THE RUGBY LEAGUE OF THE

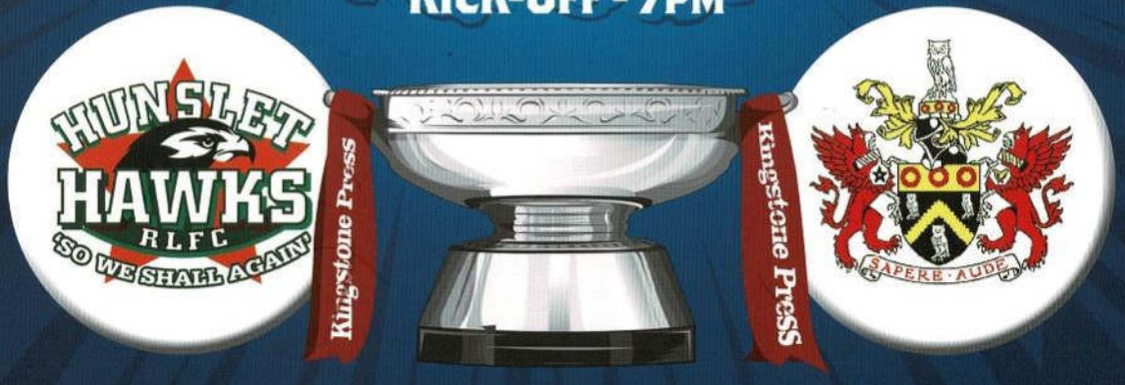
EXTRAORDINARY

KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIPS



★ LEIGH CENTURIONS ★ V ★ FEATHERSTONE ROVERS ★

KICK-OFF - 7PM



★ HUNSLET HAWKS ★ V ★ OLDHAM ★

KICK-OFF - 4.05PM

£5

★ SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2014 ★

HEADINGLEY CARNEGIE STADIUM

Kingstone Press CHAMPIONSHIPS

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RFL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

WELCOME

On behalf of the RFL, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone here at Headingley Carnegie Stadium today for the 2014 Kingstone Press Championships Finals Day.

I think you will all agree, 2014 has provided us with drama of the highest order from the opening whistle and I am sure the excitement will continue this afternoon with three compelling finals.

Next year sees the introduction of an exciting new league structure where every minute of every game will matter, a scenario not too removed from that we have witnessed in both the Championship and Championship One this summer.

The quality of this year's Championships has proven that the sport is ready for the changes that will be implemented from 2015, the most revolutionary changes since the professional game switched to summer rugby back in 1996.

A special mention should be made to Leigh Centurions, who have lost just twice in 2014, including a defeat at this very ground in the Challenge Cup quarter-finals against the eventual winners, Leeds Rhinos. Everybody at Leigh should be commended for their efforts, as achievements on this scale are not often recorded in professional sport.

Leigh start as strong favourites to take the title today, but in Featherstone Rovers they have opponents who are well-schooled in the unique pressure of a Grand Final and who will not want for motivation.

Championship One has also provided high quality action throughout 2014 as York City Knights, playing their final season at Huntington Stadium, clinched the League Leaders' Trophy.

Despite their consistency in the league, York were unable to go the distance as the play-offs duly delivered the competition's two form teams, Oldham and Hunslet Hawks, into today's title decider.

Rich praise should also go to the individuals who received awards at the Kingstone Press Championships dinner in Manchester on Tuesday evening, details of which appear on pages 28 and 51. Congratulations to you all.

We also see one of the highlights of the community game conclude this afternoon, with the National Conference Trophy final between West Hull and East Leeds. I would like to wish the very best of luck to everyone involved.

Thanks also go to our main sponsors, Kingstone Press, whose support of the competitions and the sport has given Rugby League a clear identity for the tiers below Super League, and to Sky Sports, who are broadcasting today's action live across the country.

Lastly, a huge amount of thanks goes out to Rugby League fans everywhere: the thousands of you who are here today and the many others who have supported the Kingstone Press Championships throughout 2014. I trust you will all enjoy what will be another memorable Finals Day.

Nigel Wood
RFL Chief Executive



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Should've gone to Specsavers

Proud Partner of the Rugby Football League

Specsavers



KINGSTONE PRESS

★ WELCOME ★

As the official sponsor of the Rugby League Championships and the National Conference League, I am proud to be able to pen a few words as we prepare to watch the culmination of what has been a proper season of Rugby League.

This has been our second year as headline sponsors and while I was delighted at the welcome we received last year, this year has been even better. I'd like to thank the RFL, the players and clubs and most importantly, you, the fans for your part in making this a fantastic season.

The passion for the sport is what really makes Rugby League stand out. It is evident everywhere, from the players, to the club staff and volunteers, to the fans who turn up week in, week out to show their support.

We see the drive, ambition and desire of the teams no matter how late in the game or how far behind their opponents. The competitiveness, skills and tension throughout the game are what makes for some exhilarating sport, of which I am sure we will see plenty today.

The devotion and commitment at the clubs, from the CEOs and coaches to the bar staff, matchday stewards and volunteers, is admirable, with many of the clubs being hubs in their communities.

And finally, the enthusiasm of the fans is unrivalled. Whether it's tears of joy at seeing their team win, or tears of sadness at losing a vital match, the support is endless.

Our Proper Fan of the Season competition has once again highlighted this dedication and commitment, as well as the sacrifices fans make for their teams and the sport. It was a difficult task to narrow down the hundreds of nominations to our 10 finalists. Today will be even tougher as we complete the final stage of judging and narrow that down to just one person, to be crowned as the Ultimate Proper Fan of the Season. I want to personally thank all of those who took part, and wish all of the finalists the best of luck.

As we come to the end of the season we are looking forward to not only a great day today, but also an exciting next season. We are extremely proud to be part of this brilliant sport, and part of the Rugby League family.

Good luck to all of today's teams, and we hope you all enjoy the day!

Gordon Johncox
Managing Director

KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP

★ SCENE-SETTER ★

TONIGHT'S KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND FINAL IS A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO OF RUGBY LEAGUE'S MOST FAMOUS CLUBS.

Can Leigh Centurions, who have dominated throughout 2014 with a record-breaking season, finish the job by claiming victory tonight?

Or will they be denied by a Featherstone Rovers team that, under coach Andy Hay, has saved its best form for the last month of the season?

Centurions topped the regular-season table by 15 points, but Featherstone were their closest challengers.

Both have come through tough play-off schedules to book their spots at Headingley Carnegie, and both will be confident of success on the biggest stage of all.

For Featherstone, coach Hay looks to have some tough decisions to make.

Centre Greg Worthington missed last week's win over Sheffield Eagles with a calf complaint, but is expected to be fit for tonight's clash.

But Jamie Cording came through unscathed from the match against Sheffield, and marked his return to action with a commanding display.

Hay said: "We've had a good year, but we'd like to finish off well and go out on a high.

"We've a good chance of having a go at Leigh, and probably putting a better performance in this time than the last time we played them."

If Rovers are to triumph, they will look to 2011 for inspiration.

In 2010 they lost a thrilling Championship Grand Final against Halifax in golden point extra-time.

But 12 months later they bounced back, scoring seven tries in a 40-4 triumph over Sheffield Eagles.

The last two years have brought Featherstone nothing but play-off frustration.

In 2012 Sheffield avenged their previous defeat, emerging 20-16 winners in a repeat of the 2011 Grand Final.

And last year, having topped the table at the end of the regular season, Featherstone were dumped out of the play-offs by fifth-placed Batley Bulldogs thanks to George Flanagan's golden point drop-goal.

For Leigh, the challenge is even bigger. Until their win over Doncaster last month, they had not won a play-off fixture for 10 years.

Leigh coach Paul Rowley was still playing back in 2004, helping the club to a Grand Final success over Whitehaven.

The club has endured some difficult times since then, but Rowley has turned his team into a major force over the last three years.

In Bob Beswick, Ryan Brierley and Championship Player of the Year Martyn Ridyard they have three outstanding figures on which they have built their success this summer.



◆ CHALLENEGE CUP



◆ 2011 CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND FINAL

But they have quality throughout their ranks.

Speaking after Leigh's 33-22 victory over Dewsbury Rams last week, Rowley's focus on the main prize was clear to see.

Rowley said: "The Grand Final is a good end to a good season. They've deserved it, they worked hard against a good Dewsbury side.

"When we had sustained pressure we showed time and time again that we can post points, and that we have some wonderfully talented players.

"Our backs did well and, while we weren't faultless by a long shot, it was the semi-final of the play-offs and we won through. That's all that matters."

Both Featherstone and Leigh can boast fearsome sets of forwards and quick, skilful backs.

There is little to split the teams, and it could all come down to a moment of genius.

The question is: who will step up?

It will be fascinating to find out.



◆ CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-FF SEMI-FINAL

★ 2014 LEAGUE RECORD ★

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
1st	Leigh Centurions	26	25	0	L1	1	76
2nd	Featherstone Rovers	26	18	1	L7	5	61

★ 2014 MEETINGS ★

Date	Result	Competition
Aug 8	Leigh 48 v 18 Featherstone	Championship
May 4	Featherstone 10 v 29 Leigh	Championship
Apr 27	Leigh 26 v 16 Featherstone	Challenge Cup

Watch Gareth Moore's length-of-the-field try from last week's play-off match against Sheffield Eagles here

KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP

★PLAY-OFFS REVIEW★

WEEK ONE ★ QUALIFYING PLAY-OFF
LEIGH CENTURIONS 41 - DONCASTER 14

League Leaders' Shield winners Leigh Centurions booked a week off with this convincing eight-try win over Doncaster.

The visitors led 14-6 after player-coach Paul Cooke and scrum-half Richard Wilkinson touched down after an early Kurt Haggerty try for Leigh.

But the Centurions rallied, scoring three tries in seven minutes before half-time to secure a 10-point advantage at the break.

Michael Platt scored twice in five minutes, then Ryan Brierley went over.

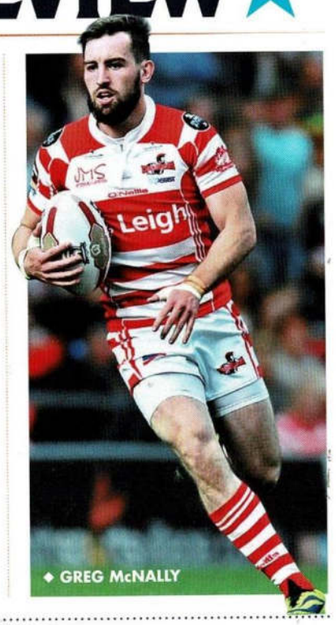
Gregg McNally scored in the first minute of the second half to keep Leigh ticking over, before Brierley's second and a late Tom Armstrong double finished things off.

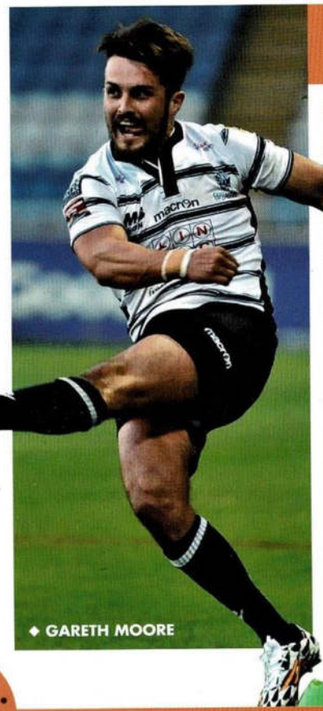
Leigh coach Paul Rowley said: "There were some stages where we were excellent."

LEIGH: Tries - Haggerty, Platt 2, Brierley 2, McNally, Armstrong 2. Goals - Ridyard 4. Drop-goal: Haggerty.

DONCASTER: Tries - Cooke, Wilkinson. Goals: Sanderson 3.

Half-time: 24-14.


◆ GREG McNALLY


◆ GARETH MOORE

QUALIFYING PLAY-OFF ★
FEATHERSTONE ROVERS 34 - HALIFAX 16

Featherstone Rovers overturned a 10-point deficit to claim a comfortable win against title-rivals Halifax.

Led by inspirational player-coach Scott Murrell, Halifax looked set to avenge a recent league defeat by Rovers when they led 16-6 after half an hour.

That defeat against Rovers had cost Halifax a second-place finish in the regular season, but early tries from hooker Ben Kaye and winger Gareth Potts (two) put Murrell's men in control in this clash.

Tim Spears had opened the scoring for Featherstone, but the hosts had to wait until the 33rd minute before Luke Teasdale narrowed the gap to just four points.

Halifax were still ahead at the break, but they collapsed in the second half, conceding four unanswered tries as Rovers showed their class.

Scrum-half Gareth Moore, substitute Kyle Trout and prop Matt James each crossed before Jason Crookes touched down in the final minute.

Rovers coach Andy Hay said: "We showed a lot of character by hitting back after we fell behind."

FEATHERSTONE: Tries - Spears, Teasdale, Moore, Trout, James, Crookes. Goals - Moore 5.

HALIFAX: Tries - Kaye, Potts 2. Goals: Murrell 2.

Half-time: 12-16.

EIGHT TEAMS MADE IT TO THE KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS; NOW WE'RE DOWN TO THE LAST TWO. HERE'S THE STORY OF THE LAST FOUR WEEKS.

ELIMINATION PLAY-OFF ★
SHEFFIELD EAGLES 16 - BATLEY BULLDOGS 0

Sheffield Eagles coach Mark Aston maintained his play-off curse over former boss John Kear by ending Batley Bulldogs's season in ruthless fashion.

Aston, a player under Kear in Sheffield's 1998 Challenge Cup triumph, triumphed over his old mentor in the 2013 Kingstone Press Championship Grand Final.

And he repeated the misery in the first week of the 2014 play-offs, steering his side to a three-try victory over the battling Bulldogs.

But there was little to split the sides during a scoreless first 69 minutes.

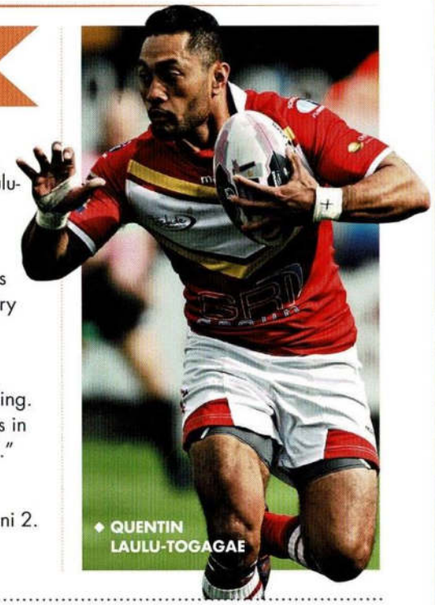
Eagles centre Etu Uaisele eventually broke the deadlock, finishing well from Quentin Laulu-Togagae's pass.

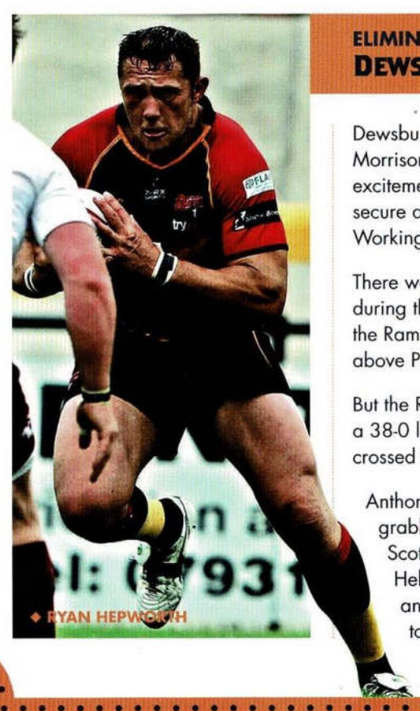
Laulu-Togagae turned from provider to finisher four minutes later, before Uaisele's second try confirmed the win.

Sheffield coach Aston said: "Defensively we were outstanding. Any team that doesn't let points in for 80 minutes is pretty special."

SHEFFIELD: Tries - Uaisele 2, Laulu-Togagae. Goals - Brambani 2.

Half-time: 0-0.


◆ QUENTIN LAULU-TOGAGAE


◆ RYAN HEPWORTH

ELIMINATION PLAY-OFF ★
DEWSBURY RAMS 50 - WORKINGTON TOWN 6

Dewsbury Rams coach Glenn Morrison could not hide his excitement after watching his team secure an eight-try triumph over Workington Town.

There was little to split these teams during the regular season, with the Rams finishing just three points above Phil Veivers's men.

But the Rams ran riot, racing into a 38-0 lead before Jack Murphy crossed for Town's only try.

Anthony Thackeray's hat-trick grabbed the headlines, but Scott Hale, Makali Aizue, Ben Hellewell, Ryan Hepworth and Tommy Gallagher also touched down.

Morrison said: "We spoke about going into the finals with momentum and kicking on, and the boys lifted and came up with the performance we know we've got within us.

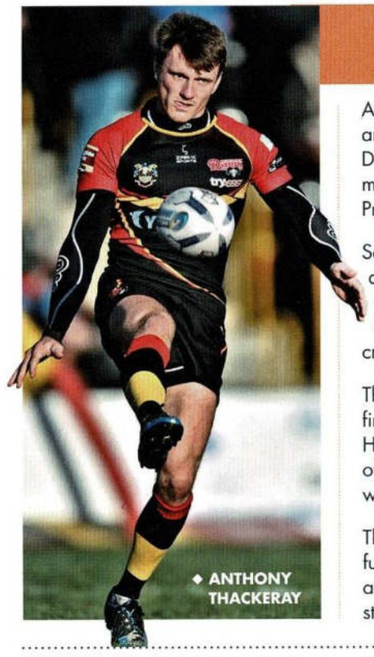
"We've shown this year we can match anyone if we turn up to play.

"It's only one game, but hopefully we've got a few more left in us."

DEWSBURY: Tries - Thackeray 3, Hale, Aizue, Hellewell, Hepworth, Gallagher. Goals - Hemingway 3, Hyde 6.

WORKINGTON: Tries - Murphy. Goal - Forber.

Half-time: 20-0.


◆ ANTHONY THACKERAY

WEEK TWO ★ PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL

HALIFAX 0 - DEWSBURY RAMS 25

Anthony Thackeray produced another dominant performance as Dewsbury Rams moved within 80 minutes of a place in the Kingstone Press Championship Grand Final.

Scrum-half Thackeray, who claimed a hat-trick in Dewsbury's play-off win over Workington the previous week, backed up that effort by crossing twice at The Shay.

Thackeray claimed the game's first try after smart work from Tom Hemingway, and controlled much of Dewsbury's impressive attack with another classy performance.

The Rams led 9-0 at the break, and further tries from winger Sam Wood and substitute Tommy Gallagher stretched their advantage.

But it was Thackeray who had the last word, dancing through a tiring Halifax defence to spark celebrations among Dewsbury's travelling fans.

For Halifax, it was a disappointing end to the year.

But Dewsbury's campaign continued on. Coach Glenn Morrison said: "I couldn't be prouder. The last two performances show what we're about, the character we have, and what the boys do for each other."

DEWSBURY: Tries - Thackeray 2, Wood, Gallagher. Goals - Hemingway 3, Hyde. Drop-goal: Hyde.

Half-time: 0-9.

PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL ★

DONCASTER 24 - SHEFFIELD EAGLES 58

Sheffield Eagles kept alive their hopes of a second successful defence of their Kingstone Press Championship title.

The Eagles, Grand Final winners in 2012 and 2013, signalled their intent with a comprehensive display in this south Yorkshire derby.

Doncaster rallied with three tries in the final 21 minutes, but by then their hopes had already been dashed.

Sheffield led 34-6 at the break, having scored twice in the first 11 minutes and then claimed four more tries before half-time.

Eddie Battye crashed over from close range and Etu Uaisele continued his good form with another try before Dave Scott crossed for the hosts.

But further tries for Pat Walker, Menzie Yere, Matt Garside and Scott Turner secured the win inside the first 40 minutes.

Kyle Briggs, Quentin Laulu-Togagae (two) and Duane Straugheir also crossed, while Scott Spaven, Tom Hodson and Mike Emmett tried to restore respectability for Doncaster.

Eagles coach Mark Aston said: "At the start of the game we were pretty outstanding.

"That was the plan: we needed to play high-intensity rugby and see if they could stand up to it, and they didn't."

DONCASTER: Tries - Scott, Spaven, Hodson, Emmett. Goals - Sanderson 4.

SHEFFIELD: Tries - Battye, Uaisele, Walker, Yere, Garside, Turner, Briggs, Laulu-Togagae 2, Straugheir. Goals: Brambani 6, Walker, Briggs 2.

Half-time: 6-34.


◆ MANZIE YERE

WEEK THREE ★ SEMI-FINAL

LEIGH CENTURIONS 33 - DEWSBURY RAMS 22

Adam Higson's hat-trick gave Leigh Centurions just enough breathing space to book a spot in today's Kingstone Press Championship Grand Final.

Higson needed just three minutes to get off the mark. He scored 11 minutes later, and then again on the hour-mark, as Leigh moved to within 80 minutes of title success.

Michael Platt and Gregg McNally also crossed, but Dewsbury Rams were dogged opponents throughout.

Anthony Thackeray, Ben Hellewell, Joel Farrell and Dale Morton crossed for the visitors.

Leigh coach Paul Rowley said: "When we had sustained pressure we showed time and time again we can post points, and that we have some wonderfully talented players.


