

Today's Squads...



YORK CITY

KNIGHTS



Oldham

1. James Haynes - Smith Wilson

2. George Elliott - Britcab Ltd

3. James Ford - Clinical Technologies

4. Greg Minikin - RKS Roofing Contractors

5. Ben Dent

6. Pat Smith - LoveRugbyLeague.com

7. Jonny Presley - John Matthews

8. Nathan Freer

9. Jack Lee - Castles UK

10. Jack Aldous - Pryers Solicitors LLP

11. Ryan Mallinder

12. Ed Smith

13. Lee Paterson - Stabler International

14. Kriss Brining - DB Decorators

15. Jason Golden - Marcia Watson

16. Iain Morrison

17. Jack Pickles - BSS Industrial

18. Austin Bell - DE Ford

19. Jake Joynt

20. Harry Carter - GLB Transport Ltd

21. Jack Iley

22. Brad Brennan

23. Benn Hardcastle - Dar al Oud UK LTD

24. Nathan Harper

25. James Saltonstall

26. Tyler Craig - Embassy Racing

27. Adam Dent

1. Mo Agoro

2. Dale Bloomfield

3. Jason Boultis

4. David Cookson

5. Josh Crowley

6. Alex Davidson

7. Adam Files

8. Sam Gee

9. Mark Hobson

10. Kenny Hughes

11. Phil Joy

12. Danny Langtree

13. Paddy Mooney

14. Steven Nield

15. Edwin Okanga-Ajwang

16. Lewis Palfrey

17. Brett Robinson

18. Jake Shoel

19. Liam Thompson

20. George Tyson

21. Michael Ward

22. Tom Whitehead

23. Danny Whitmore

24. Ben Wood

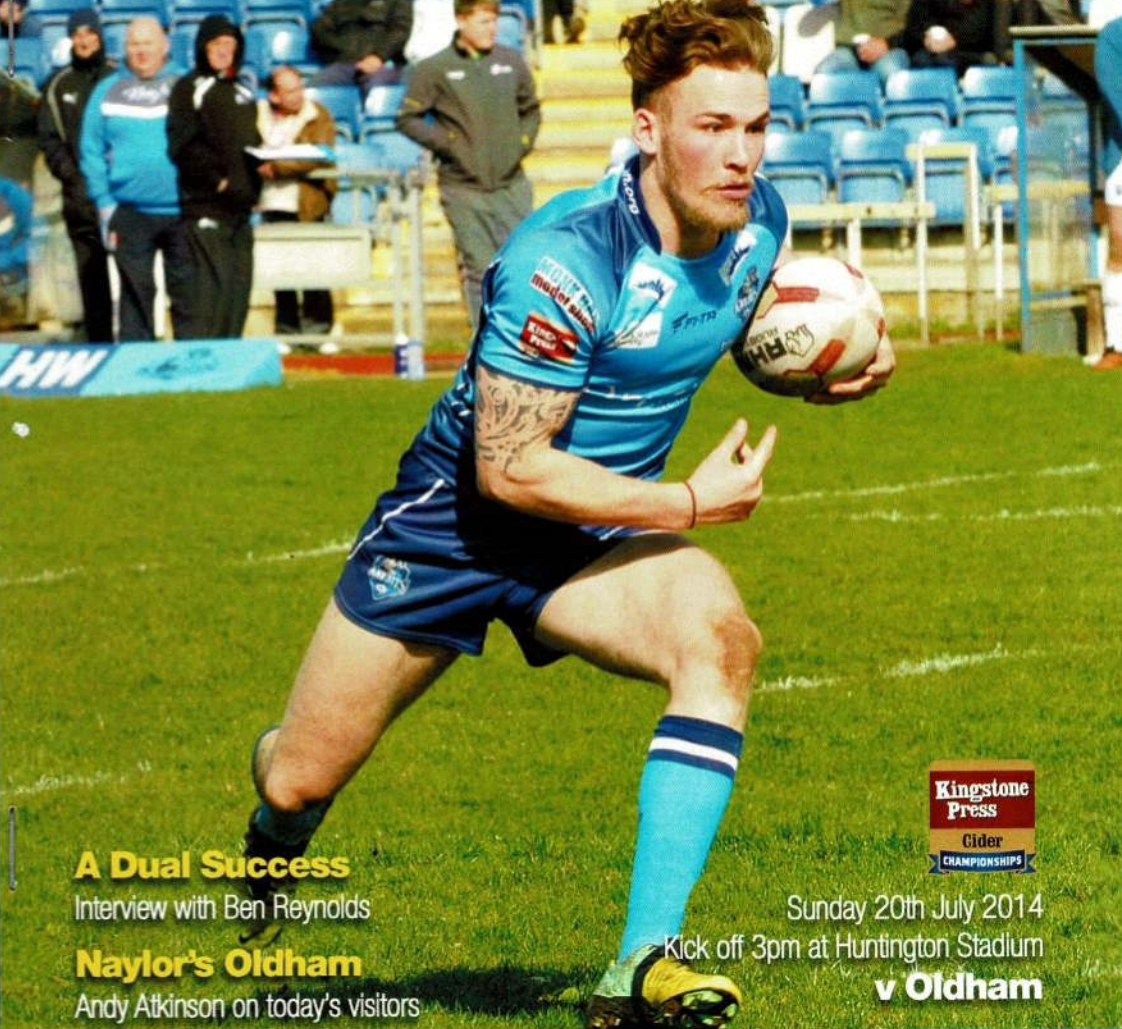
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YORK CITY

