

TODAY'S SQUADS

Officials: Ref: C Kendall TJ: A Smith TJ: J Ashton Res: J Smith

Match commissioner: P Gilmour

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OLDHAM

GATESHEAD THUNDER

☐		1 WHITEHEAD, Tom	☐		1	☐
☐		2 AGORO, Mo Wilscaff 07855 265 071	☐		2	☐
☐		3 WOOD, Ben	☐		3	☐
☐		4 NIELD, Steven Oldham Self Storage 0161 665 2723	☐		4	☐
☐		5 BLOOMFIELD, Dale Mick Harrop	☐		5	☐
☐		6 PALFREY, Lewis Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991	☐		6	☐
☐		7 ROBINSON, Brett ORSA	☐		7	☐
☐		8 JOY, Phil Pam Taylor & TTX	☐		8	☐
☐		9 GEE, Sam John & Lynda McAndrew	☐		9	☐
☐		10 BOULTS, Jason ORSA	☐		10	☐
☐		11 CROWLEY, Josh John & Lynda McAndrew	☐		11	☐
☐		12 LANGTREE, Danny Charlotte Gothard & Daniel Haigh	☐		12	☐
☐		13 HOBSON, Mark Colin Appleyard Ltd 0161 330 5148	☐		13	☐
☐		14 FILES, Adam Rita Walton	☐		14	☐
☐		15 MOONEY, Paddy Graeme Lee	☐		15	☐
☐		16 HUGHES, Kenny Rita Walton	☐		16	☐
☐		17 WHITMORE, Danny Frankie & Benny's	☐		17	☐
☐		18 DAVIDSON, Alex	☐		18	☐
☐		19 WARD, Michael Sylvia, David & Margaret	☐		19	☐
☐		20 TYSON, George	☐		20	☐
☐		21 COOKSON, David ORLFC Players' Association	☐		21	☐
☐		22 THOMPSON, Liam Spencer Hayes Insurance 01204 505 586				
☐		24 OKANGA-AJWANG, Edwin				

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ORLFC Official Programme

2014 SEASON

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X --- O X O NOBBY'S NOTES O X --- O X

HELLO everybody and welcome to today's game against Gateshead Thunder.

It's the first time we have been at home for five weeks because of the fixtures and two away draws in the Tetley's Challenge Cup but it's nice to be back at the Whitebank Stadium.

I'm sure today's game will be a tough encounter against the Thunder and we need to be at our best for the full 80 minutes.

As a team we haven't hit the heights of our performances from last year yet but I'm sure it will only be a matter of time before we do.

Saying that, we are still unbeaten in the league which is fantastic to see and probably shows how much more is yet to come from us as the season progresses.

Last week we played against Bradford Bulls in the Challenge Cup and I have to say how proud I was to see the way the lads applied themselves to what was obviously a very tough

encounter.

The attitude and effort shown from the minute we met at Whitebank to the game ending at 3.45pm was outstanding.

It was good to see the team playing at that level against Super League players for the full 80 minutes and also enjoying the challenge and standing up man for man from the first whistle to the last.

What we showed in Yorkshire on Sunday is what we need to show for the rest of the league games this season.