◆ ADAM HIGSON

"Our backs did well today and, while we weren't faultless by a long shot, it's the semi-final of the play-offs and we won through. That's all that matters."

Rams boss Glenn Morrison said: "We gave ourselves a shot, but it was a bit too far."

LEIGH: Tries - Higson 3, Platt, McNally. Goals - Ridyard 6. Drop-goal - Ridyard.

DEWSBURY: Tries - Thackeray, Hellewell, Farrell, Morton. Goals - Hemingway 3.

Half-time: 21-6.

SEMI-FINAL ★

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS 21 - SHEFFIELD EAGLES 12

A brilliant opening quarter from Featherstone Rovers was enough to see off defending champions Sheffield Eagles.

Rovers claimed each of their three tries inside the first 21 minutes, building a 21-0 lead at the break.

And while Sheffield battled back, the size of the challenge was just too big for Mark Aston's side.

Ben Blackmore opened the scoring after just nine minutes, latching on to Gareth Moore's superb pass and squeezing over in the corner.

James Lockwood and Moore both scored in the space of two minutes midway through the first half.

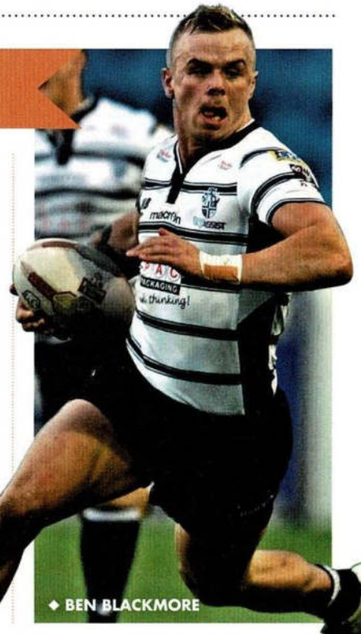
Moore's three conversions, a penalty and a drop-goal stretched Rovers' lead.

Peter Green and full-back Quentin Laulu-Togagae gave Sheffield some hope, but Featherstone held out for the final 30 minutes with some strong defence.

FEATHERSTONE: Tries - Blackmore, Lockwood, Moore. Goals - Moore 4. Drop-goal: Moore.

SHEFFIELD: Tries - Green, Laulu-Togagae. Goals - Brambani 2.

Half-time: 21-0.


◆ BEN BLACKMORE

LEIGH CENTURIONS

★ PAUL ROWLEY ★

PAUL ROWLEY WILL BE ONE OF THE PROUDEST MEN IN LEEDS TODAY - WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THE KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND FINAL.

The former England international hooker, who enjoyed spells with Leigh, Halifax and Huddersfield during his playing career, has emerged as one of the leading British coaches in the game.

And after a year in which Leigh have lost only two competitive fixtures - against Doncaster in the league, and Leeds Rhinos in the Challenge Cup - Rowley can reflect on a successful year for everyone concerned with his home-town club.

Rowley said: "We've had a great year. No matter what happens in the final, we're more than happy and proud of the lads.

"And in general terms, the club has also come a long way. We've established ourselves as a big club, and a good force in the Championship."

When Rowley took charge of the club three years ago, he started with eight players and no other coaching staff.

But he has slowly overseen the transformation of the club's on-field fortunes, culminating in this year's league campaign that saw them claim 25 wins from 26 regular season fixtures.

Play-off victories against Doncaster and Dewsbury Rams secured their spot in today's Grand Final.

"We've always had a plan since I've been in charge, and it's been progressive," said Rowley.

"This year was the first year we've had good strength in depth. It was important to finish in the top two and win the big prize money - that was a clear objective - but we also did that with a clear understanding that it wouldn't be all or nothing. We weren't going to operate with a boom or bust mentality."

With a new league structure on the horizon and the reintroduction of promotion and relegation, Super League is once again a realistic possibility for the Centurions.

In a revealing interview earlier this year, Rowley admitted: "I've had a couple of opportunities to move on in what are probably deemed as step-ups, but what I've done at Leigh is from a starting point of eight players and no staff.

"I've got a massive amount of loyalty to these guys, because I spoke about honesty and loyalty to them, and for me to preach and then go against it would undermine my strength as an honest coach.

"I'm too loyal to this staff and the young players at the moment, and I'm driven to make this group as successful as they can.

"I'm not looking beyond this group of players and taking them as far as I can take them. Whether we get there by luck, judgment or hard work, we'll keep banging away."

And after qualifying for today's final, Rowley heaped praise on the club's board members.

Rowley said: "Derek Beaumont in particular took up the baton from the previous regime, and we wouldn't be where we are if it wasn't for him.

"We've got a board of Leigh supporters who are good businessmen and run the club steadily, and Derek in particular has a will to win."

But it is on the field where Leigh have faced some of their biggest battles, and where once again they will have to overcome Featherstone Rovers if they are to triumph tonight.

"They're a talented bunch of players that we've got," said Rowley.

"They're young, brave and enjoy each others company and enjoy working together, but I'm sure any other coach would say the same about the group they're in. People who play Rugby League are generally good people, and we're the same."

However, the bonds at Leigh appear to run deep.

"You'll always do a little bit more for your friend then your work colleague," said Rowley. "We're close and definitely in the friendship category, and you'll pull together when that's the case."

He added: "Satisfying is the word to describe this year. It's personally satisfying for me with where I'm at with it all, but then I'm also proud, in a fatherly way, about where the players are.

"My greatest delight is standing back, watching them celebrate and have fun on the field.

"You don't see me out on the pitch too often or in the limelight; I'm quite happy to watch.

"It's like being at sports day for me, watching kids and feeling ever so proud. I feel protective and proud.

"I'll stand in front of them when it's not so good, and stand back when it's going well.

"Every week this year we've had a different star, a different personality and a different leader. We've been well represented in the Championship All Stars, which is a wonderful achievement for the club, but it's really been a team effort.

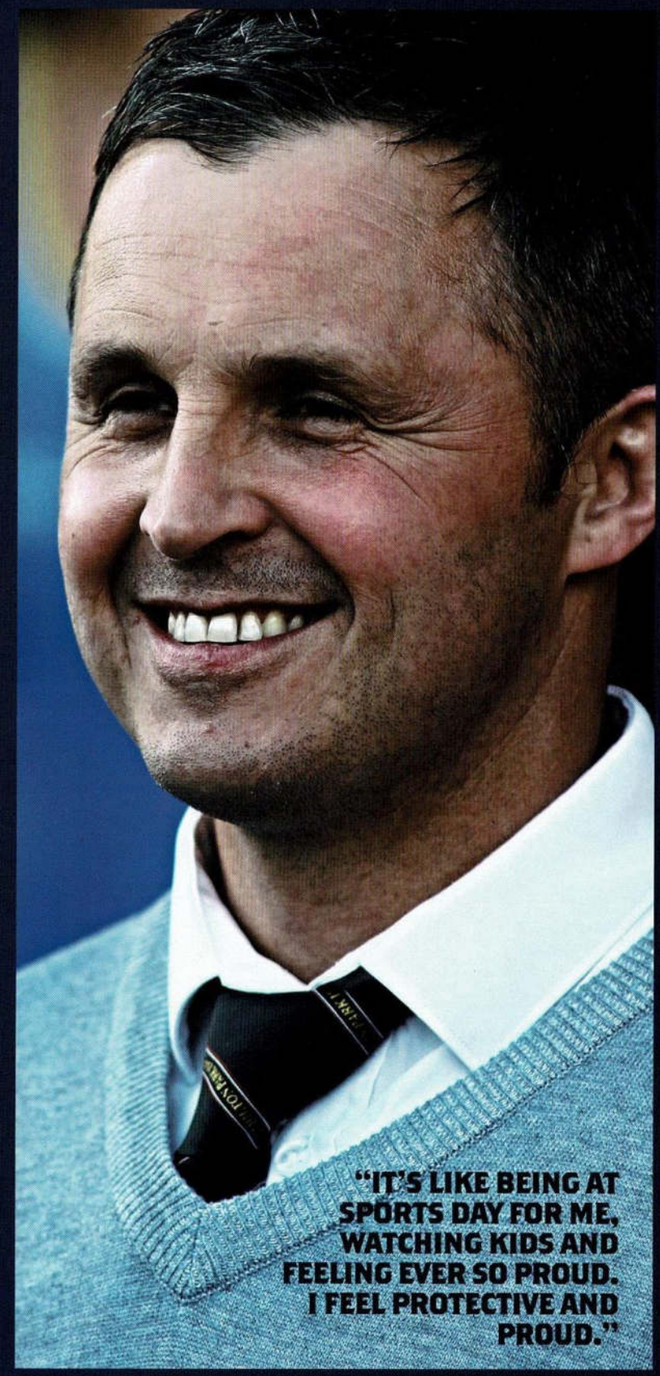
"Everyone's made a special contribution, whether they've played two games or 22 games.

"And on the terraces, the fans have been brilliant all year too. We want to have big days like this as often as possible."

One more win would cap an incredible season with a perfect finish, but Rowley insists he is taking nothing for granted.

"Featherstone have been the team to beat for nearly half a decade, and if you look at their personnel on paper they've got an embarrassment of riches. We'd never dare to underestimate them, not a chance. They're a very, very good team."

A bit like this year's Centurions.



"IT'S LIKE BEING AT SPORTS DAY FOR ME, WATCHING KIDS AND FEELING EVER SO PROUD. I FEEL PROTECTIVE AND PROUD."

LEIGH CENTURIONS

★ RYAN BRIERLEY ★

RYAN BRIERLEY HAS LIT UP THE KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2014, AND THE YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR TOLD *NEIL BARRACLOUGH* HOW HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING TIPS FROM THE TOP.

When Ryan Brierley runs out for tonight's Kingstone Press Championship Grand Final, he does so knowing he has the backing of the world's greatest scrum-half.

Last year the 22-year-old Leigh Centurions hero struck up an unlikely friendship with Australia Test star Cooper Cronk.

And now, almost 12 months later, Cronk continues to send messages of support to his young apprentice on the other side of the world.

Brierley said: "I used last year's World Cup as a bit of a personal inspiration.

"I found the Australia media manager on Twitter, a guy called David Taylor, and managed to get talking with him.

"David then said he'd set me up a meeting with Cooper Cronk, but I took it with a pinch of salt. I didn't expect anything.

"But he took my number, and the next day he said: 'We're training at Leigh, come down'. There was plenty of security about, so I was just watching the Aussie guys train through a window, but Cooper grabbed me, took me on the field, and he gave me a bit of one-to-one time.



"He was just a genuine bloke, and it was a special moment. Most of the conversation was not about rugby, but how to handle life outside of rugby and be a mature person."

He added: "He took my number afterwards, and we've been in contact ever since. He gave me a text after I got the nomination for Young Player of the Year, and that was really special.

"I've watched Cooper Cronk since he was a kid and admired him greatly, so this has all been a bit surreal.

"I can't thank David Taylor enough, and Cooper has been absolutely outstanding with me. It's a sign of the bloke that he's stayed in touch, and that it wasn't just a token gesture done while he was on tour.

"My success this year has largely been down to Paul Rowley and Cooper Cronk. Having those two guys supporting me all year has been something very special.

"They were both there for me earlier this year when things were tough, and I just hope I can repay their faith."



◆ COOPER CRONK

It has been a remarkable season for Brierley, whose 36 regular season tries saw him comfortably top the Championship try-scorer list.

"We set a couple of goals at the start of the year, that we wanted to finish in the top two and then reach the Grand Final, and it's been the best year of my career by far," he said.

"I've got a lot of people to thank - Paul Rowley, my family and my team-mates - and I'm just enjoying my time playing for this great club.

"Coming through pre-season, not much changed apart from my attitude. I decided I wanted to be the best scrum-half in the league, and I didn't want to be a one-season wonder.

"Thankfully I play with some great guys, and alongside a lot of unselfish players who don't mind giving the final pass - and the glory - to people like me and a few others!"

Few are now in any doubt as to Brierley's Super League potential after a sparkling campaign.

But Brierley points to Leigh coach Paul Rowley as a key factor behind his continued development.

"I've always said it - Paul looks after people as people, before players. His man-management skills are unbelievable, and he's the best coach in this division by far.

"There's stuff he's helped people with without people knowing, and that was the case with me when my nan passed away earlier this year.

"If you enjoy what you're doing, and enjoy working with someone like Paul, then you're bound to be successful.

"I just hope we can lift trophy the for him because he deserves it. From a personal point of view, I can't thank him enough for what he's done for my career."

He added: "Today will be a really proud moment - probably the biggest moment of my career - and the match should be a great advert for the Championship.

"It's been a special year for us at Leigh, and it's really brought home just how important togetherness is.

"We're a talented bunch, but the attitude is more important. When the time's right, we've always stuck up for each other.

"We're young and enthusiastic, and we try to play rugby. I'm just hoping we can take this final step.

"The club hasn't been in a Grand Final for 10 years, so it's something special for the fans. Midway through last year we were touching administration, and a win today would be a great way to repay the fans.

"I'm humbled and privileged to be a part of it. We understand the task in front of us is enormous, but I hope we can get the job done."

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

★ ANDY HAY ★

GARETH WALKER CAUGHT UP WITH FEATHERSTONE ROVERS COACH ANDY HAY AHEAD OF TONIGHT'S KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND FINAL.

It has not been a straight-forward introduction to head coaching for Andy Hay at Featherstone Rovers.

The former Castleford Tigers, Hull FC and Salford Red Devils assistant joined Rovers in May after the club parted company with John Bastian, and has had plenty to deal with since.

The club made no secret of its desire to finish in the coveted top two from day one, which would have been pressure enough for anyone stepping into their first senior role.

But off the field, Rovers went from making public bids for the likes of Danny Brough and Leon Pryce to significant uncertainty in a matter of weeks while, on it, Hay had to deal with a remarkable four season-ending knee injuries to key players.

By the time his side rolled into Halifax in August for what was billed as the "£250,000 showdown", that pressure had been ramped up considerably.

But Rovers inflicted a first defeat in 10 on Fax after storming into a 20-0 first half lead, and despite a couple of other stumbles en route - a home defeat to Sheffield Eagles and near loss at Keighley Cougars on the last day - they finally secured second place.

"It's been a tough baptism in coaching I suppose," Hay said.

"I took the job knowing we needed to get that second place; that was my remit and that came with its own added pressures. Injuries didn't help us along the way, and there have been some other factors that have been outside influences as well.

"It's been a tough four months to get where we are now and, to get that second place and reach the Grand Final, I think we've done fantastic. It's credit to the players who have turned out in the big games.

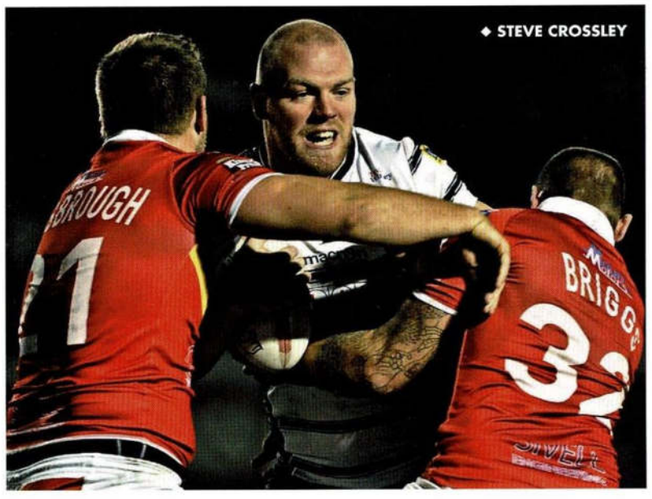
"Being a head coach is a lot more pressure and responsibility than being an assistant, but it's been good for me - I've enjoyed it. I was ready for it. I've been coaching for a long time and wanted to make that step up.

"It's a great club, Featherstone, and a big club. Good things are happening and I think it'll get better and better. Even though we've had a tough season, getting to the Grand Final proves the character of the players we've got here."

Rovers's last two games have shown how far they've come under Hay. First they again saw off Halifax, 34-16 at the Big Fellas Stadium, before producing another outstanding first half performance, this time against Sheffield, to dump the current champions out of the competition last weekend.

"We undersold ourselves against Sheffield early on in the league," Hay said.

"A lot of the players were disappointed with their performances that day and wanted to make up for it. And I think Sheffield wrote us off a bit, and we took a bit of motivation from that.


◆ STEVE CROSSLEY

"In the last two games we've played really well - they've been big games and we've toughed it out. We had to defend a 21-point lead all the second half, and didn't score again, but under pressure our defence was outstanding.

"We've been under pressure in two or three big games, and the boys have stood up to be counted. Both games against Halifax they played well and put their hands up, and there were some stand outs in a good team effort.

"In the big games it comes down to the team executing the game plan and sticking to what we do well. They've turned up with a good attitude and plenty of spirit."

Today's challenge against a formidable Leigh side is on another level again, however, something that Hay readily acknowledges.

He said: "I think they've been the stand-out team all season. They have good halves with some big powerful forwards, and speed out wide. They're a threat all over the field.

"But we're confident that we can give Leigh a good game. It's a final, a one-off game, and anything can happen. The best team on the day will win - league form counts for nothing any more.

"Any trophy means a hell of a lot to players. It's a big occasion and it should be a great day out at Headingley. There will be a lot of fans there, and if we hadn't made the Grand Final we'd have been devastated.

"It means a lot to the players, the club and the fans. It's a big, one-off game and the team want to be champions."



FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

★ GARETH MOORE ★

GARETH MOORE SUFFERED GRAND FINAL HEARTACHE LAST YEAR. THIS TIME HE'S DETERMINED FOR THINGS TO BE DIFFERENT, HE TOLD *GARETH WALKER.*

When the chips have really been down this season, Featherstone Rovers have risen to the challenge.

They did it at Halifax in the league, against the same opposition in the play-offs, and then against Sheffield Eagles last Sunday.

And during those crucial clashes, their diminutive scrum-half Gareth Moore has been central to their success. By Moore's own admission, this hasn't been his most consistent campaign.

But the former Leeds junior tends to thrive towards the end of the season, and he was the key man in victory over reigning champions Sheffield last weekend, scoring a try and finishing with 13 points.

"Everyone had been writing us off," Moore said.

"Against Sheffield there was a bit of disrespect from the previous games we'd played against them. But we've got a lot of top players in the team who enjoy playing in the big games.

"Personally, I started off pretty well - when I first came in we had some pre-season games against some good sides and I was playing some good rugby.

"My form dipped a bit after that, and when John (Bastian) got sacked there were a few games that I didn't play in.

"But Andy (Hay) showed a lot of confidence in me, and a few of the coaches worked hard on my game. I played well at the end of last year at Batley Bulldogs and think I've come good again. It's the business end of the season, and that's what I play for, the big games.

"I've enjoyed it at Featherstone. There's a lot more pressure here then when I was at Batley, and we've had a difficult season with some ups and downs. But to end up finishing second and get to a Grand Final, it's been a good year overall."

Moore confirmed that it hasn't always been plain sailing.

He said: "It's definitely been eventful. We had a coach leave (Bastian) and he'd brought me in, and it was a bit nerve-racking for me when Andy came in.





"But he's given us a job to do, and the players have come together as a group. When I came to Featherstone at first it was pretty difficult.

"They hadn't changed the squad much in three or four years and there was a bit of a clique at first. But we're all mates now and hopefully we can end on a high."

Moore has plenty of experience at this level. He was the joint Young Player of the Year in the Championship, alongside Zak Hardaker - then of Featherstone - in 2010, and last year featured prominently in Batley's stunning run to the Grand Final.

The 25-year-old feels that will prove beneficial when he runs out at Headingley Carnegie this evening.

"It will help," he said. "I spoke a bit at half-time in the game against Sheffield when we were 21-0 up. I'd been in that position a few times against Sheffield before.

"There was a TV game when I was at Batley when we were 24-0 up at half-time, but going down the slope they came back and won 26-24 I think.

"Then in the Grand Final last year we were 12-0 up at half-time and they came back to win. The more Grand Finals and experience you have the better, and hopefully that will help going into this one. There's not that much pressure on us, it's all on Leigh."

Moore knows his side will start today's game as outsiders against a team that has beaten them three times already in 2014. But he certainly isn't writing off Rovers's chances.

"Leigh have got a good side and a big squad," he said.

"It doesn't matter so much when they get injuries because they've got good players that can fill in. They've only been beaten once in the Championship this year, and were unlucky to get beaten by Leeds in the Challenge Cup.

"It's going to be difficult, but it's 80 minutes of rugby now and anything can happen. We're going into the game full of confidence.

"They've beaten us three times this year, so we owe them one."

KINGSTONE CHAMPIONSHIP

★ KEY CLASHES ★

LEIGH CENTURIONS AND FEATHERSTONE ROVERS ARE PACKED WITH TOP QUALITY PLAYERS. THESE FOUR BATTLES ALONE SHOULD MAKE FOR SOME BRILLIANT RUGBY LEAGUE.

HOOKER

BOB BESWICK V ANDY ELLIS

When it comes to hookers, Centurions are spoilt for choice.

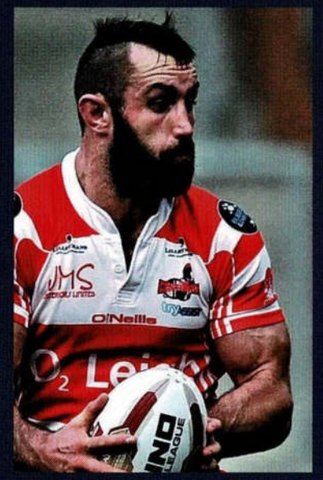
Livewire Sean Penkywicz usually bursts off the bench to cause havoc from acting half-back, probing tiring defences with his fast feet and dangerous scoots.