KNIGHTS



York City Knights Official Matchday Magazine 2014 Issue 11 | £2.00



A Dual Success

Interview with Ben Reynolds

Naylor's Oldham

Andy Atkinson on today's visitors

Kingstone Press

Cider

CHAMPIONSHIPS

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v Oldham

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Nutritionists: Jamie Carruthers and Dan Martin

Club Doctors: Sandip Nandhra and Aaron Brown

U20's Head Coach - Mick Ramsden

U20's Assistant Coaches - Mick Cook and Will Leatt

Community Development: Jack Stearman

Community Assistant: Will Ginns

Commercial Manager: John Holmes

Media Manager: Gavin Wilson

Media Assistant: Ben Hall

Bar and Functions Manager: Sarah Guildford

Matchday Co-Ordinator: Alfie Brown

Time Keeper: John Thorpe

Scoreboard Operator: Gary Hall

Photographer: Charles Peart

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Club Details...



York City Knights

Rugby League Football Club

Roland Court, Huntington Road, York
YO32 9PW

Tel: 01904 767404

Email: info@ycknights.co.uk

Matchday Tel: 11am - 3pm: 01904 641724

www.yorkcityknights.co.uk



Thornton's Thoughts...

It's good to be back home!!

We've chalked up over 1600 miles on the road in the past month, and its certainly been an experience for players and coaches alike. We've visited some really nice places, had some early starts and late finishes, but most importantly, we played some great rugby league at times, and came up with the 4 wins out of 4 that we set out to achieve.

The players have been terrific during this spell and being able to stick to a fairly settled side has certainly helped. The long trips have given the players chance to

bond and to get even further, and I have seen some genuine friendships develop during these trips which will help solidify our team spirit and togetherness that we will surely need in this tough run in to the end of the season. I also have to thank the coaching staff, who have worked really hard to ensure the training load and preparation coincided with the long journeys, to ensure we got the best out the players on match days.

Now we enter another gruelling period in our season. The next 4 games will be pivotal in deciding the final league positions, as we play all the chasing teams in the hunt for a top spot finish.

Today we welcome the players, staff and officials from Oldham. Scott Naylor has done a terrific job during his spell there, and has built a really good squad of players. Our game over at Whitebank back in May was a terrific game of rugby league. We showed a lot of character that day to claw back a 27 point deficit, just to lose it by 1 point at the death. No doubt we will be calling upon that experience at some point, to get through today in a positive manner. They're performances over the past few weeks has shown them to be in good form, so today's game will be a really tough challenge and promises to be an exciting encounter, and a terrific advert for Championship 1 rugby league.

As always, I'd like to thank those of you who made a fantastic effort to follow us on the road. It was always good to see familiar faces in unfamiliar surroundings of South Wales, Hemel, London and Henley (Oxford). Hopefully today will be a good day all round and we can have a celebration together afterwards!

GT



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K.I.S.S Information...

Welcome back to Huntington Stadium, it is almost like starting a new season after such a long spell of away games. Congratulations to the coaches and players for achieving 4 wins during this difficult period and staying top of the league. Unfortunately there has been insufficient numbers to warrant organising coach travel to these long distance games, but there has been a good following of Knights fans making their own way.

The Hawaiian Beach Party last night was great a success, KISS would like to thank Michael and Robert May for their kind sponsorship, Michael and Robert are affectionately known to Knights fans as the "Chuckle Brothers" and support everything we do. Michael is soon to retire and wanted the beach party as his retirement function, all Knights fans wish you a long and happy retirement Michael. Our next function is the annual Super League Grand Final Race

Knight on Saturday 11th October at Huntington Sports Club Tickets are £5 and include chicken & chips supper. Proceeds from all our events are donated to the SquadBuilder Fund.

On Sunday 3rd August we are away again our final long haul away game of the season if there is sufficient interest we will arrange a coach call Gary Hall on 07443 564453 for details.

Gary Hall



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BBC RADIO YORK

Sharon Shortle with Ben Reynolds



Just because you're a dual registration player, a shirt at York City Knights isn't

guaranteed, as Ben Reynolds found out at the start of the season. But the form of the 20-year old in recent weeks has meant he's become a regular, either at full back or recently, half back.

"I'm getting a lot of game time now which is better than just training every week," he says. "I'm getting on with the lads really well. It's been a good start for me."

A good start, which has also led to a call up to Castleford's first team this season against Wigan in Super League. So Reynolds says he's a fan of the dual registration system.

"I think it's really good. Well, it is for me! Obviously I'm getting a lot of game time and I'm playing a lot of rugby. So for me, I feel I'm learning a lot from the system."

Reynolds first started playing when he was 7 years old, and he says his granddad was a big influence.

"He's a big Featherstone Rovers supporter, so I started playing then. I went through the amateur system

and started a scholarship at Cas and it just went from there."

So how does a Rovers fan feel about his grandson signing for Castleford?

"I was a season ticket holder at Featherstone for most of my childhood and I still go and watch every so often if I have a free weekend. But he just wants the best for me!"

Training in a Super League environment at Castleford, Reynolds says he learns a lot from the older players there, and after almost a full year in Championship 1, he says that has also given him valuable experience.

"I don't think people can turn their nose up at any level at the minute."

