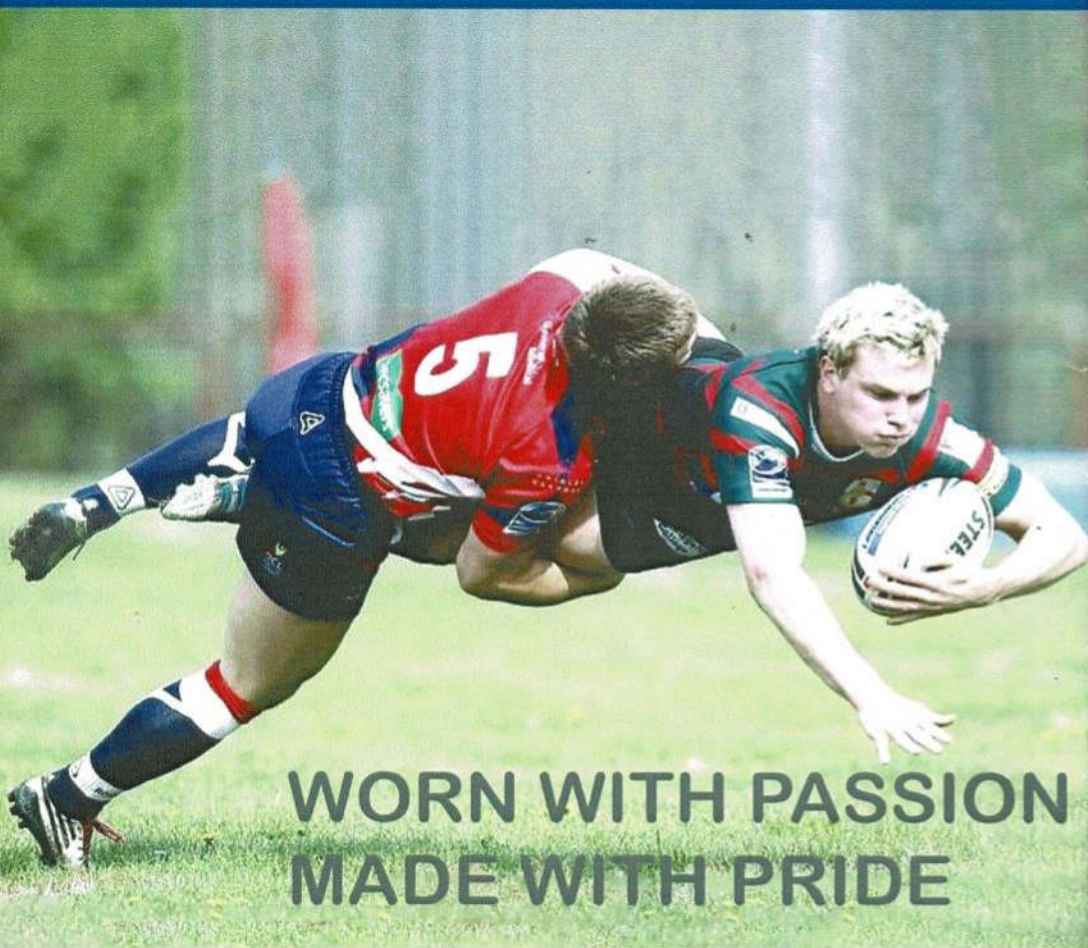




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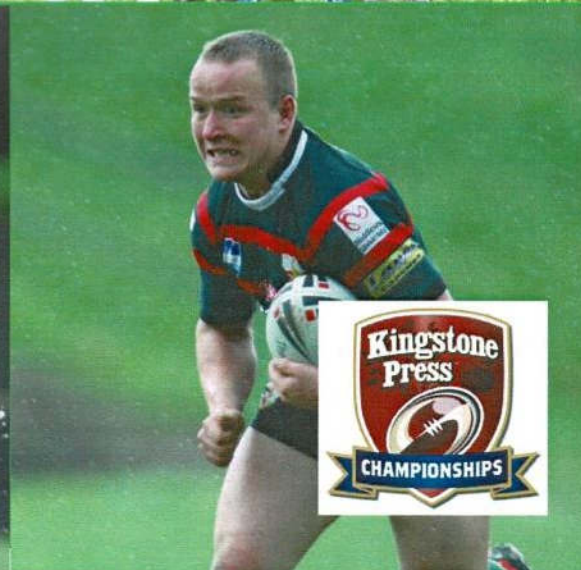
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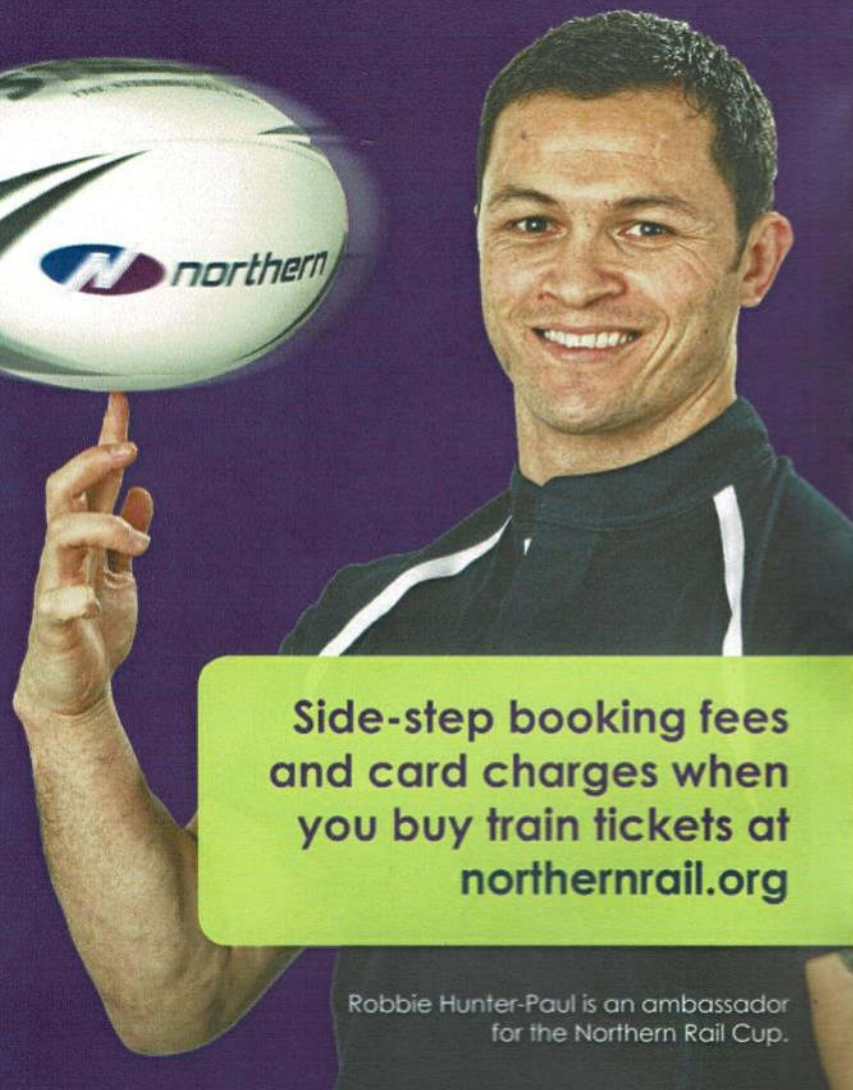
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London Skolars v Oldham
4 August 2013