But it is former Wigan Warriors, Widnes Vikings and Halifax hooker Bob Beswick (right) who does the early damage.

Beswick's class is undoubted. He played for Ireland in the 2008 and 2013 Rugby League World Cups, and controls Leigh's play with assurance.

However, Ellis (below) is a formidable opponent. A seasoned campaigner with Hull Kingston Rovers and Barrow Raiders, Ellis also has Super League experience after spells with Harlequins RL and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats.

He led Barrow to Grand Final glory in 2009, and will call upon all that experience during tonight's match.





LOOSE FORWARD

SAM BARLOW V JAMES LOCKWOOD

When Leigh Centurions agreed a new five-year contract with Sam Barlow (below) in August this year, they did so despite rumoured interest from at least one leading Super League club.

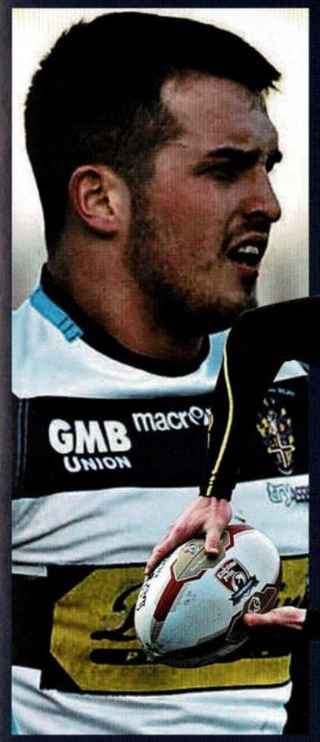
Such has been Barlow's form since joining the Centurions that the new contract was seen as a signal of intent by Leigh.

Centurions coach Paul Rowley said: "I'm looking forward to Sam becoming a Leigh legend over the coming years."

A powerful and tough-tackling presence in the middle of the field, Barlow is a threat to any team he plays against.

But Lockwood (left) has also impressed for Featherstone. His solid approach has been a cornerstone of Rovers's strength, and he is in good form ahead of tonight's Grand Final, having scored against Sheffield Eagles last week.

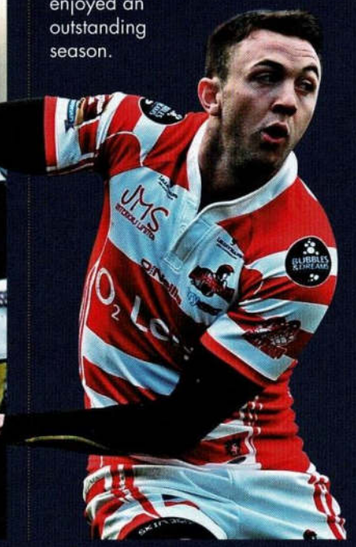
It will be tough in the middle, but it should also be hugely entertaining.



SCRUM-HALF

RYAN BRIERLEY V GARETH MOORE

Ryan Brierley (far right), this year's Kingstone Press Championship Young Player of the Year, has enjoyed an outstanding season.



His footwork, pace and superb support play culminated in 36 tries during the regular season. And Brierley admits it has been the best year of his career.

He will look to support Leigh's powerful forwards, sniffing out offloads at every opportunity.

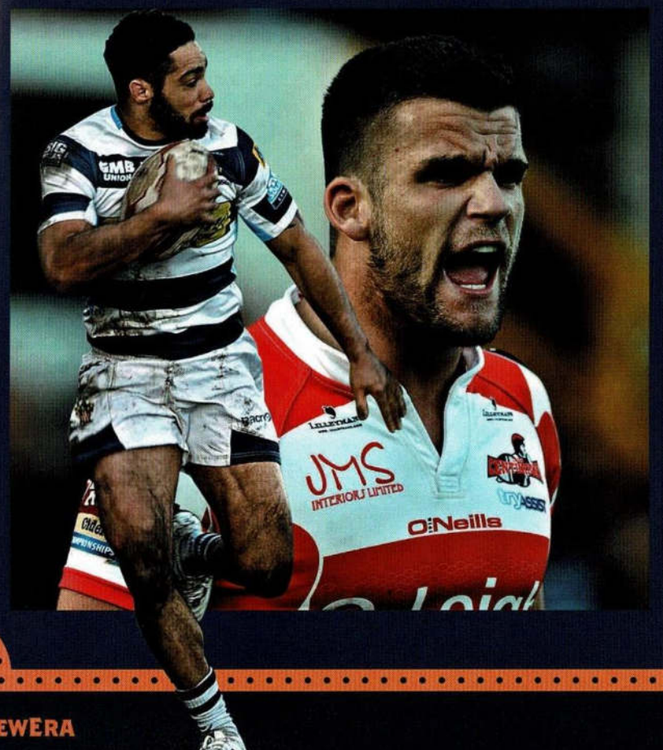
But Moore (right) is no slouch. He also won the Young Player of the Year award, back in 2010, and was part of the Batley Bulldogs team that reached last year's Championship Grand Final.

His form has improved as the year has gone on, and he has been central to Featherstone's charge through the play-offs.

★★★★★★★

WING

LIAM KAY V WILL SHARP



It has been a remarkable year for Liam Kay (left), who scooped Leigh's Players' Player of the Year and Coach's Player of the Year awards at a recent club presentation.

Kay's power out wide has been a big part of Leigh's attack, and he has consistently shown he is capable of scoring some superb tries.

He finished the regular season with 26 tries to his name, but Rovers ace Will Sharp (far left) was not far behind - he finished the year with 22 tries.

And while Sharp has mainly featured on the wing, he has the ability to cover at full-back if needed. Expect these two flyers to be key.



WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN A

★ GRAND FINAL ★

Halifax's dream of winning the 2010 Championship Grand Final looked over when Zak Hardaker's 53rd minute try put Featherstone Rovers 22-4 ahead at the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

But Matt Calland's side staged a superb comeback to take the game to extra-time, where scrum-half Ben Black kicked the match-winning golden point drop-goal.

Here Black provides the Sunday People's GARETH WALKER with four key ingredients to winning a Grand Final.

PREPARE WELL

"Preparation is always the key.

"It's a one-off game, and everything you've done during the year doesn't really matter any more. Anyone can win a Grand Final if they turn up and play good footy on the day.

"We'd had a good win the week before against Sheffield, and us and Featherstone were the two best teams in the competition that year. We trained well all week, and the boys were excited to play.

"But another big part of it is to enjoy the day; don't get over-excited and play the game before you've kicked off.

"We'd played in a Grand Final against Barrow the year before, and I think we were a bit more relaxed the second time around.

"We knew what the day was all about, and that was a big bonus - we'd been there and done it before, and there weren't many changes from that side."

NEVER GIVE UP

"Halifax, especially during the time I was there, were always a team with a lot of spirit. We knew that once we scored one try we could score 50 points.

"We were 18 points behind at one point in that game against Featherstone, but once we got a sniff we started to play some really good rugby and throw the ball around a bit - and it paid off.

"We managed to get to extra-time, and then that drop-goal of mine won it for us.

"We knew that we had to do something pretty special when we were so far behind, and we turned it on pretty well.

"I think we scored with about four minutes to go, which made it a real nail-biter. Then in extra-time they decided to kick-off, which gave us a real advantage.

"We made some good yards upfield, and my first drop-goal attempt was charged down. We were very tired, but we got the ball back and had another shot."

KEEP YOUR HEAD

"I remember the first effort getting charged down, but then we got the ball back.

"Big Sam Barlow was one of the main go-to players for us to get a quick play-the-ball, and he managed to get a good one away. Penky (hooker Sean Penkywicz) passed me the ball back and I had loads of time.

"I hit the ball pretty well and I knew it was over.

"The play-the-ball was the key for me - there wasn't much pressure on me when I got the ball, and that meant I could relax a bit more and strike it well."

ENJOY THE CELEBRATIONS

"I knew as soon as I'd kicked it that it was going over, and when it did, I just remember running under the posts towards the Halifax fans.

"It really was like a dream.

Not many players get the chance to play in a Grand Final, and I played in four in five years.

"To win that day with Halifax was something that I'll never forget.

"We had a few beers on the bus home when we were all on a high, then there was a big do at a nightclub in Halifax that night.

"We'd been aiming all year to be champions and had stuck together as a team.

"When we walked into the room everybody was cheering, because it had been such a great victory considering we'd been behind by 18 points at one stage.

"The night was a bit of a blur, but all the fans wanted to talk and remember everything that had happened - it was a really great week all round."



Watch highlights of Halifax's 2010 Championship Grand Final win over Featherstone Rovers here.

EXPERT VIEW

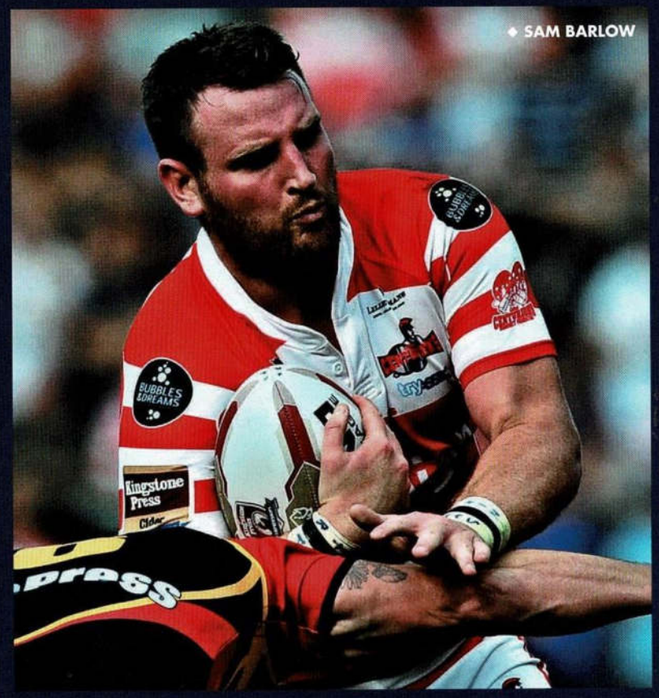
★ DAVE WOODS ★

Former Whitehaven, Gateshead Thunder, York City Knights and Castleford Tigers coach DAVE WOODS knows what it takes to win a Grand Final; he was Tigers coach in 2005 when they beat Whitehaven 36-8 to secure promotion to Super League.

Here he gives his verdict on today's Kingstone Press Championship Grand Final between Leigh Centurions and Featherstone Rovers.



◆ JAMES LOCKWOOD



◆ SAM BARLOW

FORWARDS

"Sam Barlow's a big one for Leigh up front; he's got really good contact and can offload well.

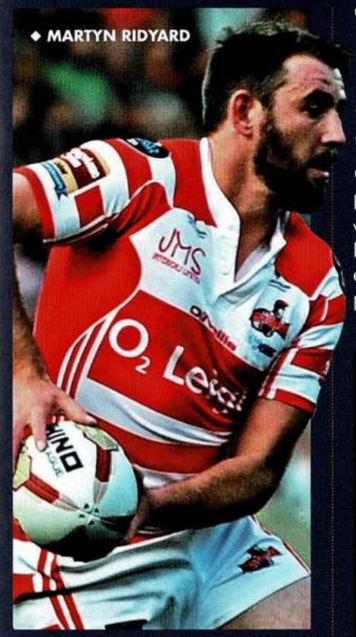
"Featherstone have got to make sure they nullify that, otherwise Sam will cause them all sorts of problems.

"With the hookers Leigh have got, starting with Bob Beswick and then introducing Sean Penkywicz off the bench, they look to get quick play-the-balls all the time. If they do get those quick plays, those two will jump all over them.

"To counter that, Featherstone's wrestle has to be really good. They've got to find a way to slow down the play-the-ball and control the ruck speed, otherwise Leigh will get on a real roll.

"Featherstone's pack is full of hard-working grafters. They're a very solid group.

"I like James Lockwood - he's very good. He's a really good ball runner, and he runs some good lines. I just think all of Featherstone's forwards complement each other in the way they work for each other. There's no massive star; they all just roll their sleeves up and get stuck in."



◆ MARTYN RIDYARD

BACKS

"They're all big, strong and quick, and if either team does not number up properly and push from the inside, then the other will find themselves getting a lot of joy out wide.

"Will Sharp's been great for Featherstone this year, he's gone very well. He's an ex-Super League player with a lot of experience, and it's shown in his performances.

"Featherstone rely on their outside men getting their tries, and Andy Kain is very dangerous for them.

"But Leigh, if they can use their size and strength to generate those quick play-the-balls, have got the best player in league in Martyn Ridyard. He's outstanding.

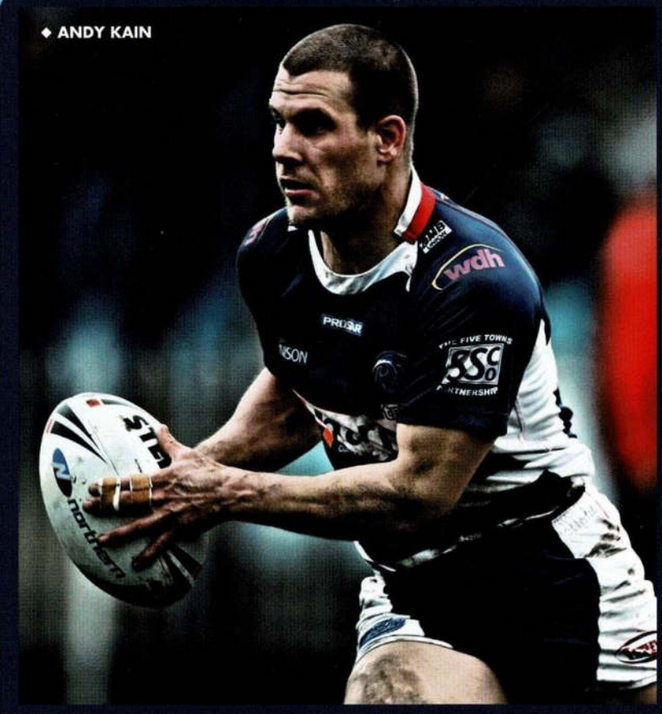
"He's got a super kicking game, and Featherstone need to find a way to stop him. I don't think there's anyone better than him in the Championship.

"But even if Featherstone do stop him, they've then also got to make sure Ryan Brierley is not running in support. Ryan will push up on every play. He's very good at that, he's very quick, and he gets a lot of success from it.

"Both teams play fairly similarly when they go out wide, and both have got a lot of try-scoring potential in their three-quarters.

"Liam Kay is also very quick on the wing for Leigh. They kick to the corner for him, and because of his size he can often out-jump his opposite number. He's also good on his feet.

"But I go back to Martyn Ridyard. He's the best player in the competition by far, he controls games very well, and his kicking game is excellent. He's the key."



◆ ANDY KAIN

VERDICT

"I think Leigh probably deserve to win because they've been the outstanding team all year. They've produced an incredible effort this season, and their record says it all.

"Featherstone also seem to have trouble in the really big games, and they often seem to fall at the last hurdle.

"But this one is going to be very, very close. I wouldn't be surprised if Featherstone won, but to do that they really need to get amongst Leigh early on. If Leigh get a decent start, and build up an early lead of say 10 or 12 points, then it will be hard to see a way back for Featherstone."

KINGSTONE CHAMPIONSHIP

★ 2014 REVIEW ★

There was no denying the dominant force in the regular Kingstone Press Championship campaign, with **LEIGH CENTURIONS** leading from start to finish in a record-breaking season.

The Centurions won 25 of their 26 fixtures, amassed 1,024 points and conceded just 396, and topped the table by 15 points.

Leigh scored 52 points in each of their first three league fixtures, underlining their determination to set new standards of excellence.

But plenty of others did themselves proud during the course of a high-pressure campaign that saw five teams relegated.

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS claimed second spot, thanks largely to an impressive 20-4 win at **HALIFAX** in August.

Will Sharp was the star for Rovers, finishing the regular season with 22 tries and earning a place in the Championship All Stars team.

For Halifax, who parted company with coach Karl Harrison in the final stages of the campaign, it was a mixed season. They finished third, but a 25-0 home defeat against **DEWSBURY RAMS** saw them crash out of the play-offs in the second week of knockout rugby.

DONCASTER exceeded all expectations, with player-coach Paul Cooke earning the Championship's Coach of the Year award after steering his team to a fourth-placed finish.

Their success was built on a great team-spirit and a willingness to work hard, but **SHEFFIELD EAGLES** put an end to Doncaster's season when they secured a 58-24 play-off victory over their South Yorkshire rivals.



◆ WILL SHARP

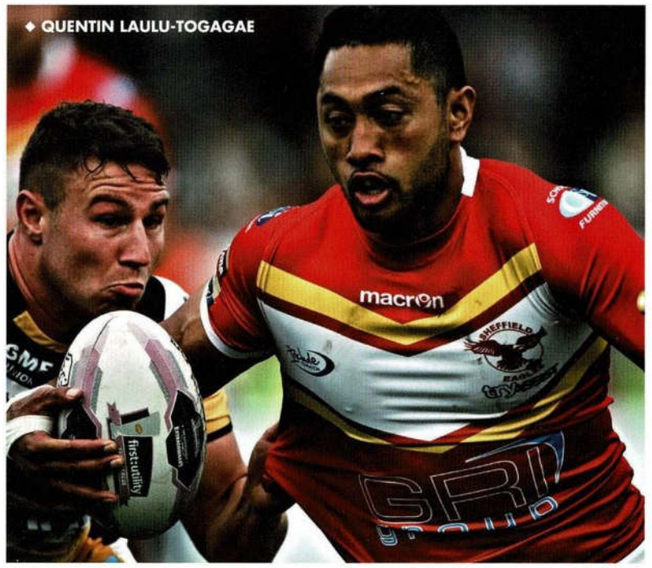
The Eagles had started slowly, and even lost four consecutive games in the middle of the season, but Mark Aston's men timed their run of form to perfection, hitting their straps as the play-offs came into focus.

Quentin Laulu-Togagae was once again their major attacking threat, bagging 27 tries in the regular campaign while team-mate Scott Turner finished with a personal haul of 23 touchdowns.

There was much to celebrate at **DEWSBURY RAMS**, too. Glenn Morrison's side emerged with plenty of pride from their Tetley's Challenge Cup clash with Wigan Warriors, and Anthony Thackeray was outstanding as the season progressed.

The Rams scored 74 points in their first two play-off fixtures, beating **WORKINGTON TOWN** 50-6 before seeing off Halifax 25-0.

And Town, who eventually finished seventh, will also look back on a year of progress - despite their heavy play-off defeat.



◆ QUENTIN LAULU-TOGAGAE

Under former Salford coach Phil Veivers they became a model of consistency, taking points from 22 of their 26 league fixtures and winning seven matches in a row during the middle of the campaign.

That winning streak was enough to secure their place in the 2015 Championship, where they will be joined by **BATLEY BULLDOGS** - whose position was only confirmed on a nerve-racking last day of the season.

Double Challenge Cup-winning coach John Kear used all his experience to calm the Bulldogs's nerves, and a 34-10 win at Doncaster last month was enough to see them claim the final play-off spot.

Full-back Miles Greenwood was their top-scorer, collecting 22 tries in another profitable year and finishing four scores ahead of **WHITEHAVEN'S** Jessie Joe Parker (18).

The Cumbrians finished in ninth place, avoiding relegation by a single point after joining Batley by securing a vital win on the last day of the season.

Whitehaven won 13 of their 26 league fixtures, but that was not enough to save coach Dave Woods, who left the club at the end of the season. Steve Deakin takes control for 2015.

KEIGHLEY COUGARS were one of five teams to suffer the agony of relegation, and they missed out by the narrowest of margins.

Paul White's 21 tries helped the Cougars finish with 44 points - but that was a point adrift of Whitehaven, and enough to seal their fate.

NORTH WALES CRUSADERS were the bonus point kings, taking single points from 10 of their league fixtures and winning seven others.

Coach Clive Griffiths left his role midway through the year and was replaced by Anthony Murray, but the Wrexham side were simply unable to cope with the extra qualify required in the sport's second tier.

ROCHDALE HORNETS also went down, despite the best efforts of coach Ian Talbot.

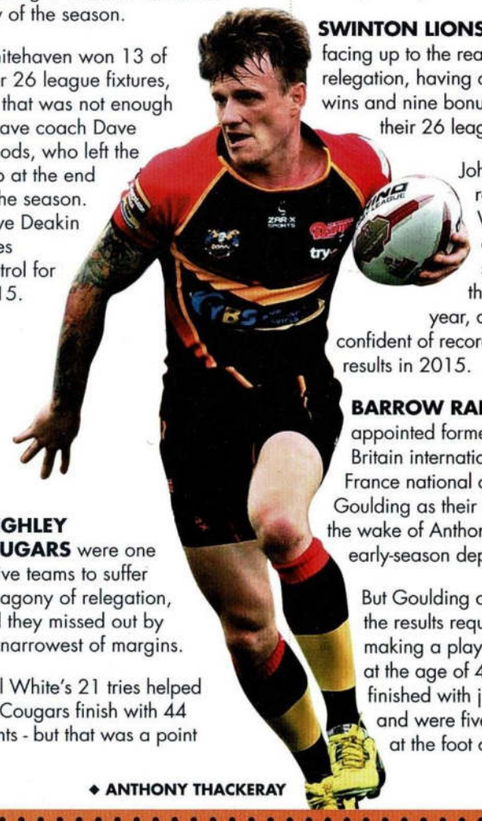
But they will regroup in League 1 next year, and hope to bounce straight back after benefiting from the experience of 12 months in the Championship.

