

MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Dear

EDM 48: Televising of Rugby League Challenge Cup Final

In November this year, Sir David Davies published his report on those sports that must be available free-to-air for all; the so-called "protected list". This recommended that the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final be removed from the 'A' list.

Since the list's inception, Rugby League has been represented on the list through its premier and historic competition, the Challenge Cup, currently shown on the BBC. It therefore came as a great surprise to many that Rugby League, as the first professional sport in the world, the most family-orientated sport in the UK, one of the biggest spectator sports in the country should be recommended as one of the few sports to be removed from the protected list.

With cross-party support, Neil Turner, Member of Parliament for Wigan and Secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Rugby League Group, tabled EDM 48: Televising of Rugby League Challenge Cup Final. The Motion states:

That this House notes that Rugby League is played in every nation in the United Kingdom, and in every country in England; and believes the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final is a sporting event of national importance that should be available to all fans on free to view terrestrial television, and that the Davies Committee recommendations should be rejected.

I write to you as an active member of the community in your constituency to ask you to sign the Motion to demonstrate to the DCMS that the sport is loved by many and performs a huge service to those it serves in communities in all parts of the country. I understand that not all Members of Parliament can sign EDMs, and if you are unable to, I would be grateful if you would nevertheless contact the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and ask that he rejects the Davies Report's recommendations.

I see the direct impact that Rugby League has on all those involved in the sport, and its removal from the protected list will have massive impact on spectators, volunteers and players. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit our club to see this vital and challenging work first-hand.

Yours sincerely