AIDEN DOOLAN
TEDDY DAVIDSON	27	35	MAX BANDITT
BOBBY HARTLEY	28		
JAKE RAMSDEN	29		
TOMMY PORTER	30		

REFEREE : TOM GRANT | TOUCH JUDGES: LIAM BREHENY AND ALAN BILLINGTON | RESERVE REFEREE: KEVIN MOORE | TIME KEEPER: BARRY HARTLE | MATCH COMMISSIONER: DAVE MOSS



SADIQ ADEBIYI

LONDON BRONCOS

IT'S more than ten years ago since Sadiq Adebisi made his debut for London Broncos so he knows, more than most, just what their current adventure means.

Yes, admittedly, the powerful forward spent a short sojourn away from the capital club, with a couple of seasons in West Yorkshire at Wakefield Trinity and then Keighley Cougars.

But the Nigeria international's first rugby league love was London and he's now desperate to return the Championship frontrunners to success.

"It will be massive to play in this game," said Adebisi, ahead of facing Widnes Vikings in today's 1895 Cup final.

"I came through the academy here. I went up north to Wakefield [in 2022] but I came back down and one of the reasons was to play Super League with this club.

"I did that two years ago. I'm now trying to get us back up there - especially this season where we've got loads of quality personnel - and on to bigger and better things.

"But, firstly, I'm looking forward to representing

London on the big stage on Monday.

"Hopefully, it'll be a really good atmosphere - it's a Bank Holiday - and, along with Widnes, we can show how good the Championship is."

London were relegated from Super League in 2024 having won just three games all season and finished tenth in the second-tier last term.

But they have been revived this year following the financial input of a new ownership group led by Aussie duo Grant Wechsel and Darren Lockyer, assembling a star-studded side including former Kangaroos prop Reagan Campbell-Gillard.

Adebisi, 29, admitted: "It has been really good.

"I've been here quite a while now and seen the club having two staff in the background to now where there's so many.

"Since their [owners'] investment, and not just money-wise but into the whole of London's rugby league scene, they've been open about where they see this going.

"And us as players are behind it. It's shown in our performances.

"There's been so many eyes on us and it is exciting.

"We want to get to Super League but we want to win the Championship and, since day one, we sat down and said we want to win every competition.

"The 1895 Cup is included in that and it's a stepping stone towards us achieving our goal.

"But we know Widnes will be tough; we won't take them lightly."

London almost came unstuck against Allan Coleman's side earlier this month before holding on to secure a 20th straight Championship win.

Adebisi, who was born in Lagos, recalled: "We always knew Widnes away would be one of our toughest tests and it proved the case.

"They came at us from the start and we weren't great.

"It was one of those games where it was a bit close - but it does create more appetite now for

the 1895 Cup final.

"We took a lot out of it. JD (London coach Jason Demetriou) said it was our toughest game in five or six weeks.

"It was. We dipped off a little bit. And know we have got to be there for the full 80 to beat them. Oldham proved that against us."

Oldham inflicted London's first loss of the season only a fortnight ago as a timely reminder nothing is certain in the sport.

Adebisi concluded: "I am looking forward to this game.

"It's the first Cup final I've been in. It's disappointing it's not at Wembley but it's a first chance for us to get some silverware.

"We'll take as many Londoners north as we can, get loads of noise going - and hopefully we take the trophy back home."





NATHAN CONNELL

WIDNES VIKINGS

MOVING to Widnes Vikings has been a “breath of fresh air” for Nathan Connell – and now he wants to start rounding off his stellar maiden campaign with 1895 Cup glory.

The in-form full-back, 23, has been a revelation for Allan Coleman’s side this term after making the switch from relegated Salford Red Devils.

He has proved one of the Championship’s top No1s and hopes to highlight that in today’s showpiece final against favourites London Broncos.

Connell, who largely played wing for financially-troubled Salford in Super League during his breakthrough campaign last year, admitted: “I’ve loved it.

“It’s been nice to have some consistency of going into games and winning.

“Last year was a bit different; it was up and down and I had to make the best of a bad situation.