SWINTON LIONS are also facing up to the realities of relegation, having collected five wins and nine bonus points from their 26 league fixtures.

John Duffy replaced Ian Watson in the coach's hot-seat midway through the year, and will be confident of recording better results in 2015.

BARROW RAIDERS appointed former Great Britain international and France national coach Bobbie Goulding as their new boss in the wake of Anthony Murray's early-season departure.

But Goulding could not get the results required, despite making a playing comeback at the age of 42. The Raiders finished with just four wins, and were five points adrift at the foot of the table.



◆ ANTHONY THACKERAY

CHAMPIONSHIP

★ ALL STARS TEAM ★

Leigh Centurions stand-off Martyn Ridyard capped a remarkable season by being named Kingstone Press Championship Player of the Year at a glittering awards ceremony in Manchester on Tuesday.

Ridyard, whose haul of 291 points saw him finish the regular season as the competition's top points-scorer, beat off competition from Dewsbury Rams scrum-half Anthony Thackeray and Doncaster player-coach Paul Cooke for the evening's top award.

His outstanding form also secured him a place in the Championship All Stars team, where he was joined by seven other Leigh players.

The Centurions dominated the regular season, topping the table by 15 points after winning 25 of their 26 fixtures.

They comfortably recorded the competition's best attacking and defensive records, and their excellence was recognised in front of a packed audience of almost 300 people.

Prolific scrum-half Ryan Brierley, who claimed 36 tries during the regular campaign, successfully defended his Championship Young Player of the Year title.

Brierley scooped the award in 2013, and pipped Whitehaven's Carl Forster and Workington Town's Liam McAvoy to secure this year's prize.

There was also joy for Paul Cooke, who left the evening clutching the Coach of the Year award.

Doncaster's player-coach steered his team to an impressive fourth-placed finish in the regular season.

Their season came to a premature end when they were knocked out of the play-offs by a 58-24 home defeat against Sheffield Eagles, but Cooke beat Leigh's Paul Rowley, Dewsbury Rams coach Glenn Morrison, and Phil Veivers - who transformed Workington Town's fortunes - to finish the year on a high note.

Two players - Will Sharp (Featherstone Rovers) and Bob Beswick (Leigh Centurions) - held on to their places in the Championship All Stars team, having both appeared in the 2013 line-up.

Miles Greenwood (Batley Bulldogs), Shane Grady (Dewsbury Rams), Carl Forster (Whitehaven) and Brett Phillips (Workington Town) made up the non-Leigh contingent in the All Stars team.

Tom Armstrong, Liam Kay, Jacob Emmett, Matt Sarsfield and Sam Barlow were selected alongside fellow Leigh trio Ridyard, Brierley and Beswick to complete the line-up.



★ CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER OF THE YEAR ★

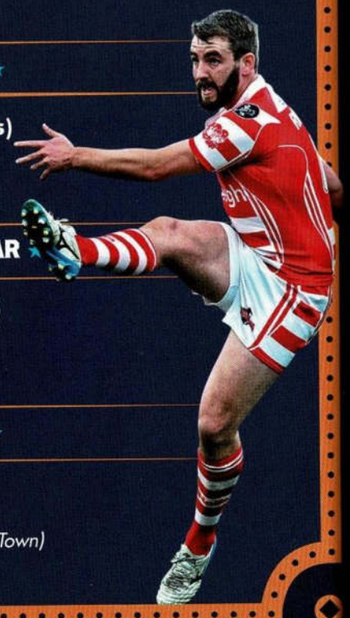
Winner: Martyn Ridyard (Leigh Centurions)
Shortlisted: Anthony Thackeray (Dewsbury Rams), Paul Cooke (Doncaster)

★ CHAMPIONSHIP YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR ★

Winner: Ryan Brierley (Leigh Centurions)
Shortlisted: Carl Forster (Whitehaven), Liam McAvoy (Workington Town)

★ CHAMPIONSHIP COACH OF THE YEAR ★

Winner: Paul Cooke (Doncaster)
Shortlisted: Paul Rowley (Leigh Centurions), Glenn Morrison (Dewsbury Rams), Phil Veivers (Workington Town)



★ KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ALL STARS ★

1
MILES GREENWOOD
BATLEY BULLDOGS
Blistering pace and terrific balance have made Greenwood one of the most dangerous runners in the league.

2
WILL SHARP
FEATHERSTONE ROVERS
The Featherstone flyer collected 22 tries in a profitable season that highlighted his class.

3
SHANE GRADY
DEWSBURY RAMS
A solid presence in the Rams's back line, Grady played a key role in Dewsbury's play-off charge.

4
TOM ARMSTRONG
LEIGH CENTURIONS
Armstrong finished with 21 regular season tries during his first year with Leigh. How's that for a good first impression?

5
LIAM KAY
LEIGH CENTURIONS
Kay's 26 league tries saw him scoop Leigh's Players' Player of the Year and Coach's Player of the Year awards.

6
MARTYN RIDYARD
LEIGH CENTURIONS
Ridyard's prolific goal-kicking piled on the points for Leigh, but his all-round attacking play was also key.

7
RYAN BRIERLEY
LEIGH CENTURIONS
A superb support runner, Brierley amassed 36 league tries and proved a menace to every other team in the Championship.

8
JACOB EMMETT
LEIGH CENTURIONS
Emmett's hard work up front helped lay the foundations on which many of Leigh's big wins were built.

9
BOB BESWICK
LEIGH CENTURIONS
Smart at the play-the-ball and solid in defence, Beswick is now established as the competition's leading hooker.

10
CARL FORSTER
WHITEHAVEN
Still only 22 years old, Forster's performances this year have earned him a move to Salford for 2015.

11
BRETT PHILLIPS
WORKINGTON TOWN
Scotland international Phillips played a huge role in Workington's surge to a seventh-placed finish.

12
MATT SARSFIELD
LEIGH CENTURIONS
Sarsfield's excellence in 2014 has been rewarded with a full-time Leigh contract for the next two years.

13
SAM BARLOW
LEIGH CENTURIONS
Brilliant Barlow recently agreed a five-year deal with Leigh. Centurions coach Paul Rowley said: "It's a fantastic signing."

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS DAY

★ MEMORIES ★

GRAND FINALS ALWAYS PRODUCE DRAMA AND EXCITEMENT. CAN YOU REMEMBER THESE FOUR MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM THE LAST 15 YEARS?



◆ BEN BLACK

2010 BEN BLACK SEALS IT

HALIFAX 23 - FEATHERSTONE ROVERS 22
(after golden point extra-time)

Featherstone Rovers had built up a 22-4 lead over Halifax at Warrington's Halliwell Jones Stadium.

There seemed no way back, but tries for Ben Black, Luke Branighan and Stephen Bannister sent the game into golden point extra-time.

Liam Finn charged down Black's first extra-time drop-goal attempt, but Halifax regained possession and set about building more pressure deep in Featherstone territory.

Four tackles later, Sam Barlow crashed into Rovers's defensive line and forced a quick play-the-ball.

This gave Black, standing 15 metres back from the action, enough time to line up his second drop-goal attempt - and this time there was no stopping it.

Thousands of Halifax fans behind the posts erupted in joy, with Black charging towards them and being mobbed by his team-mates.

Halifax coach Matt Calland was shown celebrating in the stands, but for Featherstone there was only utter dejection.

1999 TRINITY TRIUMPH AT THE DEATH

WAKEFIELD TRINITY 24 FEATHERSTONE ROVERS 22

Wakefield Trinity trailed by four points going into the final five minutes of a pulsating clash at Huddersfield.

But Trinity's rampaging forwards were beginning to find their feet, and they hammered at Rovers's line after Carl Hall's try had given Featherstone a slender advantage with 11 minutes to go.

Eventually, Wakefield made the breakthrough.

Roger Kenworthy and captain Matt Fuller combined to send Wayne McDonald charging towards the line and, when he was halted, he had the awareness to find an inside ball to fellow prop Francis Stephenson.

Rovers simply ran out of strength, and Stephenson charged over two defenders to crash over for the match-winning try.

Fuller said: "After Featherstone's last try I had to give the players a bit of a blasting and ask them to lift their intensity for one more effort.

"We did that, and then held out like champions."

2012 OMG QLT SHEFFIELD EAGLES 20 - FEATHERSTONE ROVERS 16

Sheffield Eagles full-back Quentin Laulu-Togagae produced a try-of-the-season contender in the final match of the 2012 campaign, finishing a stunning move in the late stages of the first half to give his side a 10-8 half-time advantage.

There looked to be nothing on when James Davey collected the ball from acting half-back 80 metres from Featherstone Rovers's line.

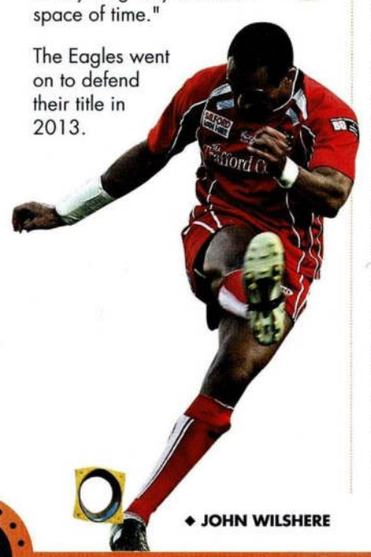
But the Sheffield substitute opted to attack down the blind side, passing on to Michael Knowles who in turn released Menzie Yere on the left edge.

Yere made 10 metres before offloading to Misi Taulapapa, who found Scott Turner on his inside.

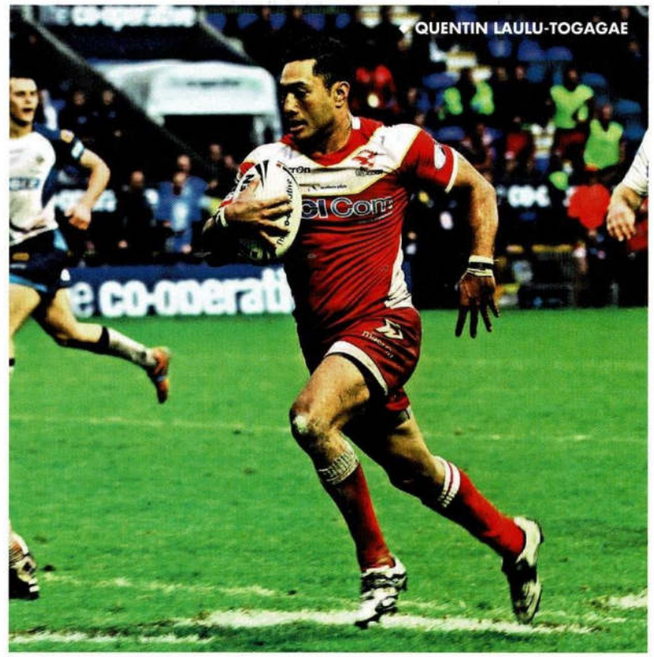
Brilliant hands from Turner set Laulu-Togagae free, and he burst 50 metres to the line - fending off Nathan Chappell in the process - to score a superb Grand Final try.

Sheffield coach Mark Aston said: "We've come a very long way in a short space of time."

The Eagles went on to defend their title in 2013.



◆ JOHN WILSHERE



◆ QUENTIN LAULU-TOGAGAE

2008 WILSHERE FORCES EXTRA-TIME

SALFORD CITY REDS 36 - CELTIC CRUSADERS 18

Celtic Crusaders looked set to make history when they led 18-16 with 30 seconds remaining of the 2008 Grand Final.

John Dixon's side were defending 40 metres from their line when Richie Myler, now with Warrington Wolves, made a half-break for Salford City Reds.

Crusaders forward Darren Mapp got across to make the covering tackle, but he held on for too long and referee Ben Thaler blew for a penalty in front of the posts.

Wilshere, who had already kicked two goals from three attempts, was placing the ball on the tee as the full-time hooter sounded.

But he kept his nerve, despite another delay as Jace Van Dijk was forced to move and receive treatment out of Wilshere's line of sight, and landed the kick with a well-struck effort.

Crusaders were unable to recover, and Ian Sibbit, Paul White and Myler crossed in extra-time to seal Salford's win.

City Reds coach Shaun McRae said: "We've gone through every emotion."

TOM BERGIN

TROPHY

The player who is today voted the Kingstone Press Championship Grand Final man-of-the-match will be presented the Tom Bergin Trophy – an accolade named after a man who once went missing in action during World War II, yet returned to devote a lifetime to Rugby League.

Tom Bergin spent over 50 years covering the game as a journalist, and had a huge influence on the Rugby League Writers' Association, of which he was the president upon his passing in May 1995.

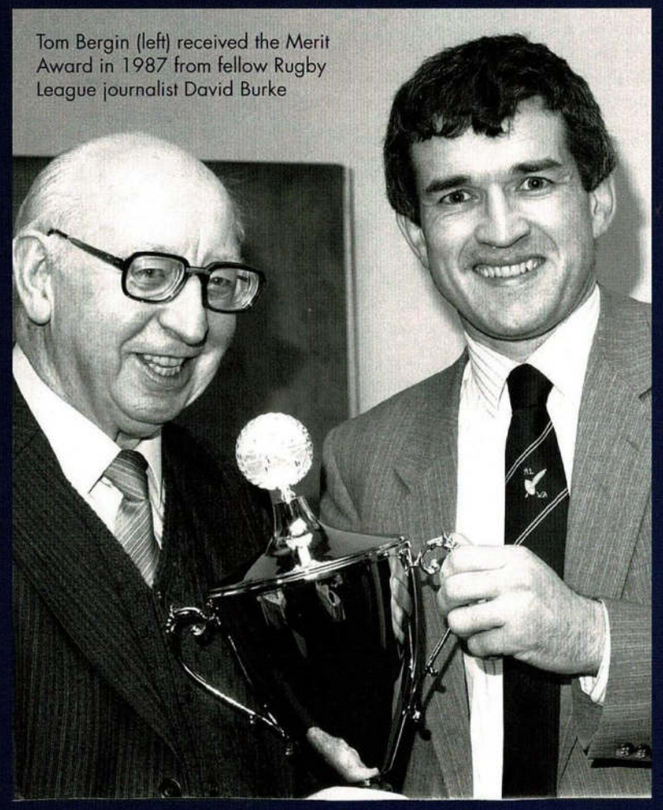
It will be the members of the media present at today's Grand Final who will select the winner of this year's Tom Bergin Trophy, which will be presented after the final whistle.

Tom was a long-serving president and chairman of the Rugby League Writers' Association (now the Rugby League Writers' and Broadcasters' Association). He chaired the organisation between 1971 and 1975, and again between 1976 and 1990.

In 1990 he became the organisation's first president, holding the role for five years before his death, when current chairman Alan Thomas took over.

A founder member of the association – who, in 1987, was presented with the Merit Award (pictured) – he was a sports reporter covering the Rugby League fortunes of hometown club Salford for more than half a century.

It was as a holiday job that he first joined the Salford City Reporter – what is today part of the Salford Advertiser – while awaiting a university place. However, the death of his father meant that pursuing further education was no longer an option, and he joined the Reporter in a full-time capacity.



Tom Bergin (left) received the Merit Award in 1987 from fellow Rugby League journalist David Burke

In 1942 Tom served in World War II with the East African Troops, being reported missing before later returning home unharmed.

He would go on to spend over 30 years writing for the Reporter, becoming sports editor in 1946 and full editor later in the same year.

He received an honorary Masters from the University of Salford and, in 1977, was awarded a silver medallion for his services to the community of Salford.

The Tom Bergin Trophy was first used in 1987, when Gary Ainsworth won the inaugural award playing for Swinton as they won the season's divisional final at Old Trafford.

It has been used every year since, and is now presented to the man-of-the-match in the Championship Grand Final.

TOM BERGIN TROPHY

ROLL OF HONOUR

1987 GARY AINSWORTH – SWINTON

1988 DES FOY – OLDHAM

1989 MARK ASTON – SHEFFIELD EAGLES

1990 MIKE FORD – OLDHAM

1991 STEVE KERRY – SALFORD

1992 DARYL POWELL – SHEFFIELD EAGLES

1993 PAUL NEWLOVE – FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

1994 DEAN MARWOOD – WORKINGTON TOWN

1995 MARTIN WOOD – KEIGHLEY COUGARS

1996 CLIFF ECCLES – SALFORD

1997 CRAIG WESTON – HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS

1998 RICHARD CHAPMAN – FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

1999 LATHAM TAWHAI – HUNSLET HAWKS

2000 MICK HIGHAM – LEIGH CENTURIONS

2001 PHIL CANTILLON – WIDNES VIKINGS

2002 CHRIS THORMAN – HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS

2003 GAVIN CLINCH – SALFORD CITY REDS

2004 NEIL TURLEY – LEIGH CENTURIONS

2005 BRAD DAVIS – CASTLEFORD TIGERS

2006 BEN COCKAYNE – HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

2007 DANNY BROUGH – CASTLEFORD TIGERS

2008 TONY DUGGAN – CELTIC CRUSADERS

2009 BEN BLACK – HALIFAX

2010 TOMMY SAXTON – FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

2011 LIAM FINN – FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

2012 MICHAEL KNOWLES – SHEFFIELD EAGLES

2013 DOM BRAMBANI – SHEFFIELD EAGLES

KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

★ SCENE-SETTER ★

CAN OLDHAM FINALLY END THEIR GRAND FINAL MISERY? OR WILL HUNSLET HAWKS BOUNCE STRAIGHT BACK INTO THE KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP?

Two weeks ago, when Oldham powered past York City Knights to become the first team to book a spot in today's Kingstone Press Championship One Grand Final, their fans could have been forgiven for having mixed feelings about what lay ahead.

Indeed, Oldham could be forgiven for arriving at Headingley Carnegie this afternoon fearing the worst.

Five times in the last seven years they have suffered Grand Final heartache, most recently in last year's defeat against local rivals Rochdale Hornets.

It is a run of form that Oldham coach Scott Naylor wishes did not exist, but it is not something he can do much about.



◆ 2014 PLAY-OFFS V HUNSLET

Instead, he will set about trying to lift Oldham into the sport's second tier - and in the process banish some of the painful memories that still haunt the club's fans.



◆ 2014 PLAY-OFFS V HUNSLET

Naylor said: "One of the unfortunate things about getting to the Grand Final is that everybody talks about the past and those losses.

"At the end of last year we said we shouldn't speak about it - it's a different game, a different pitch, a different season.

"Our team this time around is very similar to what we turned out last year, but it's a completely different game again.

"I don't know if it's a hoodoo, fate, the opponents on the day, or our teams on the day, but I'd imagine there's definitive answer as to why Oldham has lost each of those finals.

"But this one today is a completely different game. Today - and not the past - is our focus."

◆ CHALLENEGE CUP

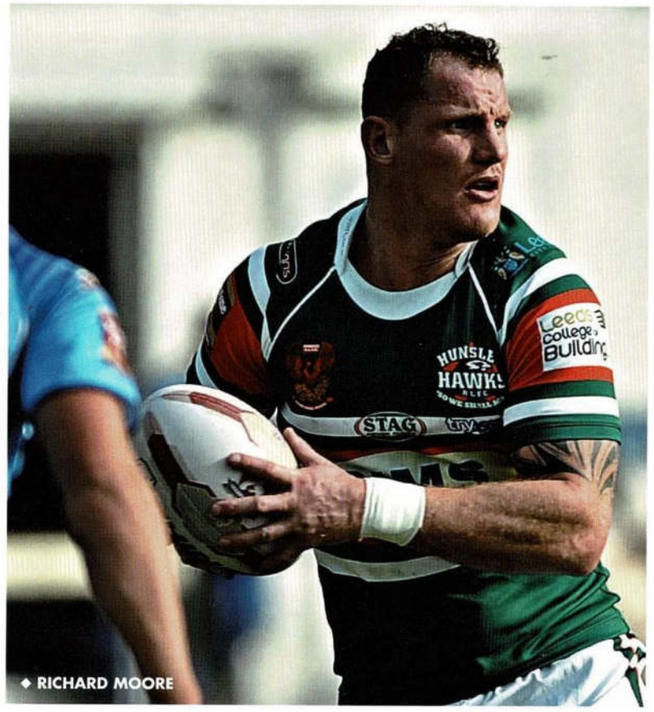
It would be no surprise if Oldham do succeed this afternoon.

They have timed their form to perfection, producing their best and most consistent displays in the most important four weeks of the season.

Victories against Gloucestershire All Golds in the final league game of the season, then at Hunslet in the first week of play-offs, laid the foundation for a 31-12 success at York.



◆ DANNY MAUN



◆ RICHARD MOORE

Naylor said: "We had to raise our game again to another level (against York) although I thought we were quality from the first to the last minute.

"This season we have not had many 80-minute quality performances, and that was definitely the best one with a massive team spirit just wanting them to win games."

But Hunlset, who finished second in the table, one point ahead of Oldham, are ready to meet the challenge head on.

Their coach, Barry Eaton, has plenty of reasons to be confident, pointing to exciting youngsters Jimmy Watson and Lee Brickwood, the experience of Richard Moore, David March and Danny Maun, and the try-scoring exploits of Gavin Duffy.

