

TODAY'S SQUADS



1 NIELD Steven	Oldham Self Storage 0161 665 2723
2 CLAY Adam	Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991
4 HOLMES, Jack	Oasis Academy Oldham
5 WARD, Jarrod	Beauchamp Properties
6 PALFREY, Lewis	Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991
7 ROPER, Steve	Les and Eileen Davison
8 JOY, Phil	Pam Taylor and TTX
9 GEE, Sam	John and Lynda McAndrew
10 NEAL, Adam	ORSA
11 CROWLEY, Josh	John and Lynda McAndrew
12 LANGTREE, Danny	Charlotte Gothard and Daniel Haigh
13 THOMPSON, Liam	ORSA
14 FILES, Adam	Rita Walton
15 OWEN, Gareth	Bev, Kelly and Paul Hulbert
16 HUGHES, Kenny	Rita Walton
17 TYSON, George	Mick Harrop
18 JOY, Richard	Frankie and Benny's, Oldham 0161 624 7745
19 WARD, Michael	Sylvia, David and Margaret
20 DEMPSEY, Tom	WILSCAFF 07855 265071
22 MASON, Nathan	ORLFC Players' Association
23 FORD, Jonathan	Oasis Academy Oldham
ASHTON, Tom	



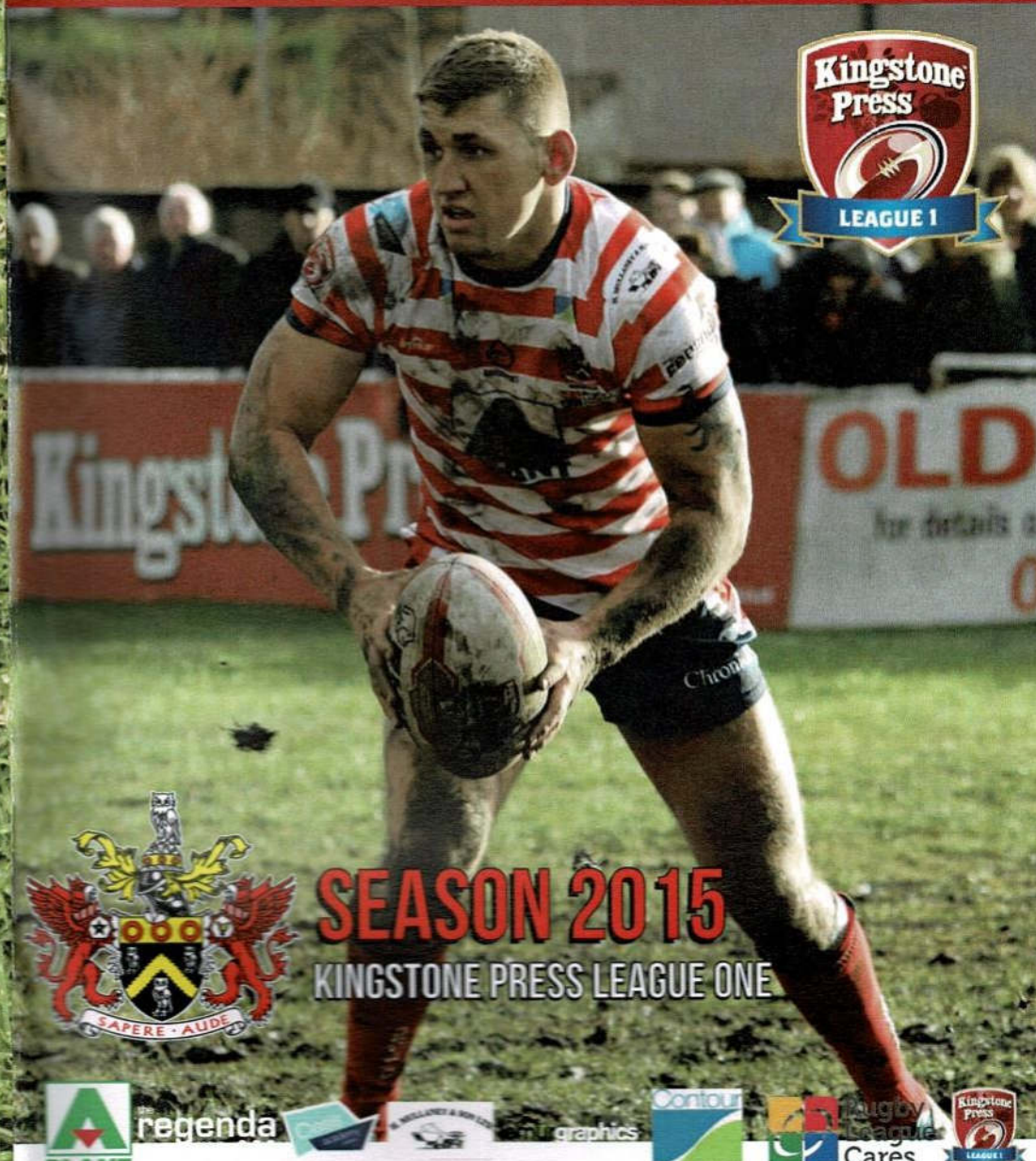
Troy Brophy
Liam Scott
Stephen Coleman
Edward Medforth
Andy Winfield
Dan Poulton
Cameron Boulter
James Geuryjens
Alex Brown
Matt Cooper
Liam Thompson
Chris Barratt
Simon Phillips
Dylan Bale
David O'Connor
John Aldred
Ben Tyers
Martyn Rothwell
Rob Easthorpe
Ben Parry
Conor Kelly