“But this year’s been a breath of fresh air to be able to play in a position where I back myself and I’m thriving.

“I’ve really enjoyed being part of a different group and pushing myself out of my comfort zone.

“That was a big thing; I’d been at Salford since I was 14 and knew it like the back of my hand so to step out of that has developed me as a person and player.

“I’ve a lot to thank Widnes for given what they have done for me.”

Although big-spending Championship leaders London are much-fancied to claim the silverware at Halliwell Jones Stadium, Connell knows his Widnes side well enough to know they can cause an upset.

Granted, they were vanquished 44-12 by Jason Demetriou’s side back in January. But the last time they met, only last month, Vikings almost inflicted Broncos’ first loss of the season before narrowly falling 42-36.

They have comfortably booked their place in the Championship play-offs and Connell, who has scored 20 tries in just 26 appearances before last weekend, conceded: “From that first game of the year when we lost to them, we always penned the return fixture in the diary as the time that we’d really be able to test ourselves.

“There’s good teams in this comp’ with Oldham [who became the first team to beat London a couple of weeks ago] and Doncaster up there.

“London are clearly the pinnacle but that last performance against them does give us belief.

“We’re not naive enough to think they won’t have gone away and worked just as hard to counteract what we did and we’ll have to find different ways to beat them.

“But it’s set up now for a great final.”

Wigan-born Connell, who grew up idolising the likes of Sam Tomkins, Dom Manfredi and Blake Green at his hometown club, was such an instant hit at Widnes that he had already penned a new two-deal by March.

He said: “I was delighted to sign.

“Clearly, I want to get back to Super League and Widnes want to get there, too.

“It’s those ambitions that really intrigue me. I know my ability and I want to push for that.

“Whether it ends up being with Widnes or not, who knows?

“But I’m loving my rugby league here and am really excited by what we can do in the next two years.”

Clinching the 1895 Cup would be a great reminder of the potential Widnes do have.

They reached the inaugural final in 2019 only to miss out to Sheffield Eagles.

And prolific Connell, who scored hat-tricks against Dewsbury Rams and North Wales Crusaders, said: “It’d be massive for the club and the town itself to go on and do it.

“The club’s not had any silverware for a number of years now but it used to thrive in Super League.

“They were once World Club Challenge winners, too, and we need to go out and do it for the fans and the club.

“We all know it’s there and we have the potential. It’s now up to us to go and deliver. We can’t wait to show what we can do.”

But it’s set up for a great final. It should be a cracking game and our boys are excited. I know the Widnes supporters would have come off the field confident and excited as well.





ROUTE TO THE FINAL

Preliminary Round

15 March 2026

London Broncos 36 Barrow Raiders 10

Tries: Lewis Bienek, Epel Kapinias, Marcus Stock, Liam Tindall, Elliot Wallis, Brandon Webster-Mansfield.

Goals: Gairo Voro 6/6.

Round One

19 April 2026

London Broncos 62 Keighley Cougars 6

Tries: Alex Max (2), Connor O'Beirne (2), Gairo Voro (2), Robert Mathias, Morea Morea, Marcus Stock, Neil Tchamambe, Elliot Wallis.

Goals: Dean Hawkins 9/10.

Dewsbury Rams 10 Widnes Vikings 50

Tries: Nathan Connell (3), Kieran Taylor (2), Joe Edge, Danny Langtree, Morgan McWhirter, Dan Murray.

Goals: Jack Owens 7/9.

Quarter-finals

17 May 2026

London Broncos 52 Doncaster 20

Tries: Neil Tchamambe (3), Luke Smith (2), Gairo Voro (2), Sadiq Adebiyi, Ben Hursey-Hord, Morea Morea.

Goals: James Meadows 6/10.

Widnes Vikings 30 Newcastle Thunder 20

Tries: Jack Billington, Danny Langtree, Jack Owens, Max Roberts, Sam Wilde.

Goals: Leon Hayes 5/5.

