

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 Neil 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 Past Players' Association
23 FORD, Jonathan	Oasis Academy Oldham
25 ASHTON, Tom	Oasis Academy Oldham



1 Tommy Johnson
2 Scott Turner
3 Christiaan Roets
4 Matt Reid
5 Rob Massam
6 Andy Mousdale
7 Jamie Dallimore
8 Jonny Walker
9 Callum Wright
10 Ryan Duffy
11 Jono Smith
12 Stephen Wild
13 Gary Middlehurst
14 Karl Ashall
15 Lee Hudson
16 Joe Burke
17 Stuart Reardon
19 Paddy Mooney
20 Elliott Davies
21 Ian Mort
22 Alex Thompson
23 Mark Hobson
25 Owain Griffiths
26 Craig White
27 Andrew Joy
28 Andrew Oakden

Officials: Referee, S Ansell;
Res, G Melling; TJ, B Robinson; TJ, J Jones;
Match Commissioner, P Hewitt.
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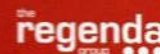
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JUNE 2015
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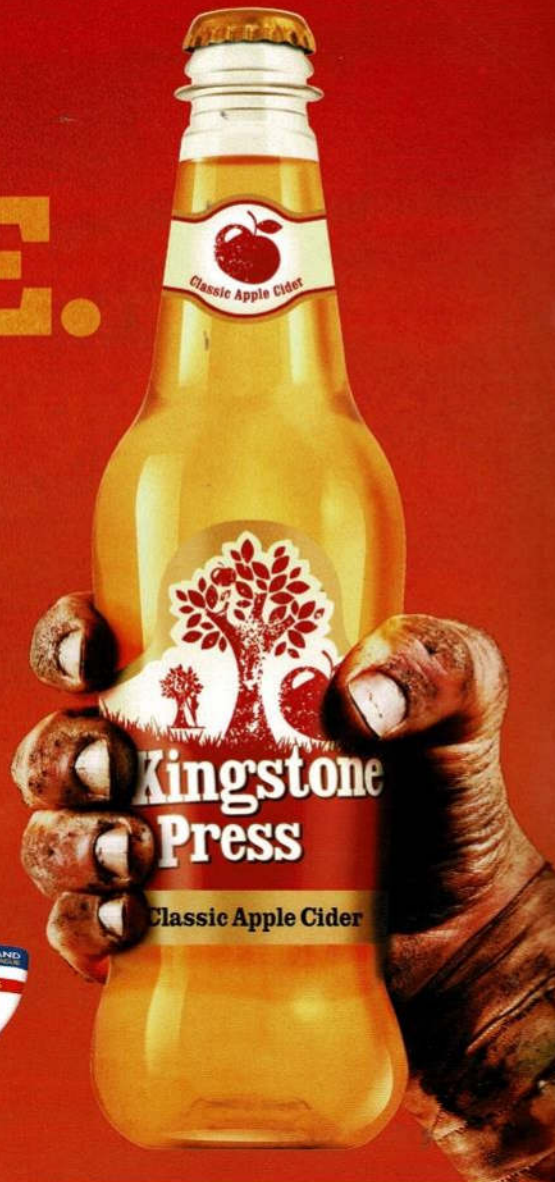
ROUGHYEDS



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

HELLO everyone and welcome to today's game against North Wales Crusaders, which will be arguably our toughest of the season so far.

The Welsh team are extremely good in all areas of the game. They have experienced players and quality coaches so our Oldham players will have to be at their best from the first whistle.

Crusaders won the iPro Sport Cup two weeks ago, beating a very good Swinton team in the final at Blackpool, so their confidence will be high going into today's encounter.

In the last two years we have had some huge games against them home and away, so we are expecting the same again today at Whitebank.

Last week's game against Keighley Cougars was disappointing to say the least.

Our first-half display was nothing short of shocking and not what the travelling Oldham fans

deserved. They once again turned up to support the lads and pay their hard-earned money.

Grounds like Keighley are very tough places to play and you have to be as tough mentally as you are physically in order to play well and to win the game.

