

RL: Holmes a Court still interested in buying out Souths

SYDNEY, Nov 5 AAP - A takeover of the South Sydney rugby league club remained on the agenda for Peter Holmes a Court tonight, with reports that the Sydney businessman was prepared invest more than \$7.5 million of his own money to make it happen.

Citing internal club documents, Channel Nine reported that Holmes a Court was willing to take over the struggling leagues club's debts.

While not confirming specific amounts of money involved, Holmes a Court confirmed his ambition to bring the leagues club, the football club and the profitable South Sydney Juniors together.

"It's as much generous as just trying to be sensible I think for Souths to stay in South Sydney," he told Nine.

"For the Rabbitohs to stay in South Sydney the three parties have to come together - the football club, the leagues club and the juniors and I'm just trying to help that happen."

It was reported that long time Souths fan and actor Russell Crowe was still keen to become involved.

Crowe and Holmes a Court have been linked to a buy out of the foundation rugby league club for months with \$10 million reported as the figure that would seal the deal.

Crowe earlier rejected spending that kind of money with Holmes a Court.

South Sydney chairman Nick Pappas said today the merger of the three bodies was "something we've always dreamed of at the Rabbitohs".

Souths Juniors chairman Keith McCraw was expected to meet with Holmes a Court to discuss specifics of the proposal next week.

Any deal to sell the club would have to be voted on by its members.