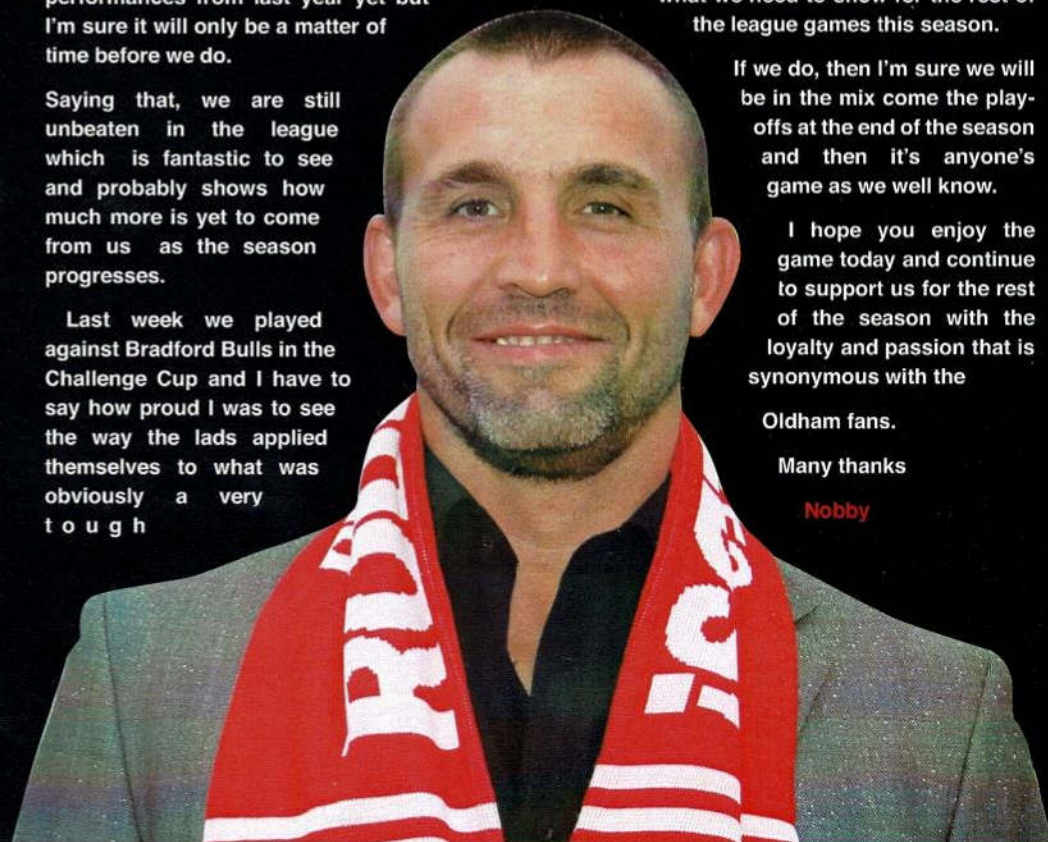
If we do, then I'm sure we will be in the mix come the play-offs at the end of the season and then it's anyone's game as we well know.

I hope you enjoy the game today and continue to support us for the rest of the season with the loyalty and passion that is synonymous with the

Oldham fans.

Many thanks

Nobby



A-PLANT STICK WITH US FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

A-PLANT, one of the UK's leading equipment hire companies, have become Oldham Rugby League Club's main shirt sponsors for a third year in a row.

The new deal was signed off at A-Plant's Manchester North depot at Pilsforth Industrial Estate, Bury, the company's biggest depot with a staff of more than 70.

Roughyeds chairman Chris Hamilton shook hands on it with general manager Wayne Maddocks and his assistant Mike Humphreys.

Though Merseyside soccer fans, they have become keenly interested in rugby league, and in the Oldham club particularly, over the past two seasons.

Said Wayne: "We've developed an affinity with Roughyeds on our many enjoyable visits to Whitebank and we're delighted to be main shirt sponsors for a third year."

"The club is working hard to make progress on and off the field and A-Plant wants to support that work and to be

part of what the club is striving to achieve."

Mike said: "Scott Naylor's side gave us some great entertainment last year, despite disappointment in the final, and hopefully they can go one better this time."

"A-Plant will be supporting them all the way."

The company has a new outlet --- Tool Hire Express --- in city-centre Manchester at Arch 4, Manchester M4 4DR (tel: 0161 832 7259).

On behalf of the club, Chris Hamilton thanked A-Plant for its continuing backing and added: "We know from previous years that we're going to have another successful partnership."

"A-Plant supports us" in many different ways -- not just on match days --- and Wayne and Mike enjoy watching the team in action and are committed to doing the best they can for us."

"Hopefully, we can have another good season and this time give them a taste of success at the end of it."



Shake on it! Left to right: Wayne Maddocks, Chris Hamilton, Mike Humphreys.

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CHRIS' COMMENTS

WELCOME back to Whitebank for a return to league action after our Tetley's Challenge Cup exploits came to an end at Bradford Bulls last week.

Despite the score it was probably our best performance of the season, which might sound daft to some, but which will make complete sense to those who went.

