

NUTRITIONX

The Ultimate in Sports Nutrition

SKOLARS

PROVIDING ELITE SPORTS
NUTRITION FOR
EVERYONE.

SAFE, QUALITY
NUTRITION
DESIGNED TO GET
THE MOST FROM
YOU AND YOUR
PERFORMANCE.

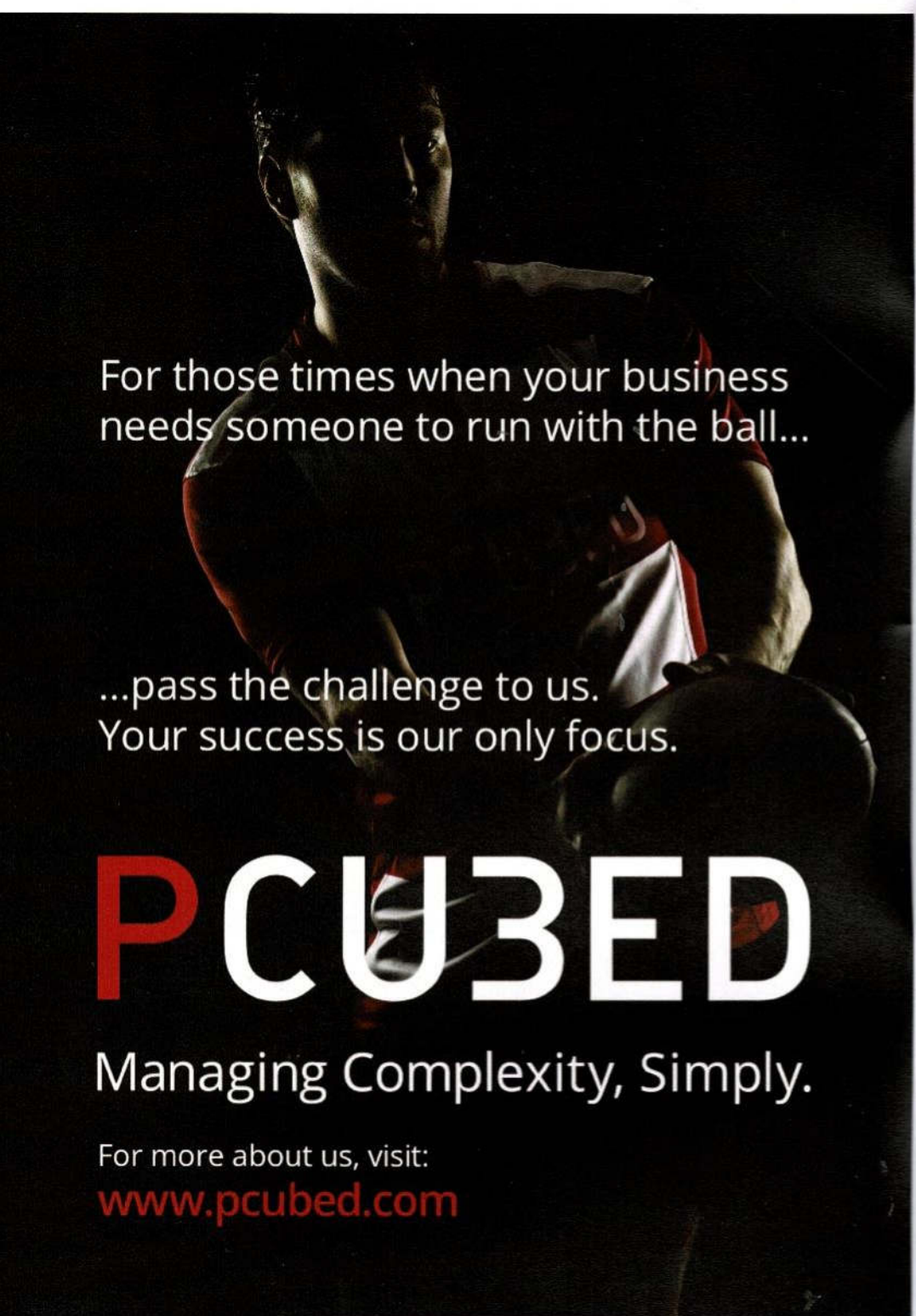
ONLY AVAILABLE AT
WWW.NUTRITIONX.CO.UK



London Skolars RLFC
Official Match Day Programme £2.50

Kingstone Press Championship 1
London Skolars v Oldham
at Enfield Town FC 3 August 2014





For those times when your business
needs someone to run with the ball...

...pass the challenge to us.
Your success is our only focus.

PCUBED

Managing Complexity, Simply.

For more about us, visit:

www.pcubed.com

In this edition

Today's Man of the Match sponsor: London League Publications

Cover photos: Top: Dave Williams with Anthony Cox in support
Bottom: Martyn Smith; Mike Bishay



5 Boardroom View - Chairman Terry Browne on the changes to the professional leagues
5 Forthcoming fixtures in Kingstone Press Championship 1
7 Head Coach Joe Mbu on an important victory and a disappointing defeat
9 Skolars' fixture list for 2014 and the current standings in Kingstone Press Championship 1
11 Rugby League rules for beginners
12 Matt Cuss on Skolars' juniors selected for representative games
13 New Structures for the professional and semi-professional leagues
14 The visitors - a look at some of the key figures from Oldham

15 Today's squad lineups
16 Huw Richards on relegation
17 A good last 12 months for the sport
18 Skolars Statistics
19 Skolars' reserves and the London Leagues
20 Skolars' Commercial Manager Pat Cluskey on a busy August at home
23 Humour, Philosophy and . . . London Rugby League - Dave Farrar inimitable view
25 This Month in Time - some close encounters home and away
27 Gareth Walker from League Express muses on the battle to avoid relegation from the Kingstone Press Championship

Club Information

Address: White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre,
White Hart Lane, Wood Green,
London N22 5QW
Telephone: 0208 888 8488 Fax: 0208 881 8983
Website: www.skolarsrl.com

Chairman London Skolars Limited: Terry Browne
Managing Director: Hector McNeil
Directors: Mark Croston, Andrew Jackson, John Piercy, Kevin Milne
Presidents Club: Harold Nass
Commercial Manager: Pat Cluskey
Administration and Events Manager: Carolyn Flowers
Community Sports Coach: Matt Cuss
Head Coach: Joe Mbu
Assistant Coach: Marcus Tobin
Video: Barry Watson

Programme Editor: Andrew Jackson
Photos: Gary Baker, Matt Cuss, Bradford Bulls

WHERE THE WORLD'S MARKETS GET INDEXED.

The NASDAQ Global Index Family™ covers **98%** of the investable universe. Our rules-based indexes cover approximately **9,000** securities from **45** world markets, broken down by geography, sector, and size. That's why, for investors, the world is growing.