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Boardroom View

As we enter the last third of the league season, Terry Browne looks at the club's work beyond the first team



Today's game is a key one for both clubs. Third place taking on first place (though Wednesday night's game might change our position). Oldham had a great result against North Wales Crusaders last weekend and will be difficult to overtake if they win today. A victory for us would open up the league and with North Wales still to visit New River, we could be set for a thrilling end to the season.

Conversely, the play-offs spots are still very much up for grabs and should we slip up we could fall out of the top six quite quickly. Last weekend's victory at Cheltenham showed that there are not going to be any easy points over the last month in Kingstone Press Championship 1.

On pages 16 and 17 of today's programme, we look at the remaining fixtures and the play-off format, even if both sides may be hoping to avoid the play-offs completely by winning the league outright.

We also welcome Hammersmith Hills Hoists to New River today. The table before today's game shows how

close that league has been this season. There can't be many leagues where next to bottom has a better points difference than the side at the top.

Our Urban Rugby has got underway again. It's a key part of our community strategy and continues to grow. Later this month, Jamie Peacock comes down to New River for his All-Star Activity Camp. To have a player of his stature taking training sessions will be a great experience for all the youngsters involved (further details are on page 21).

Finally, congratulations to the Under 19s for their victory in the Liontrust Grand Final at Pennine Way last Saturday. Whilst Saturday was most certainly not the greatest day for the sport in the capital, the enthusiasm, dedication and ability of the sides competing at five age groups demonstrated many of the good things that are going on in and around London at the moment.

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View from the Dug Out

Skolars' Head Coach Joe Mbu on the climax to the league campaign



A warm welcome to all of you to New River.

Having lost two of their first three games, Oldham have shown great consistency of form since then and now stand top of the league. I'm sure they will be determined to win the league after having suffered the agonies of four consecutive promotion play-off final defeats from 2007 to 2010.

They have a good blend of youth and experience and it's good to see Sam Gee getting regular first team appearances after a season at Whitehaven; we know what a danger he can be on his day.

Experience is vital in the run-up to the end of the season. Every game is significant and every game is going to be like a cup game for us. The final of the Northern Rail Bowl was a terrific experience for the players and for the club. Injuries to Ade Adebisi and Andy McLean meant we fell away in the late stages of the game, but we will be stronger having been part of the finals day. Thanks to all of you that made the journey to Halifax. We may have been outnumbered by North Wales (as were Sheffield) but the players and the coaching staff really appreciated the lift your support gave us.

Going back to the importance of experience, Gareth Raynor certainly has that with over 200 Super League

appearances for Hull, Leeds Rhinos, Bradford Bulls and Crusaders as well as playing three times for Great Britain. He created a break with his first touch of the ball on Sunday and finished off that set with a try with his next touch. He will be a real asset to the club in our promotion bid.

Ironically, Gareth took the spot of Ade Adebisi who played with him at Hull; hopefully Ade will be recovered from his injury before the end of the season.

Enjoy The Game

Joe Mbu



Kingstone Press Championship 1 Table

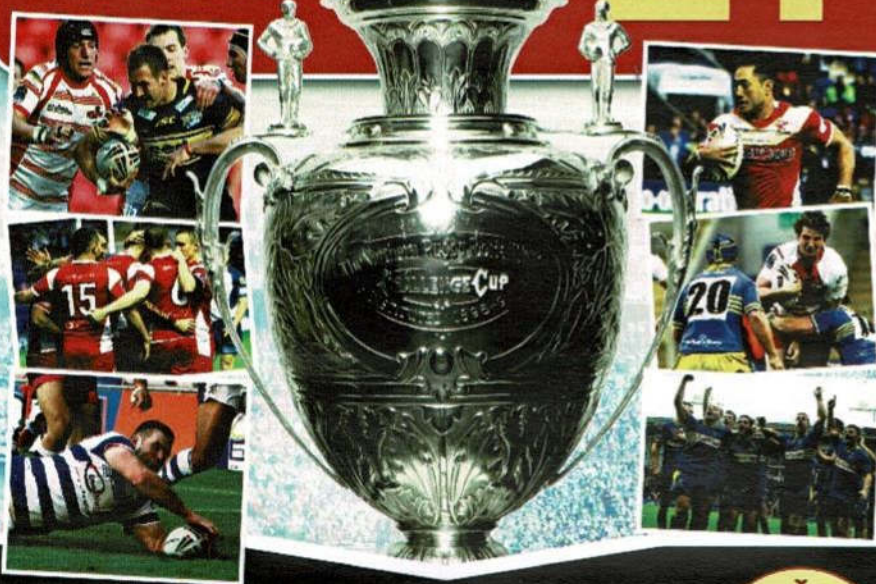


Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	BP	Points
1 Oldham	13	10	0	3	412	216	196	3	33
2 North Wales Crusaders	11	9	0	2	391	134	257	1	28
3 London Skolars	11	7	0	4	351	328	23	2	23
4 Rochdale Hornets	12	7	0	5	376	301	75	1	22
5 Hemel Stags	11	6	0	5	271	223	48	3	21
6 Oxford	13	5	1	7	270	322	-52	4	21
7 South Wales Scorpions	13	5	0	8	308	405	-97	3	18
8 Gateshead Thunder	12	2	1	8	254	433	-179	4	12
9 University of Gloucestershire All Golds	12	2	0	10	198	469	-271	2	8

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On The Road To Halifax

Skolars' General Manager Howard Kramer on the trip to the Northern Rail Bowl final



Saturday morning, 7.30am, and the first of the Skolars supporters travelling to Halifax have arrived an hour early at New River. It seems like an age since Skolars qualified for the Final and now the day has come. The coaching and medical staff are assembling for the team bus departure at 8.00am and I have clipboard in hand, ready to "take the register" and ensure that everyone travelling on the supporter's coach is present and ready to depart for Halifax at 8.30am.