And they have proved that they can deliver on the big stage, having last week recovered from a 12-0 deficit at York to eventually secure a 32-24 victory.

Eaton said: "I went through every single emotion possible.

"York have been outstanding all year, but we re-grouped at half-time, with the boys showing some tough mentality during the second 40 minutes. You don't always have to score flashy, flamboyant tries."

But that pragmatism masks an entertaining and enterprising approach from Hunslet, who are expected to bring an attacking flair to this afternoon's clash.

Oldham, meanwhile, have built their success on a powerful pack.

But who will eventually triumph is anybody's guess.

★ 2014 LEAGUE RECORD ★

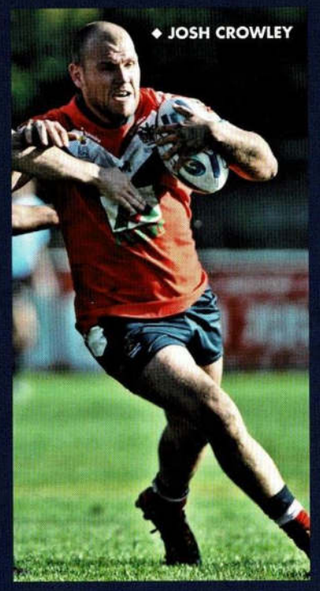
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
2nd	Hunslet Hawks	20	15	0	5	4	49
3rd	Oldham	20	15	1	4	1	48

★ 2014 MEETINGS ★

Date	Result	Competition
Sep 12	Hunslet 24 v 25 Oldham	Championship One Play-Offs
Jul 27	Oldham 24 v 23 Hunslet	Championship One
Apr 18	Hunslet 38 v 12 Oldham	Championship One

KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

★PLAY-OFFS REVIEW★



◆ JOSH CROWLEY

WEEK ONE ★ QUALIFYING PLAY-OFF
HUNSLET HAWKS 24 - OLDHAM 25

Josh Crowley's drop goal on the stroke of half-time proved the difference as Oldham emerged victorious from an almighty battle with Hunslet Hawks.

The hosts led 12-6 just before the break, with tries from James Coyle and John Oakes only countered by a Jon Ford score for Oldham.

But Crowley, whose performances this year earned him a spot in the Kingstone Press Championship One All Stars team, showed his awareness by kicking the drop goal after the half-time hooter had sounded.

Oldham still trailed by five points at the break, but second-half tries from Dale Bloomfield, Danny Langtree and Michael Ward pushed them into a 25-12 lead.

David March and Gavin Duffy gave Hunslet hope with two late tries, but time ran out for the hosts.

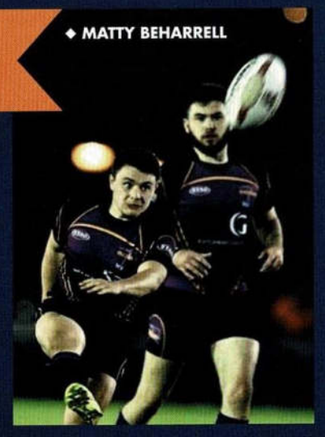
Oldham coach Scott Naylor said: "I've been in the game for 25 years, and I've never been more proud of a bunch of lads."

HUNSLET: Tries - J Coyle, Oakes, March, Duffy. Goals - March 4.

OLDHAM: Tries - Ford, Bloomfield, Langtree, Ward. Goals - Roper 4. Drop-goal - Crowley

Half-time: 12-7.

ELIMINATION PLAY-OFF ★
GATESHEAD THUNDER 15 - HEMEL STAGS 14
(after golden point extra-time)



◆ MATTY BEHARRELL

Matty Beharrell's golden point extra-time drop-goal settled a pulsating clash at Kingston Park.

The Gateshead Thunder stand-off held his nerve in the most dramatic of circumstances to cruelly end Hemel Stags's campaign.

Beharrell had missed a drop-goal attempt at the end of normal time, but landed his second attempt to book a trip to face Hunslet Hawks in the second week of play-off action.

Hemel, who had been forced to cope with both travel and a number of absentees, battled bravely throughout.

They briefly led 6-4, after Ciaren Clement-Pascall's try had cancelled out Joe Brown's opener, but Lee Mapals and Sonny Esselmont kept the hosts ticking over.

A try from Hemel scrum-half Jy-mel Coleman ensured there would be a tight finish, but few would have predicted the drama that was to come.

Beharrell said: "As we were getting into position (for the drop-goal) I was just thinking 'don't miss!'

"I'd missed three conversions before that, so I was thinking 'if I miss here, then I've messed up a bit'."

GATESHEAD: Tries - Brown, Mapals, Esslemont. Goals - Beharrell. Drop-goal - Beharrell.

HEMEL: Tries - Clement-Pascall, Jy-mel Coleman. Goals - Swindells 3.

Half-time: 8-6.

FIVE TEAMS HAVE BEEN BATTLING IT OUT IN THE KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ONE PLAY-OFFS. NOW, ONLY TWO REMAIN. HERE WE LOOK BACK ON ALL THE PLAY-OFF ACTION.

WEEK TWO ★
YORK CITY KNIGHTS 12 - OLDHAM 31

Red-hot Oldham blasted past a shell-shocked York City Knights to become the first team to secure their spot in the Kingstone Press Championship One Grand Final.

Scott Naylor's men backed up a superb win against Hunslet Hawks by racing into a 24-0 half-time lead at Huntingdon Stadium.

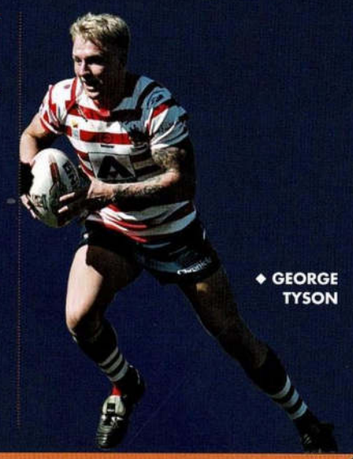
Liam Thompson, David Cookson, Steven Nield and Danny Langtree went over before the break.

York rallied with second-half scores from James Saltonstall and Lee Paterson, but Oldham hung on with Steve Roper's drop-goal and George Tyson's try.

YORK: Tries - Saltonstall, Paterson. Goals - Reynolds 2.

OLDHAM: Tries - Thompson, Cookson, Nield, Langtree, Tyson. Goals - Roper 5. Drop-goal - Roper.

Half-time: 0-24.



◆ GEORGE TYSON

WEEK TWO ★
HUNSLET HAWKS 50 - GATESHEAD THUNDER 6

Hunslet Hawks bounced back from their defeat against Oldham by scoring nine tries against outclassed Gateshead Thunder.

Gavin Duffy, Jimmy Watson and Liam Hood each bagged doubles in this one-sided rout.

James Duckworth, David March and Richard Moore also touched down, while March finished with a personal tally of 16 points after booting six goals.

Hawks coach Barry Eaton said: "If our middle does its job defensively, we've got a back line that will return the ball really well."

HUNSLET: Tries - Duffy 2, Duckworth, Watson 2, March, Hood 2, Moore. Goals - March 6, Ansell 1.

GATESHEAD: Tries - Stamp. Goal - Beharrell.

Half-time: 24-0

WEEK THREE ★
YORK CITY KNIGHTS 24 - HUNSLET HAWKS 32

Hunslet Hawks recovered from a 12-0 half-time deficit to end York City Knights's season and set up a Kingstone Press Championship One Grand Final showdown with Oldham.

Ben Dent and Pat Smith had crossed in the first half to give the hosts a commanding lead.

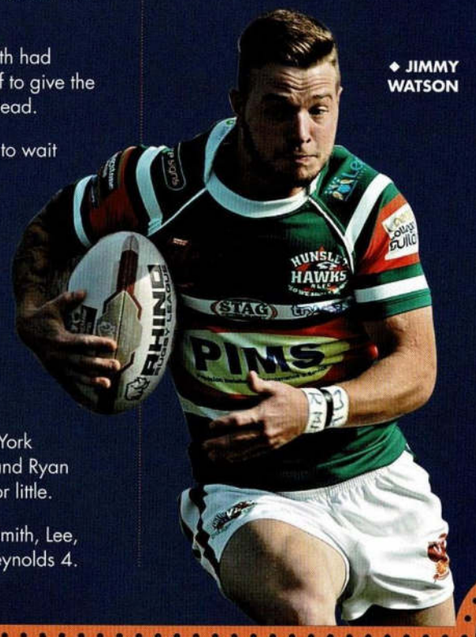
But Hunslet, who had to wait until the 55th minute before Jimmy Watson claimed their first score, then crossed five more times in the last 21 minutes.

Liam Hood (two), Danny Maun, Gavin Duffy and James Duckworth sealed the visitors' triumph, with York scores from Jack Lee and Ryan Backhouse counting for little.

YORK: Tries - Dent, Smith, Lee, Backhouse. Goals - Reynolds 4.

HUNSLET: Tries - Watson, Hood 2, Maun, Duffy, Duckworth. Goals - March 4.

Half-time: 12-0.



◆ JIMMY WATSON

OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

★ SCOTT NAYLOR ★

ANOTHER YEAR OLDER, ANOTHER YEAR WISER. OLDHAM COACH SCOTT NAYLOR BELIEVES HIS MATURING SQUAD ARE FINALLY READY TO CLAIM GRAND FINAL GLORY.

In years to come, when Scott Naylor reflects on his first two seasons in charge of Oldham, he will surely look back with pride.

The former Bradford Bulls and England centre steered Oldham to last year's Kingstone Press Championship One Grand Final.

And he has repeated the trick in 2014, revealing how they have pinned their run to perfection after securing play-off wins away at Hunslet Hawks and York City Knights to book a berth in today's showpiece.

Naylor said: "This final is a culmination of the last two seasons. This year's been a lot tougher, with teams like Gateshead coming through, while Hemel Stags have also improved.

"On top of that, the two teams that come down (Hunslet and York) are effectively Championship clubs. I think we've played better rugby than last year, but we finished lower in league; that shows how tough it is.

"Our whole season has been a work in progress, so that when we got to the end of the season our ideas and opinions on what works best for us have been what we've ended up using in the play-offs.

"In the last two games, I think we've got it right."

Now, with 12 months' more experience to call on, Naylor believes his young team is ready to halt Oldham's horrendous run of Grand Final defeats.

"One of the positives about last season was that it set us up for this year," he said.

"Going into the play-offs and Grand Final with an extremely young team had an effect on some of them, and you could see that both physically and mentally.

"It's tough at any level to play under pressure, to play on TV or in finals where the expectation is on top of you.

"But last year has stood us in good stead. We seem more relaxed, calm and focused, and as a group we've been speaking about the play-offs and the final for the last two months.

"We've prepared them for what was coming up, and the lads have handled it brilliantly.

"One of the other big things is that we've got a great set of lads. We very rarely have less than 22 or 23 lads training.

"We have a work-ethic and there are no shortcuts. If you come into the club and think you can take shortcuts, you don't last long."

He added: "Last year we were a young, inexperienced team. This year we're another year down the line, we've been together for another 12 months, and those young players aren't young any more.

"Because of what happened last year, and what we did together, I don't see them as young anymore. It all seems to be a little more comfortable this year. There's nothing new, nothing to shock us."

Naylor draws on his career to underline the importance of experience when it comes to getting results in big matches.

"I played against St Helens in the 1999 Super League Grand Final, and found a massive difference going back to Old Trafford in 2001. You seem more at peace with it.

"It was a huge ask last year, and the experience of Rochdale's team last year was probably the difference on the day."

Central to Rochdale 12 months ago was Steve Roper, who will today form a key part of Oldham's attack.

"Steve's been great for us," said Naylor. "He came under no illusions. He was told that he'd have to fit into the way we do things, and he was basically given a test to see if he could do that. He passed with flying colours.

"He trained with us for a month before he played, and since he played he's never been out of the team.

"He's brought a lot to us; he can see a pass and a bit of space, and defensively he's been solid."

But Roper is not the only eye-catching performer in Oldham's ranks, with second row partners Danny Langtree and Josh Crowley being consistently excellent throughout 2014.

"LAST YEAR HAS STOOD US IN GOOD STEAD. WE SEEM MORE RELAXED, CALM AND FOCUSED, AND AS A GROUP WE'VE BEEN SPEAKING ABOUT THE PLAY-OFFS AND THE GRAND FINAL FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS."

Naylor said: "Josh and Danny have been our two stand-out players, and I don't think any of the other lads would be disappointed with me saying that.

"The quality of their carries are unbelievable. They're both a huge threat, and they're two great lads who are getting what they deserve, and that's a pat on the back.

"They've worked hard, and it's nice to see people are recognising that - although it's astonishing that neither of them were in for the Championship One Player of the Year award."

The development of Oldham's young players is just one part of why Naylor enjoys coaching so much.

"I enjoy it more than I enjoyed playing," he said. "I enjoyed coaching at Salford under different circumstances, and I enjoy it at Oldham, too. They're different clubs, different budgets, and this is my first head coaching role - but I enjoy every aspect.

"It's stressful and there are tough times, but so far at Oldham there have been more good times than tough times."

By the end of today, Naylor will be hoping to enjoy some of Oldham's very best of times.



OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

★ JOSH CROWLEY ★

JOSH CROWLEY HAS BEEN OLDHAM'S OUTSTANDING PLAYER IN 2014. *ROGER HALSTEAD* CAUGHT UP WITH THE MAN DETERMINED TO HELP HIS SIDE TO GLORY IN THIS AFTERNOON'S KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ONE GRAND FINAL.

JOSH Crowley hopes to crown a successful two seasons at Oldham by helping the Roughyeds finally realise their promotion dream.

They've tasted Grand Final failure five times in the last seven years, including last season's defeat by derby rivals Rochdale Hornets at Leigh Sports Village.

The 23-year-old back row forward doesn't want to experience such dejection ever again and, if anybody deserves to bask in the glory of a rare Oldham triumph on Kingstone Press Championships Finals Day, it's this young man from Warrington.

He hasn't missed a game for the Whitebank club since joining them in the autumn of 2012.

And while Crowley's 48 consecutive appearances show his consistency and resilience, it is a figure made even more remarkable by the fact he was on the brink of turning his back on Rugby League when he was released by Widnes Vikings as a 20-year-old.

"I had been training full-time with the first team for about six months," said Crowley, "and I was devastated when they told me I was being released. I was ready to pack in the game altogether."

It took a phone call from Oldham chairman Chris Hamilton, followed by a meeting and lots of persuasive chat, to bring him round.

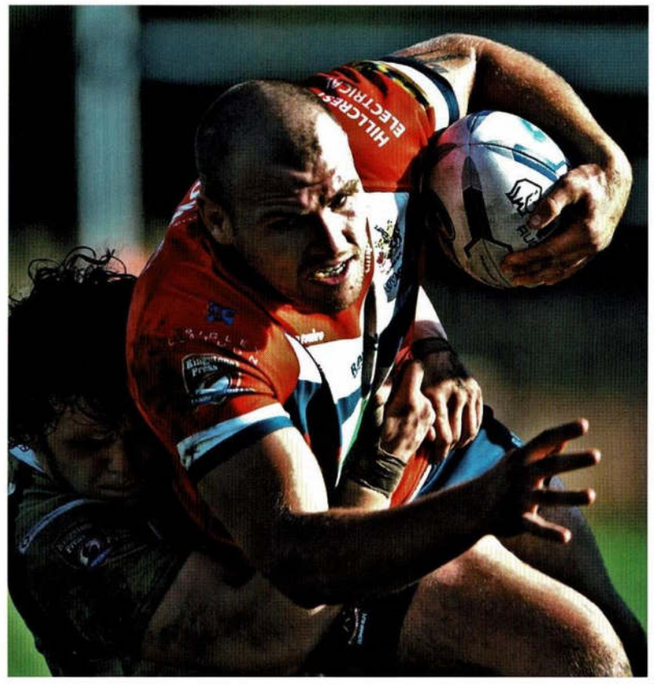
"I wasn't for having it at first, but when I met up with Chris I liked what he had to say. I decided to give it one last shot.

"The rest is history. I've never looked back and I love playing for Oldham."

Crowley attributes his remarkable consistency to good luck on the injury front, a body that heals quickly - and to what he admits is an irrational belief in superstition.

"This might sound stupid, but I hate to break my pre-match routine and when I do, something usually goes wrong.

"For instance, I've got a tatty old kit bag which I've had since I was 14. My partner Amy bought me a new one and insisted I used it for our league game at York. We lost 54-12.



"Needless to say, I'm back with the old bag now. I use Amy's posh one just on training nights, and she still frowns at me for that.

"Another example: my second row pal 'Langers' (Danny Langtree) never comes into the huddle when we have a pre-match team talk. He's all ears, but he stands outside the circle.

"Up at Gateshead this season he broke with his custom and joined us in the centre of the circle. I remember telling him: 'you shouldn't have done that'. We played very badly and lost 40-14."

Oldham fans think they have, in Crowley on the left and Langtree on the right, the best second row pair in Championship One.

Crowley said: "Some of the stuff 'Langers' does is amazing. At York, for instance, he plucked a powerful kick out of the air as though he was catching a cricket ball.

"We're big mates and we take strength from each other. If he's doing something well on his side of the field, it makes me more determined to do likewise on my side, and vice-versa.

"We were all devastated when we were beaten in last year's Grand Final, but things happen for a reason. It made me a better player for having gone through the torment. And I think the whole team will benefit from that experience.

"I feel this will be our year and, unlike last time, I'm determined to conquer my pre-match nerves, which I get before most games, let alone a big one like this. The other lads laugh at me. I'm well known for it in the dressing room."

Josh says he owes much to Chris Hamilton for rescuing his career, and to Oldham coaches Scott Naylor and Lee 'Spanner' Spencer for developing it and pushing him in the right direction.



"There are a few reasons why I'm so happy at Oldham, Scott and 'Spanner' being two of them. Scott's a man's man. He doesn't beat about the bush. He'll tell you straight.

"He's the sort of bloke you'd want alongside you in a tight corner. And that's a philosophy he drums into us all - get stuck in for the bloke who's next in line to you. If we do that, we won't go far wrong as a team."

Win or lose today, Crowley sees his immediate future at Oldham because, in his words, he is happier at the club than he has ever been in terms of his sporting life.

Off the field, too, contentment is his byword - and he is happy to reveal that he and Amy, with whom he has shared his life for the past seven years, will be marrying in Warrington about this time next year.

Always assuming, of course, differences about that tatty old kit bag don't become an issue.

HUNSLET HAWKS

★ BARRY EATON ★

BARRY EATON HAS SEEN IT ALL DURING A LONG CAREER IN RUGBY LEAGUE. BUT TODAY COULD BE HIS MOST SATISFYING YET.

Three years into his new life, Hunslet Hawks coach Barry Eaton could not be happier.

Back in 2011 the former Dewsbury Rams, Widnes Vikings and Wales stand-off was assistant coach at Super League outfit Crusaders.

But when they withdrew from the elite league, Eaton's career was in jeopardy.

He said: "This is my third year at Hunslet, and I love it here.

"When I came out of that situation at Crusaders, you think your world's ended. When you make a commitment like I did, and you're looking at moving all your family down there, and then that gets pulled from under you - you're in a bad place.

"Luckily Hunslet gave me this opportunity, and now it's evolved and I'm also assisting at Leeds Rhinos.

"It's very demanding in terms of hours, but it's great because I'm learning so much."

He added: "Hunslet's a great club. I've been through four liquidations/administrations during the course of my career, so when you see that a club's doing everything right and living within its means, like Hunslet is, then that's very humbling.

"You know you're working with a good board, and a good group of players who are determined to make a name for themselves."

This afternoon at Headingley Carnegie, Eaton's players could do exactly that.

They are one win away from an instant return to the sport's second tier and the financial rewards that follow.

Eaton said: "Our goal that we set at the start of the season was that we wanted promotion, and the only way of doing that is by getting to the Grand Final - and then winning it.

"The fact we've got here is one of our goals met, but now we've got a massively daunting task of trying to beat Oldham to get promoted."

He added: "We've had some turbulent times this year, with a couple of off-the-field bits and bobs, and some key players getting injured at important times.

"We've still got three or four guys who might have been in today's 17 had they been fit. It's been testing, but the group has really come together.

"They've been a very close-knit group right from day one, but some of our travel this year has also helped.

"Some of the long away trips - to South Wales, Hemel and Gloucestershire, for example - we've travelled well and maybe had a night in a hotel as a group, and that's created a good bond between us all.

"We deliberately looked at making the most out of those trips. Instead of thinking 'we've got to go to South Wales', we tried to make it a real positive.

"Fair play to the club, they've outlaid a lot of the budget on making sure our away trips were worthwhile. We've had meeting rooms and overnight stays, which is a hefty cost when you're taking 30 blokes.

"We did everything the club could do to make the players feel we were doing the right thing.

"We've had some great trips, and I think I'm right in saying that the only away games we haven't won this year have been the shorter trips to York and Oldham."

Now Hunslet are just 80 minutes from achieving their ultimate aim, and Eaton could not be more proud of the efforts of his squad.

He said: "We've got a core of players - guys like David March, John Oakes and Jimmy Watson - who've been with me since day one.

"We've also added to that this year. Gavin Duffy had a tough task on his hands, replacing Andy Ballard, but he's been outstanding.

"Getting James Duckworth over the line also gave us some impetus, and then we got Richard Moore right on deadline day. Those key signings were important for us."