▶ LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VALUE OF OUR NEW GLOBAL INDEX FAMILY AT WWW.NASDAQOMX.COM/GLOBALINDEXFAMILY ◀

NASDAQ OMX | Global Indexes
WELCOME TO THE NASDAQ OMX CENTURY™



Boardroom View

Terry Browne's initial views on the changes to the professional leagues from 2015



A warm welcome to you all to Enfield. Thanks once again to Roger Reed and the rest of the Enfield FC board for our continued stay here.

It's the second time we have entertained Oldham at home this season, but a different ground. Our last game here was the most enjoyable of our games at Queen Elizabeth II Stadium – a win against local rivals always gladdens the heart. However, a disappointing defeat in Cardiff means we have much to do if we are going to move up the table.

Last week saw the announcement of the structure of the three professional leagues announced. It's a big change for the sport. It has also meant that five clubs will be relegated into Kingstone Press Championship 1 a mere two years after four teams were promoted to expand the Championship. We must hope that there is some stability in the new structure so that it is given a chance to work.

The large number of clubs being relegated means three teams – Sheffield Eagles, Keighley Cougars and Whitehaven are fighting for 8th to 10th places, all of which have very different impacts. 8th place would see a club make the play-offs, 10th place means relegation, whilst 9th means the relative safety of

staying put in 2015 and the chance to play Bradford Bulls and London Broncos, who have been relegated from Super League.

A fourteen team league for what is currently Championship 1 will mean fewer break weekends which have been such a problem for many clubs this season. Whilst the fixture structure will aim to reduce travel (playing two of the clubs just once), there is still a strong possibility of a couple of trips up to Cumbria for some clubs. Coventry's entry will certainly mean a broad geographical coverage for the league, especially if North Wales are relegated.

However, the focus for now needs to be on the current season. Oldham just missed out on promotion last season, but unlike many clubs they have not panicked and thrown out the talent that got them so close in 2013. They have added to the core of that side and the benefits of a settled side have come to the fore as the season has progressed, last week beating the early high fliers, Hunslet Hawks.

Enjoy The Game

Terry Browne
Chairman, London Skolars

Kingstone Press Championship 1

Forthcoming fixtures

Sunday 3 August

Gateshead Thunder v Hemel Stags
University of Gloucestershire All Golds v York City Knights
Hunslet Hawks v Oxford
London Skolars v Oldham

Saturday 9 August

London Skolars v Oxford (at Pennine Way, Hemel Hempstead)
South Wales Scorpions v University of Gloucestershire All Golds

Sunday 10 August

Hemel Stags v Hunslet Hawks
York City Knights v Gateshead Thunder



YOUR RUGBY YOUR CIDER!



Proud sponsors of the
Rugby League Championships

www.kingstonepress.co.uk  @KingstoneCider  /kingstonepresscider www.drinkaware.co.uk

TRY!

Kingstone Press

FOR REAL
CIDER LOVERS

View from the Dug Out

Skolars' Head Coach Joe Mbu on progress at home, but a setback in the principality



A warm welcome to everyone at Queen Elizabeth II Stadium today.

It was no surprise that the Hemel game was a tight one; a fine local derby that really showed the passion of both sides. I was pleased with our composure both to come back from an early deficit and also to hold on when Hemel came back at us in the second half.

After yet another gap in the fixture list we played on the artificial turf of the famous Cardiff Arms Park. That will be good experience for when we return to New River. We enjoyed a lot of possession in the first half, but just couldn't control the game as we should have been able to and we were punished for that.

Again we worked hard to bring us back into the game, but couldn't push our advantage forward. The loss, albeit with a bonus point, means every game is critical if we are to have any chance of making the top five play-offs.

Last Sunday saw Josh Sunley make his debut. Josh came through the academy ranks at Leeds Rhinos before a spell at Featherstone Rovers and whilst he may have much experience at first team level, his experience with those clubs showed in a strong performance, though he will need to avoid sin-binning as happened last week. It was also good to see Dave Williams and Ryan McDonald recognised for their efforts when they were named in the Kingstone Press Championship 1 team of the week.

Today will be the third game of the season against Oldham. The game at New River was a close one, but we didn't do ourselves justice in the game at Whitebank. Oldham are a strong side and are in

form. At the start of the year, they were probably the outsiders amongst the 3 older clubs, but they lie just three points behind York City Knights and beat Hunslet 24-23 last weekend. They will want to continue that form and ensure at least a top two place to give them a more favourable route to the promotion final.

The day at Cardiff Arms Park also saw a Welsh Conference game and our Under 19s took on a very strong Scorpions side that contained 14 of the Welsh side that took bronze in the 9s exhibition competition that in the Commonwealth Games (the competition took place at the start of the month and was won by Papua New Guinea). It's been a big step up from playing other London sides last year to playing near national teams and the side will have learnt a lot from their campaign this year, which bodes well for the future.

Enjoy The Game

Joe Mbu



Fixture Changes

Saturday 9 August - Skolars v Oxford - at Pennine Way, Henel Hempstead 2pm kick-off
Friday 22 August - Skolars v Hunslet Hawks - at QEII stadium, Enfield 7.30pm kick-off

For the full story, see page 20



CAVEMAN BREWERY

big flavoured beers from the cave

MEGALITHIC 5.9% IPA

There's not a lot of subtlety about this beer. Big on malt, big on hops. A big biscuity malt body is balanced against a heavy hit of fruit from a blend of US hops and a fairly dry finish.

PALAEOLITHIC 3.8% PALE ALE

A light pale ale with a big hit of US Cascade hops. Refreshing with a subtle malt presence this beer is all about the big grapefruit and lychee flavour of the hops.

PREHISTORIC AMBER 4.5% PALE ALE

An atypical pale ale, this beer is made using amber malt which gives a warm roast flavour which is followed by subtle orange and pink grapefruit from the hops.

NEANDERTHAL 4.6% BEST BITTER

The Caveman take on the beer our native Kent drinkers love. Traditional English hops and dark crystal malts feature heavily. The subtle hop flavour counters the sweetness of the caramel and biscuit malt flavours.

CAVEDWELLER 5.8% PORTER

Dark, warming and wonderful this beer is everything we associated with cave life. Typical chocolate, coffee and roast flavours stand out in this beer, whilst the hop presence is subtle to let the malts take centre stage.

CLOVIS POINT BROWN 5.2% BROWN ALE

A US style brown ale blending caramel and roast malt flavours with a big hop bill to provide contrasting flavours. The citrus hop aroma adds a refreshing finish. Named after the spears used by early inhabitants of America.

CITRA 4.1% HOPPY PALE ALE

Our award winning pale ale with a straightforward malt character that really lets the US Citra hop flavours shine through. A refreshing session beer for summer days available on cask in fined or unfined form.