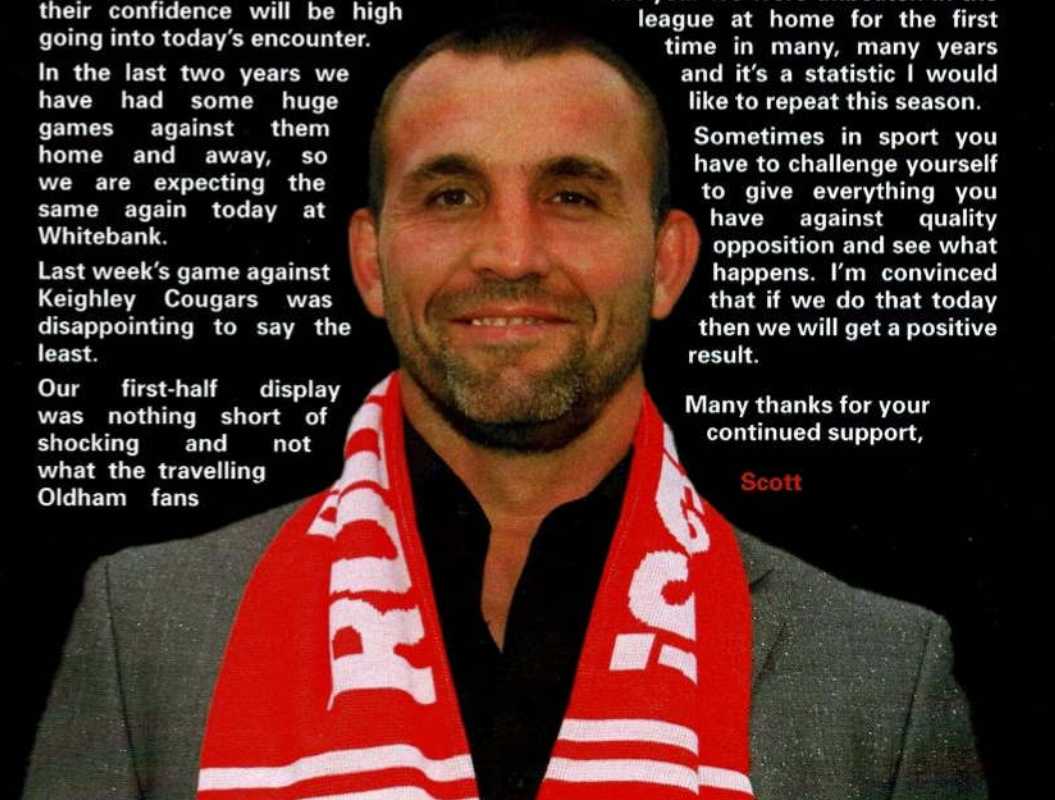
This week in training the lads have worked very hard to put things right for today's challenge and 100 per cent will be needed to even get close to winning.

Last year we were unbeaten in the league at home for the first time in many, many years and it's a statistic I would like to repeat this season.

Sometimes in sport you have to challenge yourself to give everything you have against quality opposition and see what happens. I'm convinced that if we do that today then we will get a positive result.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Scott



Behind Closed Doors with... TOM DEMPSEY

Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

My Dad. In rugby I wouldn't be where I am if it wasn't for him.

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

For three years, when I was a youngster, I played football for Liverpool FC academy. I now play golf in my spare time.

What is the highlight of your career so far?

Making my professional debut for Oldham.

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

Steven Gerrard and Rory McIlroy. My Nan will cook.

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

My golf clubs and all my trainers.

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

Kenny Hughes, always a good laugh. He loves playing jokes on people.

Which TV programme would you never miss?

Eastenders or TOWIE (The Only Way Is Essex).

What was the last book you read?

'Of Mice and Men'... for my GCSEs. Not a big reader.

What's your favourite type of music?

I like all types.

How do you relax after a match?

I always have a Domino's (pizza)

Finally... tell me a secret.

I like a bit of 'Take That' every so often.



A CHAT WITH CHRIS

WELCOME back to Whitebank for the latest instalment in the League One challenge!

In a run of what most people would consider to be the more difficult games we have had mixed fortunes to date.

Losses at Barrow and Keighley but a resounding win against Newcastle at home have left us needing to secure a win today against the Crusaders, who inflicted our last home defeat on us in the semi-final of the IPro Sport League One Cup.

Following that, they then got their name on the trophy as the first-ever winners by beating Swinton in the final.

Matches against North Wales have always been close and well-fought encounters and from our perspective we need to get our heads in gear.

Last week's first-half performance at Keighley was simply not good enough and the players need to follow the game plan given to them by Scott.

The most frustrating thing about it all is that we know we can match anyone if we turn up, but giving any team 26 points start is a recipe for disaster.