OLDHAM V **COVENTRY BEARS**

SUNDAY 12th
APRIL 2015
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MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ROUGHYEDS



SEASON 2015
KINGSTONE PRESS LEAGUE ONE



regenda



graphics



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TJ: N Bennett Res: C Astbury

Match commissioner: N Robinson

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RUGBY TO THE CORE.



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of Rugby League



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X --- O X O
NATTER WITH NOBBY
O X --- O X

HELLO and welcome to today's game against Coventry Bears at the Whitebank Stadium.

It's very rare to be playing a team for the third time in six weeks, but that's what today's game is. Both teams will know everything they need to know about each other so it should be a closer encounter than the previous two games offered up.

Coventry have already won their first league game this season which is a tremendous start for them and I'm sure their confidence will be very high today and their attitude and effort will be first-class.

I was impressed with the Bears in the two games we've played this year and I'm in no doubt they will continue to win games this season as they continue to progress and improve as a team and as a club.

They are well coached and very

professional in their manner and the way they handle themselves on and off the pitch is a credit to their staff and players.

Our game last Friday against Rochdale was a gritty and tough performance, full of heart and character.

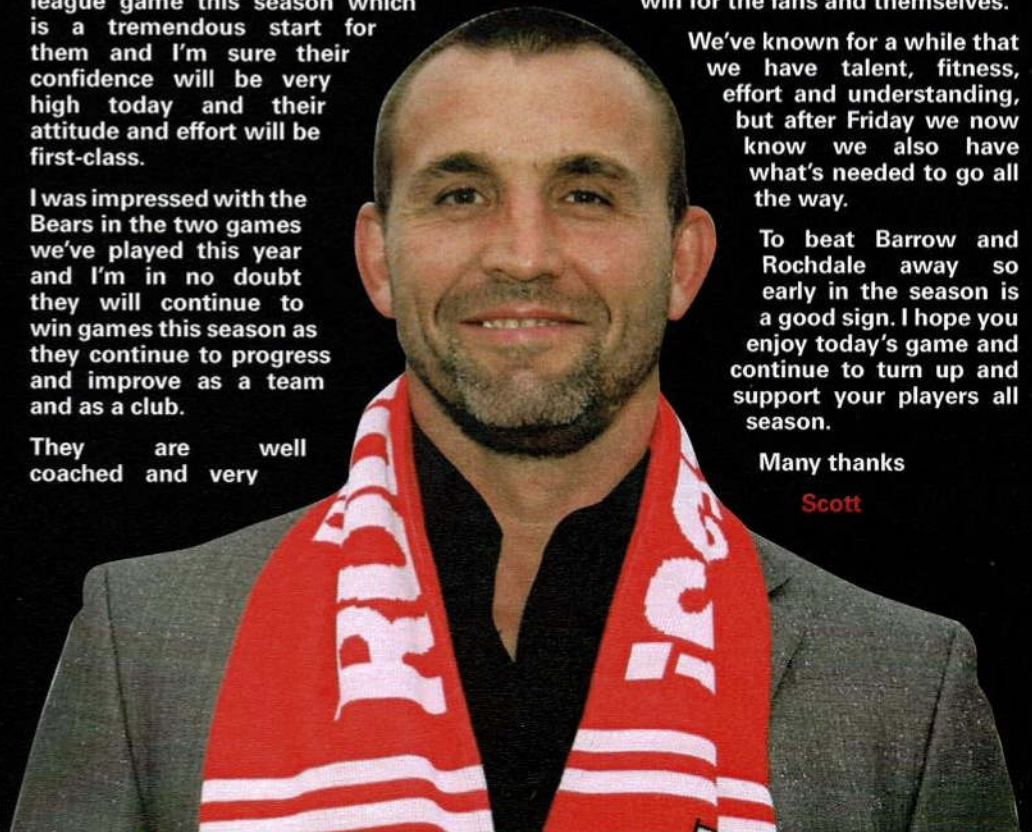
To come from 12-0 down to win 23-16 and keep Rochdale from scoring another try from ten minutes into the game until the end shows the extent of the desire we have in our bunch of lads this season to win for the fans and themselves.