JAMES: 07900 234 644 • NICK: 07769 710 665

www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk • cavemanbrewery@gmail.com • Follow us @cavemanbrewery

CAVEMAN BREWERY, THE CAVE BENEATH THE GEORGE AND DRAGON, 1 LONDON ROAD, SWANSCOMBE, KENT, DA10 0LQ

London Skolars Fixtures 2014



Date	Opposition	Kick-off	Result	Att	Competition
MARCH					
Sun 2nd	Oxford	A 3.00 PM	L 19-12	435	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 16th	Challenge Cup Third Round		Bye		Tetleys Challenge Cup
Sun 23rd	Oldham	H 3.00 PM	L 16-18	479	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 30th	Hunslet Hawks	A 3.00 PM	L 60-4	389	Kingstone Press Championship 1
APRIL					
Sat 5th	Sheffield Eagles	A 3.00 PM	L 70-28	505	Tetleys Challenge Cup
Sun 13th	South Wales Scorpions	H 3.00 PM	W 66-14	417	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Fri 18th	Hemel Stags	A 2.30 PM	W 24-27	284	Kingstone Press Championship 1
MAY					
Sun 4th	York City Knights	A 3.00 PM	L 36-16	451	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 11th	Gateshead Thunder	A 2.00 PM	L 24-16	209	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 18th	Univ of Gloucestershire All-Golds	H 3.00 PM	L 24-34	398	Kingstone Press Championship 1
JUNE					
Sun 1st	Oldham	A 3.00 PM	L 46-16	489	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sat 7th	South Wales Scorpions	H 3.00 PM	L 18-46	362	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 15th	Oxford	A 3.00 PM	W 28-52	316	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 29th	Gateshead Thunder	H 2.00 PM	L 6-66	206	Kingstone Press Championship 1
JULY					
Sun 6th	York City Knights	H 3.00 PM	L 20-30	465	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 13th	Hemel Stags	H 3.00 PM	W 34-28	378	Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sat 26th	South Wales Scorpions	A 3.00 PM	L 19-18	486	Kingstone Press Championship 1
AUGUST					
Sun 3rd	Oldham	H 3.00 PM			Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 9th	Oxford	H 2.00 PM			Kingstone Press Championship 1
Sun 17th	Univ of Gloucestershire All-Golds	A 3.00 PM			Kingstone Press Championship 1
Fri 22nd	Hunslet Hawks	H 7.30 PM			Kingstone Press Championship 1
SEPTEMBER					
Sun 7th	York City Knights	A 3.00 PM			Kingstone Press Championship 1

Kingstone Press Championship 1 Table

Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	BP	Points
1 York City Knights	16	13	0	3	604	273	331	3	42
2 Oldham	16	12	1	3	517	355	162	1	39
3 Hunslet Hawks	15	11	0	4	530	191	339	3	36
4 University of Gloucestershire All Golds	15	7	1	7	364	369	-5	4	27
5 Hemel Stags	16	8	0	8	453	478	-25	2	26
6 Gateshead Thunder	15	7	0	8	340	410	-70	5	26
7 London Skolars	15	4	0	11	345	492	-147	6	18
8 Oxford	16	5	0	11	405	563	-158	1	16
9 South Wales Scorpions	16	2	0	14	236	663	-427	2	8

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!

Each week there will be a cash prize draw and remember, the more members that sign up, the bigger and better the prizes will be!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LONDON SKOLARS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND POST OR EMAIL TO LONDON SKOLARS RL
SECTION A – CONTACT DETAILS

! Your Name _____
 ! Your Address _____
 ! Contact Number _____
 ! Email Address (if you have one) _____

SECTION B – INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK FOR STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS

Please pay the NatWest Bank, Brentwood Essex Branch for Credit of Student Rugby League Old Boys 100 Club (London Skolars) Lottery until further notice. **Account Number: 53509153 Sort Code: 600325**

! Starting date for payment is: _____
 ! Payment options available: Monthly £4.40 ☐ Quarterly £13.00 ☐ Half Yearly £26.00 ☐ Yearly £50.00 ☐
 ! Signature _____ ! Date _____

SECTION C- BANK DETAILS

! 1. Bank _____ ! 2. Branch _____
 ! 3. Branch Address _____
 ! 4. Account Holders Name _____
 ! 5. Account Number _____ ! 6. Sort Code _____

! ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL FOR PAYMENT BY STANDING ORDER

OR FOR CHEQUE PAYMENT (YEARLY ONLY) COMPLETE SECTION A:-

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

Rugby League for Beginners

A simple guide for those new to the game



The simple aim of Rugby League is to score more points than your opponents

A Rugby League match lasts for 80 minutes (two 40 minute halves). Timekeepers monitor this and sound a siren or hooter as a signal to the referee when the game is over

You score tries (worth four points) by touching the ball down over your opponent's try line. You can convert that to six by kicking a goal. The other means of scoring are a penalty goal (also worth two points) and a drop goal (worth one point)

There are two teams of 13 players with four reserves on the interchange bench. Each team can make a maximum of 10 changes involving any combination of players. Rugby League players have to be multi-skilled but some players do focus on roles within their teams including carrying the ball into the opposition line (forwards), attacking on the fringes (backs) and distributing the ball (hooker and half backs). All players work together in their team's defensive formation

The ball has to be passed backwards. It can be passed as many times as you like until a player is tackled in possession

Each team has the ball for six plays (or tackles). After a tackle, the ball carrier plays the ball back along the ground to a receiver standing behind directly behind them. After the six plays are completed the team in possession must handover the ball to the opposition. Most teams elect to kick at this point in order to gain as much ground as possible

Six players form a Rugby League scrum. They are a means of re-starting the game and create a good opportunity to attack. Scrums are awarded for knock-ons (losing the ball forward) or forward passes

You are offside in Rugby League if you are within the gap maintained between the attacking and defensive sides by the referee or if you interfere with play after being in front of a team mate when they have kicked the ball in open play

A 40-20 kick is when a player kicks the ball behind his own 40 metre line and it bounces into touch within the opposition's 20 metre line. If this happens

the side that kicked the ball get the advantage of putting the ball into the resulting scrum. A goal line drop out is taken from under your own posts if you have been forced to touch the ball down in your own in-goal area or put the ball out of play in this area

A player is guilty of misconduct if he or she:

- Trips, kicks or strikes another player.
- When effecting or attempting to effect a tackle makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent intentionally, recklessly or carelessly.
- Drops knees first on to an opponent who is on the ground.
- Uses any dangerous throw when effecting a tackle.
- Deliberately and continuously breaks the Laws of the Game.
- Uses offensive or obscene language.
- Disputes a decision of the Referee or Touch Judge.
- Re-enters the field of play without the permission of the Referee or a Touch Judge having previously temporarily retired from the game.
- Behaves in any way contrary to the true spirit of the game.
- Deliberately obstructs an opponent who is not in possession.
- Uses a shoulder charge on an opponent.

In the event of misconduct by a player, the Referee shall, at his/her discretion, caution, temporarily suspend for ten minutes (yellow card), or dismiss the offender for the rest of the game (red card).





In The Community

Skolars' Community Coach Matt Cuss on representative honours across the age groups for Skolars

Following the end of the London Junior League season, all eyes now turn to the London Origin Series, sponsored by Hard Rock Café. Throughout the whole of the regular season, some of London Rugby League's most experienced operators have been out and about performing talent id at all venues across London, looking out for standout performers at each age group.