The supporter's coach arrives and, one by one, I tick off the names on my list until there are just three people missing. Two of Skolars juniors casually amble along the road, blissfully unaware they are causing me to have kittens! I now have one name missing and it's the young man who will be donning the Super Skolar outfit at the game. Like all good mascots he needs his beauty sleep and a call from one of his mates reveals he is still in bed and will miss the coach! We set off without him but soon get the news that he's on his way to Kings Cross station to catch a train up to Halifax. This draws a rousing cheer from the supporters on the coach, elevating Super Skolar to true Super hero status.

After distributing Skolars away shirts to those on the coach not wearing club colours I settle down to endure what seems like a week on the M1! A brief motorway service station stop and we're back on the road again, making reasonably good time to Yorkshire. As we wind our way up one of Halifax's finest hills the entire coach party are amused by the sight of a Crusaders supporter's coach struggling to make the incline and almost going backwards.

The coach is parked and I remind everyone of our proposed departure time and assembly point after the finals. It dawns on me that I might have made a good school teacher. 20 minutes after we arrive a rather apologetic and sheepish looking mascot arrives at the ground but his efforts to make the match are rewarded with my gratitude – he's suffered enough.

After months of waiting and anticipation the game goes by in what seems like minutes. We're hanging in there and at half-time, with the score at 16-16, dare we start to dream of big Dave Williams lifting the trophy? Alas, the second half gets away from Skolars and despite the team's best efforts Crusaders forge ahead and maintain a healthy lead to take

the spoils. Our supporters were in fantastic voice all afternoon, even though they were outnumbered by the hoards of Crusaders fans. Defeat is taken in true sporting fashion and we applaud our team off and the Crusaders lads. A cracking Northern Rail Bowl Final between Leigh and Sheffield follows our game and then it's back to the coach. Clipboard in hand I am pleasantly shocked that everyone makes it back on time, including three extra members of Skolars staff travelling back with us. Skolars assistant coach, Marcus Tobin, makes the journey back with the supporters and has time to talk to everyone on the coach and share his thoughts on the match and the day.

It's almost midnight when we make it back to New River and despite the obvious signs of fatigue shown by many on board it was unanimously agreed that it had been a great day for the club and its supporters and we definitely want more!

My clipboard is temporarily retired but, who knows, it could make a return at the end of the season – we will see.





Skolars' Statistics

More records broken by Dylan Skee last week against the All-Golds. James Anthony and Sam Wellings were named in the Kingstone Press Championship 1 side of the week.

Club No	Squad No	Player	Sponsor	2013 season Appearances							Career Appearances						
				Starts	Subs	Total	T	G	DG	Points	Starts	Subs	Total	T	G	DG	Points
242	1	James Anthony	Lanes Coaches	15	-	15	14	-	-	56	53	-	53	31	-	-	124
202	2	Smokie Junior	Bridget and Colin Burrows	11	1	12	5	-	-	20	40	4	44	15	-	-	60
107	3	Joe Price	MIC Hotel & Conference Centre	13	-	13	6	-	-	24	69	6	75	22	-	-	88
201	4	John Paxton		16	-	16	3	-	-	12	69	2	71	19	-	-	76
143	5	Ade Adebisi	The Joseph Clarke Service	12	-	12	9	-	-	36	66	2	68	52	-	-	208
255	6	Joe Ridley	MIC Hotel & Conference Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	-	-	-	-
238	7	Dylan Skee	Alan Greenwood	17	-	17	6	73	-	170	65	-	65	24	202	1	501
204	8	Rob Thomas		4	9	13	5	-	-	20	19	18	37	9	-	-	36
253	9	Martyn Smith	Osburne Accountants	8	7	15	1	-	-	4	12	24	36	4	-	-	16
216	10	David Williams	FNC General	14	1	15	2	-	-	8	47	4	51	7	-	-	28
267	11	David Stephenson	S&S Marquess	7	-	7	2	-	-	8	7	-	7	2	-	-	8
257	12	Mike Worrincy	MJG Consultancy Services	17	-	17	5	-	-	20	25	-	25	9	-	-	36
217	13	Oliver Furlow		12	4	16	2	-	-	8	54	25	79	7	-	-	28
189	14	Oliver Bloom		2	1	3	1	-	-	4	30	17	47	8	-	-	32
196	15	Jaroslav Obuchowski		2	-	2	-	-	-	-	24	8	32	7	-	-	28
252	16	Louis Robinson	Ablestake Consulting	1	16	17	5	-	-	20	2	22	24	6	-	-	24
192	17	Danny Burke	Tennies UK Ltd	-	5	5	1	-	-	4	10	22	32	2	-	-	8
249	18	Chris McManara	SRL Alumni	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	12	-	12	1	-	-	4
258	19	James Roche		2	5	7	-	-	-	-	7	9	16	-	-	-	-
237	20	Carlen Clement-Pascall		4	-	4	1	-	-	4	8	12	20	4	-	-	16
230	21	Lamack Juma		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
270	22	Alex Anthony	Momentaprint	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
248	23	Jack Dillon		3	3	6	4	-	-	16	3	3	6	4	-	-	16
280	24	Jimmy Morgan		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
261	25	Dion Chapman		1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-
251	26	Andy McLean		13	-	13	4	3	2	24	31	-	31	13	5	3	65
283	27	Sam Wellings		6	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
274	28	Evan Simons		7	4	11	-	-	-	-	7	4	11	-	-	-	-
234	30	Michael Sykes		1	7	8	-	-	-	-	9	26	35	-	-	-	-
281		Mike Bishop		3	1	4	-	-	1	1	3	1	4	-	-	1	1
282		Mike Channing		-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
277		Jack Clover		-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
244		Erjon Dellapi		9	2	11	4	-	-	16	9	2	11	4	-	-	16
275		Billy Driver		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
272		Judd Greenhalgh		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
273		Mike Greenhalgh		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
276		Michael Hill		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
264		Alex Hurst		9	-	9	7	-	-	28	9	-	9	7	-	-	28
278		Sebastian Kolasi		-	1	1	1	-	-	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	4
263		Olaf Krosnig		2	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	1	-	-	4
279		Will Lovell		-	1	1	1	-	-	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	4
203		James O'Callaghan		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	1	-	-	4
285		Gareth Rayner		1	-	1	1	-	-	4	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
271		Angelo Thomas		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
265		Oscar Thomas		4	-	4	1	-	-	4	4	-	4	1	-	-	4
269		Scott Wheelodon		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
284		Jamaine Wray		4	1	5	-	-	-	-	4	1	5	-	-	-	-

Dylan Skee broke the club's all-time points scoring record in the win against University of Gloucestershire All-Golds. The record was previously held by Paul Thorman with 488.

