



**ADDRESS: PO BOX 541 WENTWORTHVILLE NSW 2145**

[www.rugbyleaguesupporters.com](http://www.rugbyleaguesupporters.com)

14/06/07

Dear Mr Gallop

Our Association has received many phone calls and emails from members concerned about the exodus of top quality players to England because of salary cap restrictions on NRL clubs.

It seems that loyalty from all parties concerned i.e., governing body to clubs to players and vice versa no longer has a part in the game.

Supporters believe that there has to be a solution to the problem without there being a rise in salary cap. Players that have been brought up from junior level right through to 1<sup>st</sup> grade are now being discarded before their time because the salary cap concessions given to players for length of time is far too high. Example of one club players who are now in England, Ben Harris, Adam Mogg, Chad Randall, Matt Gidley, Aaron Gorrell, Michael Monaghan, Chris Flannery and Shaun Berrigan to name a few.

Supporters believe their loyalty to players is lost when they see their favourite player who they have been supporting for years, watching them come through the juniors only to be squeezed out because the club can't compete with other clubs who have either no junior base or not interested in bringing through their own juniors. Example, Roy Asotasi, Joel Clinton, Brent Tate, Luke Bailey.

Surely the League can come up with a better Pro Rata concession system for length of service to try and get some loyalty back into Rugby League, something that has been in the game for 90 years and sadly over the last few years is lacking. Maybe start the concession at six years as this seems to be the time that players are told to either take a pay cut or look else where for a new club. Maybe start at six years = 10% down to ten years = 50%.

What we are trying to achieve is getting some tribalism back into the game between clubs and supporters, whereas supporters know that they can support a player through his whole career instead of only half of it, because the half of his career they are against him because he plays in a different club and colours.

Another issue concerning supporters is the appalling behaviour of so called role model football players. The behaviour of certain players over the last few years is nothing short of disgraceful. There also seems to be two sets of rules, one for the star or well known player and one for the lesser known or fringe player. Surely the NRL can come up with a code of conduct for all players to sign when they first come to the NRL and sign a contract for their club, as I believe each contract has to be ratified by the governing body. That way all players will be treated as equal and there should be no excuses for players or clubs to say that they weren't warned. I know that the league and individual clubs hold seminars for their juniors to try and prepare them for the

added scrutiny that they are under but it is not getting through in some cases, and I think some clubs are far too lenient when dealing with some players.

The game is in pretty good shape at the moment and the competition couldn't be closer but supporters are getting tired of "Our Game" getting dragged through the media for all the wrong reasons. Keep up the good work. Looking forward to hearing your views.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Warren  
President  
Rugby League Supporters and Voluntary Workers Assoc Inc