After what has been another successful year for all our Junior Teams, we are delighted to announce that we have no fewer than 24 youngsters have been selected for the 3 game Hard Rock Café London Origin series which will determine the winner for 2014. Given our base in Wood Green, our youngsters will be joining forces with the rest of the teams north of the Thames to take on their notoriously strong Southern Counterparts.

The Hard Rock Café London Origin Series is a representative programme designed to recognise and reward the best talent playing in the London Junior and Youth League. With over 1,100 registered players it is a real honour for our lads selected to be chosen. Based loosely on the Australian 'State of Origin' Series, the 20 highest performing players representing the clubs based North of the Thames compete in a 3 match series against the 20 highest performing players at clubs South of the Thames at all age groups from U12 up to U17.

The series gives players an opportunity to experience a high quality training and playing environment, and also offers the chance for local coaches to develop on the coaching pathway with mentoring from London Broncos Head of Youth Darren Higgins who will be looking after the North and former Harlequins RL Head Coach Rob Powell who will be performing the same role for the South.

The series will commence on Saturday August 30th where coaches will get to see their squads for the first of two training sessions. The 3 game series begins at Elmbridge Eagles on **Saturday September 6th**, followed by Origin Two on **Saturday September 20th** at Hemel Stags and culminating with Origin Three on **Saturday September 27th** at Medway Dragons.

The London Skolars players selected to represent the North are :

U12's

Owen Millard	Tommy Fraine
Dylan Jimini	Cameron Giwa Mcneil
Josh Mctavish	

U13's

Oliver Browne	Will Prior
Gabe Ackley	Luka Benjanidze

U14's

Joshua Clarke	Joel Bateson
Clement Harrison	Javahn Charles

U15's

Daniel Hindmarsh	Jordan Rhoden
Tom Hamer	Alex Pentecost
Joel Kpoku	

U16's

Jerome Yates	Dillon Adabie
Rodell Reid	Ethan Edwards-Hayde

U17's

Luca Vettori	Amir Neziraj
--------------	--------------

Below: Judd & Michael Grenhalgh in origin action in 2013



New structure to usher in exciting new era for RL



Full details of the exciting new league structure that will come into operation in 2015 for Rugby League's professional and semi-professional competitions have been outlined

From next season the First Utility Super League and Kingstone Press Championship will both feature 12 clubs, whilst Kingstone Press Championship One will be renamed as Kingstone Press League 1 and comprise 14 clubs.

RFL Chief Executive Nigel Wood said: "The changes will ensure that every minute of every match in every competition matters and are being implemented following the most comprehensive consultation process in the sport's history.

"The return of promotion and relegation in a format that is financially sustainable for all clubs should ensure fans are entertained from February to October, with an exciting season punctuated by a series of world-class events commencing with the World Club Challenge and finishing at Old Trafford with the Super League Grand Final."

Super League and Championship clubs will each play 23 matches in the regular season - home and away against the other clubs in their respective competitions plus Magic Weekend or Summer Bash.

At the end of the regular season, Super League and the Championship will split into the Super 8s, three groups of eight clubs based on league positions called Super League, The Qualifiers and Championship Shield.

Super League features the top eight Super League clubs; The Qualifiers comprises Super League clubs nine to 12 plus the top four Championship clubs; and the Championship Shield features Championship clubs five to 12.

The Super 8s will be played on a seven match mini-league basis, and will largely determine the make-up of Super League and the Championship the following season.

In Super League, all eight clubs are guaranteed top flight status for the following year whilst the top four will contest a play-off series - 1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd, with the winner going through to the title-deciding Grand Final.

In The Qualifiers, the top three clubs after seven matches will play in Super League the following season with the final place determined by the Million Pound Game, a play-off between the clubs finishing 4th and 5th. The loser of the match will join the three remaining clubs from The Qualifiers and six Championship Shield clubs in the Championship the following season.

In the Championship Shield, the top four clubs with contest a play-off series with the winners contesting the Championship Shield final. The bottom two teams in the Championship Shield will be relegated to League 1.

The 14 League 1 clubs will each play 22 games - 11 home and 11 away, playing each other once and nine teams twice with fixtures scheduled on a geographical basis. At the end of the regular season 1st will place 2nd with the winner promoted to the Championship as champions. The loser of that match will join the teams that finished 3rd, 4th and 5th in a play-off to determine the second promotion spot.

The 14 League 1 clubs will also be joined by the 2014 National Conference League Grand Final winners and the 2014 RFL Conference Challenge Cup winners in a new knockout competition played at the start of the season.

To allow for the changes to the league structure, the top eight Super League clubs will join the Challenge Cup at the sixth round stage, with League 1 clubs entering at Round 3, Championship clubs at Round 4 and the bottom four Super League clubs at Round 5.



Another new-signing is a re-signing – half-back Brett Robinson rejoining the club after a season at

Competition		P	W	D	L	Points scored	
						Skolars	Oldham
CC1	Home	8	1	1	6	134	316
	Away	8	0	0	8	168	297
CC1 play-offs	Away	1	0	0	1	8	64
All Games		17	1	1	15	310	677

Josh Crowley was coach Scott Naylor's first signing for Oldham at the start of the 2013 season and the second row forward played in every game last season and this one. Also ever present this season is prop Michael Ward

Oldham have won all but two of the 17 encounters to date. One of the closest games between the two sides took place in 2009, see This Month In Time on page 25 for the summary of that encounter.

Today's man of the match is sponsored by London League Publications



The Wesley Hotel & Conference Centre
Colin & Bridget Burrows

	Anthony Cox	Sponsored by	1 Tom Whitehead
	Courtney Davies	Caveman Brewery	2 Mo Agoro
	Danny Burke	Baglan Safety	3 Ben Wood
	David Williams (c)	FNC General	4 Steven Nield
	Danny Yates		5 Dale Bloomfield
	Dennis Tuffour		6 Lewis Palfrey (c)
	Dion Chapman	Colin & Bridget Burrows	7 Brett Robinson
	James Kelly	Alan Greenwood	8 Phil Joy
	Jaraslav Obuchowski		9 Sam Gee
	John Paxton	Momentoprint	10 Jason Boults
	Josh Sunley		11 Josh Crowley
	Judd Greenhalgh		12 Danny Langtree
	Ibrahim Kabia		13 Mark Hobson
	Kazeem Faturoti		14 Adam Files
	Lamont Bryan		15 Paddy Mooney
	Lloyd O'Connor	The Wesley Hotel & Conference Centre	16 Kenny Hughes
	Louis Robinson	North Square Blue Oak	17 Danny Whitmore
	Martin Olima		18 Alex Davidson
	Martyn Smith		19 Michael Ward
	Michael Greenhalgh		20 George Tyson
	Michael Sykes	Student RL Alumni	21 David Cookson
	Mike Worrincy		22 Liam Thompson
	Mufaro Mvududu		
	Oliver Bloom		
	Olly Purslow	Flowfix	
	Patelisiso Pelo		
	Rob Thomas	Lanes Coaches	
	Ryan McDonald		
	Sam Druce		
	Sam Wellings	The Wesley Hotel & Conference Centre	
	Smokie Junor	Colin & Bridget Burrows	

Referee: Dave Sharpe
Touch Judges: Bertrand Leze, Simon Matthews

[illegible]



Yo-Yos and thwarted ambition

Huw Richards on the changing nature of relegation and its return to Super League this season

Even if it had looked inevitable since the uncertainty over the club's future during the close season, it was still a sad moment when the London Broncos' relegation from Super League was confirmed three weeks ago.