As not all the records are available for scorers and appearances in the amateur days, our records tend to caveated with "in the professional era" or "since 2003". However, given the number of goalkickers the club had in those early days, this is definitely one record that does cover the full 18 history of the club.

Dylan's fifth conversion on Sunday saw him go past the 500 points. His next two milestones are most goals in the season (he set that record last season with 89) and top goalscorer (currently held by Paul Thorman with 223).

James Anthony moved into fifth place in the Skolars top try scoring list (in the professional era) closing in on third place held by Matt Thomas and Gareth Honor with 33. He also has a chance of beating Mark Cantoni's record of 20 tries in the 2004 season.

The Northern Rail Bowl final was David William's fiftieth appearance for the club.



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Under 19s Triumph

A Grand Final win at Hemel

London Skolars U19s age group finished off an outstanding season as they emerged victorious from the London Youth League Grand Final last Saturday. On a hot day at Pennine Way, the home of Skolars Championship One rivals Hemel Stags. The Skolars again made a dominant start to the game, with their impressive forward pack finding huge holes in the Eastern Rhinos defence, as was the game plan – the powerful bursts by props Franklin Bruno and David Ogufere were ably followed up with good support by lighting quick wingers Sayed Kapaka and Donovan Noble, enabling Skolars to cross for 4 quick fire opening tries, all converted by scrum half Jack Avery.

With the way the Skolars were defending both in the middle and out wide, and the assurance with which fullback Aston Stephenson was returning Eastern Rhinos kicks, there was a danger that the final was going to be all one way traffic. However credit to the Rhinos and their coach Pete Le Marquand, they rallied and dragged themselves back into contention. With the momentum now with the boys from Colchester the Skolars felt themselves under pressure for the first time in the match, facing two repeat sets on their own goal-line, it took a huge defensive effort to keep the Rhinos out, the Skolars finally got the break they needed when the left side of Seb Kolasa, Micheal Greenhalgh and Donovan Noble managed to make a great hit and force the Eastern Rhinos winger into touch.

This allowed the Skolars to regroup and they began to force themselves back upfield. With Eastern now chasing the game their plays became riskier and their error count increased. The Skolars, with first team coach Joe Mbu watching on from the sideline, were clinical in capitalizing on these errors and ran in 20 unanswered points to put the game beyond the Eastern Rhinos. The final whistle sparked jubilant scenes from the Skolars bench as they celebrated Grand Final success for the second year in a row.

This result meant the U19s secured a London RL 'treble' with the 9s, Junior Challenge Cup and now

Grand Final trophy all now in the Skolars cabinet. Commenting on the victory, coach Matt Cuss and assistant coach Dion Chapman praised the way the boys had applied themselves throughout the season "given that the U19s were coming into the season as Champions, there was pressure on us from the start, but every time we have been tested the lads have stuck their hands up and come away with the right result.

"It's been a whole squad effort throughout the year with every one of the lads playing their part in some way, and a huge thank you must go to everyone who has enabled this season to be such a successful one, all the supporters who have turned out, everyone at the club for making everything so accessible, and Bobby Brown for driving us all over London. It's been an absolute privilege to work with such a talented bunch of players in my first season with Skolars and I'm sure that we will see a number of this squad make the step up to first team level in the near future."

1. Aston Stephenson
2. Donovan Noble
3. Max Catmur Hill
4. Seb Kolasa
5. Sayed Kapaka
6. Jack Avery
7. Jack Clover
8. Franklin Bruno
9. Ben Cary ©
10. David Ogufere
11. Mike Greenhalgh
12. Judd Greenhalgh
13. Scott Whitby
14. Aita Kyunoshi
15. Robbie Jarvis
16. Sean Palmer
17. Conrad Edgar
18. Anthony Kaana
19. Rhys Whitby
20. Ben Smith

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Today's visitors

A look at some of the key figures in the Oldham line-up

With former coach Tony Benson taking several players with him to Oxford, Oldham's new coach Scott Naylor has brought in a number of changes to last year's squad. A former England international, Naylor was formerly on the coaching staff with Salford and Oldham's link-up with the City Reds that has seen hooker Adam Files and centre Jon Ford develop with the Roughveds this season.

Full-back Richard Lepori has linked up again with Naylor having veen with Salford as a teenager before a season with Castleford Tigers.

Winger Mo Agoro is another new signing, moving over the Pennines having been on Leeds' books, having also played for amateur clubs Drighlington and Hunslet Warriors. One the opposite wing is Dale Bloomfield who spent three seasons at Rochdale Hornets, being named in the Championship One team of the year in 2011

The Oldham area has a strong heritage of producing young talent and centre David Cookson has come through that route, joining Oldham in 2011 from Oldham St Annes, having played at representative level for England Students and BARLA GB under-23s. Also moving down the road from local rivals Rochdale is centre/second rower Danny Samuel.

Lewis Palfrey is captain of the club in his first season at Oldham, having played for Whitehaven and Batley Bulldogs and, whilst still only 23, his experience at Championship level has been an important factor in Oldham's promotion bid this season.

With over 300 appearances for the club and over a century of tries, stand off Neil Roden is in his 12 season with the club, having signed from his hometown of Wigan.

Another club stalwart is prop Jason Boult who is in his seventh season with the club and he has missed just four games in the last three years. Also in the front row is former GB Students' international Liam Gilchrist, who joined the club in 2011.

Phil Joy is another local youngster, who came through the junior ranks at Waterhead, before impressing in Oldham's reserves in 2012. Fellow prop Callum Marriott made his Super League debut with Salford at 17.