We were relatively error free and full of effort and determination, so much so that the score didn't give a true reflection of the game. The players deserve a lot of credit for their efforts as, indeed, do the fans for their non stop and vociferous support for the team.

Back to league action today and we must try to ensure that we get three points against a Gateshead team who have the potential, with the changes made in the close season, to get good results this season. As ever, though, it is about us and if we go into the game with the same determination and execution as last week we will be okay.

The challenge for the players is to make sure we play at that same intensity, bearing in mind also that we have a short turnaround to the Hunslet game on Good Friday so we have to have the right mental attitude.

It seems a long time since we played a home fixture which, of course, is one of the peculiarities of the division we are in, so it becomes even more vital that we make the most of them when they arise.



Enjoy the game
Christopher Hamilton
Chairman

I have made another plea this week for more people to join you, the diehards, as we strive to take the club forward and let's hope there are more fans here today to witness a relatively young group of players making good progress in their rugby league careers.

While talking about young players, let's hope the under 20s picked up their first win of the season against Halifax yesterday.

Neil Roden is finding out just what a huge difference there is between being a player and having twenty-odd others to think about and look after all of a sudden!

Despite often playing teams with more experience, the lads have done well in certain periods of games and we just need to transfer that into longer spells and we won't be far off.

Since the last home game, you will have heard about our latest break-in which was particularly disappointing as I thought we had got past that kind of incident, perhaps as a result of the amount of community work we are now doing.

We will not be swayed in our focus, which is to make the club a major part of the local community and we are working with more and more local people, groups and organisations to make sure the club and its facilities are used as much as possible.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and please be loud in getting behind the team today as we try to get another three points in the bag.

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OASIS ACADEMY OLDHAM

OASIS Academy Oldham has forged further community links with Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd by becoming, for the first time, one of the Kingstone Press Championship One club's 2014 shirt sponsors.

"We are proud to have the support of Oasis Academy Oldham and to carry their logo on our players' jerseys," said club chairman Christopher Hamilton.

"Oasis Academy Oldham is a prominent institution in the local area and it has the same aims and aspirations as the club in terms of the community in which we are both based."

The Oldham players, who are this year wearing the club's traditional red and white hoops when playing home games at the Whitebank Stadium, use Oasis Academy Oldham's state-of-the-art sporting facilities for training and match preparation.

Academy and club work together on community projects in many other ways -- and over the next few months several new partnership initiatives will be announced.

David Hayes, Principal of Oasis Academy Oldham, and Carl Heatley, Assistant Principal, Community Partnerships, welcomed this latest development in the efforts of both partners to work side by side for the benefit of the wider community in the Hollins and Limeside areas of the borough as well as further afield.

Said Mr Hayes: *"We are a school that is*

trying to be as community focused as is possible, and we recognise that a partnership with Oldham RLFC, at the very heart of that community, serves to strengthen that focus."

"The more people who know of our community links and our community beliefs, the better it is for Oasis Academy Oldham."

Mr Heatley said: *"We are looking forward to further strengthening links between Oldham RLFC, our students, and the wider community."*

"We believe that by working together in partnership we will be able to provide different opportunities for the local community and add to the future success of all involved."

Added Mr Hamilton: *"The Oasis Academy Oldham logo is also on the tops worn by our physiotherapists, doctor and our water carriers, but to have it on the players' home kit in 2014 is a major development and a further sign that our partnership is getting stronger all the time."*

"Needless to say, we are extremely grateful for the support and backing of Oasis Academy Oldham and we look forward to promoting that name wherever we play in the coming months as we strive to enjoy a successful season."



Left to right: Carl Heatley, Assistant Principal, Community Partnerships; Christopher Hamilton, chairman of Oldham RLFC; David Hayes, Principal, Oasis Academy Oldham.



Behind Closed Doors with... **DANNY WHITMORE**

Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

My grandad

Do you play any other sports and if so do you excel in them?

Table Tennis

What is the highlight of your career so far?

Reaching the Grand Final with Oldham in 2010

If you could invite two people to dinner, dead or alive, who would they be?

Dwayne Johnson (The Rock) and Chubby Brown

If your house was hit by an earthquake what would be the first thing you'd save?