We've known for a while that we have talent, fitness, effort and understanding, but after Friday we now know we also have what's needed to go all the way.

To beat Barrow and Rochdale away so early in the season is a good sign. I hope you enjoy today's game and continue to turn up and support your players all season.

Many thanks

Scott





Behind Closed Doors with... JARROD WARD

Who are your heroes or people you look up to ?

My Dad and Aussie star Billy Slater.

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

I'm big into clay pigeon shooting, #topshot.

What is the highlight of your career so far ?

Debut for Bradford Bulls at 16. but hoping it will be winning the league this year.

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

Charlie Sheen & Katy Perry.



If your house was hit by an earthquake what would you save first ?

My little boy, Oscar.

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

Gaz (Gareth Owen). He's been on form these past few weeks.

Which TV programme would you never miss ?

'Duck Dynasty', I think they're all mad.

What was the last book you read ?

'Mickey Mouse Fun House' (to my little boy).

What's your favourite type of music ?

Bit of everything; before a game Eminem.

How do you relax after a match ?

Without fail, movie and a takeaway.

Finally . . . tell me a secret.

When I was young I was competing to become a professional swimmer in Scotland.

A CHAT WITH CHRIS



GOOD afternoon and welcome back to Whitebank for the final part of our ten-day rugby league trilogy.

This will be our second league game of the season following the great opening-day win away at local rivals Rochdale on Good Friday.

While these notes had to be written before the iPro Sport semi-final against North Wales Crusaders there is no doubt the last few days have been exciting thanks to the result at Spotland and then the semi-final coming so soon afterwards.

Today sees the return of Coventry Bears to Whitebank for the third time in their first four games - you couldn't script it could you?

Importantly for them, their other match was their opening League One fixture on Good Friday when they gained a very creditable 32-10 win at home to Oxford.

We know from the matches we have already played against them that we will need to be up for a physical battle if we are to get another win on the board and keep up the momentum in the league campaign.

For our lads it is all about being strong, mentally and physically, to get through this third match against

opponents who will want to improve on their fortunes of their previous two visits in the iPro Sport Cup and the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup.

I was interested to see, once again, some of the surprise results in Super League over Easter, particularly on the Monday when players were backing up for their second match in four days.

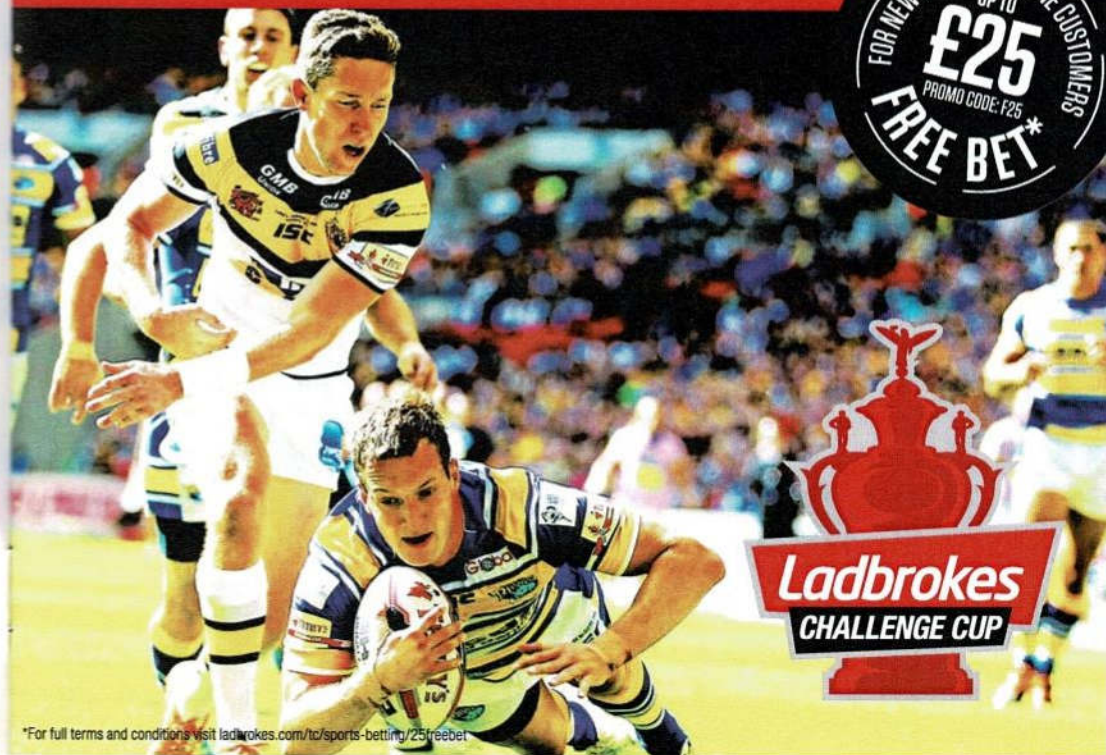
Playing twice over Easter has long been a bone of contention for a lot of coaches, who have expressed their frustration at a situation that has often seen top teams losing games they would normally expect to win.

