

## [Come home Satts](#)

by Phil Rothfield

The Sunday Telegraph

April 08, 2007

### **Exclusive - Peter Holmes à Court's emotional open letter to Rabbitohs front-row legend John Sattler**

SOUTH Sydney part-owner Peter Holmes à Court has written an emotional letter to John Sattler in the hope of convincing the Rabbitohs' last premiership-winning captain to return to the club.

Sattler and other Rabbitoh icons, including George Piggins, have boycotted the club since a fiery meeting at Homebush last year, where members abused former greats trying to prevent the sale of the club.

In his letter to Sattler, Holmes à Court writes: "It is particularly sad that you have said you don't feel welcome at the club.

"John, you are one of our greatest, you are one of the league's greatest. Please know you are welcome back whenever our boys run out."

Holmes à Court gave permission for The Sunday Telegraph to publish the letter after it was passed on to Sattler at his Gold Coast home yesterday.

And in a further move to convince Sattler to return to the club, fans have also apologised for the abuse from last year's meeting.

The apology is on the club's website at [www.souths.com.au](http://www.souths.com.au)

Sattler was made a life member of the new Rabbitohs club late last year but knocked it back.

When approached two weeks ago, he said he was not ready to even think about returning.

Yesterday, when contacted by The Sunday Telegraph, Sattler said he would wait and read the letter with interest.

"I was quoted the other day and told someone I'm not even watching Souths on TV," Sattler said.

"I shouldn't have said that ... I am watching them. Look, it's something I need more time to think about. I was disgusted by the behaviour of certain people last year. They bagged me, Bob McCarthy and even the late Clive Churchill for leaving the club. It was disgraceful.

"I have always been South Sydney from bootlaces to my heart, but what happened last year was extremely hurtful to a lot of former players and so out of order."

Holmes à Court and Russell Crowe have been working hard to try to win back other club

stalwarts.

Joyce Churchill, the wife of Clive, sat in a private box with Holmes à Court and Crowe for the opening game of the season against the Roosters. She has also accepted life membership of the club.

Former champion second-rower McCarthy is also back in the fold.