My Budgie

Who's the funniest of your team mates and why?

Danny Langtree because he always smiles and pulls funny faces

Which TV programme would you never miss?

TOWIE

What was the last book you read?

Gordon Ramsay Cooking

What's your favourite type of music?

House Music

How do you relax after a match?

Couple of pain killers, pizza, few beers on the settee while my girlfriend strokes my face

Finally tell me a secret!

Ben Wood eats a full tub of mayonnaise every night before he goes to bed

OLDHAM RLFC

SEASON 2014



Back row (left to right): **Lyndsey Watkins** (head physiotherapist), **Craig Thomas** (strength and conditioning coach), **Lee Spencer** (assistant coach), **Edwin Okanga-Ajwang**, **Danny Langtree**, **Josh Crowley**, **Phil Joy**, **Ben Wood**, **Paddy Mooney**, **Jason Boults**, **David Cookson**, **Alex Davidson**, **Michael Ward**, **Patrick Hoyte** (physiotherapist), **Ben Riley** (physiotherapist), **Beth Pankiw** (masseur).

Front: **Liam Thompson**, **Steven Nield**, **Danny Whitmore**, **Brett Robinson**, **Dale Bloomfield**, **Christopher Hamilton** (club chairman), **Lewis Palfrey** (captain), **Scott Naylor** (head coach), **Sam Gee** (vice-captain), **Kenny Hughes**, **Tom Whitehead**, **Mo Agoro**, **Adam Files**, **Adrian Tierney** (kit manager).

BRIAN HOLLAND R.I.P

It is with deep sadness that we record the passing of Brian Holland, a lifelong Oldham RLFC supporter, who was a seat season-ticket holder with his wife Carol until the end of last season.

Brian, who was 76, died in the Royal Oldham Hospital a few days ago after a long illness and a brave battle against Parkinson's disease.

His funeral was at Oldham Crematorium on Monday, April 7.

Brian was a staunch supporter of Oldham RLFC for nearly 70 years, having been taken to Watersheddings by his dad when he was a small boy.

In turn, he introduced both his wife and daughter Caroline to rugby league and in particular to his beloved Oldham club, which he supported through good times and bad throughout his life.

Said Caroline: "He used to talk all the time about the great Oldham team of the fifties, but he was passionate about the club all his life and through thick and thin."

"I used to go with him all through my teenage years. Mum went with him before they were married and she has been going with him again for the past ten to 15 years, right up to the end of last season when they had seats in the stand."

"Oldham Rugby was a massive part of his life."

His passion for the club was recalled by Mike Turner, a founder member of the Oldham RLFC Heritage Trust and author of that fabulous book 'Oldham RLFC - the complete history'.

Said Mike: "Brian was extremely supportive of the Heritage Trust and of all our publications and helped us in many ways and with the offer of photographs and anecdotes."

"He also helped me with my book about the Beatles. They only did one show in Oldham and that was at the Astoria in February, 1963. Brian dug me out a photograph of the Astoria."

"But Oldham Rugby was his passion. He was a great chap --- always helpful and always ready to have a chat about the team and the club."

The club sends its sincere condolences to Carol, their daughter Caroline, grand-daughter Alexandra and to the rest of the family.

OH, what Joy it is to have brothers!



OH, what Joy it is to have brothers! The Joy siblings, twins Andrew and Richard, aged 20, and Phil (22) are our club's answer to the Burgess boys. They are pictured here after playing in the same team together for the first time when our under-20s side

played Leigh at Whitebank in their first game of the season. Phil and Andy were the starting props, while Richard was also in the starting line-up at loose-forward. Is that a record, we wonder... three brothers in an Oldham pack at the same time.

You might be tempted to say that as Richard was at No 13, traditionally a creative role in a rugby league team, he must be the brains of the family. But listen to this: all three are currently at university with Phil studying for a Masters in finance and banking at Leeds University; Richard reading economics at Salford University and Andrew getting his head round mathematics and business studies at Liverpool University.

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PICTURE COURTESY OF OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

THE late Nigel Marland will be at the heart of everything his beloved Oldham Rugby League Club achieves in the 2014 season.