Semi-finals

13 June 2026

Midlands Hurricanes 24 London Broncos 62

Tries: Brandon Webster-Mansfield (4), Finley Glare (2), Siliva Havili, Ben Hursey-Hord, Connor O'Beirne, Gairo Voro, Alex Walker.

Goals: James Meadows 9/11.

14 June 2026

Widnes Vikings 52 Rochdale Hornets 0

Tries: Sam Wilde (2), Jack Billington, Mike Butt, Nathan Connell, Joe Edge, Matty Fozard, Danny Langtree, Max Roberts, Kieran Taylor.

Goals: Joe Edge 2/2, Matty Fozard 2/4, Jack Owens 2/4.



1895 CUP FINAL NOSTALGIA

2019: Sheffield Eagles 36 Widnes Vikings 18

Sheffield Eagles won the inaugural 1895 Cup final at Wembley after bouncing back from an early 12-0 deficit against Widnes Vikings.

Widnes tries from Harrison Hansen and Chris Dean were cancelled out by Aaron Brown and Anthony Thackeray efforts.

Although Tom Gilmore restored the Vikings' advantage before half-time, their South Yorkshire powered home in the second period, led superbly by Thackeray who scored a long-range second try and went on to claim the Ray French Award as player of the match.

2021: Featherstone Rovers 41 York City Knights 34

Late call-up Jacob Doyle scored two tries on only his second appearance for Featherstone Rovers as they defeated York City Knights in an epic 1895 Cup final at Wembley.

The see-sawing match was only given the go-ahead three hours before kick-off after Covid-19 scares at both clubs.

Doyle only featured due to a host of positive coronavirus cases in Featherstone's camp including coach James Webster, assistant Paul March instead taking charge.

Rovers captain James Lockwood was forced into a hurried trip back to Yorkshire on Friday as his wife had gone into labour but was back in time to lead his side to victory.

Featherstone were indebted to the experience of man of the match Craig Hall, who scored a try and six goals to eventually see off defiant York.

2022: Leigh Centurions 30 Featherstone Rovers 16

Star-studded Leigh Centurions wrestled the cup away from Featherstone Rovers in a thrilling encounter at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Papua New Guinea hooker Edwin Ipape proved the difference with a powerhouse performance off the bench to steer Adrian Lam's side to victory.

At half-time the score was locked at 12-12, but Ipape's influence - with his pace, footwork and direct style - saw Leigh take control, despite

the best efforts of Featherstone's Craig Hall who impressed for the holders.

2023: Halifax Panthers 12 Batley Bulldogs 10

Halifax Panthers clung on for Wembley glory - but only after holding their breath for the last kick of the game.

Captain Brandon Moore's try after just 108 seconds gave Halifax the platform, and Louis Joffret turned that foothold into a healthy lead with a conversion and three penalties, a performance that delivered him the Ray French Trophy as player of the match.

But Batley responded through Dale Morton's try and when Luke Hooley crossed at the death, he faced a touchline conversion attempt to send the contest into Golden Point. However, Hooley narrowly missed - sending the Bulldogs into ecstasy.

2024: Wakefield Trinity 50 Sheffield Eagles 6

Ex-England scrum-half Luke Gale claimed the Ray French Trophy after masterminding Wakefield Trinity's 50-6 destruction of Sheffield Eagles.

Josh Griffin, Jermaine McGillvary and Oliver Pratt all scored try doubles during the rout with former Man of Steel Gale bossing the contest after Sheffield had actually opened the scoring via Anthony Thackeray's effort.

Lachlan Walmsley's 80-metre intercept was another highlight as Wakefield delivered the club's first Wembley victory in 61 years.

2025: York Knights 5 Featherstone Rovers 4

Elated York Knights won at Wembley for the first time in their history as Liam Harris slotted an extra-time drop goal to defeat Featherstone Rovers in a tryless 1895 Cup Final.

In a remarkable game, both sides protected their line throughout with tremendous steel and energy, scrum-half Harris and Ben Reynolds both just slotting two penalties apiece.

As tensions rose into Golden Point, it was York who held their nerve, captain Harris nailing the one-pointer to deliver his club an historic triumph and avenging their 2021 loss to the same opponents.

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