Saints losing at home to Hull, who went into the game joint bottom, was a perfect example — and with so much at stake it will be interesting to see just how influential these results are come the end of the season.

Back to today and, as ever, your support is vital. The noise you create and the encouragement you give to the team always makes a big difference - Please keep it up . . . and enjoy the game.

Chris

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'Able' Kane

gets Naylor nod of approval

SCOTT Naylor has again lauded the "excellent" work of the latest addition to his backroom team --- Kane Daniels.

Daniels (23) has succeeded Mike Hughes as our head of strength and conditioning, while retaining his full-time appointment at Huddersfield Giants where he is responsible for the physical well-being of more than 50 young players in the Super League club's academy.

Although his Whitebank appointment is a direct spin-off of our dual-registration partnership with Huddersfield, Kane is working part-time for us on a contract negotiated with Roughyeds and paid by us.

He was the man in charge of conditioning throughout our tough and hugely demanding pre-season programme.

Scott spoke highly of his work several weeks ago and reiterated it after our win at Rochdale on Good Friday when we came from 12-0 down to win 23-16 with 11 points in the last quarter of an hour.

In many ways it was a similar performance to the one we put in at Barrow where we also won after conceding two tries early on.

In his post-match analysis at Spotland after the derby, Scott said: "We are a very fit squad thanks to our partnership with Huddersfield Giants and the help they have given us in this respect.

"Kane Daniels is doing a great job for us as conditioner, but a lot of credit must also go to the players who have bought into his methods and his enthusiasm and done all

the hard work that was asked of them.

"We are finishing strongly and in a competitive division in which there are going to be a lot of close scores you need to finish strongly.

"Also, we haven't used up our full allocation of replacements, and that's been the case in several games — another marker to the quality of our fitness and durability."

It was Scott's second public acknowledgement of Kane's prowess in conditioning and the affect his work has had on the mental and physical toughness of our players.

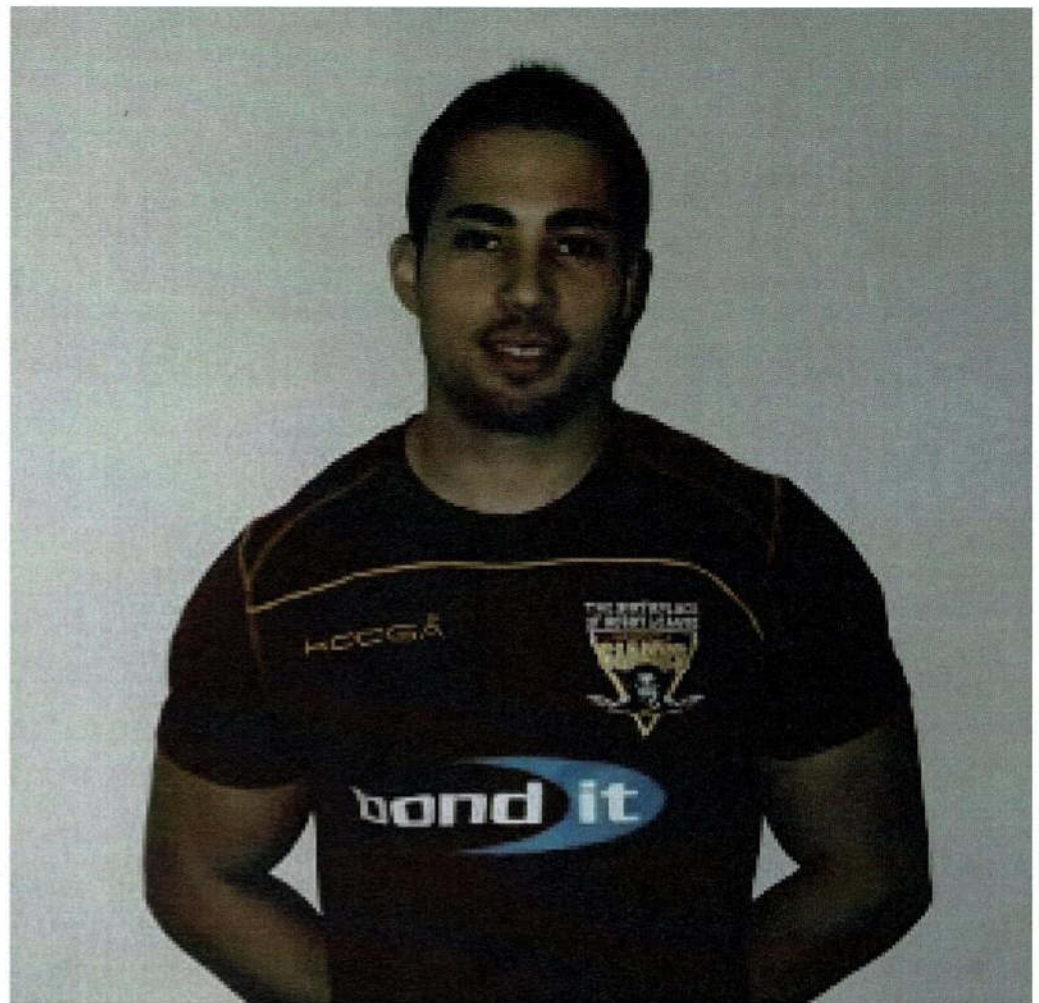
He said earlier: "Kane has come to us with a Super League background and with new ideas and methods.