Roughyeds lost one of the club's stalwarts when the former schoolteacher died in January, aged 65, but his support will live on at Whitebank thanks to a unique memorial.

The team's new home kit carries the inscription: 'Nigel Marland, 1948-2014' --- a tribute which is believed to be the first of its kind in the 130-year history of Oldham Rugby.

Replica home-kit jerseys worn by supporters will be identical.

Said club chairman Chris Hamilton: *"Nigel's name is purposely positioned on the left breast, above the club crest, because that's where the heart is and because Nigel's heart was always close to the heart-beat of the club."*

"He was a massive part of our club and this is an appropriate way to remember him."

"He will be with the players every time they put on the home kit and take to the field, and that would have suited him just fine."

"It's a measure of the respect and esteem in which he was held by me personally and by lots of other people at the club, including coaching staff and players."

Said Nigel's brother John: *"We're absolutely*

flabbergasted. Nigel would have been so proud. It's just fantastic."

And sister-in-law Gail added: *"He'll be looking down at us from heaven with his wry smile. He'll be absolutely made up by this because Oldham RLFC meant so much to him and had done all his life."*

At the time he was taken ill with heart trouble last November, he was chairman of ORSA (the club's supporters' association), editor of the match-day programme, match-day PA announcer and the man who had instigated and organised our Squad Strengtheners Fund to assist in the signing of new players.

He was a teacher in Oldham for more than 30 years, most of that time spent at Hathershaw School where he was a head of year and later deputy head.

He also had a lifelong connection with The Lyceum Theatre, Union Street where he was artistic director for many years.

Following his death, donations in his memory totalled £1,030 which has gone to the Acute Coronary Care Unit at Wythenshawe Hospital to be used specifically for the needs of patients.

Explained John: *"It was Nigel's expressed wish that the money should go to the unit, but only to be used directly for the benefit of the patients in there."*

Proudly, awaiting the crowd...



*...Nigel at Whitebank Stadium
9th May 2010*



In loving memory of Nigel Marland 1948 – 2014

"A man for all seasons"

Oldham Roughyeds Supporters Association





SPOTLIGHT ON OLDHAM RLFC CLASS OF 2014



Tom WHITEHEAD
D.O.B: 13/9/91

Full-back, but versatile player who can also operate at half-back or on the wing. Unattached when he signed for Roughyeds midway through last season. Oldham-born, he signed for Salford from Waterhead and was coached through the Super League club's development system by Lee Spencer, now the assistant boss at Whitebank. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ex 70552).



Mo AGORO
D.O.B: 29/1/93

Winger, formerly with Leeds Rhinos. In his second year at Whitebank, having played in 22 of our 24 games last season, scoring nine tries. Played for Drighlington and Hunslet Warriors before joining Leeds. A student, currently studying in Huddersfield. Sponsored by Wilscoff 07855 265 071.



Ben WOOD
D.O.B: 10/6/89

Centre or second-row. Another product of the Salford 'system', originally from Saddleworth Rangers. In his second spell at Oldham, having spent last year in Australia where he won State rep honours for Western Australia and went on tour to Samoa. At 6ft 4in and 17st 1lb, he is one of the biggest players in the squad. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ex 70552).



Steven NIELD
D.O.B: 20/11/90

Full-back or wing. Oldham-born, signed for St Helens aged 15 from Saddleworth and had four years at Knowsley Road. Earned senior contract here after two big seasons in the reserves in which he played in every game and was top try and points scorer in 2012. Now in his second year as a 'senior'. Sponsored by Oldham Self Storage 0161 665 2723.



Dale BLOOMFIELD
D.O.B: 24/10/87

Winger, Widnes Vikings, St Helens, then three years at Rochdale where he scored a total of 30 tries in 2011 and 2012. In the mythical Championship One team of the year in 2011. In his second year at Whitebank, having scored 11 tries in 23 games last season, missing only one. Sponsored by Mick Harrop.