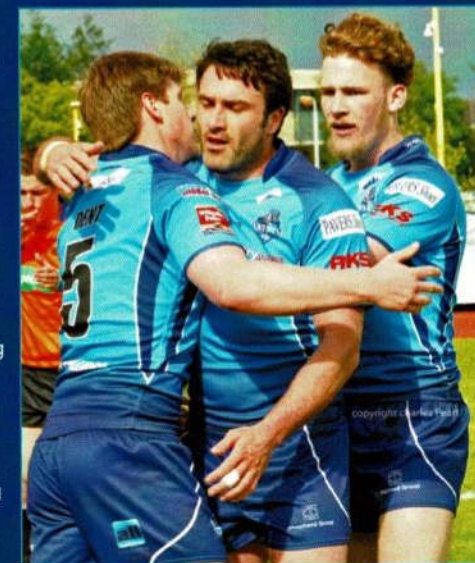
"I think everything is good quality, especially the teams that are in this league now."

"We're all fighting for that top spot so we can get to

the Grand Final, hopefully win it, and play Championship rugby next year."

"We need to kick on and not get ahead of ourselves and push on from here."

"The fans are brilliant. They turn out in their numbers every week, home and away and hopefully they can just keep getting behind us."



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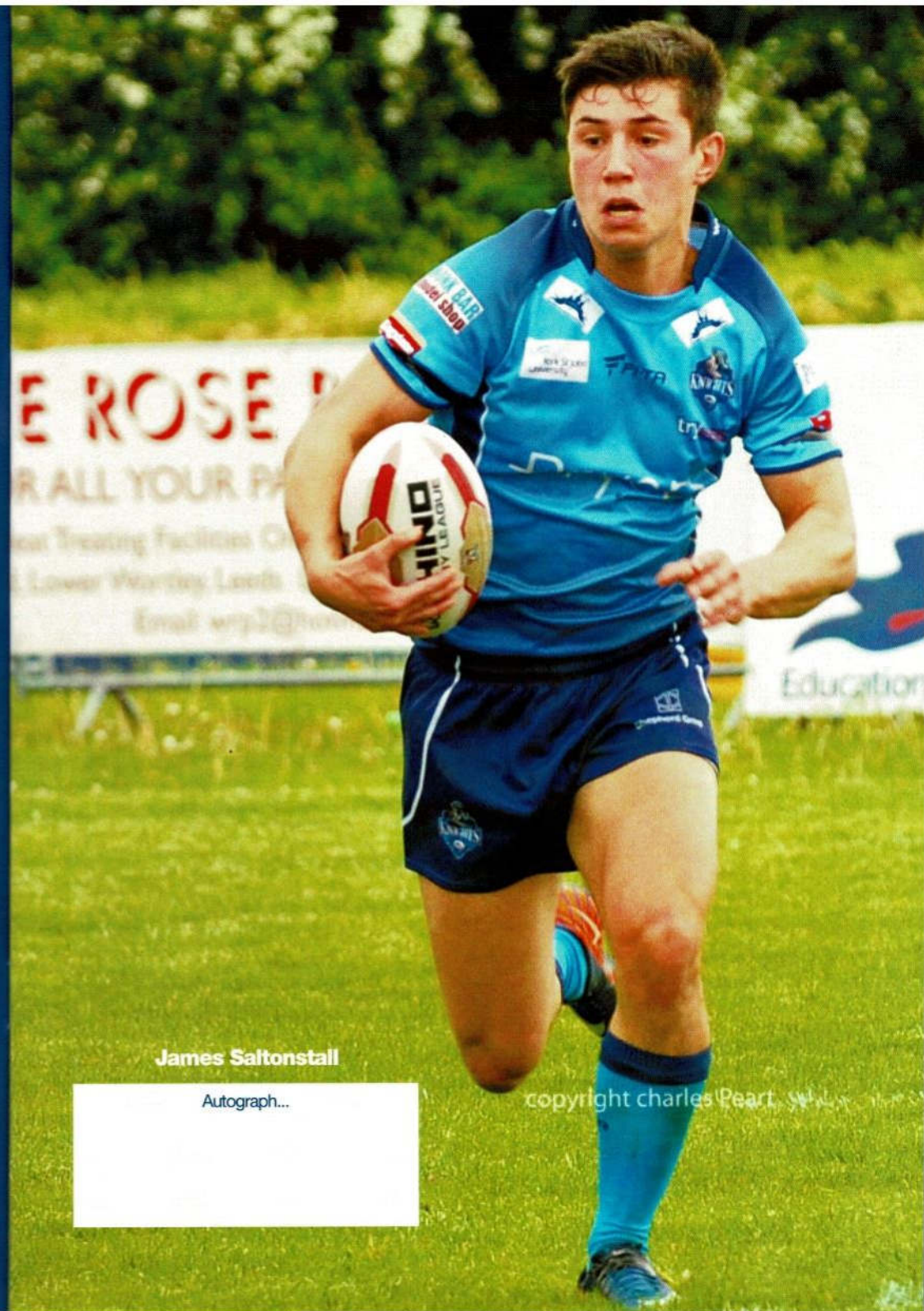
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James Saltonstall