If we are to have realistic chances of achieving anything this season we must get out of this habit of starting on the back foot. I know how frustrated Scott is with it - and it isn't as if he isn't trying to do something about it - but ultimately it is only the players who can produce what is needed. Let's hope today we respond.

On a different note, the club has suffered a spate of break-ins and damage to various buildings and areas around the ground over the last couple of weeks.



It has almost been a daily occurrence reporting things to the Police and it's fair to say I have been more than a bit cheesed off. Indeed, the meeting with the fans scheduled for last Monday had to be postponed for a week as I was meeting with GMP to express my concerns and to try and find a way forward with them.

These things are not only frustrating in the extreme but very time-consuming and demoralising, not only for me but for the staff who have to deal with the consequences.

On a more positive note I'm hoping all of you will be aware of a new book - 'From Watersheddings to Whitebank' - which has been written by Craig Halstead, son of our very own media mogul Roger Halstead.

The book is about Craig's experiences as a fan of Oldham RLFC and, believe you me, its realistic and it certainly rekindles some happy and some not-so-happy memories.

It's well worth getting your hands on a copy and it is out in perfect timing to make a great Fathers' Day present.

We also have children from Lyndhurst, Greenhill, Broadfield and St Hilda's Primary schools here today, doing a curtain raiser and a half-time game. For lots of them it will be their first taste of Oldham RLFC so please encourage them and let's hope they see a Roughyeds victory.

Enjoy the game.

Chris

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Tries galore, but Nick Johnson still holds the record with 25

Clay out in front this year as we welcome back Jon Ford

WITH 12 tries in ten outings, right-winger Adam Clay is currently our leading try scorer – a player who clearly knows the way to the line as he demonstrated with his hat-trick in our last home game against Newcastle Thunder.

Taking all competitions into account – League One, iPro Sport Cup and Ladbrokes Challenge Cup – he is, in fact, one of this season's most prolific try scorers among all players who operate in the sport's third tier, as is Jono Smith of the Crusaders, our opponents today.

Adam's hat-trick in our last home game, plus the return to Whitebank of another player who knows a bit about scoring tries, Jon Ford, has turned the spotlight on to Roughyeds' try scorers down the years and has raised the question of where Clay is likely to finish in the pecking order when compared

with our other leading try scorers since the 'new' club was formed for the start of the 1998 season.

But first things first and a big 'welcome home' to Jon Ford, who scored seven tries in five games for us earlier in the season before he was recalled by his parent club Salford Red Devils during an injury crisis.

He was back in time to play at Keighley last Sunday. He wasn't able to add to his try tally at Cougar Park, but it is interesting to recall that he was our top try scorer with 21 in the 2013 season and that, in total, he can boast the remarkable record of having scored 41 tries in 37 games for Oldham in four separate spells here either on loan or on dual-registration.

His return to Whitebank is a timely one because, as



JON FORD, 41 tries in 37 games

you know, Tom Ashton is currently out with a knee injury and George Tyson can't play today because of suspension, although he will be available again for next Sunday's game against Oxford, which is also here at Whitebank.

Breaking it down season by season, Ford ran in 21 tries in 15 games in 2013; 13 tries in 16 outings in 2014; and to date this season he has added seven tries in six appearances.

Comparisons can be misleading because the number of games per season differ considerably, but the fact of the matter is that, since 1998, nobody has matched winger Nick Johnson's 25 (31 appearances) in the 2004 season.

Some records credit him with 26 tries, but that includes one he scored in the pre-season Law Cup game against Rochdale and, for most purposes, official records do not take in points scored in friendlies or any other games outside of those in RFL-authorized league or cup competitions, including play-offs.

Just to nudge your memory, season 2004 was the one in which Oldham finished fourth in National League One behind Leigh, Whitehaven and Hull KR, but with one point

more than Featherstone and six points more than Halifax.

Other leading players that season were Keith Brennan, Gareth Barber, Gavin Dodd, Lee Doran, Phil Farrell, Jon Goddard, Dane Morgan, Neil Roden and Ian Watson.