Lewis PALFREY
D.O.B: 25/2/90

Stand-off and club captain. Eccles, Wigan St Pat's, then five years at Salford, two as a full-time pro. Captained them at academy and reserve-team levels and came under the influence there of 'Spanner' (Lee Spencer) and our head coach Scott Naylor. Played for Whitehaven and Batley Bulldogs before joining Roughyeds at the start of the 2013 season. Sponsored by Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991.



Brett ROBINSON
D.O.B: 11/9/89

Half-back. Newly signed by Roughyeds this year, having been a key member of Tony Benson's Oxford squad in that club's first season in Kingstone Press Championship One. Played for us at reserves level three years ago when John Hough was in charge, having been reared on the youth circuit in his native Wigan. Also played overseas. Sponsored by ORSA.



Phil JOY
D.O.B: 4/9/91

Prop-forward. Local lad, ex-Waterhead. A product of our development system. Gained two reserve team player awards in 2012, won his first senior contract for 2013 and carried off the coach's player-of-the-year award in his first season at that level. Got a BSc joint honours degree in maths and economics at Leeds and now studying for a masters. Sponsored by Pam Taylor and TTX.



Sam GEE
D.O.B: 28/2/87

Vice-captain and extremely versatile player who contributes much all over the park, notably from hooker, loose-forward or even centre where he has played on numerous occasions. Previously with Warrington, Wigan, London Skolars and Whitehaven. In his second season here, having played in 21 of our 24 games last year. Sponsored by John and Lynda McAndrew.



Jason BOULTS
D.O.B: 7/9/83

Prop-forward. 'Mr Consistency' if ever there was one. Now in his eighth season at Oldham. He began this 2014 campaign with 173 appearances on his impressive Roughyeds CV. Started at Bradford Bulls, then Halifax before coming to Oldham for the start of the 2007 season. The squad's senior citizen at the age of 30, but going as strongly as ever. Sponsored by ORSA.



Josh CROWLEY
D.O.B: 24/9/91

Second-row forward. Formerly with hometown Warrington, then three years at Widnes before becoming Scott Naylor's first signing for Oldham ahead of the 2013 season. Strong-running forward who was an ever-present in his first season with a maximum 24 appearances. Has won more man-of-the-match awards than any other Oldham player. Sponsored by John and Lynda McAndrew.



Danny LANGTREE
D.O.B: 18/2/91

12 Second-row forward. Ex-St Helens academy. Two seasons in our reserve team and grabbed first-team chance with both hands at back end of 2012 season. Mainstay of reserves' pack that reached two successive grand finals in 2011 and 2012. Scored ten tries in 23 first-team games in 2013. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ext 70552).



Mark HOBSON
D.O.B: 14/1/87

13 Back-row forward. Signed for Salford at 16, then briefly at Workington Town before spending four seasons at Rochdale where hard work and consistency were his trademarks. In his second season at Oldham, having played in every game bar one last year. Sponsored by Colin Appleyard Ltd 0161 330 5148.



Adam FILES
D.O.B: 7/1/93

14 Hooker. Made a big impact here last year when he was on season-long loan from Salford. Scored 15 tries in a maximum 24 appearances. Especially lively from dummy half. Reared at Woolston and signed for Salford aged 15. Now in his first season as a fully-fledged Oldham player. D-O-B 7/1/93. Sponsored by Rita Walton.



Paddy MOONEY
D.O.B: 28/3/94

15 Prop-forward. Londoner. Reared in the much under-rated London amateur game, then joined Broncos where he captained the under-19s side in 2013. Moved north to study at Manchester University and joined Oldham as a young front-rower with loads of potential. Sponsored by Graeme Lee.



Kenny HUGHES
D.O.B: 30/3/90

16 Hooker/half-back. Born in St Helens, won BARLA GB honours at under-19s. Signed for Saints, then came to Oldham to play in the reserves before winning first-team contract at the start of the 2013 campaign. Scored seven tries in 19 appearances last year, proving his value to the squad by appearing at both hooker and half-back. Sponsored by Rita Walton.



Danny WHITMORE
D.O.B: 22/12/88

17 Hooker/half-back. In his second spell here. Oldham-born, he played at Waterhead before joining Salford's youth development system. Brought up there under Lee Spencer's wing and signed for Roughyeds for the first time in 2010, serving three years here before going to Batley Bulldogs last term. Had a couple of games here on loan last season and now a fully-fledged Roughyed - again. Sponsored by Frankie and Benny's.