It is also perhaps a time to reflect on the club's very real achievements. First of these it is that it is still there, 34 years on from its debut on the long-legendary afternoon when Wigan were demolished at Craven Cottage, every match extending its all-time endurance record for a professional club outside the northern heartlands.

The second is that having been lifted into the newly-constituted Super League for non-playing reasons, it survived the first 18 seasons without ever finishing bottom of the table. You might argue that it has been unlucky that this record is likely to be ended in the year when conventional promotion and relegation were re-introduced.

But it is difficult to make a hard-luck case for any team that loses 22 matches in a row. And there is a broader principle at stake – the intrinsic fairness of promotion and relegation.

To deny teams progression from lower leagues and guarantee an elite against the consequences of on-field failure always seemed a denial of league's deep-rooted democratic traditions. The game had always assumed that who you were did not matter nearly as much as how good you were, and that you should willingly play any opponent which qualified to compete at your level.

It was a significant point of difference with rugby union, where clubs traditionally played who they chose and whose elites lost little time, after the introduction of leagues created upward and downward mobility, in attempting once more to secure protected gated-community status.

League's equivocation over the principle in the Super League era was perhaps to some extent rooted in memories of the 1980s. If promotion and

relegation is a good thing, four-up, four-down was too much of it. Too many clubs, what was then called Fulham included, suffered debilitating yo-yo syndrome.

But to go the other way, to take a snapshot of a particular moment and declare that this would be the sport's shape for good – or at least for three years – was a colossal over-reaction. It thwarted ambition and cushioned inadequacy.

What is clearly an outstanding Leigh team deserves its shot at top level, while London and the horribly misused Bradford club get their chance to rebuild in a division where they can hope to be competitive. That is what promotion and relegation has always been, a mechanism which allows teams to find their level.

And while Super League's marketers might regret the absence of London – not to mention Bradford, a great rugby city – next year, that is how proper sport works. With luck the Broncos should be back before long. If not, so be it. The time when a reserved place for London could be justified, if it ever existed, is long gone. After 34 years London league should stand or fall on its own merits.

Below: Fortunes have changed considerably for Bradford Bulls and London Broncos since 2004



Rugby League's Popularity Riding High



The popularity of Rugby League is at an all-time high, RFL Chief Executive Nigel Wood told the sport's Annual General Meeting.

Wood reported a huge increase in the number of people who watched the sport in 2013, healthy growth in participation numbers, more commercial partners coming to the game and new structures that will make every minute matter for every Rugby League club.

And Rugby League World Cup 2013 was critically acclaimed as the best in the tournament's history with almost half a million tickets sold, a world record crowd for the final at Old Trafford, eight sell-outs and a 76 per cent occupancy rate in the stadiums, both in the sport's heartlands and around Europe.

The England team that was 20 seconds away from booking its final place in the tournament has built a solid platform of young talented world-class players. And Wood told the AGM in St Helens that the RFL was working with other partners to produce an improved calendar for international competition that will benefit the national team. Commercial interest stimulated by the World Cup is converting into actual investment in the sport with the attraction of First Utility as sponsors together with the retention of Specsavers, Alcatel, who are joined by Kingstone Press, Isuzu, Brut, Tetley, Im Bru, Foxy Bingo, Elonex, ISC and Rhino.

Nearly 39m people watched Rugby League live, either at the ground or on television in the year – more than 40 per cent up on the previous year and participant levels increased across all categories. In the 16-19 age group participant levels rose by 16%, at adult level there was a 52 per cent increase and university Rugby League participation increased by 20 per cent.

Wood reported a profit for the governing body for the 12th successive financial year. In the financial year 2013, the governing body reported a profit of £120,000 – almost double on the previous year – from a record turnover of £34m. Every year since 2001, the governing body has returned positive financial figures.

Wood said one of the more pleasing developments over

the past 12 months has been the considerable reduction of insolvencies or near insolvent events that the sport has endured and records indicate the level of indebtedness is at its lowest level for some time.

The RFL's Policy Review, completed in 2013, had produced a strategy to delivered positive change in the sport across a number of key areas including:

- Competition structures and reform
- Club sustainability and the appropriate level of RFL support for clubs
- Re-engineering Academy, youth and other player production systems
- A 'whole game' philosophy with core principles

"Rugby League has an opportunity in 2015 to embrace an exciting new league format where every professional club can see a clear pathway to make progress and where resources are shared proportionately around the sport," said Wood.

"In addition youth and Academy Rugby League now has a clear direction of travel. It is in all of the games interests to engage more youngsters in playing the sport and keep more of these youngsters within the sport in the appropriately organised competition frameworks to ensure that each and every child has the best possible chance to develop their potential to the full.

"At the top end of the game, we are convinced that the new formats across the three leading divisions, First Utility Super League, Kingstone Press Championship and Kingstone Press Championship One will provide an environment in which every minute in every competition will matter for all clubs, fans and other stakeholders in the game.

"The game has been strong enough to make some brave decisions and create an environment for our clubs to prosper. Rugby League is now in a strong position and looking forwards with confidence and optimism."

The AGM also confirmed the appointment of Andrew Farrow as RFL President for 2014-2015, when Dr Paul Morgan will be Vice President.



Skolars' Statistics

Club No	Player	Sponsor	2014 season							Career						
			Appearances							Appearances						
			Starts	Subs	Total	T	G	DG	Points	Starts	Subs	Total	T	G	DG	Points
75	Adé Adérye									13	18	31	5			20
281	Mike Bishay		4	4	8	6	4		32	8	5	13	6	4	1	33
220	Lamont Bryan		7	3	10	1			4	38	4	42	12			48
189	Oliver Bloom									30	19	49	8			32
192	Danny Burke									10	22	32	2			8
291	Matt Bradley	Alan Greenwood	7	1	8		25	1	51	7	1	8		25	1	51
289	James Carby		1		1	1			4	1		1	1			4
241	Dion Chapman	Colin & Bridget Burrows	1	2	3					2	4	6				
298	Anthony Cox	Cavanah Brewery	8	3	11	2			8	8	3	11	2			8
296	Courtney Davies	Baglan Safety	14		14	3	16		44	14		14	3	16		44
244	Erion Dallapi		2	3	5					12	7	19	6			24
301	Sam Druce		3	5	8	1	5		14	3	5	8	1	5		14
306	James Duckworth		4		4	2			8	4		4	2			8
260	James Fletcher										1	1	1			4
280	Tony Gigot		1		1					1		1				
272	Judd Greenhalgh		13		13	7			28	14		14	7			28
273	Mike Greenhalgh									1		1				
202	Smokie Junor	Colin & Bridget Burrows								46	4	50	16			64
299	Ibrahim Kabia		2		2					3		3				
278	Sebastian Kolasa										1	1	1			4
297	Foteim Koutouni		4		4					4		4				
304	James Kelly		2		2	1	2		8	2		2	1	2		8
279	Will Lovell		3		3	2			8	3	1	4	3			12
286	Iliess Macani		5		5					5		5				
294	Ryan McDonald		2	11	13	2			8	2	11	13	2			8
302	Mike McMeeken		3		3	1			4	3		3	1			4
295	Mulara Mvududu		12		12	5			20	12		12	5			20
196	Jaroslav Obuchowski									24	10	34	7			28
203	Jonnie O'Callaghan		3		3					7		7	1			4
292	Lloyd O'Connor	The Wesley Hotel & Conference Centre	3		3	1			4	3		3	1			4
303	Martin Olino		2		2					2		2				
201	John Paxton	Momentoprint	16		16					92	2	94	22			88
293	Patelliso Palo		14	1	15	2			8	14	1	15	2			8
217	Oliver Purslow	Flexis	9		9					68	28	96	7			28
252	Louis Robinson			9	9	2			8	2	36	38	8			32
305	Danny Solomon		1		1	3			12	1		1	3			12
253	Martyn Smith		12	4	16	9			36	26	34	60	13			52
308	Josh Sunley		1		1					1		1				
234	Michael Sykes	SRI Aunni	5	6	11					20	34	54				
257	Mike Warrincy	North Square Blue Oak	10		10	3			12	42		42	17			68
204	Rob Thomas			8	8					19	33	52	11			44
288	Thomas Tabb		1		1					1		1				
287	Dennis Tuffour		8		8	3			12	8		8	3			12
216	David Williams	FNC General	15	1	16	4			16	70	5	75	11			44
283	Sam Wellings	The Wesley Hotel & Conference Centre	4	3	7					18	3	21	2			8
300	James Woodburn-Hall		2		2	4			16	2		2	4			16
307	Danny Yates		4		4	1			4	4		4	1			4

David Williams has plated in 37 consecutive games for Skolars. Only Oldham's Josh Crowley has played in more consecutive games, having played 42 games since joining the Roughyeds at the start of last season. Michael Ward has played 35 games in the trot for Oldham. Dale Bloomfield's run of 40 games came to an end last weekend, but he is still Championship 1 highest try score this season with 19 touchdowns.

London Premier League

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	DIFF	Pts
1 SW London Chargers	7	7	0	0	291	74	217	14
2 London Skolars A	8	4	4	0	203	199	4	8
3 Eastern Rhinos	7	4	3	0	234	232	2	8
4 Hemel Stags A	7	2	5	0	168	209	-41	4
5 St Albans Centurions	7	1	6	0	110	292	-182	2

The London Leagues

Rounding up the London open age and Youth Leagues



In their last game of the league campaign, Skolars 'A' went down 10-24 last weekend to South West London Chargers, who remain unbeaten at the top of the table. The defeat leaves the reserves level on points with Eastern Rhinos, who travel to Hemel Stags 'A' this weekend. The Rhinos would need to avoid defeat to pip Skolars for runners up spot in the Premier Division.

In the London & South East First Division Beckenham Bears maintain their lead over South West London Chargers 'A'.

Skolars 'B' have won all three of their games in the Entry League, but are fourth with West Warriors top and Hammersmith Hills Hoists just behind them. Wests have already won one trophy, winning the London Challenge cup final with a dramatic 19-18 victory over South West London Chargers. The two divisions between the two sides meant little with neither side able to score in the second half until a late drop goal for former Oldham half-back Matt

Ashe sealed the game.

In the South East, US Portsmouth Navy Seahawks are just two points ahead of Southampton Spitfires and Medway Dragons.

At Youth level (Under 17s), Brentwood Eels are two points clear of Skolars in the North group, but have a game in hand. In the South group, Elmbridge Eagles are six points clear of Medway Dragons.

Elmbridge are also doing well at Under 15 level, being just two points behind Brixton Bulls in the South group. No doubting who is top of the North group, Skolars having won all 13 of their games.

The going has been tougher at Under 13 level. Skolars lie fourth in the East group, where Charlton Gunners and Invicta Panthers are competing for top spot. In the West group, Elmbridge Eagles are just ahead of Sussex Merlins.

Under 17 North League Table

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	Pts
1 Brentwood Eels	8	7	1	0	228	54	174	12
2 London Skolars	9	6	3	0	228	236	-8	10
3 North Herts Crusader	8	3	5	0	200	204	-4	4
4 Hemel Stags	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Eastern Rhinos	9	1	8	0	82	284	-202	-6

Under 15 North League Table

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	Pts
1 London Skolars	13	13	0	0	636	106	530	26
2 Eastern Rhinos	12	8	4	0	416	276	140	14
3 North Herts Crusader	12	6	6	0	302	308	-6	10
4 Brentwood Eels	12	5	7	0	330	368	-38	10
5 Newham Dockers	12	3	9	0	214	400	-186	6
6 Southend Spartans	13	2	11	0	204	644	-440	4

Under 13 East League Table

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	Pts
1 Charlton Gunners	13	11	2	0	466	150	316	22
2 Invicta Panthers	13	10	3	0	489	170	319	20
3 Brentwood Eels	11	8	3	0	276	131	145	14
4 London Skolars	12	5	7	0	304	302	2	10
5 Southend Spartans	13	3	10	0	110	464	-354	6
6 Medway Dragons	12	0	12	0	6	434	-428	0



Commercial Manager Pat Cluskey on a busy month at home (home on the road)

Good afternoon and welcome to what was originally to be our final game at Enfield Town FC before our return to a brand new 4g pitch at the White Hart Lane Community Stadium. Unfortunately legal delays between Haringey Council and new landlords Fusion put a halt to the work on the pitch and even though it did start again on Monday of this week it is unlikely the pitch will be ready until October / November with the complex fully operational by March although we have been told the grandstand will be operational for use by spectators in time for our pre-season fixtures.

The above has seen us have to rearrange our final two home fixtures starting with next weekend's game against Oxford. When the Ryman League fixtures were published on 17th July our hosts were given a home fixture on August 9th and even though they were happy to turn the pitch round in less than 24 hours there were a number of logistical issues which meant that this was not an option.

Hemel Stag's Bob Brown offered their Pennine Way facility but with the Stags also scheduled to be at home on August 10th it was necessary to bring our game forward to August 9th. It is not ideal for anyone and I would like to apologise for anybody who is inconvenienced by this move but the decision wasn't taken lightly.