Chris Tyrer is with his fifth pro club, joining from North Wales Crusaders, after spells with Salford, St Helens and Swinton Lions

Sarn Gee will be no stranger to New River having played for Skolars for two seasons in 2010 and 2011 before a year at Whitehaven, where he was a member of the Cumbrian team that beat Super League opposition in winning the Rugby League Nines last year.

21 year old second rower Josh Crowley was Naylor's first signing as coach, after three seasons with Widnes. Mark Hobson is also in his first season at Whitebank, having previously played for four seasons at Rochdale Hornets.

Loose forward Liam Thompson played for Wigan St Jude's and Hindley as a junior before signing for Wigan Warriors at 16. The 21 year old joined Oldham in 2013 from Widnes.

Head To Head

Oldham enjoyed some commanding victories in the early encounters between the two sides, but the last two years have seen some tense finishes. The closest of all came here last April. An early try for James Anthony put Skolars ahead but a try for full-back Miles Greenwood and two for Alex Thompson gave the visitors an 8-16 lead at half-time.

Handing was tough in a strong wind, but the experience of Graham Holroyd making his debut for Oldham after two years after his last game at this level seemed to be taking control. However, tries for Dylan Skee and Martyn Smith gave Skolars a narrow lead.

Greenwood scored his second try to level the game with three minutes remaining, but Jamie Dallimore's conversion caught the wind to go wide and the game finished at 20 apiece.

Head to Head

Competition		P	W	D	L	Points scored	
						Skolars	Oldham
CC1	Home	6	1	1	4	96	254
	Away	7	0	0	7	152	251
All Games		13	1	1	11	248	505



Squad line-ups



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Momentoprint

- 1 James Anthony
- 2 Smokie Junor
- 3 Joe Price
- 4 John Paxton
- 5 Ade Adebisi
- 6 Joe Ridley
- 7 Dylan Skee
- 8 Rob Thomas
- 9 Martyn Smith
- 10 Dave Williams
- 11 David Stephenson
- 12 Michael Worrincy
- 13 Ollie Purslow
- 14 Ollie Bloom
- 15 Jarowslaw Obuchowski
- 16 Louis Robinson
- 17 Danny Burke
- 18 Chris McNamara
- 19 James Roche
- 20 Cariern Clement-Pascall
- 21 Lameck Juma
- 22 Alex Anthony
- 23 Jack Dillon
- 24 Jimmy Morgan
- 25 Dion Chapman
- 26 Andy McLean
- 27 Sam Wellings
- 28 Evan Simons
- 30 Michael Sykes
- Mike Bishay
- Erhon Dollapi
- Alex Hurst
- Gareth Raynor
- Jamaine Wray

- 1 Richard Lepori
- 2 Mo Agoro
- 3 Danny Samuel
- 4 Steven Neild
- 5 Dale Bloomfield
- 6 Lewis Palfrey
- 7 Neil Roden
- 8 Liam Gilchrist
- 9 Sam Gee
- 10 Jason Boults
- 11 Josh Crowley
- 12 Danny Langtree
- 13 Mark Hobson
- 14 Adam Files
- 15 Chris Tyrer
- 16 Kenny Hughes
- 17 Callum Marriott
- 18 Phil Joy
- 19 Michael Ward
- 20
- 21 David Cookson
- 22 Liam Thompson
- 23
- 24
- 25

Match Officials

Referee: Peter Brooke
Touch Judges: Tom Msther, Stewart Kirkpatrick

Scoring Sequence

[illegible]



The race for promotion

The play-offs explained

This season see a change in the play-of format for promotion from Kingstone Press Championship 1.

The side that finishes first at the end of the league campaign of 16 games earns automatic promotion. The sides finishing second to sixth enter the play-offs. The format then follows the method used for the top 5 play-offs for many years in Australia and the format used in the early seasons of Super League.

Week 1 - weekend of 7/8 September

The 2nd placed team in the league gets a bye.

3rd play 4th (match A),

The winner progresses to match C. The loser has a second chance to progress and plays the winner of Match B in week 2

5th play 6th (Match B).

The loser is eliminated. The winner progresses to Match D

Week 2 - weekend of 14/15 September

2nd-placed team v Winner Match A. (Match C) The winner progresses to the Play-off final. The loser has a second chance to progress and plays the winner of Match E in week 3.

Losing team Match A v Winning team match B (Match D)

The loser is eliminated. The winner progresses to Match E

Week 3 - weekend of 21/22 September

Losing team Match C v Winner Match D (Match E)

The winner progresses to the Play-off final, The loser is eliminated.

Week 4 - 29 September

Kingstone Press Championship One play-off final:

Winner Match C v Winner Match E

The final takes place at Leigh Sporting Village and the day will also feature the Championship Grand Final.

With 14 teams in that division, the top 8 take part in the play-offs with a simlat format to the top 8 play-offs in Super League



Kingstone Press Championship 1 - The Remaining Fixtures



Wednesday 31 July

Gloucestershire All Golds v Hemel Stags (7:30pm)

Sunday 4 August

Gateshead Thunder v North Wales Crusaders

Hemel Stags v Oxford

London Skolars v Oldham

Rochdale Hornets v South Wales Scorpions

Sunday 11 August

North Wales Crusaders v Hemel Stags

Oldham v University of Gloucestershire All Golds

Rochdale Hornets v Gateshead Thunder

South Wales Scorpions v London Skolars

Thursday 15 August

Rochdale Hornets v Oldham (7pm)

Sunday 18 August 2013

North Wales Crusaders v Oxford

University of Gloucestershire All Golds v

Gateshead Thunder

Hemel Stags v London Skolars

Friday 23rd August 2013

London Skolars v North Wales Crusaders

Sunday 1st September 2013

North Wales Crusaders v South Wales Scorpions

Gateshead Thunder v Hemel Stags

Oxford v London Skolars

Rochdale Hornets v University of Gloucestershire

All Golds



Lionstrust Youth and Junior Grand Finals Day

Whilst we report on Skolars' success in the Under19s on Liontrust Youth and Junior Grand Finals Day in detail on page 12, there were four other finals played at Pennine Way.

Brixton Bulls reached the first final in their history and took the under-14s title with a 28-26 victory over Elmbridge Eagles with Kelland Thomas-Smith scoring two tries.