Alex DAVIDSON
D.O.B: 1/11/92

18 Prop-forward. Barrow born, raised in Wigan, played early rugby at Blackbrook (St Helens), then signed for Salford, from which club he is now at Oldham on season-long loan. Like many of our younger players, he is well known to coaches Scott Naylor and Lee Spencer from his time with the Red Devils. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ext 70552).



Michael WARD
D.O.B: 10/2/91

19 Prop-forward. Local lad who came up through our reserves. First played on the wing as a 16-year-old. Starred in 2011 reserve team that won a grand final against Widnes and graduated to first team in 2012. Played early rugby at centre or second-row but now regarded chiefly as a front-rower. At 17st 4lbs second heaviest member of the pack after Phil Joy. Sponsored by Sylvia, David and Margaret.



George TYSON
D.O.B: 1/10/93

20 Back-row forward. Another youngster from Salford Red Devils who is here on a season-long loan. Early rugby at Leigh Miners, then signed for Salford aged 16. Tall and rangy, he is a very mobile forward, who impressed in the under-20s in his first few games here, both on attack and in defence. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ext 70552).



David COOKSON
D.O.B: 1/10/88

21 Centre. Joined Roughyeds' reserves from Oldham St Anne's in 2011, made senior spot his own in 2012. Capped at amateur level by England Students and BARLA GB under-23s. Five tries in 18 appearances last season, but missed several early games in 2014 due to injury. Sponsored by ORLFC Players' Association.



Liam THOMPSON
D.O.B: 3/1/92

22 Loose-forward. Signed for Wigan aged 16. England schoolboy honours. Moved from Wigan to Widnes before joining Roughyeds as one of Scott Naylor's new boys in 2013. Shoulder operation delayed his debut, but he made a big impact later in the season as we progressed to the Grand Final. Started well again this year, but then suffered a serious facial injury which again set him back. Sponsored by Spencer Hayes Insurance 01204 505 586.



Edwin OKANGA-AJWANG
D.O.B: 29/11/94

24 Centre. Highly-rated youngster from Salford Red Devils, here on season-long dual registration. Born in Poland of a Polish mum and a Kenyan dad. Family moved to Halifax when he was ten. His primary school introduced him to rugby league and he joined amateurs Siddall, from which club he signed for Salford when he was 16. Already had a couple of Super League games. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ext 70552).

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB U20s FIXTURES & RESULTS

MARCH

Saturday 8th	Leigh Centurions	H	L 42 - 10
Saturday 22nd	Sheffield Eagles	A	L 38 - 18
Saturday 29th	Featherstone Rovers	H	L 36 - 20

APRIL

Saturday 5th	York City Knights (friendly)	H	L 44 - 28
Saturday 12th	Halifax	H	2:30pm
Saturday 26th	Sheffield Eagles	A	2:00pm

MAY

Saturday 3rd	N E Academy	H	2:30pm
Saturday 10th	Midlands Academy	A	2:30pm
Saturday 24th	Cumbria Academy	A	2:30pm
Saturday 31st	Sheffield Eagles	H	2:30pm

JUNE

Thursday 12th	Keighley	A	7:30pm
Saturday 21st	Featherstone Rovers	A	2:30pm

JULY

Saturday 5th	Halifax	H	2:30pm
Saturday 12th	Gloucester	H	2:30pm
Wednesday 30th	Leigh Centurions	A	7:30pm

AUGUST

Saturday 9th	Keighley	H	2:30pm
Thursday 14th	Halifax	A	7:30pm



Hi all,

I'm delighted to confirm that my old team mate Joe McNicholas is going to be helping me out for the remainder of the season before he and his family emigrate to Australia in September where he is to take up a coaching post with NRL club Wests Tigers.

Joe will be a big help to me. We played in the same team in the early days of the 'new' club, but he now sees his long-term professional future in coaching and his previous work with Wests has fired his ambition to make it his full-time career Down Under.