Season-to-season top scorers were as follows:

1998	Chris Eckersley 15
1999	Daniel Brown 14
2000	Mark Sibson 23
2001	Mark Sibson 18
2002	Neil Roden 20
2003	Lee Doran, Gavin Dodd 14
2004	Nick Johnson 25 (record)
2005	Gavin Dodd 17
2006	Andy Gorey 10
2007	Adam Hughes 22
2008	James Coyle, Mick Nannyn 21
2009	Andy Ballard 17
2010	Lucas Onyano, Mick Fogerty, Paul O'Connor 19
2011	Mark Brocklehurst 17
2012	Miles Greenwood 20
2013	Jon Ford 21
2014	Dale Bloomfield 21



ADAM CLAY, hat-trick versus Newcastle



APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Cup and league, 13 possible)

	App	DG	Gls	Tries	Pts
ASHTON, Tom	2	—	—	1	4
BROUGHTON, Jodie	1	—	—	2	8
CLAY, Adam	10	—	—	12	48
CROWLEY, Josh	13	—	—	5	20
DEMPSEY, Tom	3	1	2	1	9
FILES, Adam	9	—	—	—	—
FORD, Jon	6	—	—	7	28
GEE, Sam	11	—	—	3	12
HOLMES, Jack	10	—	—	7	28
HUGHES, Kenny	11	—	—	—	—
JOHNSON, Josh	5	—	—	2	8
JOY, Phil	12	—	—	—	—
JOY, Richard	3	—	—	2	8
LANGTREE, Danny	10	—	—	4	16
LEARMONTH, Micky	2	—	—	2	8
MASON, Nathan	11	—	—	2	8
NEAL, Adam	12	—	—	1	4
NIELD, Steven	8	—	—	4	16
OWEN, Gareth	11	—	—	2	8
PALFREY, Lewis	12	1	50	3	113
ROBERTS, Oliver	2	—	—	1	4
ROPER, Steve	11	1	6	2	21
THOMPSON, Liam	12	—	—	3	12
TYSON, George	11	—	—	6	24
WARD, Jarrod	12	—	—	4	16
WARD, Michael	11	—	—	3	12



OLDHAM RLFC



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Message from the RFL on how to keep fit

Play Touch Rugby League is aimed at men and women looking for an alternative to the gym as warmer weather encourages us to take our workouts outdoors.

On average Touch Rugby League players work at 80 per cent of their maximum heart rate in a game, which means your body keeps burning calories into the next day.

The sport can be played in mixed teams and is perfect for people looking for a fun activity. We have players from the age of 14 up to 78 and last year we had 4,000 people involved, including up to 50 per cent women. We are expecting to see a significant growth this year. Lynn Hampson, 38, said: "I'd much rather run around for half an hour playing Touch Rugby League than

going for a jog on my own. We have a good laugh and it's virtually non-contact so it's suitable for people of all abilities."

Kurtis Marsh, who runs a 'Touch' competition, added: "We get lots of couples playing together and people of all ages. Our focus is on the social element, so we go for drinks afterwards and have plenty of fun during the matches."

Play Touch Rugby League is available at more than 60 sites across the UK, including here in Oldham every Wednesday at Oasis Academy Oldham, Hollins Road, from 7pm to 9pm. Find contact details in the above advert or just turn up on the night and ask for Danny Newall, community coach of Oldham RLFC, who will sign you in and get you started.

Book review

From Watersheddings to Whitebank

**An Oldham Rugby League Memoir
by Craig Halstead**

Foreword by Chris Hamilton

ONE fan's memories, stories, anecdotes and recollections of joy and despair over more than 40 years form the basis of a new book on Oldham RLFC.

Several fantastic books have been penned about the club in recent years, but as far as we can ascertain this is the first one to be written from the perspective of a rank-and-file fan who might just as easily be chatting about his beloved Roughyeds to fellow fans over the bar of his favourite pub.

"From Watersheddings to Whitebank" (London League Publications Ltd, £11.95 paperback) is a collection of memoirs by Craig Halstead (49), who saw his first game at Watersheddings, aged five, in 1971. He has supported Roughyeds ever since.

Though living and working in North Wales these days – and NO, he won't be cheering for Crusaders although his Welsh-speaking wife Yvonne will be here with him – Craig will be at the game today and will be happy to sell anyone a signed copy of his work.

A book of 208 pages, illustrated with photographs from family collections, from the Oldham Evening Chronicle's archives and from the Roughyeds' official club photographer David Murgatroyd, with a foreword by our club chairman Chris Hamilton, the book provides an insight into how a lifetime of emotions and experiences, good and bad, can be fashioned for anyone who supports a club from childhood.

In the case of this new author, as with thousands of other Oldham fans, those experiences included the liquidation of one club and the birth and rise of a new one, like a phoenix from the ashes of Watersheddings, in the guise of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd.

The new club continues to provide the town with a professional rugby league club of which it can be justifiably proud.

The author, who has dedicated his work to Oldham RL fans past and present, says he is proud to have been associated with both Oldham clubs for all but the first five years of his life and proud also to be just as enthusiastic in his support of Chris, Scott and the boys at Whitebank in 2015 as he was in his backing for the old guard at Watersheddings in days of yore.

He adds: "Fans throughout the sport support their

club through thick and thin – some more than others – and although I was born and brought up in Rochdale I will always consider it a great privilege to have supported Oldham all my life. I just hope the rugby people of the town realise what they've got and what life would be like without it."



CRAIG HALSTEAD, the author

Information about the book:

ISBN: 9781909885080;

Price: £11.95 (paperback);

208 pages, illustrated with photographs.

Published on 11 May 2015.

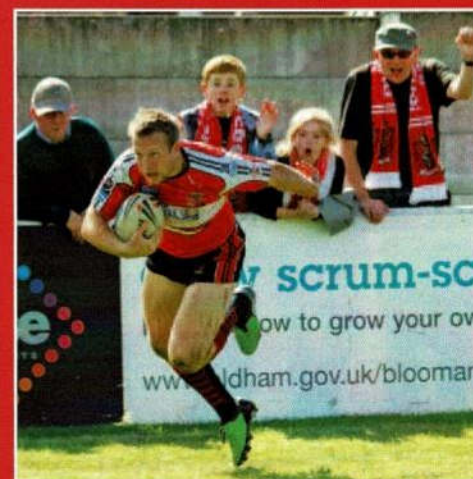
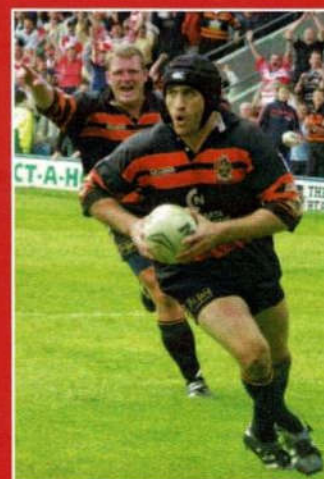
The book is available at a special offer price of £10.95 post free in the UK from London League Publications Ltd, PO Box 65784, London NW2 9NS (credit card orders via www.llpshop.co.uk), or can be ordered from any bookshop at £11.95 and will be available after 11 May 2015 on Amazon.co.uk and Abebooks.co.uk.

An E-Book for Kindle readers is available on Amazon.



from Watersheddings to Whitebank

An Oldham Rugby League Memoir



Craig Halstead

Foreword by Chris Hamilton

Cup kings of the Crusade aim to make it six wins in a row

NORTH Wales Crusaders come to Whitebank today in search of their sixth win in a row and bidding to emulate their 18-16 triumph here in the iPro Sport Cup semi-final on Wednesday night, April 8.

To do so they will have to become the first visiting side to win a league match on this ground since Oxford pipped us by the same score, 18-16, on Sunday, April 28, 2013.

That's a phenomenal record of which everyone here at the Oldham club is incredibly proud, but equally we are well aware that the longer it goes on the more determined will be our opponents to bring it to an abrupt end.

It all adds extra spice to today's encounter, not that it needed any given the number of fabulous games the two sides have been involved in during the 2013 and 2015 seasons and the fact that Crusaders pipped us by two points (plus a better for-and-against record) to go up to the Kingstone Press Championship as Championship One leaders at the end of the 2013 campaign.

That year, in the league, Crusaders pipped us 22-20 in Wrexham and we won 28-10 at Whitebank to set up a fascinating finale to the competition in which we finished a few weeks before Crusaders, who couldn't afford to slip

up on the run-in otherwise it would have let us in as champions.

One of the reasons they were behind on fixtures was their progress to the final of the Northern Rail Bowl in which they beat London Skolars 42-24 with tries by Tommy Johnson, Christiaan Roets, Andy Mouldsdales, Gary Middlehurst, Dave McConnell (2), Rob Massam and Andy Birkett.

That crowned a fantastic year for the Welshmen, who picked up three major prizes at the Kingstone Press awards dinner, namely Championship One club of the year plus player of the year (Jono Smith) and coach of the year (Clive Griffiths).

Massam, Stuart Reardon, Mouldsdales, McConnell, Middlehurst and Smith were all included in the 'Rugby League World' magazine's team of the year, along with our very own Phil Joy and our long-term loan signing Jon Ford, who was our leading try scorer in 2013 with 21.

Fast forward two years and Crusaders recovered from a relatively disappointing 2014 campaign in the Championship by lifting more silverware in the form of the new iPro Sport Cup, beating Swinton Lions 14-8 in the final at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool (see picture).



North Wales Crusaders winners of the iPro Sport Cup 2015

To get there they won here at Whitebank in a semi-final thriller under lights, after which Jono Smith described it as the toughest and most physical game he had ever played in.

Added Jono: "Whitebank is always a tough pace to go to, but when you're playing with a final at stake the intensity turns up a notch.

"We had to dig really deep and somehow find a way to the line. The performance was a real team effort and every single player was committed to coming away with the win. We have definitely gained in confidence from what we did at Whitebank that night."

So to the final and more than 15,000 fans flocked to Blackpool for the first-ever Summer Bash to watch two days of spectacular KP Championship action and an enthralling iPro Sport Cup final in an action-packed game that left spectators on the edge of their seats.

RFL Chief Executive Nigel Wood said: "Summer Bash was an event that the whole

sport should feel proud of. It was a fantastic weekend, showcasing the Kingstone Press Championship and League 1.

"I would like to thank the fans who turned out in their thousands to create a carnival atmosphere both inside and outside the stadium. They embraced the new concept and helped to make the event a great success. Congratulations must go to North Wales Crusaders on their spectacular win in the iPro Sport Cup final.

"For the fans who couldn't make it to Bloomfield Road they were able to enjoy the high quality drama on the field by watching the great coverage Sky Sports provided over the weekend.

"I am looking forward to next year's event and we will confirm the date and venue in due course."

A full evaluation of Summer Bash will now take place with all stakeholders.

Join ORSA to make a real difference

THE Oldham Roughyeds' Supporters' Association (ORSA) is keen to recruit new members in order to build the association and to enable it to go from strength to strength in its efforts to help the club to move onward and upward.

We are a supporters' association whose aims are to help the club (Oldham RLFC) and its players in the pursuit of their goals.

The main aims of the organisation are to offer practical support to the players with the provision of items which they need in order to play to the best of their ability and, in consultation with the coaches, to meet and maintain their nutritional and training requirements on and off the pitch.

So far this season we have ensured that tackle bags have been repaired and that water and nutritional supplies have been available as required at all games, home and away.

ORSA also supports a Squad Strengthener Fund, which has provided the club with financial assistance in the signing of Tom Ashton and in the recruitment of players on loan or dual registration such as Nathan Mason, Josh Johnson and Jon Ford. We will continue to support the club in this way.

Membership of ORSA costs only £10 per year and anyone wishing to join can do so by contacting Sheila or Grant Somerville or John McAndrew at the ground on match days or by ringing (0161) 633 1791 for further information.

We have regular meetings, at which anyone is made welcome, and we work jointly on some of our social events and fund-raising schemes with Higginsshaw ARLFC.

We need all the help we can get and if you wish to offer tangible support to Roughyeds over and above cheering on the team on match days then joining ORSA is one sure way of doing it.

So if you want to improve conditions at the club come on down and join an organisation that is striving to help Roughyeds to go forward.

Lest we forget...

William Moore Bell Nanson

*England Rugby Union international,
Cumberland, Oldham and Coventry forward*

Last Thursday the 4th of June 2015 marked the centenary of the death at Gallipoli of Sergeant Bill Nanson the former England rugby union international and Oldham forward.

Born in Carlisle in 1880 Nanson had already served his country with the Border Regiment in South Africa where he was presented with both the King's and Queen's medal for his services. On his return he joined the Carlisle RU club winning two England caps before joining Oldham at the age of 27.

He played just 28 first team matches in an injury hit career for the Roughyeds but won a Lancashire Cup runners-up medal in his first season when Oldham lost 10-9 to Wigan at Broughton in front of a 20,000 crowd. He, and several other Oldham players, later joined the recently formed Northern Union club Coventry but Nanson, again due to injuries, faded from the rugby scene at the end of the 1911-12 season.

At the outbreak of the First World War he enlisted with the Manchester Regiment and due to his earlier service in South Africa was quickly promoted to sergeant.

Nanson and his platoon were wiped out by the opposing Turks and unfortunately his body was never found - his death confirmed by the War Office over a year later. He was 34 years old.

*(INFORMATION AND PICTURE SUPPLIED BY
THE OLDHAM RL HERITAGE TRUST).*



KEIGHLEY COUGARS v OLDHAM



Lewis Palfrey



Kenny Hughes

Long haul back for Tom

SCOTT Naylor is keen to hasten highly-rated Tom Ashton's return to full fitness in his fight to overcome ligament damage in his left knee.

The 22-year-old former Sheffield Eagles centre was given the prognosis he feared most when a specialist at the Royal Salford Hospital talked to him about scan results.

Injured at South Wales Scorpions on April 19 in only his second game for Oldham, the powerful centre has suffered damage to both the medial and the anterior cruciate ligaments.

Surgery isn't required to repair the medial ligament, but he may need an operation to mend the cruciate ligament.

Either way, he faces a long haul back and Oldham must come to terms with the fact that he isn't going to be available for several more weeks.

Said coach Naylor: "Tom has to see his specialist again in a couple of weeks and, hopefully, the anterior cruciate will have settled down by then.

"That's when he will get the final decision on whether surgery is needed and when he will be told how long he can expect to be sidelined for.



"Tom is anxious to get some firm answers to all his questions.

"It's not unusual for players to damage these two ligaments, but it may be another two or three weeks before much progress can be made.

"Tom will continue to attend training sessions in the meantime.

"We need to look after him because whether he plays again this season or waits until next season I want Tom Ashton to continue to be an Oldham player moving forward – and, as soon as possible, I want him to be playing the sort of rugby he produced against Coventry Bears and South Wales Scorpions before he was injured."

Tom made a try-scoring debut for us in the Coventry game on April 12, but in the next game at South Wales Scorpions a week later he was injured just before half-time after again producing an impressive and highly-encouraging display.

It was a cruel blow for a young player with most of his career ahead of him, but Tom has time on his side and the best wishes of all Oldham fans will be with him as he starts the long haul back to full fitness.

Fans asked to take part in our sport's Birthday Walk

RUGBY League fans are being asked and encouraged to take to the streets this summer to celebrate our sport's 120th birthday.

The Oldham club was a founder member of the 1895 breakaway organisation that eventually became the Rugby League as we know it today and, as such, it would be both fitting and appropriate if our fans got themselves actively involved in the RFL's celebration walk which will be in this area on Wednesday, July 22, covering Rochdale (the site of the old Athletic Grounds) and Watersheddings.

From July 19 to 24, representatives of every section of the game can participate in the Founders' Walk, a historic 120-mile journey taking in the homes of the original 22 members of the Northern Union.

Organised by Rugby League Cares, the fund-raising walk will commemorate the birth of the sport at the George Hotel in Huddersfield on August 29, 1895 and will see the sport come together to celebrate its glorious past.

RFL chief executive Nigel Wood will be doing the walk, which will begin in Hull and end in St Helens, taking in the 20 other original sites of the game's founding clubs while en route.

That will mean a visit to Watersheddings where we already have a blue plaque in

place in recognition of what that area and its one-time famous old ground meant not only to generations of Oldhamers, but to rugby league people throughout the world.

Each day will feature defined stages to give fans and community club players of all ages and abilities the opportunity to take part and raise funds for the sport's charity, Rugby League Cares, and/or for their own club or for any other charity or good cause.

It is hoped the walkers will include sporting celebrities, current and past players, club officials and fans, whose efforts will raise £120,000 for worthy causes within the game.

Nigel Wood said: "The Founders' Walk is a terrific opportunity to celebrate our rich history and to raise money to support good causes.

"I've been asked to take part and I'm delighted to do so. My colleagues have instructed me to do the full distance, so we'll see !

"The concept is fantastic – walking 120 miles to celebrate each one of our 120 years – but people can walk as far as they wish on each or any of the six days and I hope everyone in rugby league will participate, celebrate and support it in whatever way they can."

To register for the walk email katharine.irwin@rlcares.org.uk



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	W 38 - 10
KPL1	Sunday 19th	SOUTH WALES	A	W 50 - 12
KPL1	Sunday 26th	LONDON SKOLARS	H	W 48 - 6

2015 May

KPL1	Sunday 3rd	GLOUCESTER	H	W 33 - 30
KPL1	Saturday 9th	BARROW	A	L 18 - 30
KPL1	Sunday 17th	NEWCASTLE	H	W 45 - 20
KPL1	Sunday 31st	KEIGHLEY	A	L 24 - 32

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

Landmark lunch to celebrate 1975 World Championship

THE British Lions – players and management who have represented Great Britain, England or Wales on tours Down Under – are an integral part of the new Rugby League Cares Reunions programme.