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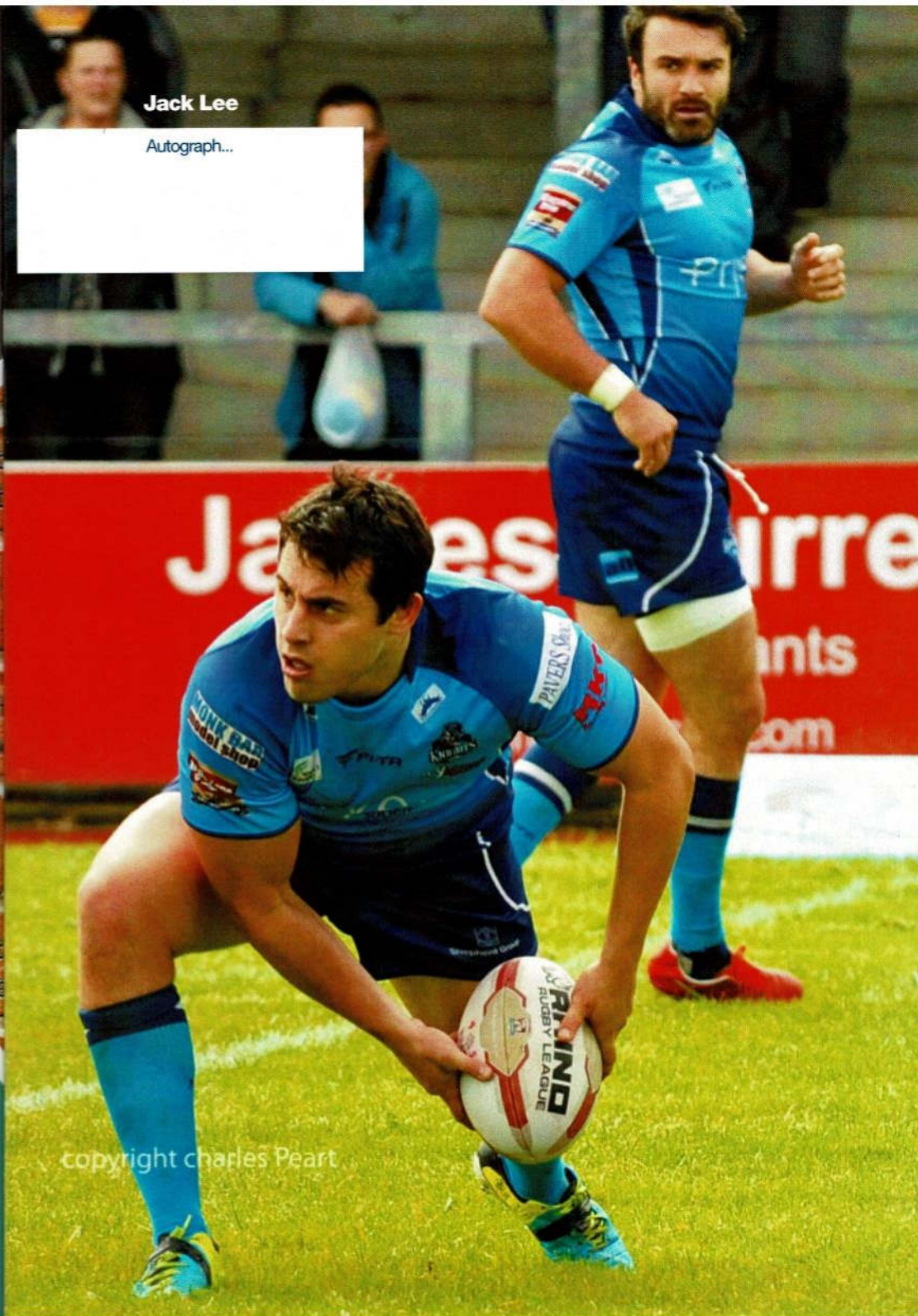
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Knights In The Community...

We have been busy over the past few weeks, with players and Norris the Knight out and about in the North Yorkshire community.

SG Petch have renewed their partnership with our community team by replacing the previous community car with a brand new Kia Sportage 3. I would like to thank SG Petch for their continued support.

If you spot the new car in the community then take a photo with it and tweet it, using the #YCKSGPetch for your chance to win 2 tickets to the End of Season Awards dinner, on Friday 29th August.

Tickets are now available for the evening, priced at £40 each and you are now able to purchase, online at www.yorkcityknights.co.uk, underneath the Blue and White Ball Tab.

The Community team were also visiting Applefields school, the Secondary school in York for Special Needs children. The children completed a one hour Tag Rugby taster session, which saw them test they're ball handling skills, their passing ability and tagging ability, as part of their active week. The children were

also greeted by a visit from their favourite Knight, Norris.

Over the Summer Holidays, we are working closely with City of York Council to deliver some taster rugby sessions in Parks across the City. The sessions will see individuals learn the basic skills to take part in rugby as well as given information to join their local community clubs. These sessions are free for children to take part, but those under the age of 12 must be supervised. The 'Rugby in the Park' sessions will take place at the following times:

Tues 29th July, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, August at Westbank Park 11am - 1pm and Rowntree Park 2pm - 4pm

Thursday: 24th, 31st, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th August at Hull Road Park 11am - 1pm and Rawcliffe Country Park 11am - 1pm

I would like to welcome along York Rescue Boat, who are a new charity and organisation set up in York to provide a physical and proactive commitment to furthering the safety of the rivers in York. They aim to achieve this by means of a patrol and rescue boat, education and awareness. With future progression York Rescue Boat endeavours to provide a stand-by team that will respond as an auxiliary service to the 999 services in area's of Search & Rescue and community flood assistance.

For more information you can find us on twitter and Facebook or on our website - www.yorkrescueboat.com

To help raise funds for the charity there will be a half time bucket collection.

Enjoy the Game

Jack



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Our Visitors Today...



Finally, after four long weeks on the road (though, more importantly four wins) the Knights return to home turf at the Huntington Stadium against title challengers, Oldham.

As we are the Knights lead our Lancashire visitors by three points though Oldham have a game in hand.

Coach Scott Naylor's side narrowly won the day earlier in the season at their Whitebank Stadium but the result hung in the balance until the closing seconds.

Several players who were integral in that Oldham win are likely to be involved today...