It will be great to have him on board for the rest of the season and I know he's going to enjoy passing on some of the stuff he has picked up in Sydney as well as renewing old acquaintance with the many supporters who will remember him as a pacy winger, who scored 36 tries in 106 games for the 'new' Oldham club.

His claim to fame was that he scored the last-ever try at Watersheddings in a specially-arranged friendly against Swinton Lions to mark the ground's closure in January, 1997.

Welcome aboard Joe!

I'm hoping the boys picked up their first win against Halifax yesterday. If not, I'm sure it can't be far away. It's been a tough start for us, especially as we didn't have any warm-up games, but we are getting better week by week and I have to say that the players' commitment and attitude have been outstanding. I can't praise them enough for that.

We are playing really well in patches, but we are tending to switch off for certain periods of the game and these temporary lapses are proving costly.

If we can start to play for 80 minutes we will prove to be very hard to beat. Thanks for your support. The boys truly appreciate it.

Enjoy your rugby.

NEIL



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FAMILY RACE NIGHT

ORSA have arranged another joint fund-raising Family Race Night with Higginshaw ARLFC. It will be held on Thursday, 17th April and will start off the Easter weekend with a fun event for all the family. The event will be held at the Higginshaw Sports and Social Club on St Stephens Street

(off Egerton Street), Oldham at 7.30 for 8 pm. Food will be available and there will be a raffle and the always popular tombola. If you are interested in Race Sponsorship at £30 per race or Horse Sponsorship at £3 per horse, please speak to Phil Ward or Sheila Somerville at today's match.

The ashes of the late Nigel Marland have been scattered here at the Whitebank Stadium.

During a private family service, led by the club chaplain, the Rev Tony Ford, ashes were spread on the centre line with the remainder interred near the spot at the side of the pitch where Nigel stood at home games to make announcements over the public address system.

"This was Nigel's wish. He loved the club. It was his second home," said his brother John.

Also attending the service were John's wife Gail, their son Jack, Gail's sister Kay Broughton, Nigel's lifelong friend Mike Russell, Oldham RLFC chairman Chris Hamilton and the Rev Ford's wife Denise.

Said Chris: "Nigel had made it clear that this was what he wanted - a sign of his love and affection for the club."

"It was an honour to be at the service, which was led beautifully by Tony and was a fitting tribute to a man who will be deeply missed."

Unless otherwise stated, all programme pictures are supplied by our honorary club photographer

DAVID MURGATROYD

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES & RESULTS

March

KPC1	Sunday 2nd	SOUTH WALES	A	W 18 - 4
KPC1	Sunday 9th	HEMEL	H	D 20 - 20
	Sunday 16th	EGREMONT (Tetleys Challenge Cup)	A	W 42 - 24
KPC1	Sunday 23rd	LONDON	A	W 18 - 16

April

	Sunday 6th	BRADFORD (Tetleys Challenge Cup)	A	L 60 - 6
KPC1	Sunday 13th	GATESHEAD	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Friday 18th	HUNSLET	A	2:00pm
	Sunday 27th	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 5		

May

KPC1	Sunday 4th	OXFORD	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 18th	YORK	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 25th	GLOUCESTER	A	3:00pm

June

KPC1	Sunday 1st	LONDON	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 8th	HEMEL	A	2:30pm
	Sunday 8th	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINAL		
KPC1	Sunday 15th	SOUTH WALES	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 22nd	GATESHEAD	A	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 29th	OXFORD	A	3:00pm

July

KPC1	Sunday 13th	GLOUCESTER	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 20th	YORK	A	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 27th	HUNSLET	H	3:00pm

August

KPC1	Sunday 3rd	LONDON	A	3:00pm
	Sunday 10th	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL		
KPC1	Sunday 17th	HEMEL	H	3:00pm
	Saturday 23rd	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP FINAL		
KPC1	Sunday 31st	GATESHEAD	A	3:00pm

September

KPC1	Sunday 7th	GLOUCESTER	H	3:00pm
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CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAY OFF GAMES SUNDAY 14th SUNDAY 21st & SUNDAY 28th

October

Sunday 5th	CHAMPIONSHIPS GRAND FINALS
Saturday 11th	SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL