

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

28 Sean Morris
3 Andrew Hoggins
36 Danny Thomas
32 Andy Matthews
14 Marcus Brooker
33 Chris Ulugia
5 Aaron Jones Bishop
31 Mark Barlow
1 Louis Richards
8 Jordan Andrade
20 Dean Mignacca
37 Adam Withington
11 Josh Scott
27 Matty Blythe
13 Jamie Milburn
9 Nathan Kitson
10 Jonny Payne
21 Luke Gardiner
25 Luke Evans
34 Steve Scott

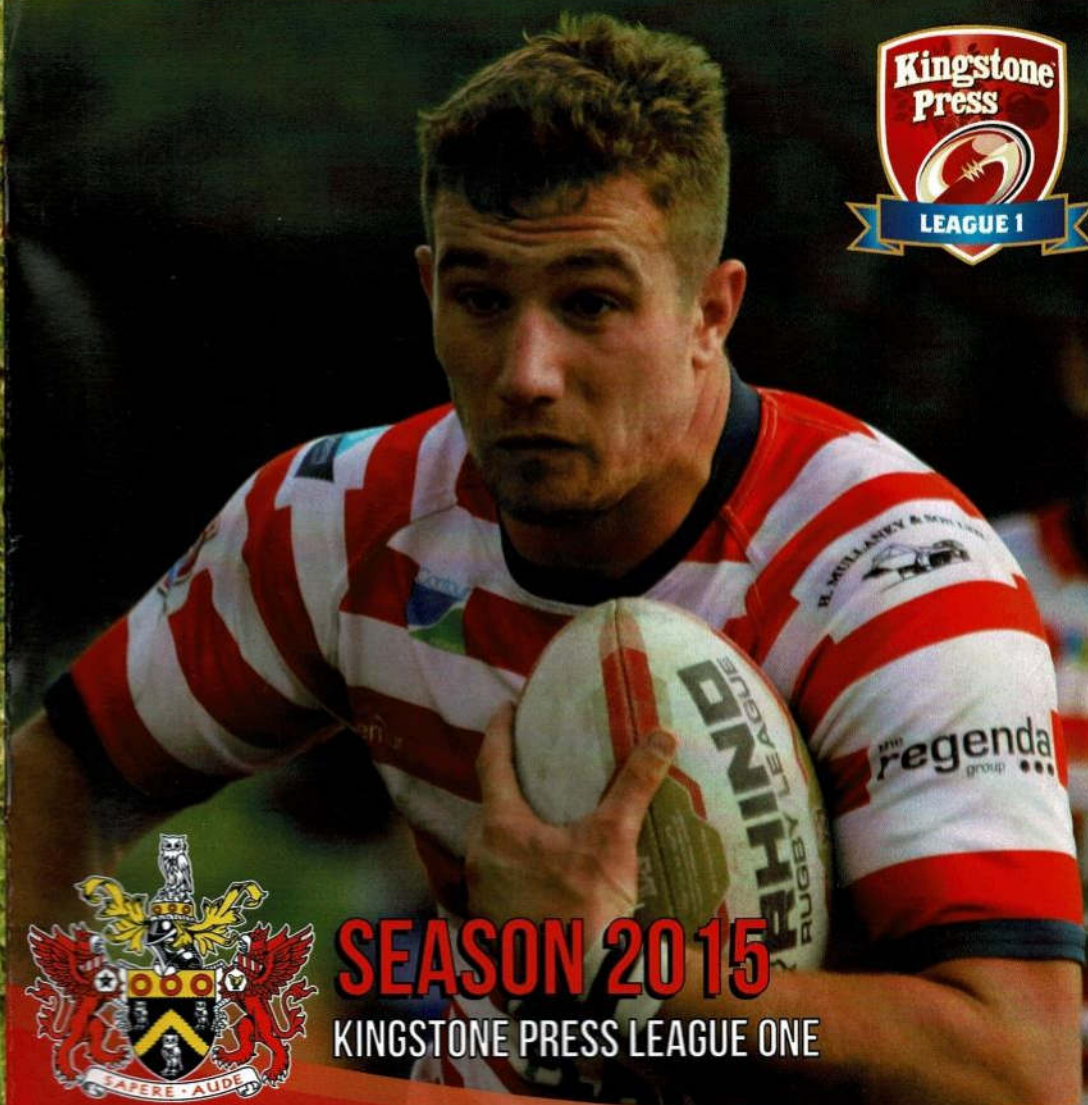
Officials: Referee, Jamie Bloem
Res, T Owen; TJ, J Woodman; TJ, J Page;
Match Commissioner, P Crashley.
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ROUGHYEDS