It was a good day for south London sides, who won three out of the five finals. At Under 13 level the Croydon Hurricanes Under-13s had a narrow 28-20 victory over Elmbridge Eagles, both sides scored five tries but the Eagles were unable to convert any of theirs while Dan Johnson's four conversions for the Hurricanes was to prove the difference. Croydon's Samuel Ajayi scored a hat-trick.

In the under-12s final Elmbridge Eagles proved too strong for Medway Dragons winning 28-5. In the final game of the day the Croydon Hurricanes Under-16s wrapped things up with a 34-12 win over Medway Dragons.

LONDON SKOLARS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB



LOTTERY



Support the growth of London Skolars Rugby League Club for as little as £1 a week and help fund our award winning Community Development Programme!

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I Signature _____ **I** Date _____

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I 3. Branch Address _____
I 4. Account Holders Name _____
I 5. Account Number _____ **I** 6. Sort Code _____

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Please make cheque in the sum of £50.00 payable to:- "Student Rugby League Old Boys 100 Club" and send the form with your contact details together with your cheque to: London Skolars Rugby League Club, White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre, White Hart Lane, Wood Green, London, N22 5QW or email to: haideekramer@skolarsrl.com

LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION ONLINE WWW.SKOLARSRL.COM

Development News



Urban Rugby gets underway again, Summer Touch reaches its conclusion and a new year beckons at Barnet and Southgate College

Skolars Summer Touch

The Skolars Summer Touch season is almost at its conclusion and today sees this year's participants take part in a half time demonstration. This year's competition has seen a team from the Skolars under 19s outfit rival Community Manager, Paul Thorman's team for the title with the contest going right down to the wire. Today's game could be for the title so stay around at half time to watch the game and if you like what you see, get yourself along to a session!

For information on Skolars Touch contact Paul Thorman on 020 8888 8488 or email paulthorman@skolarsrl.com.



Barnet and Southgate College preseason

Although the academic year has only just concluded, the CORE (College of Rugby Education) students at partner college, Barnet and Southgate, are already eyeing up the rigours of preseason training. Preparations for the 2013-14 season are already underway, with students set to go through a tough summer to ensure the group is ready for their unique dual code season.

From the 5th August, the students will assemble every Monday and Thursday to be put through their paces by both the Skolars Community and Saracens Foundation coaches until the new academic year begins.

For more information on the Barnet and Southgate CORE, contact Matt Cuss on 020 8888 8488 or email matthewcuss@skolarsrl.com.

Urban Rugby

A busy summer programme is just about to commence with London Skolars taking their Urban Rugby programme to various sites in Haringey. Again, working in partnership with Metropolitan Housing Trust, the Skolars take their 'doorstep sport' programme to Metropolitan's residents allowing individuals who may not have had the opportunity, to sample a high quality programme of sports coaching.

The activity is at 3 different sites in summer 2013:

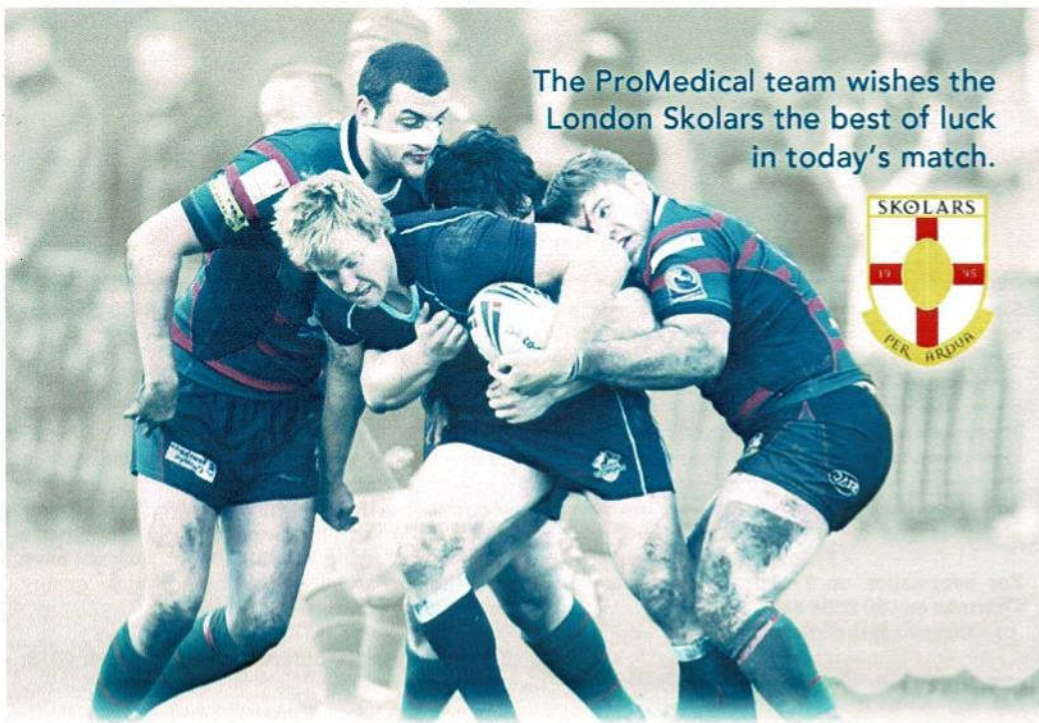
Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August:
Commerce Road (N22)

Monday 5th August to Friday 9th August:
Sky City (N22)

Wednesday 14th August to Friday 16th August:
White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre (N22)

All sessions run from 10am-12pm and if you are interested in taking part in any of the Urban Rugby, you can turn up at any of the locations on the day. If you have any enquiries about the programme, contact Paul Thorman on 020 8888 8488 or paulthorman@skolarsrl.com.





The ProMedical team wishes the London Skolars the best of luck in today's match.



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London Skolars Fixtures 2013



MARCH						
Sun	3rd	The Gnoll, Neath	South Wales Scorpions	W 12-54	3.00 PM	Northern Rail Cup
Sun	10th	New River	Hemel Stags	W 26-4	3.00 PM	Northern Rail Cup
Sun	17th	New River	Univ of Gloucestershire All-Golds	W 20-0	3.00 PM	Northern Rail Cup
Fri	29th	New River	Hemel Stags	L 8-26	3.00 PM	Championship 1
APRIL						
Sun	1st	Spotland Stadium	Rochdale Hornets	L 40-16	3.00 PM	Northern Rail Cup
Sun	7th	Recreation Ground	Whitehaven	L 38-32	2.00 PM	Tetleys Challenge Cup R3
Sun	14th	Racecourse Ground, Wrexham	North Wales Crusaders	L 44-6	2.30 PM	Championship 1
MAY						
Sun	5th	New River	South Wales Scorpions	W 39-20	3.00 PM	Championship 1
Sun	12th	Spotland Stadium	Rochdale Hornets	L 32-24	3.00 PM	Championship 1
Sun	19th	New River	Whitehaven	L 16-62	2.00 PM	Northern Rail Cup
Sun	26th	New River	Oxford	W 40-34	3.00 PM	Championship 1
JUNE						
Sun	2nd	Whitebank Stadium	Oldham	L 30-22	3.00 PM	Championship 1
Sun	9th	Filtrona Park	Gateshead Thunder	W 52-55	2.00 PM	Championship 1
Sun	16th	New River	Univ of Gloucestershire All-Golds	W 38-22	3.00 PM	Championship 1
Sun	23rd	New River	Rochdale Hornets	W 32-16	3.00 PM	Championship 1
JULY						
Sun	7th	New River	Gateshead Thunder	W 52-24	2.00 PM	Championship 1
Sat	20th	The Shay, Halifax	North Wales Crusaders	L 24-42	2.30 PM	Northern Rail Bowl Final
Sun	28th	Prince of Wales Stadium, Cheltenham	Univ of Gloucestershire All-Golds	W 28-35	3.00 PM	Championship 1
AUGUST						
Sun	4th	New River	Oldham		3.00 PM	Championship 1
Sun	11th	The Gnoll, Neath	South Wales Scorpions		3.00 PM	Championship 1
Sun	18th	Pennine Way	Hemel Stags		3.00 PM	Championship 1
Fri	23rd	New River	North Wales Crusaders		6.30 PM	Championship 1
SEPTEMBER						
Sun	1st	Iffley Road	Oxford		3.00 PM	Championship 1
Sun	8th, 15th, 22nd		Play-offs			Championship 1
Sun	29th		Play-off final			Championship 1

Jamie Peacock All-Star Activity Camp

The London Skolars hosted Jamie Peacock All-Star Activity Camp is edging ever closer, however there is still time to secure your place to receive expert coaching from the former England skipper. Peacock's camps have, until now, been exclusive to the north. However, Jamie will be bringing his considerable experience to North London allowing youngsters across London and the South East to receive coaching from the Leeds Rhinos superstar.

The two-day camp takes place at the Skolars' very own New River Stadium on Monday 12th August and Tuesday 13th August and costs only £30 for both days. The camp is for children aged between 5 and 13. To book on to the camp, visit Jamie's website - <http://www.jamiepeacock.co.uk/booking.html>



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Reserves out of the cup but still in league contention



South West Chargers have lived up to their nickname with a surge up the table and they looked set to take their place in the Grand Final until they yook on Skolars last week. Skolars 24-18 win keeps them in touch with the leaders, Hammersmith having moved back to the top, The Hills Hoists play here today, a win for Skolars should see them make the playoffs. A win for the Hills Hoists could

see them finish top of the league.

Skolars' Reserves Fixture List

August 4 Hammersmith Hills Hoists (H)
August 10 Playoff Semi Finals
August 17 Grand Final

London Premier Table

Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	Points
1 Hammersmith Hill Hoists	8	6	0	2	148	150	-2	12
2 South West London Chargers	9	5	1	3	274	124	150	11
3 London Skolars A	9	4	2	3	230	186	44	10
4 Eastern Rhinos	9	4	1	4	202	200	2	9
5 Hemel Stags A	9	3	2	4	212	212	0	8
6 Elmbridge Eagles	8	1	0	7	112	306	-194	2

Only In London

Dave Farrar's independent viewpoint

How Was It For You?

What a great day out the NRC Finals were, perfect weather, two great games (shame about the first result) and a good atmosphere amongst the four sets of fans.

We had the added bonus of bumping into the team as they had a break at the Wakefield services so that was a great start to the menu. I must say that it would have been better with a bigger crowd and there were few neutrals there. Surely there must be a way of giving season ticket holders of others clubs a discount to encourage attendance.

I thought the Skolars players did the club proud and but for a couple of injuries may have pulled off a shock win. The Crusaders fans certainly created a great atmosphere, though I was shocked when they sang "the referees a Cockney"! The Friday Night Lights game is now set up to be a classic as the Crusaders fans will come down in numbers.

Our lads have now just to keep their nerve and form to be well placed when the play-off places are decided. The boys have already made history this season and a play-off final and promotion would be icing on the cake.

Enjoy the game

Dave Farrar

Follow me on twitter: @brongcoskolar (now with 200+ followers!)

RUGBY LEAGUE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

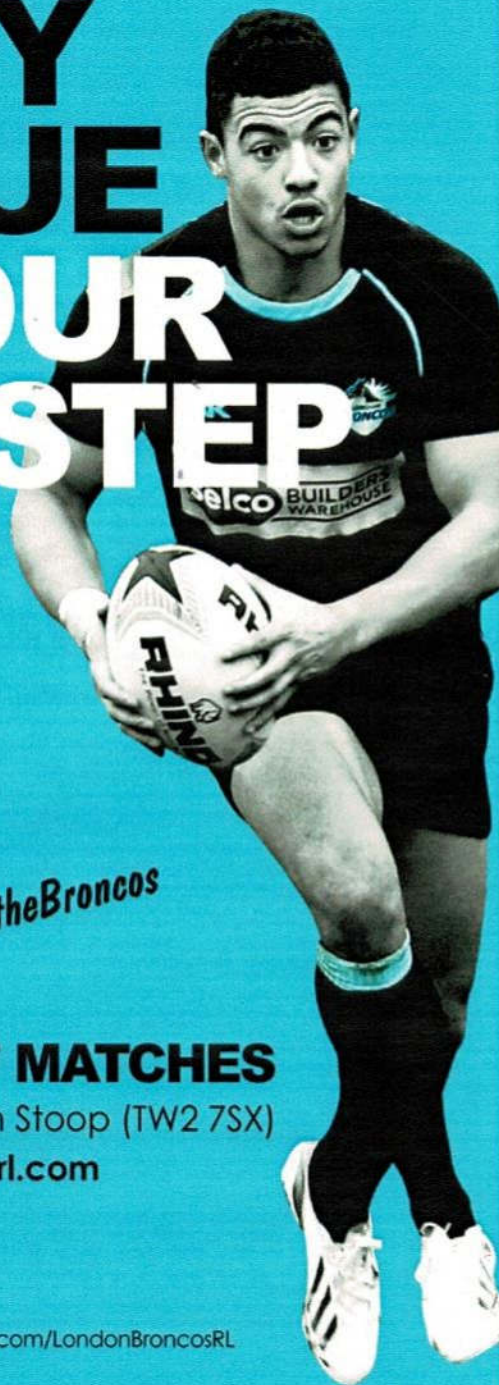


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Gareth Walker's



CHAMPIONSHIP TALK
in association with **League Express**

Relegation Dogfight

By GARETH WALKER of Rugby Leaguer & League Express

WITH five full rounds to play and two teams set to be relegated from the Kingstone Press Championship, it could hardly be closer at the bottom at present.