"Mike Hughes has left to go to Australia, but we have an excellent replacement in Kane, whose gym and general conditioning sessions are very different to anything we've done previously.

"He is very professional and everything he does with the squad is well organised and well run.

"I've seen a huge difference in the squad's fitness levels during the time Kane has been with us."

Club captain Lewis Palfrey also spoke highly of Daniels, while assistant boss Lee Spencer revealed that he and the Giants' man were working in close partnership on



the fitness and conditioning programme, thus freeing up head coach Naylor to concentrate on football matters.

Daniels joined Huddersfield in 2013 and is now the club's head of strength and conditioning at academy level, looking after players from under-15s through to under-19s.

He's a graduate in sport and exercise science from Leeds Beckett University and he has also studied similar disciplines from Victoria University in Melbourne. While in Australia, he worked in the AFL.

His work with the Giants' elite youngsters takes in nutrition, conditioning, gym sessions, speed, agility and rehabilitation.

Said Kane: "I aim to equip the next generation of Giants players with the athletic attributes required to excel in Super League rugby.

"At Oldham my brief is to help the club to win promotion and to that end I want to see Roughyeds with the best physically equipped squad in the division by creating strong, explosive, robust athletes with high levels of rugby-specific fitness capacities."



APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Excluding the mid-week semi final)

	App	DG	Gls	Tries	Pts
BROUGHTON, Jodie	1	-	-	2	8
CLAY, Adam	5	-	-	7	28
CROWLEY, Josh	5	-	-	4	16
FILES, Adam	4	-	-	-	-
FORD, Jon	2	-	-	-	-
GEE, Sam	5	-	-	2	8
HOLMES, Jack	5	-	-	2	8
HUGHES, Kenny	4	-	-	-	-
JOHNSON, Josh	1	-	-	-	-
JOY, Phil	5	-	-	-	-
LANGTREE, Danny	2	-	-	-	-
LEARMONTH, Micky	2	-	-	2	8
MASON, Nathan	3	-	-	1	4
NEAL, Adam	5	-	-	1	4
NEILD, Steven	1	-	-	-	-
OWEN, Gareth	5	-	-	-	-
PALFREY, Lewis	5	-	22	1	48
ROBERTS, Oliver	1	-	-	-	-
ROPER, Steve	5	1	1	-	3
THOMPSON, Liam	5	-	-	1	4
TYSON, George	5	-	-	1	4
WARD, Jarrod	5	-	-	3	12
WARD, Michael	4	-	-	2	8



Liam Thompson in action last time we played Coventry

Hull KR trio help Bears to a winning start

Focus on today's visitors

RUGBY League's new era had extra special significance in the Midlands on Good Friday when Coventry Bears made their debut in Kingstone Press League One and set off in style by beating Oxford 32-10 at Butts Park Arena, watched by a crowd of more than 700.

It was a fixture in which the Bears gave debuts to three young loan players from Hull KR and which underlined the exciting geographical diversity that this third-tier competition brings to our sport.