Mo Agoro is a speedy, high scoring winger, formerly with Leeds Rhinos Academy. Mo is in his second year at Whitebank, having played in 22 of 24 games last season, scoring nine tries. He played for Drighlington and Hunslet Warriors at amateur level before joining

Leeds and is a student, currently studying in Huddersfield. It was Agoro who made the late break in the reverse fixture that led to this side's winning try and he will be looking to add to his fourteen tries this season today.

On the other flank is the division's top try scorer, Dale Bloomfield, his hat trick last week taking him to a total of seventeen this time up to now. His pro career started at Widnes Vikings before a move to St Helens, then he spent three years at Rochdale where he scored a total of 30 tries in two seasons and was selected in Championship One Team of the Year in 2011. He is also in his second year with Scott Naylor's side, having scored 11 tries in 23 games last season, missing only one. Given any space at all this try poacher extraordinaire will be on the scoresheet again this afternoon.

Oldham possess a superb second row pairing of tough, uncompromising battlers who make a tremendous contribution to the overall team effort. Danny Langtree came through the excellent St Helens academy setup and then spent two seasons in the Oldham reserve team and grabbing a 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, Danny scored ten tries in 23 first-team games in 2013.

The other aforementioned second rower is Josh Crowley will be making his 31st consecutive appearance today in an Oldham shirt. Josh made his way into the game with Warrington and then had three years at Widnes before becoming Scott Naylor's first signing for Oldham ahead of the 2013 season. He is a tremendously strong- running forward who was an ever-present in his first season with a maximum 24 appearances. Josh has also won more man-of-



Dale Bloomfield

the-match awards than any other Oldham player.

23 year old Phil Joy plays at prop forward and is very much the local lad, playing his amateur rugby league with Waterhead. A product of the Oldham development system, he 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. Off the field Phil got a BSc Joint Honours degree in maths and economics at Leeds and now studying for a

masters. The proverbial 'big unit', he will look to dominate upfront in the opening 20 minutes and set a platform for his side to rack the points up.

Utility player Brett Robinson is possibly the player the Knights fear most as, on his day, his astute kicking and clever handling can tear opposing defences to shreds. He was signed by the Roughyeds during the close season, having been a key member of Tony Benson's Oxford squad in that club's first season in Kingstone Press Championship One. Brett

played for Oldham at reserves level three years ago when John Hough was in charge, having been reared on the youth circuit in his native Wigan. He represented England at junior level and also spent time with Rochdale Hornets and two years in Western Australian RL reaching two Grand Finals with the North Beach club.

Andy Atkinson



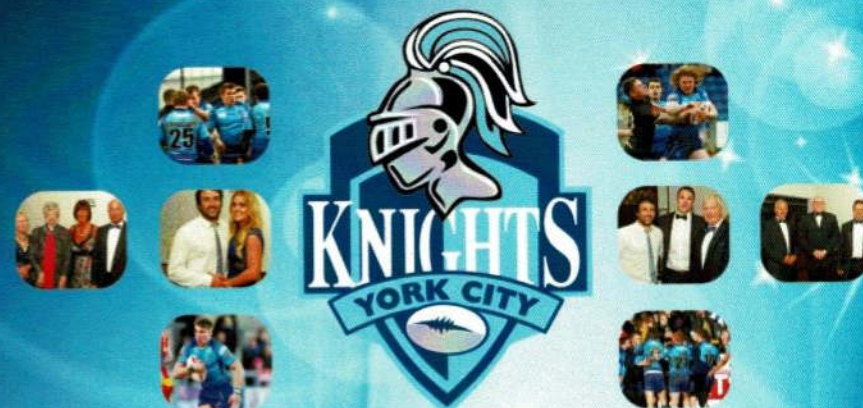
Josh Crowley

Fixtures & Results...

Date	K.O	Game	Versus	Result	Score	Att.
Sunday 16th January	3pm	H	Gateshead Thunder (F)	W	30-20	402
Sunday 9th February	3pm	H	Sheffield (F)	L	24-18	400
Sunday 16th February	3pm	H	York Select (F)	W	70-14	466
Sunday 2nd March	3pm	H	Gloucester All Golds	W	26-16	648
Sunday 9th March	3pm	A	Hunslet Hawks	W	28-26	406
Sunday 16th March	3pm	H	Whitehaven	W	34-32	403
Sunday 23rd March	3pm	H	South Wales Scorpions	W	76-0	638
Sunday 6th April	2pm	A	Swinton Lions CC Round 4	L	31-28	427
Sunday 13th April	3pm	H	Oxford	L	24-16	574
Friday 18th April	7.30pm	A	Gateshead Thunder	W	30-26	400
Sunday 4th May	3pm	H	London Skolars	W	36-16	451
Sunday 11th May	3pm	H	Hemel Stags	W	22-14	457
Sunday 18th May	3pm	A	Oldham	L	31-30	579
Sunday 25th May	3pm	H	Hunslet Hawks	W	40-0	837
Sunday 8th June	3pm	A	Gloucester All Golds	L	24-22	318
Sunday 15th June	3pm	H	Gateshead Thunder	W	42-16	495
Saturday 21st June	3pm	A	South Wales Scorpions	W	48-10	235
Sunday 29th June	3pm	A	Hemel Stags	W	46-22	227
Sunday 6th July	3pm	A	London Skolars	W	30-20	465
Sunday 13th July	3pm	A	Oxford	W	58-10	172
Sunday 20th July	3pm	H	Oldham			
Sunday 3rd August	3pm	A	Gloucester All Golds			
Sunday 10th August	3pm	H	Gateshead Thunder			
Sunday 17th August	3pm	A	Hunslet Hawks			
Sunday 7th September	3pm	H	London Skolars			
14th, 21st, 27th September	TBC	TBC	Playoffs			
Sunday 5th October	TBC	TBC	Grand Final			

League Table...