He added: "We've got an emphasis on the team having to play well for us to win, but within that you've always got players who are potential stand-outs.

"OUR GOAL THAT WE SET AT THE START OF THE SEASON WAS THAT WE WANTED PROMOTION, AND THE ONLY WAY OF DOING THAT IS BY GETTING TO THE GRAND FINAL - AND THEN WINNING IT."

"John Oakes could have played top end Championship this year, he's been that good. Jimmy Watson has been absolutely outstanding at centre and then full-back, and Danny Maun's been Mr Consistent: defensively he's outstanding and offensively he does a lot of little things well. His work ethic is great, he's a great pro.

"And to top it all, David March just keeps rolling back the years.

"Relatively speaking, we've got a really inexperienced team. Jimmy Watson is a baby, and Lee Brickwood, James Duckworth, Aaron Lyons, Liam Hood - these are all guys that don't have too much experience just yet.

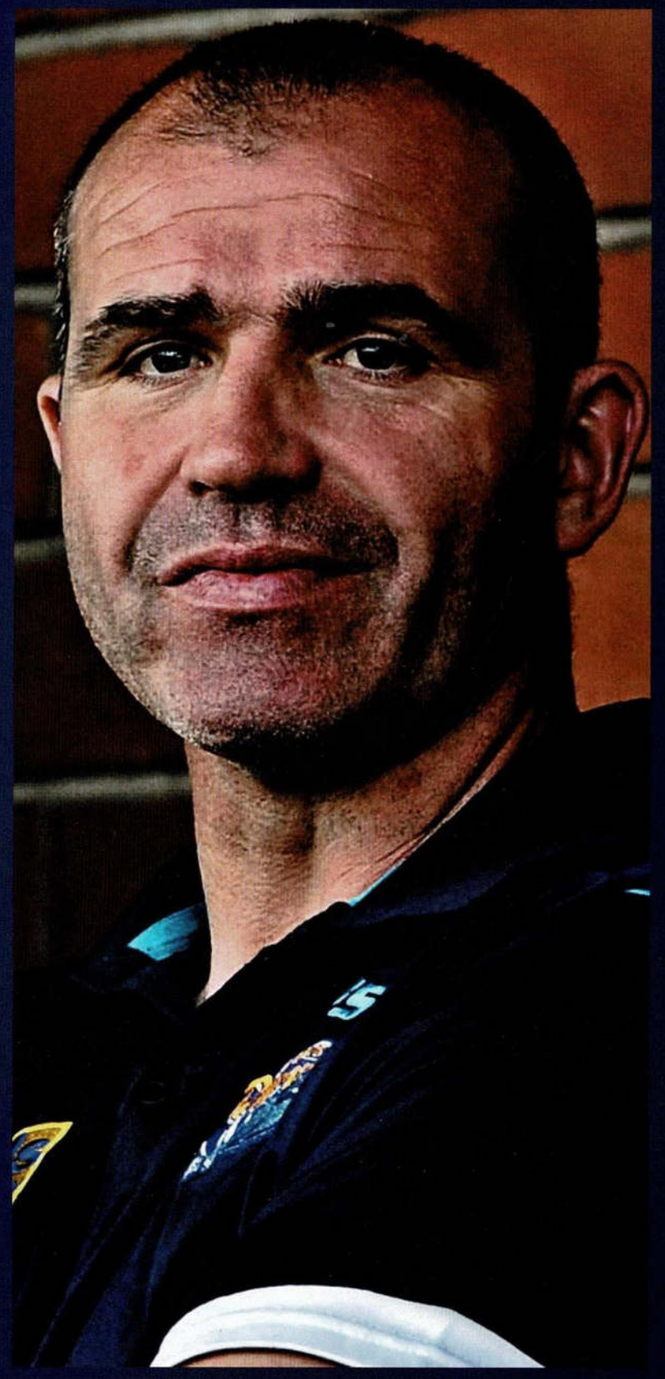
"That means that when you've got experienced players like March, Moore and Maun, it's absolutely vital - as much off the field as on it.

"David's got a really calming influence, and some of the things those three have been speaking about have been fantastic."

Eaton will not go as far as to publicly say he is confident this afternoon, but the signs are clear.

"We absolutely know that if you go into any given game, you've got to do your utmost throughout the week in preparation, then deal with emotional, mental and physical things during the game.

"We go into this in a good frame of mind. We're in a decent place mentally."



HUNSLET HAWKS

★ DAVID MARCH ★

AT 35 YEARS OF AGE, DAVID MARCH IS ABOUT TO PLAY IN HIS FIRST GRAND FINAL. *PETER SMITH* OF THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST CAUGHT UP WITH HUNSLET HAWKS'S VETERAN STAR.

Fans of Super League making their annual dip into the lower divisions today might be surprised to find a familiar face on duty for Hunslet Hawks in the Kingstone Press Championship One title-decider against Oldham.

It is seven years since David March played his last game for Wakefield Trinity Wildcats, after a decade with the Belle Vue club.

But rather than putting his feet up and taking things easy, the goal-kicking half-back, hooker and sometimes loose forward has been giving equally impressive service to the semi-professional game.

After two years with York City Knights, he is now at the end of his fifth season with Hunslet Hawks and, even well into the veteran stage of his career, March remains one of the most feisty and influential players in the competition.

He has played in some big matches in a first-grade career which began back in 1997, most notably Wakefield's victory over Castleford Tigers in the 2006 Super League relegation decider, but March has no doubt today's clash with Oldham is right up there with them.

"The last time I was in a Grand Final was with the academy, 16 years ago," March said.

"And it's a long time since I played at Headingley, so I'm looking forward to it.



◆ MARCH PLAYING FOR WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS

"It's massive for me and the club. We've a great bunch of lads and some of them haven't played play-off football before, so to get to a Grand Final at the first attempt is great for them.

"We've got some good kids in the team. Jimmy Watson had a great game against York last week, and he's had a good season. I'm surprised he wasn't nominated for the Young Player of the Year award. He's been great for us at the back."

This afternoon's showpiece will be a fitting finale to an exciting Championship One competition, March believes.

Oldham finished third in the table, won at second-placed Hunslet and then beat league leaders York City Knights to power straight through to the final.

Hawks recovered from their narrow home loss to the Roughyeds by thrashing Gateshead Thunder and then pulling off a 32-24 victory in a real thriller at York seven days ago, when March played the full 80 minutes.

Trailing by two scores at the break, the visitors were still behind deep into the final quarter before a stunning blitz of three tries in the final six minutes saw them home.

That result avenged three league defeats to York earlier in the year, and nobody in either side will be reading too much into Oldham's 25-24 success at South Leeds Stadium last month, March says.

"We've had some great games against Oldham," he said. "The lads will be really up for it. We showed some great character last week in the second half and we really had to dig deep, especially when we were down to 12 men late on.

"York were 12-0 up at half-time, but we'd played well. We had a few chances which we probably should have taken, but the lads dug deep and we came out winners in the end."

Hawks are now just 80 minutes away from regaining the Kingstone Press Championship place they lost at the end of last season.

Promotion could be a double-edged sword, with whoever goes up being thrown into a leaner, tougher second tier, which will include ex-Super League clubs Bradford Bulls and London Broncos, along with the likes of Leigh Centurions and Featherstone Rovers.

But March insisted: "It's going to be a great effort by the boys if we get there and it will be tough in that league, but if you want to be the best you have to play against the best. The Championship's where we want to be."

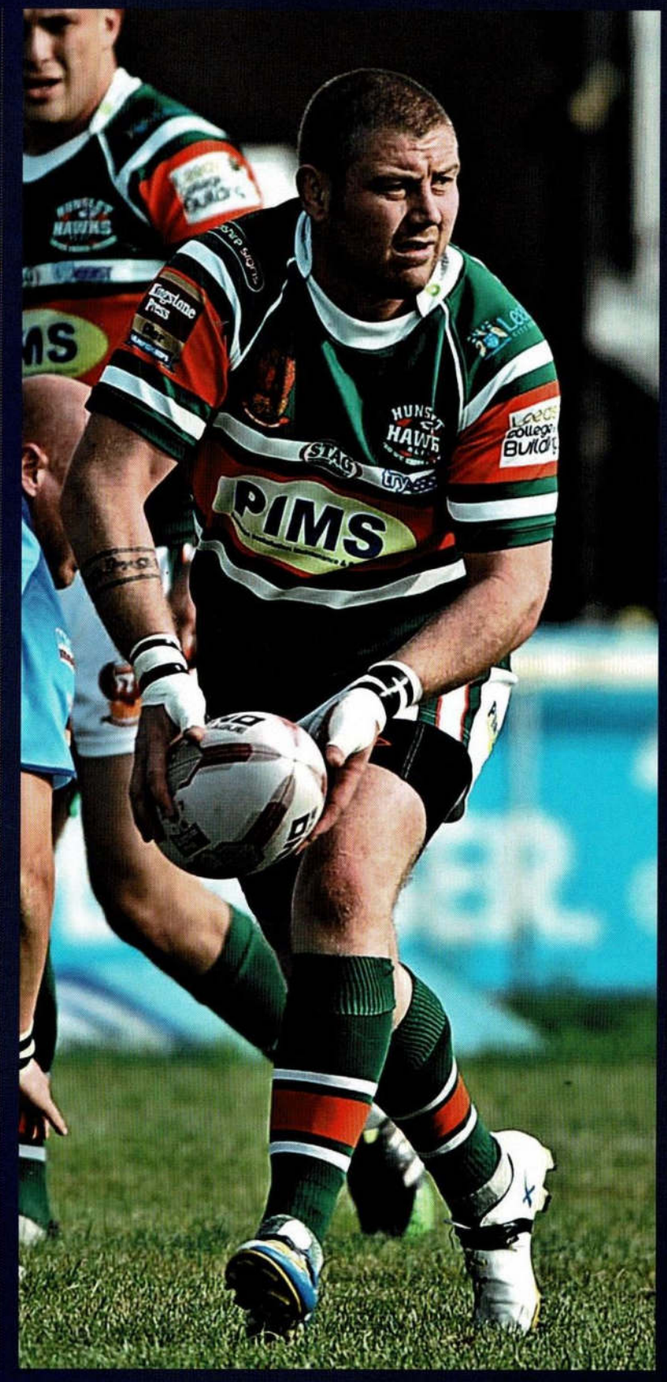
Despite his desire to make a rapid exit from the bottom rung of the semi-professional game, March has been impressed by the standard in Championship One this term.

"I think people will be surprised how good it is," he said.

"They'll be surprised by how much we throw the ball about. Having a scrum-half, Barry Eaton, as coach means we like to play an expansive game, and Headingley's big pitch should suit us."

Victory today might be a good way for March to end his playing career, but he is making no guarantees either way.

He said: "I'm 35 now and playing 80 minutes is tough. But let's get this game out of the way and we'll see what happens."



KINGSTONE CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

★ KEY CLASHES ★

ONLY ONE POINT SEPARATED OLDHAM AND HUNSLET HAWKS IN THE FINAL KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ONE LEAGUE TABLE. WITH TWO EVENLY-MATCHED TEAMS, WE TAKE A LOOK AT WHERE TODAY'S GRAND FINAL COULD BE WON AND LOST.

SECOND ROW

JOSH CROWLEY V JOHN OAKES

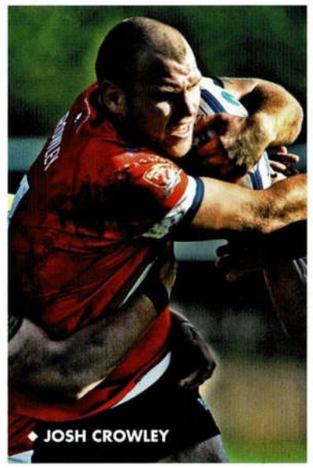
Second row star Crowley has been Oldham's best player in 2014, consistently producing outstanding performances that have caught the eye of many seasoned observers.

That form has culminated in him earning a spot in the Kingstone Press Championship One All Stars team alongside Gateshead captain Jason Payne.

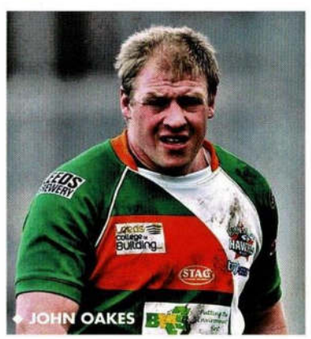
Oldham coach Scott Naylor said: "Josh is a quality player."

But Oakes is also believed to have been a serious contender for a second row spot, and only narrowly missed out on selection himself.

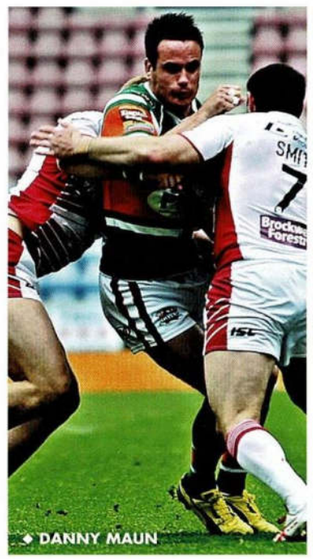
Expect both to play a big part in their side's approach, offering steely defence and good hands in attack.



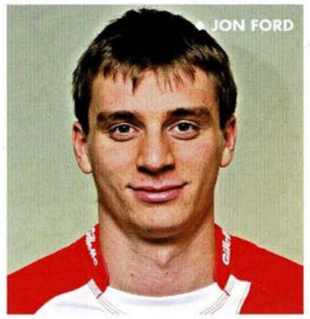
◆ JOSH CROWLEY



◆ JOHN OAKES



◆ DANNY MAUN



◆ JON FORD

CENTRE

JON FORD V DANNY MAUN

Oldham coach Scott Naylor attributes Dale Bloomfield's try tally to the abilities of Ford, who has been a commanding presence since re-joining the club on dual-registration terms after an early spell with Sheffield Eagles.

But Ford does not just make tries; he can score them as well.

In 2013 he racked up 21 tries from 15 appearances, and has contributed another 12 this term.

Maun, at 33 years of age, draws on experience from previous spells at Wigan Warriors, Dewsbury Rams, Featherstone Rovers and Batley Bulldogs (twice).

He scored a crucial try in Hunslet's semi-final win against York City Knights, and his defence should challenge Ford's attacking ability.

HOOKER

GARETH OWEN V DAVID MARCH

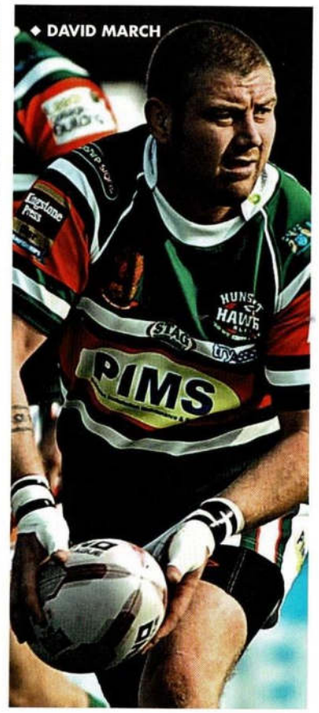
Owen joined Oldham in July, having spent the first half of the year on loan at Sheffield Eagles.

He has made more than 30 Super League appearances for parent club Salford Red Devils, and proven a vital addition to Oldham.

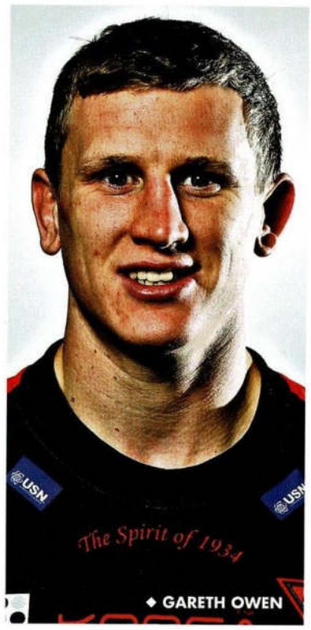
A clever player with good awareness, Owen made a key contribution to Oldham's play-off win against York City Knights when his grubber kick allowed Liam Thompson to open the scoring.

But Owen is still only in his early 20s; in contrast, March is vastly experienced.

A former Wakefield Trinity Wildcats and York City Knights player, the 35-year-old brings leadership and direction to the Hawks' play.



◆ DAVID MARCH



◆ GARETH OWEN

HALF-BACK

STEVE ROPER V THOMAS COYLE

Roper played a key role in last year's Kingstone Press Championship One Grand Final - much to Oldham's discomfort.

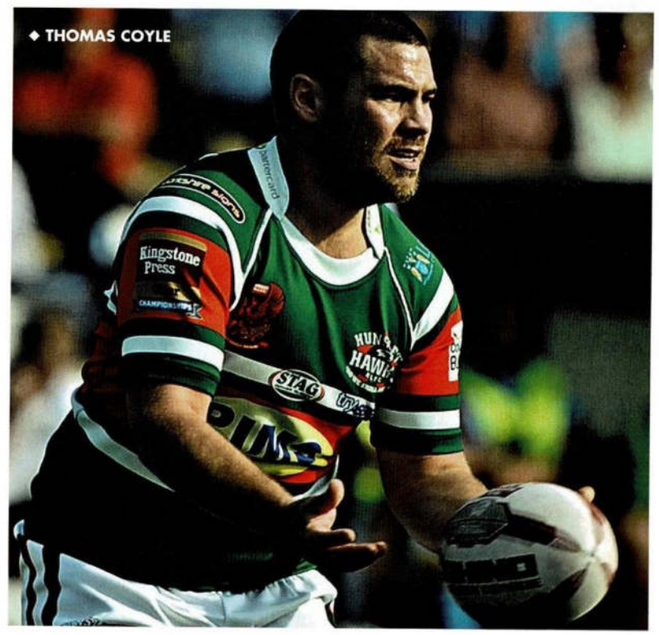
He helped Rochdale Hornets to a 32-18 win over their local rivals, but has since become a key part of the Roughyeds' set-up.

His goal-kicking has been important, and his passing game has given Oldham an extra edge in attack.

But Coyle is not short of quality.

A former England Under-17 international, he made two Super League appearances for Wigan Warriors before having spells at Halifax and Oldham.

He has also played for Widnes Vikings and Leigh Centurions.



◆ THOMAS COYLE

KINGSTONE CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

★ 2014 REVIEW ★

HOW DID YOUR CLUB FARE IN 2014? *NEIL BARRACLOUGH* LOOKS BACK AT THE KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ONE CAMPAIGN.



LEAGUE FINISH: 1ST

Highs: A 10-match winning streak from June to September; thrashing Hunslet Hawks 40-0 in May; taking points from all 20 of their league fixtures.

Lows: A shock 24-22 defeat against Gloucestershire All Golds in June; losing 31-12 at home to Oldham in the play-offs.

Respect due: Jack Lee, Ben Reynolds and Pat Smith were three of the four shortlisted players for Championship One Player of the Year. Colton Roche was also sensational.

Verdict: An excellent year for the Knights, but coach Gary Thornton will still be frustrated by defeat against Oldham in the play-offs.



LEAGUE FINISH: 2ND

Highs: Three big wins against Gateshead Thunder; other comprehensive victories over London Skolars, South Wales Scorpions, Oxford and Oldham. Hawks also had the league's meanest defence.

Lows: Losing three times against York, including a 40-0 reverse; a home defeat against Gloucestershire All Golds.

Respect due: Winger Gavin Duffy scored more than a try a game after joining from Keighley Cougars; David March, Danny Maun and John Oakes were also consistent performers.

Verdict: A solid campaign for the Hawks. Coach Barry Eaton will have been keen to finish top in the regular season, but can look back with pride.



LEAGUE FINISH: 3RD

Highs: Their end to the season, winning against Gloucestershire, Hunslet and York to book a spot in today's Grand Final; beating York in May.

Lows: An away defeat at Hemel in June; a 54-12 thrashing by York in July; a 40-14 reverse at Gateshead in August.

Respect due: Josh Crowley has been outstanding, as has his second row partner Danny Langtree. Winger Mo Agoro was nominated for Championship One Young Player of the Year.

Verdict: A good year would turn into a brilliant year with victory today; coach Scott Naylor will be desperate to end Oldham's run of Grand Final defeats.



LEAGUE FINISH: 4TH

Highs: Their end-of-season form, winning six games of their last seven before play-off defeat at Hunslet; a 66-6 win at London Skolars.

Lows: An inconsistent start to the season included defeats against Hemel and Gloucestershire; in six of their nine league losses, they failed to get a bonus point.

Respect due: Matty Beharrell proved a key signing, directing Thunder's play and kicking a golden point extra-time drop-goal against Hemel; Jason Payne was an enduring force in the second row.

Verdict: Coach Stanley Gene will be relishing the thought of next year, convinced that Thunder can have a genuine crack at glory.



LEAGUE FINISH: 5TH

Highs: A crucial 44-24 win over Gloucestershire All Golds helped secure a top-five finish; beating Oldham 44-32 in June showed their potential.

Lows: A 28-0 home defeat against Hunslet was a worrying start to the season; play-off defeat in golden point extra-time was cruel after a long trip to Gateshead.

Respect due: BJ Swindells was strong in the second row, Jy-mel Coleman offered direction from scrum-half, and coach Troy Perkins was nominated for Championship One Coach of the Year.

Verdict: A second successive play-off appearance for the Stags, who can look back with satisfaction. But can they step up a level next year?



LEAGUE FINISH: 6TH

Highs: Steve McCormack masterminded a mid-season change of form that led to wins over York and Hunslet in the same month; an early win at Gateshead also showed their strength.

Lows: All Golds faded badly, losing seven of their last eight league fixtures to ensure they missed out on a play-off spot; heavy defeats against Hunslet and Oldham proved hard to recover from.

Respect due: Prop Izaak Duffy was a powerful presence up front, while Jarrod Ward and Phil Cowburn regularly impressed in the backs.

Verdict: They will be disappointed to have missed out on the play-offs, but the All Golds look to have a bright future if they continue developing their local talent.



LEAGUE FINISH: 7TH

Highs: Good wins over Oxford (52-28) and Hemel (34-28) hinted at how good the Skolars could be; a bumper crowd of 1,325 watched the 'Friday Night Lights' clash with Hunslet.

Lows: Home and away defeats to bottom club South Wales Scorpions; winning only one of their last six league fixtures.

Respect due: Mufaro Mvududu claimed 12 tries in a struggling side; Martyn Smith and David Williams also had their moments.

Verdict: A frustrating year where Skolars only showed glimpses of what they are capable of; five wins from 20 league games will be considered not good enough.



LEAGUE FINISH: 8TH

Highs: Tony Benson's side finished the year well, unbeaten in their last three league fixtures, but a 24-16 win at York in April was the real highlight.

Lows: Heavy defeats at Gateshead, Oldham and Hunslet (twice) were hard to take.

Respect due: Full-back Sean Morris claimed 17 league tries and looks a classy prospect; Matty Hadden, JJ Baird and Tommy Connick also produced some outstanding displays.

Verdict: A disappointing year in some respects, but Tony Benson can point to Oxford's growing development of local players as a positive sign for the future.



LEAGUE FINISH: 9TH

Highs: Home and away wins against London Skolars; their 46-18 win in the capital in June was their best day of the year.

Lows: Only taking points from six of their 20 league fixtures meant most weeks were a challenge; losing 76-0 at York, and 74-0 at Hunslet, was as bad as it could get.

Respect due: Teenage hooker Connor Farrer looks set for the top; Paul Emanuelli grew into his role; coach Mike Grady navigated a tough first year with pride.

Verdict: Scorpions struggled to get results, but always played with pride. They should be better in 2015 after coming through a difficult campaign with team spirit intact.

EXPERT VIEW

★ TROY PERKINS ★

There looks to be nothing to split Hunslet Hawks and York City Knights in today's Kingstone Press Championship One Grand Final.

We asked an expert, Hemel Stags coach TROY PERKINS, to give us his verdict on what might happen.

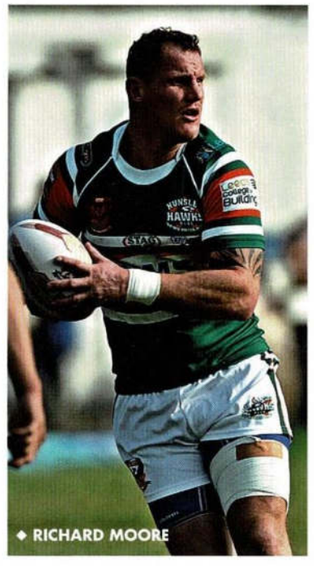
FORWARDS

"I think this is where it will be won and lost.

"Both teams have got big packs, but Oldham probably rely on their pack a bit more than Hunslet.

"Hunslet have added Richard Moore to their front row department, and that's given them more size and toughness up front.

"But I think it's at hooker where Hunslet might just have a tiny edge.



◆ RICHARD MOORE

"David March could be key for the Hawks. He's got some real class and experience, and he's played at a good level. Liam Hood also comes off the bench and is a threat, so Oldham's hookers are going to have to do well today."

BACKS

"Hunslet probably just shade it in the backs; they've a bit more experience, with guys like Danny Maun in the centre. Thomas Coyle is a lively customer, too.

"But this will be a really good battle.

"Both teams have got smart half-backs in Coyle and Steve Roper. They've both been around the block.

"There are threats in the centre for both teams, with Jon Ford going well for Oldham and Maun doing his bit for Hunslet.

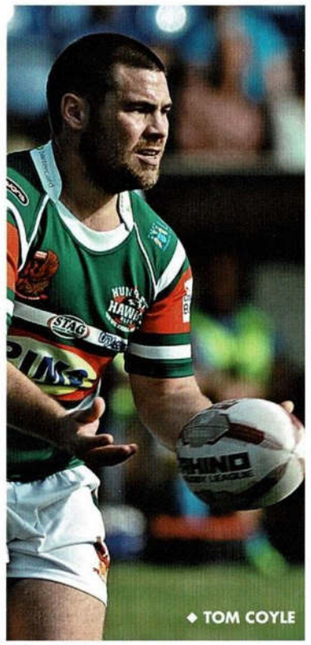
"And Gavin Duffy has been going really well for Hunslet on the wing, scoring lots of tries.

"I don't think there's a lot between the backs, but there's maybe a little bit more experience there for Hunslet."

VERDICT

"Oldham have always been a team that we've spoken about them performing well on their own pitch, but they proved people wrong by going to Hunslet and winning there earlier in the play-offs.

"Oldham have probably got to go in with that little bit more confidence, having beaten Hunslet on their patch in the play-offs, but Hunslet got a good result against



◆ TOM COYLE

York last week, and they can take plenty of confidence from that.

"In terms of how both teams approach the game, Oldham probably rely on their forwards a bit more. They look to play tight and get good rolls on through the middle, whereas Hunslet probably play a bit more of an expansive game. They shift the ball a lot more than Oldham.

"The challenge for Oldham will be to stop Hunslet's go-forward, so when Hunslet go wide they're not playing off momentum and quick ball.

"Hunslet have got to stop Oldham's forwards, and keep strong in the middle.

"It's too close to call."

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

★ ALL STARS TEAM ★

York City Knights players and officials were left celebrating a huge haul of trophies after dominating the Kingstone Press Championship One section of Tuesday's glittering awards ceremony in Manchester.

The Knights, who topped the regular season table by five points, having collected 17 wins and three bonus points from their 20 league fixtures, swept the board at a packed gathering of players, coaches, officials and media.

Seven York players were selected in the Championship One All Stars team.

Ben Reynolds (full-back), James Saltsonstall (wing), Ben Dent (wing), Pat Smith (scrum-half), Jack Lee (hooker), Jack Aldous (prop) and Colton Roche (loose forward) were all named in the mythical team that is chosen by canvassing all Championship One head coaches.

And there was more glory to come for the north Yorkshire club.

Head coach Gary Thornton beat off stiff competition from Troy Perkins, Mike Grady and Stanley Gene to be named Championship One Coach of the Year.

Ben Reynolds, whose attacking brilliance has been a regular feature of York's play in 2014, shared the Championship One Young Player of the Year award with team-mate James Saltonstall.

And Jack Lee, who has been inspirational in many of the Knights's performances, took the top award of Championship One Player of the Year.

Four other clubs were left celebrating their representatives in the All Stars team.

Hunslet Hawks centre Danny Maun earned recognition for his consistent campaign, Gateshead Thunder pair Matty Beharrell (stand-off) and Jason Payne (second row) were also chosen, and Hemel Stags prop Dom Maloney featured in the front row.

Oldham duo Josh Crowley (second row) and Jon Ford (centre) completed the line-up, with Ford being the only player to retain his place in the Championship One All Stars team from 2013.

★ KINGSTONE PRESS ★ CHAMPIONSHIP ONE ALL STARS

1 **BEN REYNOLDS** YORK CITY KNIGHTS	5 **BEN DENT** YORK CITY KNIGHTS	10 **JACK ALDOUS** YORK CITY KNIGHTS
2 **JAMES SALTONSTALL** YORK CITY KNIGHTS	6 **MATTY BEHARRELL** GATESHEAD THUNDER	11 **JOSH CROWLEY** OLDHAM
3 **DANNY MAUN** HUNSLET HAWKS	7 **PAT SMITH** YORK CITY KNIGHTS	12 **JASON PAYNE** GATESHEAD THUNDER
4 **JON FORD** OLDHAM	8 **DOM MALONEY** HEMEL STAGS	13 **COLTON ROCHE** YORK CITY KNIGHTS
	9 **JACK LEE** YORK CITY KNIGHTS	

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

WINNER: JACK LEE YORK CITY KNIGHTS

Shortlisted: Jason Payne (Gateshead Thunder), Ben Reynolds (York City Knights), Pat Smith (York City Knights)

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

WINNERS: BEN REYNOLDS YORK CITY KNIGHTS **JAMES SALTONSTALL** YORK CITY KNIGHTS

Shortlisted: Matty Beharrell (Gateshead Thunder), Connor Farrer (South Wales Scorpions), Mo Agoro (Oldham)

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE COACH OF THE YEAR

WINNER: GARY THORNTON YORK CITY KNIGHTS

Stanley Gene (Gateshead Thunder), Mike Grady (South Wales Scorpions), Troy Perkins (Hemel Stags)

CONFERENCE CHALLENGE

★ TROPHY ★

BY TOM HOYLE

A new name will adorn the Conference Challenge Trophy this afternoon when either West Hull or East Leeds will write their name in the record books.

The Kingstone Press National Conference League heavyweights take a week off from their exertions in the Premier Division as they look to pick up the first silverware of the campaign, and both will take to the pitch at Headingley Carnegie Stadium slightly nervously as they appear in their first trophy final.

Boosted by their big game experience, NCL champions West Hull will go into the contest as slight favourites.

However, Easts will make the short trip across town safe in the knowledge they can match the East Yorkshire club, having already faced them twice in the league this term.

Their first meeting back in May went the way of Wests courtesy of a 22-4 home win, while the second clash came as recently as last weekend, with West Hull doing just enough to win 28-20, a result which keeps them top of the table and on course to finish as league leaders.

The Conference Challenge Trophy was launched in 2012, with Leigh Miners beating Egremont Rangers and Wigan St Patricks in the two previous finals. However, Miners's grip on the trophy was ended with a 46-10 defeat to Wigan St Patricks at the quarter-final stage this year.



◆ CALLUM WINDLEY

WEST HULL

Brett Turner
Jack Lazenby
Tom Radley
Dan Parker
Josh Hart
Ian Kerman
Scott Partis
James Garmston
Callum Windley
Scott Howlett
George Lawler
Louis Crowther
Ryan Steen
Matty Plummer
Sam Cator
Lee Roberts
Lee Cator
Aaron Spaven
Paul Shaw

Wests head coach Mark Hewitt is expecting a fierce battle when his side clash with East Leeds.

"They're a big side, far bigger than us," said Hewitt. "We'll have to deal with their physical presence if we're to get anything out of the game."

Despite beating them both home and away already this season, Hewitt – who is in his sixth year in charge – will not underestimate East Leeds as he looks to add the Conference Challenge Trophy to the NCL title he won last November.

"If you let them get some go-forward they're a tough team to stop. They've got Nathan Conroy at stand-off who's an important player, and we'll also have to watch Declan Tomlinson in the right centre."

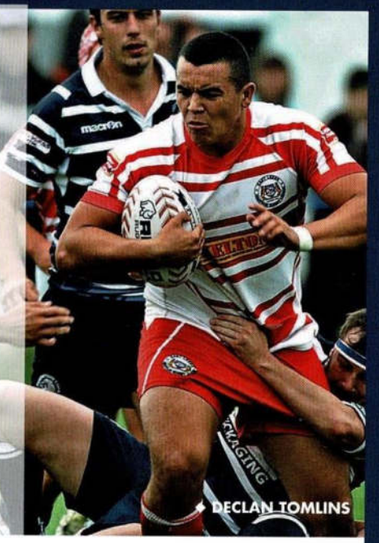
But despite being current NCL champions Hewitt admits he wasn't sure how his side would perform in 2014.

"We lost six of seven players from the Grand Final winning team and have had to rebuild," he said.

"As the season's progressed we've blooded a lot of youngsters, but they've all stepped up to the mark and helped us to top spot with a few weeks of the regular season left. Having a big squad has certainly been a key reason why we've done so well."

EAST LEEDS

Tom Sheldrake
Jordan Normington
Declan Tomlinson
Adam Hartley
Jason Priestley
Nathan Conroy
Ryan Gaunt
Luke Pettman
Luke Tomlinson
George Clarke
Ben Walkin
Jake Normington
Kyle Quinlan
Ashley Stevenson
James Forsell
Lee Priestley
Joey Walkin
Lee Fisher
David Nurse



◆ DECLAN TOMLINS

Peter Clarkson is under no illusion as to the size of the task facing his East Leeds side.

After going down 28-20 last weekend in their league encounter with Wests, Clarkson admits his side must improve.

"West Hull are a very good side and, while I was disappointed with our own performance, I have to hand it to Wests as they were deserved winners. We know we'll have to improve to have any chance."

Clarkson says West Hull are "good across the park", but highlighted hooker Callum Windley as a major threat to his side's chances.

East Leeds are making their debut in the Conference Challenge Trophy, and will be looking to lift it at the first time of asking.

"We didn't enter the competition last year as gaining promotion to the Premier Division was our sole aim. However, after reaching that goal – and with a bigger squad this time around – we thought we'd give it a real go."

ROUTES TO THE FINAL



WEST HULL
Preliminary Round:
n/a
Round One:
Dewsbury Celtic 10 v 46 West Hull
Round Two:
Siddal 10 v 26 West Hull
Quarter-Final:
Thatto Heath Crusaders 4 v 26 West Hull
Semi-Final:
Wigan St Patricks 12 v 20 West Hull



EAST LEEDS
Preliminary Round:
n/a
Round One:
East Leeds 32 v 16 Underbank Rangers
Round Two:
East Leeds 40 v 14 Blackbrook
Quarter-Final:
Normanton Knights 22 v 29 East Leeds
Semi-Final:
Featherstone Lions 10 v 24 East Leeds

★ PREVIOUS WINNERS ★

2013 LEIGH MINERS RANGERS 42 V 14 WIGAN ST PATRICKS

2012 LEIGH MINERS RANGERS 32 V 24 EGREMONT RANGERS

For more information on the Kingstone Press Cider National Conference League visit www.nationalconferenceleague.co.uk or follow @OfficialNCL

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Kingstone Press CHAMPIONSHIPS

STUDENT

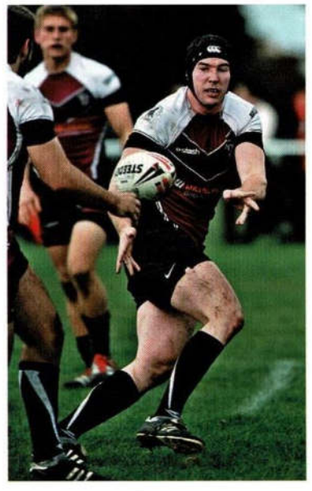
★ RUGBY LEAGUE ★

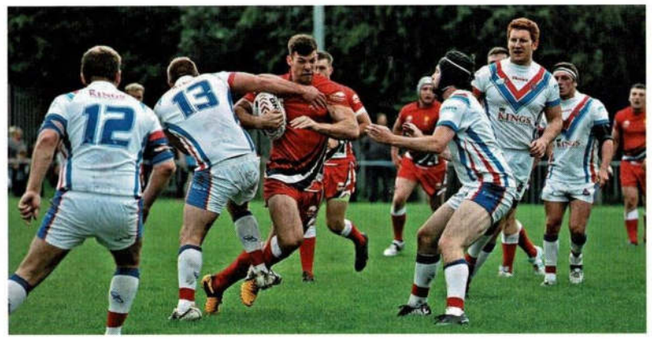
The 2014-15 British Universities and Colleges (BUCS) Rugby League season gets underway on Wednesday, October 15.

BUCS Championship winners Leeds Beckett (formally Leeds Met) are looking to continue their incredible run of nine successive titles, while Loughborough, last season's Southern Premier winners, will be hoping to break their stranglehold after losing to Leeds Met in the last seven Championship finals.

Sheffield Hallam have been promoted to the Northern Premier Division, replacing Liverpool John Moores, and Exeter University will replace Northampton in the Southern Premier.

Aside from the regular Wednesday competition, the RFL has recently launched an exciting new Higher Education Offer. This includes six key priority areas for Higher Educational institutes;





participation, performance, employability, recruitment, income generation and player experience.

Included within the employability strand is the new University Rugby League Volunteering Programme, which is offering 18 student placements during the 2014/15 academic season.

There are 12 media and six volunteering roles available this year, and the positions are currently open for applications and can be found below (QR code).

With thousands of new students attending university during September, supporting clubs with their recruitment campaigns has been a priority for the RFL for the coming season.

As part of this campaign the RFL have launched the new University Rugby League promotional video which features footage from the BUCS finals as well as various aspects of the student representative programme. Please see the QR code below for a link to the video.

The RFL have also launched the Student Guide to Rugby League, a brochure which details the basics of the game, some coaching tips and opportunities to engage in the wider offer.

Higher Education manager James Szymik said: "As an NGB (national governing body) we work closely with our student players to understand how we can improve the competition and their experience of university Rugby League.

"Feedback from our steering group meetings suggested that the majority of our university clubs recruit a lot of players that are new to the sport. The student guide helps to bridge that knowledge gap, and encourage new players to get along to their first session."

For more information on university Rugby League visit www.studentrl.com or follow us on twitter @studentrl

Watch the University Rugby League promo video here

RUGBY LEAGUE

HALL OF FAME

BY KIRSTY SAYNOR

Two more of the greatest players in Rugby League history are to be inducted into the Rugby League Hall of Fame.

The latest legends to join the sport's pantheon will be announced at the Rugby League Hall of Fame dinner in association with Rugby League Cares at the John Smith's Stadium, Huddersfield, on Friday October 17.

The Hall of Fame was established in 1988 to commemorate the greatest ever players in British Rugby League. Each member must have played at least 10 years within the British game and made a contribution to the sport that will last as long as Rugby League is played.

Initially nine players were inducted when the Hall of Fame was opened, including greats such as Billy Boston MBE, Alex Murphy OBE and Harold Wagstaff. Since 1988, 12 more players have been introduced into the sport's most exclusive club.

The identity of the new inductees, chosen by a specially-convened selection panel comprising experienced journalists, broadcasters and administrators, will be announced on Friday October 17, when the new inductees will be joined by many current Hall of Fame members.

Last year saw Lewis Jones, Martin Offiah MBE, Garry Schofield OBE and Mick Sullivan inducted into the Hall of Fame, and RFL Chief Executive Nigel Wood believes that 2014 is another perfect year to celebrate the exploits and talents of Rugby League's ultimate heroes.



◆ (L - R) MARTIN OFFIAH MBE, LEWIS JONES, MICK SULLIVAN AND GARRY SCHOFIELD OBE

"There are 21 outstanding players already in the Hall of Fame and it's right and proper that another two worthy Rugby League players will be joining the illustrious club at such an exciting time for the sport," he said.

"As Rugby League prepares to embrace an exciting new league structure, it's especially important to acknowledge our heritage and celebrate the achievements of the outstanding individuals who have enriched the sport down the years.

"The Hall of Fame dinner is always a great occasion to do that, and we are grateful to Rugby League Cares for their continued support of this important initiative."

Rugby League Cares Chairman Terry Flanagan said: "We're delighted to once again work alongside the RFL to recognise the outstanding achievements of the greatest players to ever grace the game.

"Celebrating our sport's former players, their many achievements and the valuable contribution they make to our great game is one of RL Cares' most important objectives.

"We're extremely proud to have the responsibility of organising the Rugby League Hall of Fame induction dinner, which was an outstanding occasion last year."

Tickets for the Rugby League Hall of Fame dinner in association with Rugby League Cares cost from just £40 (£35 for RL Cares members); VIP tickets cost £75, and £750 for a table of 10.

The dinner will feature a Rugby League heritage display, speeches about the history of the Hall of Fame, as well as a three-course dinner and entertainment throughout the evening.

To book your place at this historic event, please contact RL Cares Membership Manager Katie Irwin on katharine.irwin@RLCares.org.uk

RUGBY LEAGUE

CARES

BY KIRSTY SAYNOR

Rugby League Cares is now in possession of the Rugby League Heritage Collection of memorabilia and historical artefacts after receiving a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The collection, previously housed at the George Hotel in Huddersfield, contains some of the most important memorabilia in Rugby League history, including shirts, caps, programmes and souvenirs from internationals and cup finals from across the world.

The acquisition of the memorabilia and artefacts is just the beginning, with an exciting new project set to take the collection on a Rugby League Heritage touring exhibition around the country over the next 12 months.

Hull History Centre has been chosen as the first venue for the ground-breaking, Heritage Lottery-funded 'Rugby League Heritage on Tour' exhibition.

Opening on Wednesday October 1 and continuing through until Thursday October 23, it tells the story of the game, its players and supporters and, most importantly, the communities that made the sport.

As well as historic memorabilia, including a playing shirt from the first-ever Rugby League Test match and the ball from the famous 1954 Challenge Cup final replay at Odsal Stadium, the exhibition tells the story of the game's split from rugby union, the first World Cup, the banning of league in World War II France and much, much more.

A schools' learning pack that links rugby history with the national curriculum will also be produced.

RFL archivist and Rugby League Cares trustee Professor Tony Collins said: "We're incredibly pleased that we're now able to announce a new era for Rugby League heritage. This is a heritage that encompasses everyone in our game.

"I'm so happy that the Mike Stephenson Collection has been saved, and fans are going to love what will be on show when the tour starts in October. This is just the first step, and there is lots of planning going on behind the scenes for future events.