Since the newcomers were beaten here at Whitebank last month in both the iPro Sport Cup and the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup they have strengthened considerably by recruiting the talented trio from Humberside as well as young Matt Reid, a second-row forward or centre from North Wales Crusaders.

The Hull KR boys are all full-time members of the Rovers senior squad, having starred in their club's under-19s side last year which reached the play-offs for the first time.

Matthew Marsh (stand-off) and Connor Robinson (scrum-half) were the regular half-backs and Marsh was rewarded with the Rovers' 2014 Young Player of the Year award.

Another outstanding member of the side was the Bears' third player from the Robins, 19-year-old Josh Guzdek, a highly-rated full-back or wing.

Like Reid from the Crusaders, the Hull KR boys have each signed on loan for one month initially with a view to a longer stay in the Midlands.

The team that got the Bears off to a winning start lined up like this: Brophy; Guzdek, Medforth, Coleman, Hunte; Sheen, Marsh; Geurtjens, Brown, Cooper, Thompson, Barratt, Phillips. Subs: Robinson, Hall, Calvert, Taylor.

The start of the League One season was met with unbridled optimism by everyone involved with the club.

Bears captain Simon Phillips said: "We had two pre-season games and we lost one and won one. Being a team in the Midlands, a lot of the lads have come from rugby union so they're still learning the game and we have a few young guys here too but it's all starting to come together.

"Losing those two games against Oldham was a shock. Being new to the league, we didn't really know what to expect but I guess you learn more from losses than wins.

"We know what areas we need to work on now. This is completely new for us but I guess other teams aren't going to know what to expect from us either."

Phillips was recruited from Australian club North Devils in Brisbane, having previously played for the North Queensland Cowboys in the NRL.

The 31-year-old says he has settled in well and being from a Rugby League-mad nation, he hopes the Bears can help to promote the game in the Midlands, as well as establish themselves in League One.

"It's been a good experience so far. The club have been great with me and my family and I'm thoroughly enjoying it," he said.

"Coming from Australia, where everyone loves Rugby League, it's a big change to be in the English Midlands which is a region you don't generally associate with the sport.

"It's important to the club to develop Rugby League in this area and I know that there is a lot of attention on the University team. The lads have also been going into schools. It's part and parcel of being a part of this team, we have a duty to promote both the club and the sport.

"The goal for us this season is to get as far up the table as we can and to be pushing for the play-offs. We won't be too disheartened if we don't get there because it's going to be a big ask but we'll be pushing as hard as we can because we don't want to finish at the bottom of the table."



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME to Whitebank everyone at the start of our home games in the restructured Kingstone Press League One.

You might already have noticed that there is a major change this season in the allocation of league points. The bonus point has been scrapped and we revert to the traditional method of two points for a win, one for a draw and nil for a defeat.

With more games this year and a much later start to the league programme it means we will be in action

almost every weekend from now to the start of the play-offs in September without those frustrating blank Sundays when it is easy for supporters to find other things to do on a summer weekend.

We got off to a great start with our opening-day win at Spotland and, as a result of the new divisional set-up, which has resulted in five teams coming down from last season's Championship, we can look forward once again to derby games at Whitebank against Rochdale Hornets and Swinton Lions.

Unlike last year, we will also have attractive home fixtures against the three other sides who were in the Championship in 2014, namely North Wales Crusaders, who are well known for their good away following, Keighley Cougars and Barrow Raiders.

There are 14 teams in the competition, including newcomers Coventry Bears, but teams play four of their opponents only once.

The four teams Oldham play only once are Coventry Bears, who are here today, South Wales Scorpions, away; York City Knights, at home; and Hemel Stags, away.

Each of our 11 league games at Whitebank is on a

Sunday with a 3pm kick-off, but the away games at North Wales Crusaders on Sunday, July 26 and Hemel Stags on Sunday, August 9 start at 2.30pm.

Barrow Raiders are playing most of their home games on Saturday evenings and we go to Craven Park on Saturday, May 9, kick off 6.30pm.

For our full fixture list – and results to date – refer to our 'fixtures and results' page towards the back of this programme.

After today our next home game is against London Skolars on Sunday, April 26. Hope to see you then,

Roger Halstead



Adam Neal

Neal, Tyson in team of the month

CONGRATS to Adam Neal and George Tyson on their inclusion in 'Rugby League World' magazine's Kingstone Press League One's team of the month for March.

Both are picked in a strong-looking pack, Adam at prop as you would expect and George in the second-row, although he has been producing eye-catching performances for us recently in the centre.

Other Roughyeds nominees, who narrowly failed to get into the final 13, were Adam Clay, Steve Roper and Michael Ward.

Well done boys — keep up the good work.

Top team for March:

Chris Atkin (Swinton Lions); Rob Massam (North Wales Crusaders), Alex Thompson

(North Wales Crusaders), Chris Hankinson (Barrow Raiders), Lee Mapals (Newcastle Thunder); Benn Hardcastle (Newcastle Thunder), Liam Campbell (Barrow Raiders); Mark Mexico (Newcastle Thunder), Andy Ackers (Swinton Lions), ADAM NEAL (OLDHAM), Gary Middlehurst (North Wales Crusaders), GEORGE TYSON (OLDHAM), Adam Nicholson (Barrow Raiders).

While on the topic of 'Rugby League World' it's always interesting to hear or read about what others think of you.

In the magazine's March issue they did a 2015 preview of the League One season, predicting where each club would finish.

We were down to finish SIXTH out of 14, which would put us out of the play-offs, given



George Tyson

that they feature 1 or 2 v 5 and 3 v 4.

Interestingly (and it will be good to take a look at this again at the end of the season) this is how 'Rugby League World' thinks the table will finish up:

North Wales Crusaders

Keighley Cougars

Rochdale Hornets

Barrow Raiders

Swinton Lions

OLDHAM

Newcastle Thunder

York City Knights

Hemel Stags

London Skolars

Gloucester All Golds

Oxford

South Wales Scorpions

Coventry Bears

Plenty of motivational material there then for both Rougheds and Coventry, both of whom got their league campaigns off to a great start on Good Friday.

Banker bet ? Coventry won't finish bottom.

As part of the same feature Gareth Owen is named as 'one to watch' and Adam Neal is said to be a 'key gain'.

New-boy Tom getting ready for action

.....
WE are delighted to confirm that we have strengthened our squad by signing Sheffield Eagles' young centre Tom Ashton on a contract to the end of this season.

Leigh-born Tom, aged 22, was at Sheffield for more than three years and had resigned for 2015.

For much of that time he lived in Mossley and had a part-time job outside rugby, but on moving back to live in Leigh and getting full-time employment in Stockport he found it impossible to fulfil his commitments to Sheffield Eagles.

He needed a club nearer home so he asked for his release from Sheffield — and got it.

"Two or three other League One clubs were also interested, but when I talked to Oldham and trained with them a couple of times it just felt right for me," said Ashton.

"There was a buzz in the air and everybody seemed very ambitious."

Ashton became our second centre signing in six days, following the return to Whitebank, for a third loan spell, of Salford's Jon Ford.

Unlike Ford, who was here in 2013 and again in 2014, Ashton will be given two or three weeks in which to familiarise himself with the Roughyeds' systems, style of play and coaching methods before being considered for his debut.

Said coach Scott Naylor: "When we heard Tom was available we followed it up immediately because he has a lot of qualities to his game.

"It will take him a bit of time to get used to us, and to understand what we are trying to achieve, but I am looking forward to working with him and seeing him reaching a position in which he has earned his place in the team."

As a boy, Ashton spent seven years at Leigh Miners before switching codes to join Sale Sharks academy and later making his semi-pro debut at Preston Grasshoppers, aged 17.

Within a year he was back in rugby league with Sheffield, playing mainly in the academy

but earning a first-team contract in 2014 when he made eight senior appearances and scored a try against Castleford in the Challenge Cup.

"I hope I can add something to what everyone is trying to achieve at Whitebank," said Ashton, who was at school in Leigh with his new Roughyeds team mate George Tyson.

KEEPING ABREAST OF THE RULES

.....
FOUR rule changes, relating to concussion, referrals to the video referee, obstruction and use of the sin-bin, have been introduced this year.

- Changes to the obstruction policy will favour the attacking side and remove ambiguity that caused confusion among players and fans last season.
- Teams will be allowed an additional 'free' interchange if an injured player needs a pitch-side concussion assessment — a move designed to safeguard even further players who receive head injuries.
- Offences for which players can be sin-binned will be cut from seven to four to encourage referees to impose immediate sanctions and thus reduce the number of 'on report' decisions.
- A new law on the use of video referees will bring the sport in this country in line with Australia's NRL in which the referee is required to signal his decision first even if he then goes 'upstairs' for the video official to look at whether there is enough evidence to over-rule him.

RFL chief executive Nigel Wood said: "These changes will enhance the sport for players, spectators, coaches and TV viewers alike by making the laws of the game as simple and unambiguous as possible."

Fans should also note that the 'bonus point' system of rewarding teams which lose by 12 points or fewer has now been abolished. We now return to the straightforward former system of two points for a win, one for a draw and nil for a defeat.