Kingstone Press Championship 1									
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Bonus Pts	Points	
1 York	15	12	0	3	550	261	3	39	
2 Oldham	14	11	1	2	481	278	1	36	
3 Hunslet	14	11	0	3	507	167	2	35	
4 Gloucestershire All Golds	14	7	0	7	318	382	4	25	
5 Hemel Stags	14	6	1	7	324	359	4	24	
6 Gateshead	14	6	0	8	377	428	2	20	
7 London Skolars	14	4	0	10	327	473	5	17	
8 Oxford	15	5	0	10	377	515	1	16	
9 South Wales	14	1	0	13	207	605	2	5	



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Middle Row, L to R: Sarah Hattee (Physiotherapist) Jack Pickerill, Jack Aldous, Greg Minikin, Jack Iley, Ryan Backhouse, Kris Brining, Scott Talbot, Pat Smith, Curtis MacDonald, Jonny Presley, Ed Smith, Sam Orange.

Bottom Row, L to R: Jay Salter (Conditioner), Mick Ramsden (U20s Coach), Lennox Green, Luke Hardcastle, Benn Hardcastle, Jason Golden, James Ford, Jack Lee, Gary Thornton (Head Coach), James Haynes, Luke Thomlinson, Stephen Batty, Jamie Bell (Head Conditioner), Rich Kirby (Kit Supervisor).

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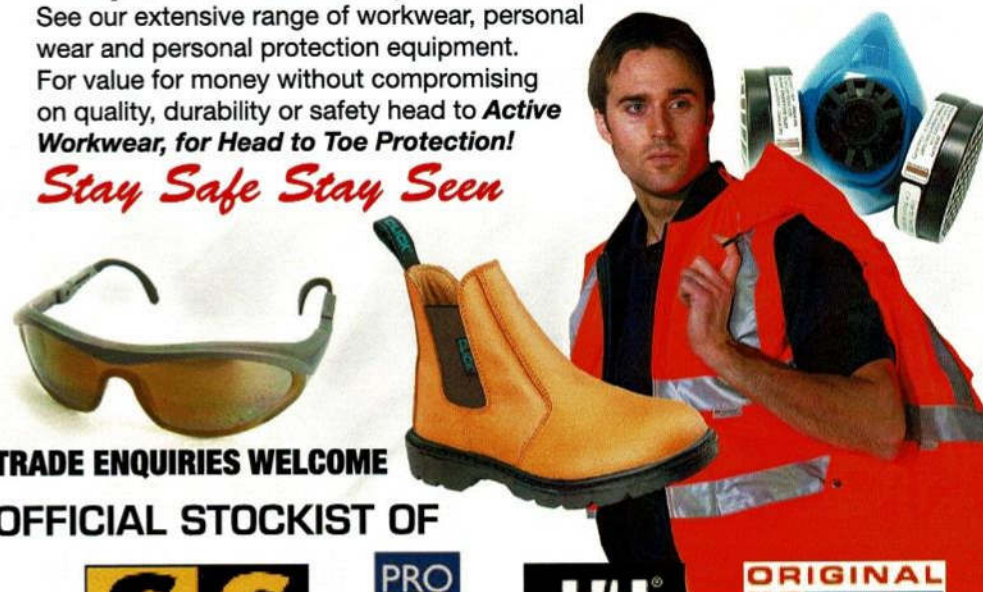
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Is it time to scrap the cap?

Brian Carney's suggestion on a recent edition of Boots 'n' All that the salary cap could have had its day might have got St Helens chairman Eamonn McManus's back up - but I am with Brian.

The former winger claimed the wage ceiling has done little to stabilise the game financially and argued it in fact does harm by restricting the likes of money-bags Koukash splashing his cash

It is tough to argue the cap has been a success.

If it is there to stop clubs getting into financial bother then it has been a resounding failure given the goings on at Bradford, Wakefield, Salford and London in recent years.

If it is there to ensure the game's talent is evenly distributed and to end the monopoly of the big wealthy clubs in lifting trophies then again it is a big fat failure.

Sure, Castleford are troubling the top four this year but it is still the same old clubs scooping up the title as ever did.

You have to go back to 2005 for the Super League trophy not to have been won by Wigan, Leeds or Saints.

Those 2005 winners were Bradford Bulls. The cap and licensing hasn't

worked out the best for them has it?

Far from levelling the playing field, we have seen only the continued polarisation of the haves and have nots.

And I reckon the cap has, and is, costing us players.

I suspect Kyle Eastmond is at least one example of a player who might have been kept from Union's clutches if funds been available.

Sam Tomkins would probably have still gone to the NRL whatever proportion of his fortune Dr Koukash would have paid him to head to Salford.

Tomkins' move Down Under was motivated as much by the rugby challenge and his adventurous spirit I am sure. Bit it would have been nice to be in the auction. Where the cap is now hampering us is in the ability to attract stars the other way, from Union and the NRL.

The majority of overseas signing nowadays are relative unknowns. Mitch Achurch, Scott Anderson, Kris Keating, Fetuli Talanoa and the likes are not star names bound to put bums on seats and shift racks of replica shirts.

Players coming in from the southern hemisphere nowadays

tend to be those who have struggled to make a name in the NRL or have got themselves one for the wrong reasons.

Big names in Union such as Gavin Henson and Danny Cipriani are both talents it would have been nice to see in our code but with League's cap why would they take the risk in switching when they can still pocket far more in the 15-man game.