Heading into this weekend's fixtures, just two points separate the bottom four teams – York City Knights, Barrow Raiders, Swinton Lions and Hunslet Hawks. The situation seems to change on a weekly basis, with shock results such as Swinton's home win over Featherstone on Sunday regularly shaking things up further.

The Lions had been struggling of late, but buoyed by that win, coach Gary Chambers is now looking for further improvements in the crucial coming weeks.

"I've said all along since I've been at the club that we're turning too much ball over, and tackling twice as much as everyone else," Chambers said. "If we can hold the ball a little bit better and stick to the plan then we can trouble teams. "Sunday was probably the best team we've had out all year, and it showed. We stuck to the gameplan and hopefully the players can now see the value in doing that. It also gives us a bit of belief that we can play against the bigger teams and get something out of it."

Hunslet Hawks' ability to pick up frequent bonus points means they have not been cast adrift at the bottom – they have won just four matches all season but picked up ten extra points in defeat.

York have been slipping in recent weeks and have been dragged right back into the struggle to survive, while Barrow Raiders had been noticeably improving, until Sunday's disappointing 32-4 loss at Doncaster.

Keighley may have thought they were out of the battle too, and had they beaten Dewsbury at home a couple of weeks ago instead of falling to a four-point loss they might have been. Consecutive defeats mean they are just four points above the drop zone now – and have arguably the toughest run-in on anyone, including all three trips to Cumbria still to come.

The remaining fixtures for the bottom five teams are set out below. There promises to be plenty more twists and turns yet.

Keighley Cougars (currently 27 points from 20 matches): Batley (H), Whitehaven (A), Workington (A), Featherstone (H), Halifax (H), Barrow (A).

York City Knights (24 from 20): Doncaster (A), Sheffield (H), Swinton (A), Hunslet (H), Workington (A), Batley (H).

Barrow Raiders (24 from 21): Halifax (H), Batley (A), Workington (H), Swinton (A), Keighley (H).

Swinton Lions (23 from 21): Leigh (A), York (H), Doncaster (A), Barrow (H), Whitehaven (A).

Hunslet Hawks (22 from 21): Dewsbury (A), Workington (H), York (A), Sheffield (A), Featherstone (H).

League Express

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This Month in Time

A good start to the National Conference League campaign, but 2003 continues to be tough for Skolars

1998

Skolars made the best possible start to the 1998/99 National Conference League division 2 campaign with a victory at Dodworth. They led 6-10 at half-time but fell behind until Charlie Oyebade scored the decisive try with seven minutes remaining for a 12-18 victory.

They made it two from two with a 28-20 against Hull Dockers the following week. Alfie Petelo scored twice and Anthony Scully scored for the second consecutive game. Hull Dockers made a second half comeback after trailing 22-10 at the break but a Marc Simon try and conversion sealed the win.

Skolars announced a new coach with Australian Nathan Turner taking over the reins. Turner played for Queensland Crushers in the NRL and in 1997 signed for Oldham, though a foot injury prevented him from playing a single game for the Bears as they were then known.

2003

After some heavy defeat in July, Skolars pushed top of the table Keighley Cougars close before going down 14-22 despite missing Jake Johnstone and Alann Tito. Glenn Osborn (now at Oxford) returned from a successful tour of Australia with the Great Britain Academic Lions Under 19s side, kicking a penalty on ten minutes. When Alex Smits was sin-binned for backchat halfway through the opening period the Skolars showed far greater resolve than they had in previous week and were still in touch (2-10) at the break.

An early break from Rubert Jonker and Cory Bennett saw Kahu Henare force his way over, but an error at the restart saw Keighley score. A second try from Henare was concerted by Osborn narrowing the gap to two points. The last twenty minutes saw some breathless action as both sides looked for the decisive score. But the pressure finally told with a minute to go as Ricky Helliwell scored out wide to keep the Cougars top of the table. If Skolars could play that against a weaker team than Keighley their first win had to be around the corner.

So there was much hope as the team travelled to Sheffield the following week, even with hookers Kahu Henare and Gareth Honor out through injury. Mario DuToit scored Skolars only try as they trailed 44-4 at half-time. Worse followed as Andy Pointer scored four tries and Greg

Hurst scored a hat-trick for the Eagles, with Gavin Brown adding 14 conversions in a 98-4 record defeat for Skolars. Even with a number of reserves stepping up to play in that game, the reserve team were strong in their play-off game scoring 17 tries on a 86-10 against St Ives Roosters.

It was a much improved performance at Salford FC when Skolars played Swinton. Gareth Janes crashed over for an early try, and they were in contention at 16-6 down at half-time, but with only a try by Huy Le, converted by Glenn Osborn they fell away to lose 34-12. It was another away trip the following week and Skolars lost 64-14 at Hunslet, whilst the reserves were knocked out of the play-offs by Greenwich Admirals.

2008

Skolars chances of a making the play-offs were dented with a 33-16 defeat at Workington, who regularly put London on the backfoot, including two 40-20 kicks in the first half. Corey Simms scored for Skolars in the first half, but Town were comfortably in the lead before tries for Alan Barker and Gareth Honor narrowed the gap.

Doncaster were to go on to win the promotion play-offs but had to work for their 16-23 win at New River, Skolars' tries coming from Wayne Kerr, Dave Ellison and Joe Brown with Paul Thorman kicking two conversions as Luke Gale starred for the Dons.

Skolars fell to defeat again against Rochdale, falling 20 nil behind before Simms and Austen Aggrey launched a mini-comeback, Stevie Gibbons' late try saw him show the form that would get him into the Ireland World Cup squad in the autumn, along with Wayne Kerr.

Right:
Corey Simms - tries
in 2008



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