All-action Kenny Hughes

News from HQ

Prostate Cancer UK links up with Rugby League Cares

STARS from all 12 First Utility Super League clubs proudly stand side by side as one super team - Men United - as Prostate Cancer UK links up with Rugby League Cares.

The three-year tie-up with the charitable arm of the RFL will see the forward-thinking charity continue to set the tone across the sporting landscape.

As part of the partnership, Prostate Cancer UK will establish relationships across the sport and work with clubs from Super League to the community game on a host of projects.

One of the biggest dates on the calendar, Magic Weekend, will also see Prostate Cancer UK's ever-growing Men United movement take over Newcastle for an unforgettable weekend of entertainment on May 30 and 31 - on and off the St James' Park pitch.

Fans can win one of two pairs of Magic Weekend Day Pass tickets generously donated by Super League and Rugby League Cares by completing a short survey on behalf of Prostate Cancer UK here.

And as part of the national partnership Rugby League

Cares and Prostate Cancer UK will be aiming to raise awareness of a disease that kills one man every hour in the UK.

Utilising Rugby League Cares' impressive network of contacts across the sport, there will also be a series of charity roadshows between May and July with community clubs hosting Men United quizzes and raising money through collections, raffles and auctions.

Prostate Cancer UK are the official charity partner of Widnes Vikings for the 2015 Super League season, but players and coaches from all 12 Super League clubs have already pledged their allegiance to the new partnership by signing for Men United.

Rugby League fans can join Men United and do something great with their mates to help beat prostate cancer, as well as having the chance to win a pair of Magic Weekend Day Passes at St James' Park in May. Join Men United today.

Funds raised throughout the partnership will be split equally between the two charities.



Rugby League has joined Men United.



FIXTURES & RESULTS

2015 March

L1Cup	Sunday 1st	COVENTRY	H	W 42 - 6
LCC(3)	Sunday 8th	COVENTRY	H	W 46 - 6
L1Cup	Sunday 15th	Barrow	A	W 32 - 10
LCC(4)	Sunday 22nd	Sheffield	A	L 20 - 44

2015 April

KPL1	Friday 3rd	ROCHDALE	A	W 23 - 16
L1Cup	Wednesday 8th	NW Crusaders	H	L 18 - 16
KPL1	Sunday 12th	COVENTRY	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 19th	SOUTH WALES	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 26th	LONDON SKOLARS	H	3:00pm

2015 May

KPL1	Sunday 3rd	GLOUCESTER	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Saturday 9th	BARROW	A	6:30pm
KPL1	Sunday 17th	NEWCASTLE	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 31st	KEIGHLEY	A	3:00pm

2015 June

KPL1	Sunday 7th	NORTH WALES	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 14th	OXFORD	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 21st	SWINTON	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Saturday 27th	GLOUCESTER	A	3:00pm

2015 July

KPL1	Sunday 5th	YORK	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 12th	ROCHDALE	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 19th	LONDON	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 26th	NORTH WALES	A	2:30pm

2015 August

KPL1	Sunday 2nd	KEIGHLEY	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 9th	HEMEL	A	2:30pm
KPL1	Sunday 16th	NEWCASTLE	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 23rd	BARROW	H	3:00pm

2015 September

KPL1	Sunday 6th	SWINTON	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 13th	OXFORD	A	3:00pm

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Lorraine Hunt



RUGBY LEAGUE



News from HQ

THE RFL has launched the next phase of Let's Talk Rugby League, its national campaign which aims to gain a greater insight into why players participate in the sport.

Previous research helped the RFL understand its current and potential audience: players, fans and spectators. The results enabled the governing body to design and develop products and programmes that have been specifically tailored to meet demand.

The second phase of Let's Talk Rugby League will examine the motivations of current players to enable the RFL to continue to design programmes and services that are player-centred.

Over the next eight weeks Let's Talk More Rugby League will gather the opinions of current players of all ages and abilities on what motivates them to play the sport, including how they first became involved and why they continue to participate in Rugby League.

RFL Director of Participation and Strategic Partnerships David Gent said: "Let's Talk Rugby League was a huge success and gave us a valuable

insight into why the sport appeals to some of our most important stakeholders: Let's Talk More Rugby League is designed to drill deeper into those findings by engaging with participants on a more detailed level.

"We believe that by improving our understanding our customers, we will be able to offer higher quality support and services that are better suited to the demands and needs of our players.

"The information that we gather will ultimately help us to drive participation in the sport and I would urge everyone who's associated with Rugby League at community or professional club level to complete the survey and have their say."

To complete the Let's Talk More Rugby League survey visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LTmoreRL>

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a free draw and have the chance to win one of over 100 prizes which include five Apple iPad Minis, 50 iTunes vouchers (£15) and 50 Rhino Rugby League balls.