So, I say let's kick the cap into touch and take the shackles off Dr Koukash and the likes. If they want to raid their piggy banks to bring stars to our game then let them do so. Let them entertainment.

**Rebecca -
League Weekly**



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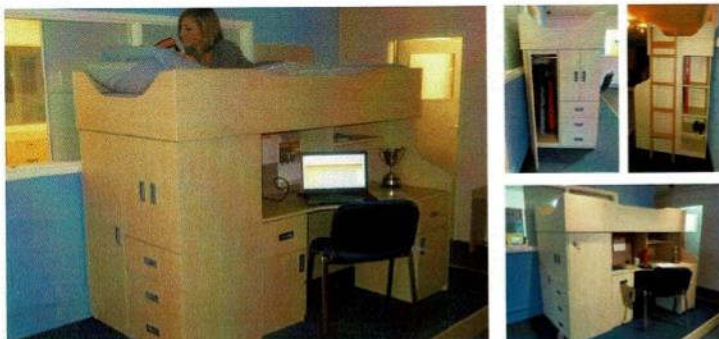
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Rammo's Thoughts...

With only five games left the race for top spot in the league is really hotting up and today's game is a welcome return home after four long away trips. Those trips brought maximum points and the players have to be congratulated on their application and professionalism in dealing with the long away days.

To give you an idea on the logistics of those trips, I thought I'd share with you the schedule for last week's trip to Oxford. We left Huntington Stadium at 8.15am, and the equipment is prepared and packed by Rich Kirby who would arrive at the ground early to make sure nothing is left behind. The shirts, shorts and socks are all packed into a wheellie bin and Rich can then strategically pack all the other items into the space left in the bin such as the oxygen pack, towels, water bottles, strapping, vaseline and music docking station. Warm up equipment is also loaded which comprises of nine balls, nine shields and a set of cones. The conditioners will carry pre-match and post-match drink powders which would be mixed in a large container and distributed to the players at the right times. The bus is loaded with water, apples and bananas for snacks if needed.

As any team bus, players tend to sit in their own preferred groups with card school at the back, players wanting to sleep in the middle and the coaching staff, physio's and conditioners nearer to the front. In the past I have known coaches to ban card games on the way to games but this group have proved themselves to be very professional and we don't have a problem with it. Sometimes we have played a film during the journey, as an example we watched 'Warrior' during the trip to Gloucester.

Around mid-morning we stop for a meal which would comprise of cereals, fruit, beans and scrambled egg with toast. The back room staff are the only ones allowed to eat sausages much to the disgust of the players, however, I never do as they are unhealthy and Rich Kirby eats enough for the both of us anyway! Last week some of the players found it amusing to overload Gary's cornflakes with sugar when he wasn't watching although he ate them without even noticing! Back on the bus, and we look to stop close to the ground to kick a ball (round one) about for ten minutes to loosen off from the journey then it's off to the ground for the match.

We won the game at Oxford, and the performance was excellent, scoring some fantastic tries along the way...

The journey home is a non-stop ride and we allow the players a couple of beers to celebrate the win and wind down a bit. Card school resumes at the back with Salty, Razzer, RyMal and Ben Reynolds and the rest just have a crack amongst themselves. This group of players are probably the best set I've worked with over the last four years, they all get along very well and are a pleasure to be around. We arrived home at 10.15pm making it a very long day.

It's obvious today's game is massive for both clubs and we expect a tough encounter. Oldham beat us at their place earlier in the season but we have hit top form over recent weeks and they will find us a different nut to crack today. The players are raring to go on their home soil and we want that six point margin!

Lastly, thanks to all the fans who have travelled over the last month, you really have helped the lads to win those games!

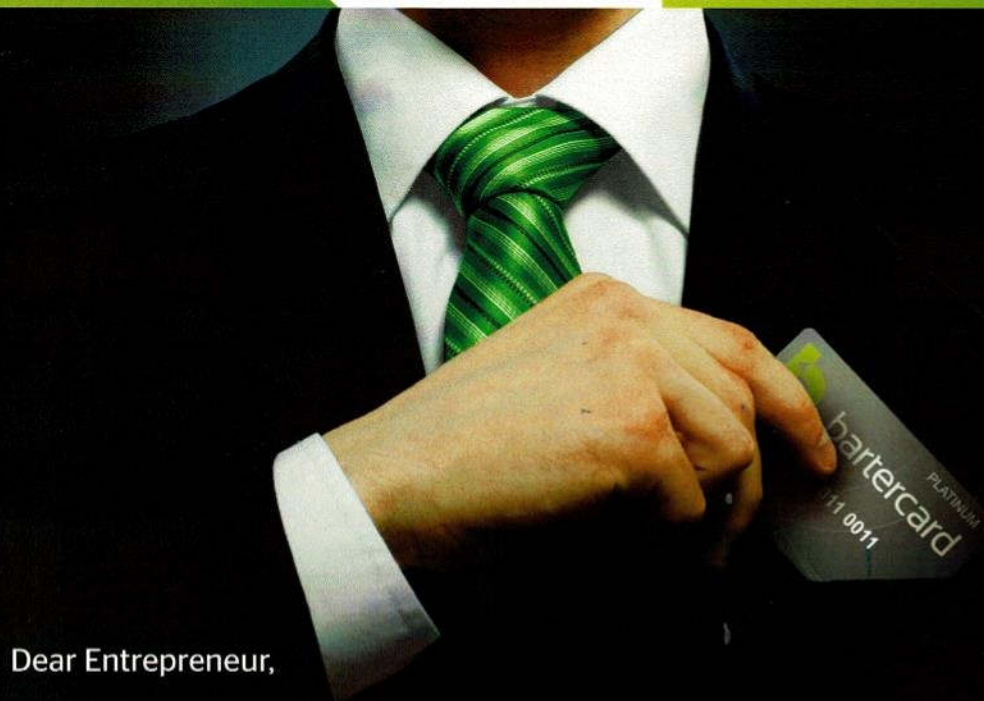
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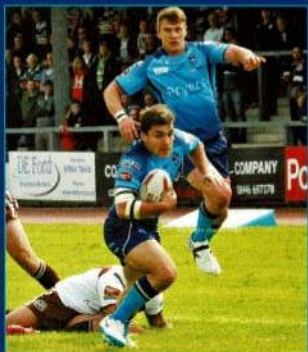


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View From The Stands...