As part of the RFL's 120th anniversary celebrations, a host of the biggest names in Rugby League history are being brought together to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1975 World Championship.

A landmark lunch is to be staged at the Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford, on Saturday June 13 attended by surviving members of the England and Wales squad who took part in the seventh and longest World Cup-style tournament.

Staged in aid of the RFL Benevolent Fund, the 40th anniversary celebration will include a three-course lunch, a parade of the England and Wales squads, interviews and competitions.

Also in attendance will be Rugby League ex-players' associations, making the event an afternoon of nostalgia.

The 1975 World Championship made history with

Great Britain being split into England and Wales for the first time, joining Australia, New Zealand and France playing each other home and away on both sides of the world for a total of eight fixtures each.

Australia topped the table, one point ahead of England with Wales taking third place.

England's 20-man squad for the matches Down Under was coached by Alex Murphy and captained by Roger Millward and included John Atkinson, Keith Bridges, Mike Coulman, Les Dyl, George Fairbairn, Keith Fielding, Ken Gill, Mick Morgan, Steve Nash and George Nicholls.

Wales's 20-man Australasian squad was coached by Les Pearce and skippered by David Watkins and featured Kel Costlett, Tony Fisher, Bill Francis, John Mantle, Roy Mathias, Jim Mills and Mike Nicholas.

Tickets are priced £35 (cheques payable to Rugby League Cares) with the bar open from 11.00am and lunch served at 1.00pm. To book any size of party, please contact Katie Irwin, Operations Manager of Rugby League Cares at Katharine.Irwin@rlcares.org.uk 07540 636515.

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HOW WE STAND Kingstone Press League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Rochdale Hornets	8	6	0	2	320	121	199	12
OLDHAM	8	6	0	2	279	156	123	12
Keighley Cougars	7	6	0	1	241	133	108	12
Newcastle Thunder	8	6	0	2	236	182	54	12
Barrow Raiders	8	5	0	3	280	146	134	10
North Wales Crusaders	7	4	1	2	220	119	101	9
Swinton Lions	7	4	1	2	197	158	39	9
York City Knights	7	4	0	3	252	130	122	8
Gloucester All Golds	8	3	0	5	222	219	3	6
Oxford	7	3	0	4	155	252	-97	6
Coventry Bears	8	2	0	6	134	281	-147	4
Hemel Stags	8	2	0	6	150	319	-169	4
London Skolars	7	1	0	6	98	228	-130	2
South Wales Scorpions	8	0	0	8	64	404	-340	0

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

WITH a bit of luck – the weather for instance – and with the help of each and every one of you we can perhaps look forward to a significant increase in the size of our crowds in the second half of the Kingstone Press League One campaign.

With utmost respect, but also with a touch of reality, visits to Whitebank by Coventry Bears, London Skolars, Gloucester All Golds and Newcastle Thunder were never going to necessitate the 'full house' notices going up here.

Thunder are a club on the move and on the up, no mistake about that, but it's early days yet and they were never going to bring big support with them.

It will be interesting to see what sort of a crowd we generate today, given that despite last week's disappointment at Keighley Cougars we are still second in the table and we are up against a Crusaders outfit that won here a week or two ago in the semi-final of the iPro Sport Cup and then went on to win the trophy against Swinton Lions in the final at Blackpool.

When Crusaders were here in the league in 2013 they brought a superb following with them, which helped to swell the gate to 1,209. The Welsh fans draped their banners over the wall and gave us renderings of their

hymns and arias, but we stood up to the challenge and gave a great performance in a 28-10 win to avenge our narrow 22-20 defeat in Wrexham a few weeks earlier.

Today's crowd won't come anywhere close to matching that – more reality – but there's every reason to believe it could be our best of the season so far.

Moving forward, we will then have six more home games to come in the regular league season, starting with Oxford next Sunday – yes, home again – and then followed by five of what are potentially our best chances of pulling in decent crowds in this hugely competitive division.

Still to come to Whitebank are York City Knights, Rochdale, Keighley Cougars, Barrow Raiders and Swinton Lions.

They'll all bring a few but, more importantly, they are matches which are more likely to attract local punters than games against the southern clubs. And that's where **YOU** can help. You've got to be a fan otherwise you wouldn't be here today. Next time you come do your best to bring a friend, neighbour or workmate.

Word of mouth is the best advert on the market so go on, give it a try.

Roger Halstead