

The league should have called off matches



STEVE BROWN

PARKLIFE

I THINK the Football League made a big mistake last week. They should have cancelled all the fixtures out of respect to the rugby players.

They really deserved the stage to themselves last Saturday. I'm sure if it had been our footballers who were in a World Cup final every other sporting event should have been cancelled.

However the League didn't do that and it might even have helped us.

As Englishmen it gave us an extra reason to puff our chests out when we went onto foreign soil (Well Welsh soil at least) to take on Wrexham last Saturday.

There was a lot of pride at what the rugby boys had done and I think it lifted us as we took on the Welsh.

We were pleased to come away with a 0-0 draw but I'm the first to admit that the result might have been even better if I had not missed a gilt edged chance to score.

I was really disappointed not to hit the back of the net and I know it was a bad miss.

It was especially disappointing because I was captain for the day in the absence of the suspended Michael Simpson.

The first thing that I knew that I was going to be skipper was when the gaffer asked me which way I was going to choose to kick if I won the toss.

I was delighted to get the nod to wear the armband. I really thrive on all that responsibility.

It was also good to see Ian Simpamba finally make his first team debut. It must be one of the longest overdue debuts ever.

I know Ian came on as a sub in one

I know Ian came on as a sub in one game last season but that is not the same. This was his first start and I was really pleased for him.

He has really impressed with his attitude and ability and he had got a good future ahead of him.

Talking of careers there are quite a few players here who owe their careers to our physiotherapist Dave Jones.

He's got his testimonial dinner on Monday night with England rugby stars Lawrence Dallaglio and Jason Leonard.

I'm really looking forward to it. It will be great to hear their stories from the World Cup.

The lads have booked a table of ten. It really is the least we could do after all Jonah has done for us and I hope he has a really great night because he deserves it.

It would be nice to go to the dinner with three points tucked under our belts.

We've got a big game against Peterborough on Saturday and we know we need the points to get off the bottom of the table.

We know there's heaps of work to be done this season but I believe we will get out of trouble and the gaffer's got no doubts that we will.