Good afternoon and welcome to today's huge Kingstone Press Championship One clash with second-placed Oldham. Could we be seeing a potential Grand Final rehearsal today? Lets hope so!

After four successful long haul games on the road its good to finally be back at the Huntington Stadium with the maximum points in the bag from our travels, and the fate of our position at the top of Championship One resting firmly in our hands. As the Superleague and Championship tables really begin to take shape towards the business end of the season, it is quite exciting to start thinking of the prospect of the 2015 season and how the leagues will look with the restructure. A few years ago, playing London Broncos and Bradford Bulls at Bootham



Crescent in the league as equals would have been unthinkable for a club like York, but now it is very much a reality, provided we get the job done in 2014 first!

If that job doesn't get done this year though, along with the five teams relegated from the Championship, we will see another new face in Championship One in the form of Coventry Bears. Good luck to them and I hope they can become another Rugby League success story.

Meanwhile, enjoy today's game!

Follow me on twitter:

**@GavWilson -
#13Knights**

Join the debate! Keep an eye out on the Knights social media pages to have your say!

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And don't forget to check our website YorkCityKnights.co.uk!



@announcerphil on twitter says: "Another great result against Oxford. Massive game against Oldham now!"

@YorkKnightsFan on twitter says: "Great result 4/4 on the road, great achievement. Lets keep the momentum going! Onwards and upwards #13Knights"

@MickRammo on twitter says: "We're hitting top form going in to the crucial time of the year... We need your support more than ever!"

@BCAFCBH on twitter says: "Great win again. 1600 miles covered and 4/4. Means nothing if we don't get the win today though!"

@TimJinx to @BBCYork on twitter says: "Thanks for the @YorkKnightsRLFC commentary. It was my first game of rugby league and I stood next to your commentator to follow it!"

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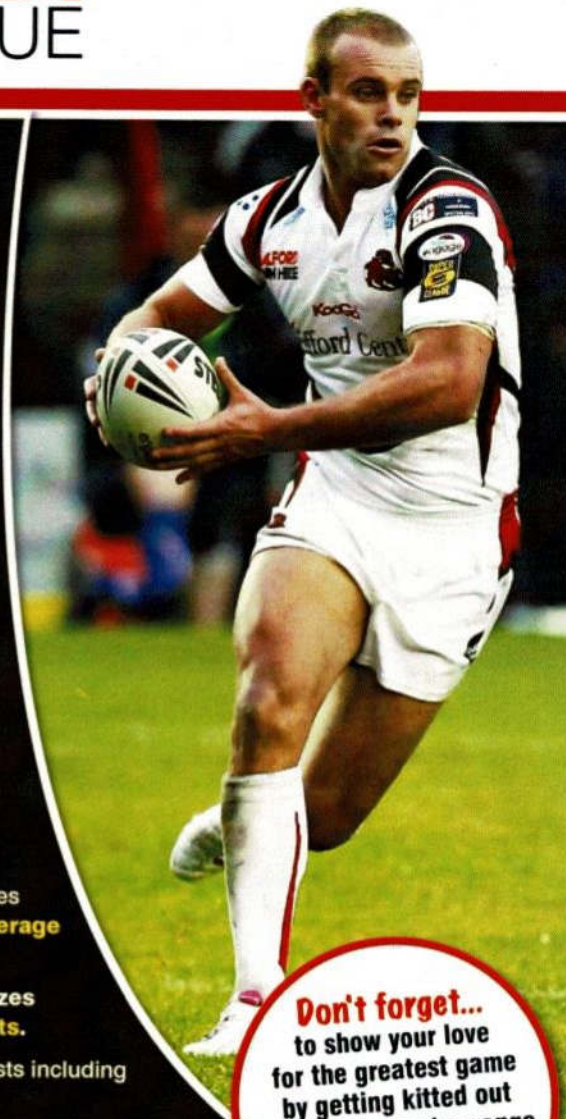
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Conditioners Update...

A big welcome back to the Huntington Stadium, we have been on the road 4 weeks on the bounce and managed to come away with 4 wins from 4. The team are continuing to improve both in the gym and on the field, a hunger remains in this team throughout the ranks. Junior players are fighting for a spot, senior players are fighting to keep theirs and all the staff in the background continue their pursuit of perfection.

Oldham offer a higher physicality than the previous few teams we

have played and we need to be ready. We have been cautious in terms of gym and field load over this away period but we are back to the grind, not happy on maintaining performance levels achieved in pre season we continue to work towards improving performance and dominating teams physically every week.

I am looking forward to another battle today and hopefully at the end of the day the Knights sit at the top of the table going in to the final third of the season.

As always your support makes the world of difference and if you are one of the fans that made the lengthy trips to some or all of the away games in the previous weeks **THANK YOU.**

Enjoy the day

Jamie Bell

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