Fortunately Enfield Town were given an away fixture on August 23rd which has allowed us to stage our Friday Night Lights game against Hunslet Hawks at the QEII and also push the kick off time back to 7.30pm which will hopefully help with those fans travelling out of central London to the game.

There will be a number of Masters and Junior games taking place thanks to the help of Enfield Ignations and our new Administration and Events Manager Carolyn Flowers is currently working on the arrangements for this and the traditional beer festival more details of which we hope to announce shortly.

This afternoon I'd like to welcome guests from London League Publications who are sponsoring the Skolars' Man of the Match whilst joining them in the Boardroom will be another of our Club sponsors, Nick Byrom from Caveman Brewery. Nick is an Oldham fan so I hope he enjoys the opportunity to watch his home town team.

On the subject of sponsors, now we've been able to confirm the FNL venue we are looking for companies who wish to be part of our biggest league game of the season so if you, or your company, fancy a great night out at a live sporting event please do not hesitate to contact me at patcluskey@skolarsr1.com



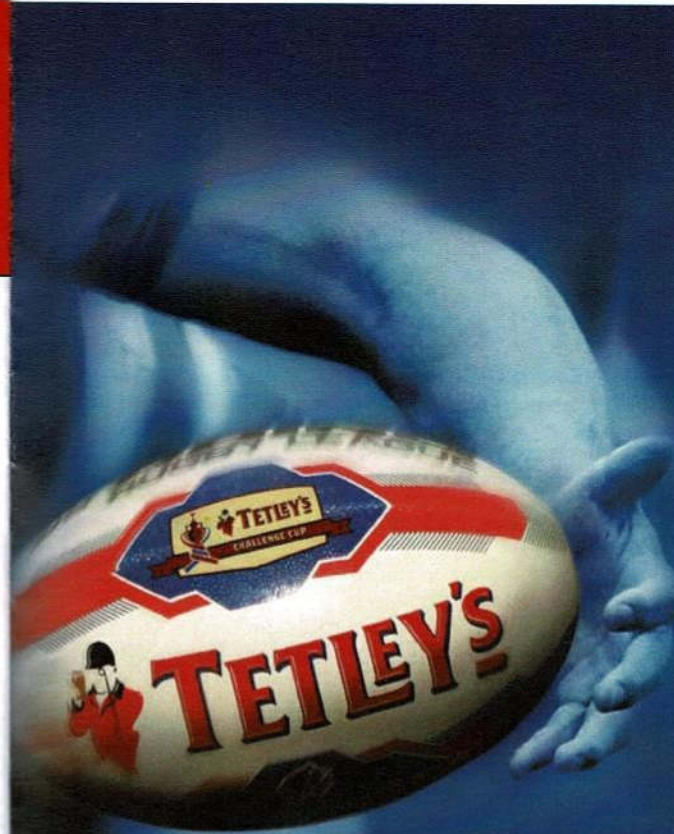
WARDLE ENGINEERING

Security Bars
Gates
Fire Escapes
Wrought Iron

Window Grilles
Railings
Balconies
Machined Parts

www.wardleengineering.co.uk
www.metalandwood.co.uk

Tel.: 07900 414367



WIN* £1000

FOR YOUR COMMUNITY
RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

PLUS

VIP TICKETS

TO THE
TETLEY'S
CHALLENGE
CUP FINAL

UP FOR GRABS



AT [FACEBOOK.COM/TETLEYSCHALLENGECUP](https://www.facebook.com/tetleyschallengecup)
OR ON [TWITTER@TETLEYSCHALCUP](https://twitter.com/tetleyschalcup)



TETLEY'S
OFFICIAL PARTNER

*Terms and Conditions Apply.

Full terms and conditions and more details available at www.facebook.com/TetleysChallengeCup or www.twitter.com/TetleysChalCup (Sites).

1. 18+. UK only. 2. Internet access and either Facebook or Twitter account required. 3. To enter go online to one of the Sites and like/follow our page and tweet/post a comment (as appropriate) including "#TetleysPassOn" between 22nd February 2014 and 31st July 2014 (Initial Period) to be entered into a weekly prize draw during the Initial Period for the chance to win one of 10 pairs of tickets to a Tetley's Challenge Cup Rugby League match during the 2014 season. 4. Include your Pass It On story about your passion for rugby league (Story) in your tweet/comment before 31st July 2014 and the best Story each month between March and July 2014, as judged by an independent rugby player, coach or commentator, wins a pair of VIP tickets to the Tetley's Challenge Cup Final on 23rd August 2014. See the Sites for details on judging criteria. 5. Include the name of your RFL-affiliated Community club (Club), excluding teams competing in the Super League, Championship, Championship 1 and Clubs without an adult team in the 2014 season in your tweet/comment before 31st July 2014 for the chance for your Club to win £1,000. 6. Entries received between 1st August 2014 and the 31st July 2015 will be entered into a prize draw to win a pair of VIP tickets to the Challenge Cup Final in August 2015. Subject to availability. 7. It is the winners' responsibility to be available on the date of all tickets. Restrictions apply, please see reverse of the match day tickets. 8. One entry per person per day per entry route. 9. No purchase necessary.

Promoter: Carlsberg UK Limited, 140 Bridge Street Northampton NN1 1PZ.

Please Enjoy Responsibly.

Enjoy Responsibly
drinkaware.co.uk for the facts



Avin a Giraffe

Humour, Philosophy and . . . London Rugby League

Dave Farrar's independent viewpoint



Space, comfort & taste

conferences, meetings & events

premium accommodation

restaurant, café & bar

At TheWesley you are always guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome. We are proud of our values and of the fact that many of our customers come back again and again.

We offer a high level of hospitality, personal service and attention to detail to everyone. We truly offer a 'home from home'.

We are superbly located in Camden, just two minutes from London's Euston mainline station and Euston Square underground, providing easy access across North West London and beyond.

get in touch
020 7380 0001
www.thewesley.co.uk

the heart of London
81-103 Euston Street,
London NW1 2EZ

THEWESLEY

the first ethical hotel in the UK

Formerly the
myc

Is There a Cure ?

When someone doubted Marwan Koukash's, (the Salford Red Devils' owner), commitment to Salford and the game in particular he immediately replied "I am addicted to Rugby League".

Quite a lot of us have the same problem. If your team, or teams in my case, are having a difficult season, (see 2014), we could always try other sports. Premiership Football: overpaid prima donnas who fall over all the time, Union: (groan) or cricket: (usually spoiled by the weather). We could just walk away, tempting this season, but then there would be a league shaped hole in your life with nothing remotely close to fill it.

Mr Koukash was again in the news recently when he proposed a 9s competition in Dubai, I think this would be an excellent initiative as it would add to a very thin international agenda and give some much needed exposure to the international game. It could also be used as a window for developing nations to get some exposure and show what they can do on a world stage. It would need a serious TV/Media outfit to bankroll it but you don't get anywhere if you don't try!

Another tough away outing in South Wales, hopefully the boys will get their revenge on the Roughyeds this afternoon.

Enjoy the game.

Dave Farrar

Follow me on Twitter @brancoskolar (over 370+ followers!)



LANES COACHES
AIR CONDITIONED COACHES
FRIENDLY, FAMILY BUSINESS
0800 542 4827
WWW.lanescoaches.com



As proud sponsors, Ipreo wishes London Skolars the best of luck for the 2014 season.

Ipreo is a global leader in providing market intelligence, data, and technology solutions to all participants in the global capital markets, including sell-side banks, publicly traded companies, and buy-side institutions. From new issuance through ongoing investor management, our unique solutions drive connectivity and efficiency throughout all stages of the capital-raising process. Ipreo is a KKR portfolio company with more than 700 employees supporting clients in every major financial centre around the world.

www.ipreo.com



This Month in Time

A short break between seasons 15 years ago and some close encounters home and away

1999

Having played their last game in the Rugby League Conference on 24 July, Skolars had a full month before the winter season in National Conference League was due to get underway.

2004

Skolars fell behind to three early Workington tries before Jermaine Coleman set up Joel Osborn on an angled run to the line, but they went in 4-24 at half-time. They fought back in the second half with Kurt Pittman scoring early before Joel Osborn kicked two penalties. Stuart Singleton raced on to a Coleman kick to score and Osborn's conversion narrowed the gap to just 2 points. But Tane Manihera kicked two penalties for the visitors, the Kiwi then managing to slip a ball out the tackle for Frazer to seal a 20-30 win.

The following game saw Skolars at home again, this time Hunslet Hawks were the visitors. Both sides' defences were strong in a scrappy first half hour with just a penalty goal apiece on the scoreboard before Deon McFadyen offloaded to Mark Cantoni to score. Joel Osborn then kicked deep from a scrum, Coleman catching the defence napping to win the race to the ball.

A high tackle by Deon McFadyen on the stroke of half-time saw Paul Seal retaliate. Both players were sin-binned for ten minutes, but when several players joined in to the brawl, it was Hunslet's Neil Mears that received a red card, as Skolars' went in at half-time 16-4 up.

Skolars took advantage of the gaps on the field with 3 players off and pushed the ball outside to Cantoni. JonLee Lockwood scored for the Hawks and Latham Tawhai was in support to finish a Paul Gledhill break. Tawhai was one of three future Skolars in the visitors side, with Jermaine Wray and George Raynor also playing.

A high kick by Tawhai was knocked backwards, but Peter Hannan picked it up and raced to halfway line to give Skolars momentum. Rubert Jonkers' run was finished off by Wayne Parillon to seal a 24-16 victory.

2009

With both sides having won one game in the league, the match against Workington Town was a key match between

the bottom two sides. Though the visitors dominated early on they couldn't score and Joe Mbu, on loan from Quins RL, powered over to open the scoring. Paul Thorman and Chris Frodsham traded penalties but two tries late in the first half gave Town a 8-12 lead. After Jack Pedley was sin-binned for obstruction the 12 man Workington side extended their lead. Paul Thorman's try narrowed the gap, but despite a late try for Olu Iwenofu, Adam Marsden's try ensured an 18-24 winning start for the joint managing team of Martin Oglanby and Gary Charlton, who had replaced London stalwart Dave Rotherham as coach.

The following Thursday night saw Skolars travel to Boundary Park for a game televised by Sky Sports. It was an intriguing choice given Skolars position in the table and the fact that the game between the two sides at New River had seen Oldham triumph 10-78. It was an inspired choice with Skolars leading for most of the game before a late rally for the home side.

It was the first time Skolars had been featured live on television, but it was Oldham that looked the more nervous, Gareth Honor forcing his way over the line for the first try. Then came another first for the club when Martin Roden's try was awarded by the video referee. Skolars went in 4-6 ahead at the break to a shocked and near silent crowd.

Skolars went further ahead soon after the break, after Fountain had picked up a loose ball, Jy-Mel Coleman slipping the ball to John Paxton. But Skolars' defence wasn't alert when they allowed Matty Ashe to return a ball almost unopposed from a goal-line drop out and the gap was down to two points again.

Matt Thomas showed his pace and power for his eleventh try of the season and a Thorman penalty made the score 10-20 to Skolars on the hour. After Jamie Russo went over in the left corner for the Roughyeds, Thorman kicked another penalty, but then Skolars had to defend for the last ten minutes. Man-of-the-match Honor managed to race to a Oldham kick through before the attack, but when Craig Littler scored in the right corner, the home side were just two points adrift.

The last five minutes were agonising for Skolars as first Thomas Coyle darted though the defence to put Oldham ahead and then Lee Greenwood touched down with the last move of the game to make the score 28-22.



www.laurent-perrier.co.uk
enquiries@laurent-perrier.co.uk

Gareth Walker's



CHAMPIONSHIP TALK
in association with **League Express**

All Eyes on Cumbria

By GARETH WALKER of Rugby Leaguer & League Express

THERE will be some massive matches between now and the end of the season in the Kingstone Press Championship, where clubs' 2015 fate could be decided on the bounce of a ball or a conversion hitting a post.

Potentially one of the biggest will come at Derwent Park this Sunday, when Workington Town host West Cumbrian rivals Whitehaven. Both clubs are firmly entrenched in the group of clubs flicking between the race for fifth and a relegation scrap – it really is that close now.

At the moment, the two local rivals appear to be heading in opposite directions. Haven have slipped down to tenth – that all important first relegation place – after back-to-back defeats against Halifax and Featherstone. Town, in contrast, have now won their last six matches in a row to climb into seventh.

But it should be noted that Haven have still won one more game than Town this year, and trail them by four points at present because of their difficulty in collecting bonus points, something Workington mastered during their own losing run.

And when the sides met earlier this season, Dave Woods' Haven emerged 22-16 winners at the Recreation Ground. What the Australian coach wouldn't give for a repeat of that result this weekend. But his side will have to overturn the formbook if they are to come away from Workington with the three points.

After 15 matches this season, Town had won just three, although in their 11 defeats they had managed to pick up nine bonus points.

New coach Phil Veivers stressed a need for patience and said that the wins would come if performances continued to improve. That's a line that we often hear from coaches, and fairly often, those coaches end up sacked. But Workington haven't been a sacking club for a long time, and true to Veivers' word, the results started to come.

They are currently on the best winning run in the whole professional game alongside York City Knights and have developed a welcome knack of winning the tightest of matches.

On Sunday, Graeme Mattinson's last minute try sealed a potentially vital 12-8 win at North Wales Crusaders.

But there's an old cliché about that form book being thrown out of the window in local derbies – and that will probably apply in this situation.

Whichever team wants it the most is likely to emerge triumphant at Derwent Park.

And while victory or defeat will not completely define either club's season with four matches still to play after it, it could go a long way towards it.

League Express

01484 401895 www.totalrl.com



for the most comprehensive
CHAMPIONSHIP COVERAGE
more pages, more news, every week