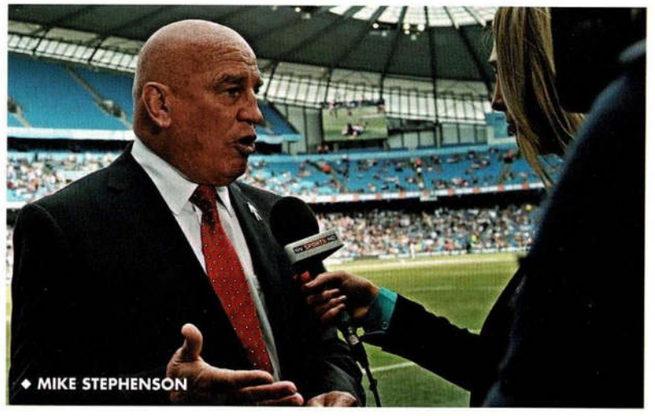
"For me, the most fantastic piece in the collection is an original Northern Union jersey from the 1908 game against New Zealand. To see this shirt just brought home how important this exhibition is. Now the public have the opportunity to see it too."

The collection was previously owned by former Great Britain international Mike Stephenson, better known to millions as Sky Sports commentator Stevo, who said: "I started collecting Rugby League memorabilia when I was 13, and it was sad that after the demise of the George Hotel, I was forced to store the exhibition.

"Now it gives me great pleasure that, after some hard work and lengthy negotiations with the likes of English Heritage, Rugby League Cares, John Smith's Stadium and Huddersfield University, I can smile in the knowledge that the history of our great game will again go on tour.

"My collection will form part of a wonderful exhibition and offer an insight into 'The Greatest Game of All', where young and old can see and feel the history, from the birth on August 29, 1895 up to the present day."

Rugby League Cares



◆ MIKE STEPHENSON

ENGLAND PREVIEW

★ STEVE McNAMARA ★

England coach Steve McNamara wants to use the experience of last year's heart-wrenching last-gasp World Cup semi-final defeat at Wembley as a "driving force" going into the Four Nations, which starts on October 25.

McNamara is today due to announce his Four Nations squad, which includes the announcement of Kevin Sinfield's successor as captain for what will be England's first competitive matches since that semi-final loss almost a year ago.

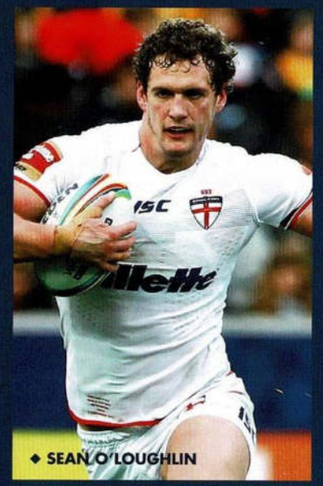
"The feelings of disappointment from the World Cup have gone, and we've got to move on from that and on to the next challenge," said McNamara. "But we will be holding on to some of the feelings from that semi-final and using that to help us drive forward.

"The performance from the England team in that semi-final was, I think a lot of people recognised, up there as one of the best that we've produced for a number of years.

"The players who are involved this year are largely the players who were involved in the World Cup last year, and now we've to try to put that record straight.

"It's huge for the game of Rugby League to have these tournaments throughout the world – international sport is the pinnacle, it's what creates headlines. This year's tournament will have its challenges, but it's a tournament that will grab attention for our game."

Before getting the chance to face Australia and New Zealand, England first have to take on a Samoa team that McNamara believes will be full of quality.



◆ SEAN O'LOUGHLIN

"There's a large number of Samoan players who are high-performing, high-quality players in NRL teams that made it to the competition's final four.

"We've got one or two at the Roosters who've got some really good talent. They're going to be a really big challenge for us."

And McNamara has praised the contribution made by ex-skipper Sinfield during his years with the national squad.

"I'm disappointed, but I fully understand his reasons for retiring.

"You have to remember that Kev has certainly never always had it all his own way at international level. It was probably only 2009 when he really started to establish himself in the England squad.

"It's a really good lesson that he had to work hard, persevere and find his niche at international level. It wasn't plain sailing for him – he wasn't like Andy Farrell, Paul Sculthorpe or Sam Burgess, who physically dominated the game from an early age, so he's been a real success story.

"With the obstacles that he had to overcome, I think you saw the professionalism of him."

★ FOUR NATIONS SCHEDULE ★

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 | BRISBANE
ENGLAND V SAMOA (7.00AM)
AUSTRALIA V NEW ZEALAND (9.30AM)
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1 | WHANGAREI
NEW ZEALAND V SAMOA (3.00AM)
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2 | MELBOURNE
AUSTRALIA V ENGLAND (5.00AM)
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8 | DUNEDIN
NEW ZEALAND V ENGLAND (7.00AM)
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9 | WIN STADIUM
AUSTRALIA V SAMOA (5.00AM)
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15 | WELLINGTON
FOUR NATIONS FINAL (7.45AM)

KINGSTONE PRESS LEAGUE ONE

★ COVENTRY BEARS ★

Coventry Bears are set to become the first Midlands-based club playing professional Rugby League when they enter Kingstone Press League One next year.

As part of the new league structure that comes into force from 2015, the third tier of Rugby League takes on a new 14-club format, paving the way for Coventry to make history.

The Bears, who will participate alongside the third tier's 13 other semi-professional clubs, are based at the 4000-capacity Butts Park Arena in what marks a landmark season for the Midlands club.

Formed as recently as 1998, the past 16 years has seen the club gradually build a sustainable business, capable of making the step up from the community to the professional game.

Coventry managing director Alan Robinson said: "We're delighted to have this opportunity to join the Kingstone Press Championships and are looking forward to playing our full part in the competition.

"The club has worked hard to establish good working relationships in Coventry and across the Midlands, and we now have the partners in place who can help us realise our ambitions."

Coventry have already signalled their intent by landing Welsh international James Geurtjens (pictured) as their first major signing for next year's campaign.

Bears coach Tom Tsang said: "We've been working hard since our promotion was announced to build a competitive squad, and James is the first of several players we'll be announcing over the coming weeks."

He added: "I'm really excited to be having someone of James's quality and experience join us for next season.

"He came highly recommended to us from several sources and, after speaking to the player, it became clear that he would be a great fit for the club and what we're trying to build."

The success of Hemel Stags, Oxford, and University of Gloucestershire All Golds – who were all introduced to the professional game for the 2013 season – gives Tsang confidence as he prepares to build a squad capable of competing in the new League 1.

"We've been looking at those clubs with a keen interest over the past couple of years.

"All three have had players come through at the Bears in some way, so we've an idea about the quality we will need to be successful.

"We're not trying to win the league in the first season. I'm a realist and we're just looking to be as competitive as possible in as many games as we can, but I'm sure there will be a few shocks along the way."

"I'M REALLY EXCITED TO BE HAVING SOMEONE OF JAMES'S QUALITY AND EXPERIENCE JOIN US FOR NEXT SEASON."
TOM TSANG



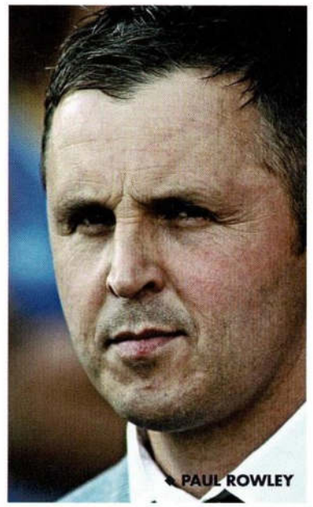
2015 LEAGUE STRUCTURE

#RLNEWERA

Leigh Centurions coach Paul Rowley is one of a host of leading Kingstone Press Championship figures to give his backing to the exciting new league structure that will be introduced in 2015.

Rowley, whose side topped the Championship this year, says that it is only a matter of time before clubs currently outside the First Utility Super League start to force their way into the top flight.

Rowley said: "It's a very difficult pathway, but that opportunity, excitement and challenge has made the whole game meaningful at whatever level you're playing at.



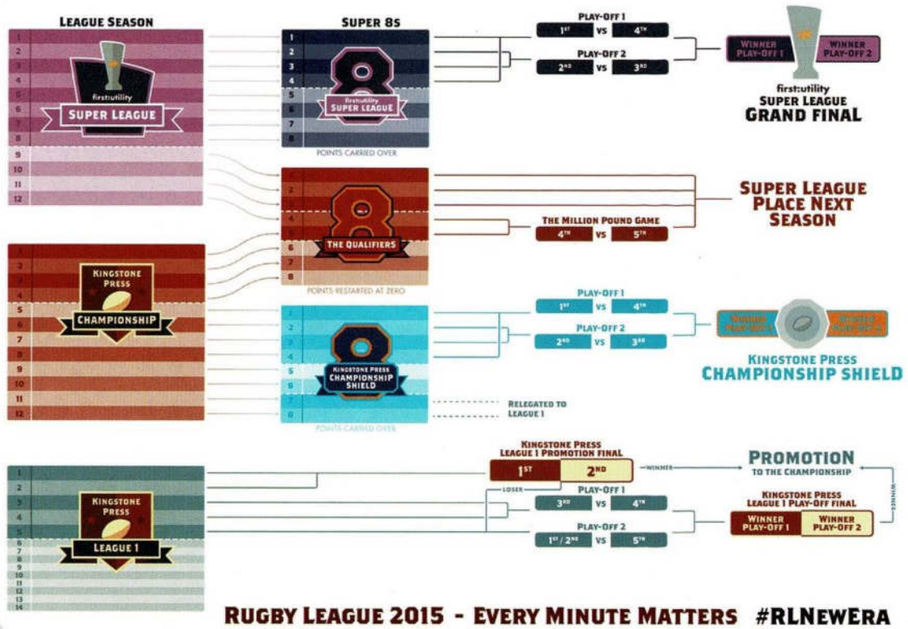
◆ PAUL ROWLEY

"There'll be a lot at stake in every game, and that's got to be good for the game, its sponsorship and corporate revenues, and the players.

"I think, after the first 12 months when everyone has got used to it, you'll see a lot more movement in players between the bottom four Super League clubs and the top four Championship clubs."

He added: "Everyone's ambitious. It's remarkably difficult to get in that top four (of The Qualifiers), and that's the realism of it all, but I don't think there's anything wrong with dreaming.

"It will happen one day; there



RUGBY LEAGUE 2015 - EVERY MINUTE MATTERS #RLNEWERA



◆ 2014 CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

will be somebody who knocks off a Super League club. It's a humongous task, but you never, ever stop dreaming, because now it is achievable. If you buy a raffle ticket often enough, eventually you'll win."

Clubs like Castleford Tigers, who reached this year's Tetley's Challenge Cup final at Wembley, and Huddersfield Giants, the 2013 League Leaders' Shield winners, have proven that success is possible even after being relegated from the top flight.

Dewsbury Rams coach Glenn Morrison, a former Bradford Bulls favourite who has experienced life in both Super League and the Championship, is also positive about the changes.

Morrison said: "It's good. You want to make a league that's exciting for the fans right the way through the year, and this definitely does that.

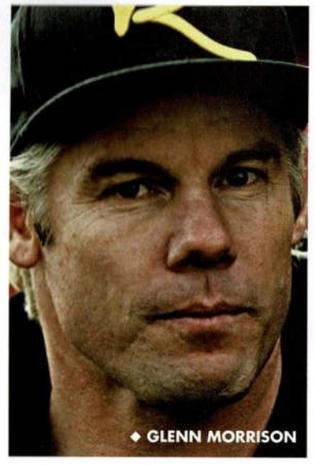
"For Championship clubs that have got Super League hopes, it gives them a chance to get there.

"And for a club like ourselves, if we perform well, we'll have a chance to play Super League sides - and financially that would be fantastic.

"I'm sure everybody will buy into it, because it gives everybody a chance to get where they want to be."

Championship One coach of the year Gary Thornton, who steered York City Knights to the League Leaders' Shield this year, echoed Morrison's sentiments.

Thornton said: "It's good for teams to have something to aim for, and I like the split into the three eights because it gives teams something to play for to the end of the season - whether that's avoiding relegation or getting up to the next tier.



◆ GLENN MORRISON



◆ GARY THORNTON

"I'm very enthusiastic about it, and hopefully we can get up to that Championship. If we could put on a fixture like York v Bradford Bulls, that would be fantastic. This structure has opened up that opportunity for teams like York to play against the big boys and, from a fan's perspective, that's a good thing."

And Hunslet Hawks coach Barry Eaton believes a key part of the new structure was "vital" for Rugby League's future.

Eaton said: "Bringing back promotion and relegation was vital for the game.

"It was really important that teams could gain promotion and, if you're not doing well enough, you get relegated and a team replaces you and has an opportunity themselves - that's right and proper.

"With promotion and relegation, the excitement will certainly continue for the fans."

CHAMPIONSHIP

★ SUMMER BASH ★

A NEW ERA, A NEW CONCEPT – THE SUMMER BASH IS HEADING TO BLACKPOOL

Kingstone Press Championship clubs will bear down on Bloomfield Road over the Bank Holiday weekend of May 23 and 24, 2015 for an exciting new addition to the Rugby League calendar.

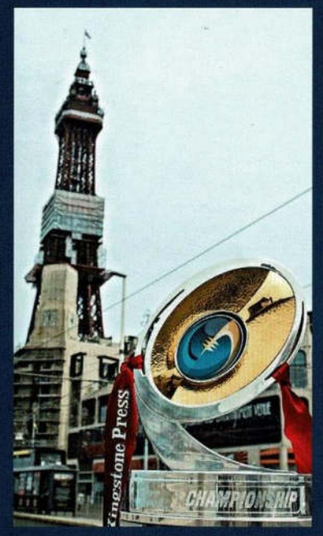
The Summer Bash will showcase a full round of Championship fixtures across an action-packed, two-day festival of Rugby League.

Six fixtures, compiled from the 12 clubs which will make up the new-look Championship from 2015 as part of the new structure, will be played back-to-back over 48 hours. The finalised fixtures, three of which will be played on each day, are due to be announced in mid-November.

In a concept similar to that of Super League's Magic Weekend, the Summer Bash will boast a range of amusements and activities, including live music, a Fanzone, social media interactions and on-pitch entertainment.

The world-famous seaside resort created magical memories for Championship fans between 2005 and 2012 when it staged the Northern Rail Cup final, and the Summer Bash is expected to become a popular feature of the Championship season.

Well over 60,000 fans rocked Blackpool across the eight years that Bloomfield Road hosted the second tier's exclusive knockout tournament final, and RFL Chief Operating Officer Ralph Rimmer anticipates an even greater interest



in an event that is sure to capture the imagination.

Rimmer said: "We're delighted that the Kingstone Press Championship will head to Blackpool for the Summer Bash in 2015.

"It's an exciting concept and a fantastic addition to the new-look Championship, as we head into a new era of Rugby League.

"I'm sure fans of all the clubs involved will embrace the idea – it's an event that will become a regular and highly-anticipated feature of the Championship calendar.

"With so much accommodation choice for every Rugby League fan over the Bank Holiday weekend, Blackpool is the perfect destination for the Summer Bash.

"WE'RE DELIGHTED THAT THE KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP WILL HEAD TO BLACKPOOL FOR THE SUMMER BASH IN 2015."

"It's one of the most famous holiday destinations in the country, there is an enormous number of attractions in the area and, alongside two enthralling days of Rugby League, it represents the perfect opportunity for fans to make the most of their Bank Holiday weekend.

"Blackpool has provided the backdrop to some epic Rugby League matches down the years, and the restoration of promotion and relegation from 2015, when every minute of every game matters, will produce drama of the highest quality."

Finalised fixtures for the Summer Bash, which will take place across the Bank Holiday weekend of Saturday May 23 and Sunday May 24, 2015, are due to be announced in mid-November.

Ticket details will be announced later in the year, with information available from www.rugbyleaguetickets.co.uk

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE FINAL

★ SQUADS ★

HUNSLET HAWKS RLFC "SO WE SHALL AGAIN"

HEAD COACH
BARRY EATON

		T	G	DG
1	STUART KAIN			
2	JIMMY WATSON			
3	LEE BRICKWOOD			
4	DANNY MAUN			
6	THOMAS COYLE			
8	MICHAEL HALEY			
9	DAVID MARCH			
10	JAMES HOUSTON			
11	JOHN OAKES			
12	AARON LYONS			
16	LEWIS REED			
20	DANNY ANSELL			
26	LIAM MACKAY			
27	LIAM HOOD			
31	LUKE BRISCOE			
36	GAVIN DUFFY			
37	JAMES DUCKWORTH			
38	RICHARD MOORE			
40	LUKE HARDBOTTLE			



★★★★★★★★★

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
J COBB

VIDEO REFEREE:
P BENTHAM

TOUCH JUDGE:
P GRAHAM

TOUCH JUDGE:
L MOORE

RESERVE REFEREE:
C KENDALL

RESERVE TOUCH JUDGE:
M GRIFFITHS

MATCH COMMISSIONER:
A SMITH

TIME KEEPER:
K LEYLAND

★★★★★★★★★

GOLDEN POINT

In the event of the scores being tied after 80 minutes, the final will be determined by golden point extra-time.

★★★★★★★★★

HEAD COACH
SCOTT NAYLOR

		T	G	DG
1	ADAM CLAY			
2	MO AGORO			
3	BEN WOOD			
4	STEVEN NIELD			
5	DALE BLOOMFIELD			
6	LEWIS PALFREY			
7	BRETT ROBINSON			
8	PHIL JOY			
9	SAM GEE			
10	JASON BOULTS			
11	JOSH CROWLEY			
12	DANNY LANGTREE			
13	MARK HOBSON			
14	GARETH OWEN			
15	PADDY MOONEY			
16	KENNY HUGHES			
19	MICHAEL WARD			
20	GEORGE TYSON			
21	DAVID COOKSON			
22	LIAM THOMPSON			
25	JON FORD			
26	STEVE ROPER			
28	NATHAN MASON			

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PITCH
The RFL requests that spectators do not venture on to the pitch before, during or after the game. Such action is against ground safety regulations and the RFL reserves the right to take any action against any person who infringes these regulations.

DRINKAWARE.CO.UK
Rugby League is a family sport and our matches take place in a fantastic environment. We want all our fans to have a good time, however we encourage everyone to drink responsibly.

TACKLE IT
The RFL's 'Tackle It' policy states that it will not tolerate any discriminatory behaviour regarding race, religion, gender, sexuality, disability or age and that action will be taken against spectators who engage in any abusive chanting or intimidation. Action will also be taken against spectators who use foul and abusive language.

Kingstone Press CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

SQUADS

CASTLEFORD TIGERS

HEAD COACH
PAUL ROWLEY

		T	G	DG
1	GREGG MCNALLY			
2	STEVE MADEN			
3	STUART LITTLER			
4	TOM ARMSTRONG			
5	ALEX BROWN			
6	MARTYN RIDYARD			
7	RYAN BRIERLEY			
8	TOM SPENCER			
9	BOB BESWICK			
10	OLIVER WILKES			
11	MATTHEW SARSFIELD			
12	TOMMY GOULDEN			
13	SAM BARLOW			
14	SEAN PENKYWICZ			
15	LIAM KAY			
16	MARTIN ASPINWALL			
17	MATT GARDNER			
18	JAMIE ACTON			
19	MICK GOVIN			
20	ANDY THORNLEY			
22	ADAM HIGSON			
23	JONATHAN POWNALL			
24	CRAIG BRISCOE			
25	MICHAEL OSTICK			
26	RYAN DUFFY			
27	ANTHONY BATE			
28	JOE BULLOCK			
29	JAKE EMMITT			
30	KURT HAGGERTY			
31	CAMERON PITMAN			
33	JOHNNY WALKER			
34	MICHAEL PLATT			
35	SAM HOPKINS			
36	CHRIS HANKINSON			

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
M THOMASON

VIDEO REFEREE:
B THALER

TOUCH JUDGE:
S ANSELL

TOUCH JUDGE:
S KILPATRICK

RESERVE REFEREE:
D MERRICK

RESERVE TOUCH JUDGE:
I SCOTT

MATCH COMMISSIONER:
N ROBINSON

TIME KEEPER:
L FAIRBANK

GOLDEN POINT

In the event of the scores being tied after 80 minutes, the final will be determined by golden point extra-time.

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

HEAD COACH
ANDY HAY

		T	G	DG
1	IAN HARDMAN			
2	WILL SHARP			
3	GREG WORTHINGTON			
6	JACK BUSSEY			
7	GARETH MOORE			
8	STEVE CROSSLEY			
9	ANDY ELLIS			
10	KEEGAN HIRST			
11	JAMES LOCKWOOD			
12	TIM SPEARS			
13	MATT JAMES			
14	GEORGE FLANAGAN			
15	MATTY DALE			
16	ANDY BOSTOCK			
17	MATTY NICHOLSON			
18	JAMIE CORDING			
21	LIAM WALMSLEY			
22	JAMES MENDEIKA			
23	ANDY KAIN			
27	ETU UAISELE			
28	SAM SMEATON			
29	JACK ORMONDROYD			
30	LUKE TEASDALE			
31	SEAN PICK			
35	JASON CROOKES			
36	BEN BLACKMORE			
37	LIAM KENT			
38	KYLE TROUT			
42	CHRIS ANNAKIN			

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PROUD TO BE PART OF THE LINE UP.



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THE RUGBY LEAGUE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY