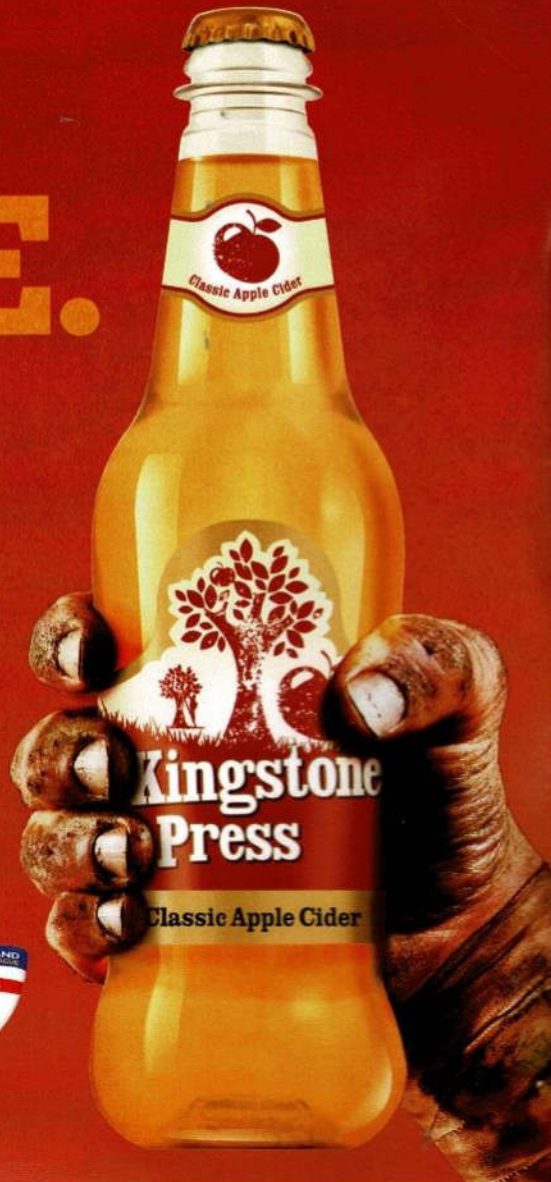
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X --- O X O
NATTER WITH NOBBY
O X --- O X

HELLO everyone and welcome to today's game against Oxford at the Whitebank Stadium.

In the past we have had some interesting games against Oxford because of the added interest provided by their former Oldham coach and their ex-Oldham players.

These days Oxford are coached by Tim Rumford, who originally came from Castleford Tigers where he worked with the academy, producing some top class players such as the current Man of Steel, Daryl Clarke.

Oxford have won three of their last four games - a great start to the season - so they will come to us today full of confidence.

From our perspective, it's good to be at home again in front of our own fans because we feel, as a group of people, that we owe them an improved performance after how we played in our two previous games against Keighley and North Wales.

We went into those games with confidence, and ready to play, but unfortunately we didn't produce our usual 100 per cent effort and quality so we got the result we deserved.

I also think we have to look at the teams which have beaten us this season and give them credit for the way

they have played and the high standard of players they all possess.

In the games against the so-called big five, who came down last year from the Championship, we need to be at our best in order to compete, so that later in the season when the play-offs and hopefully the finals come along we are confident and ready to perform well enough to win promotion for the club and for you, the fans.

We always work hard as a team and as a staff, but when we lose we work even harder to rectify any issues or deficiencies, so I can safely say your players will be giving their all today to get the right result and get our season back on track in a positive way.

Oxford are a different proposition this season than they have been in the past and I genuinely mean that in a positive way.

I believe they will be giving their club and their fans every ounce of effort they possess to make their coach and staff proud of them. We need to match that enthusiasm from the whistle and maintain it until the end of the game.

Many thanks for sticking by us with your support and your loyalty. It's much appreciated and greatly valued.

Scott

Tom's all smiles after his latest check-up

TOM Ashton, our young centre, was all smiles after receiving the latest prognosis on his knee ligament injury.

He was fearing the worst and expecting to be told that he would need an operation, but instead he learned that the injury was not as serious as first thought.

The 22-year-old former Sheffield Eagles player damaged both the medial and anterior cruciate ligaments in his left knee in only his second game for Roughyeds at South Wales Scorpions seven weeks ago.

When he was given the scan results and told that, at best, he would face a long, uphill battle to regain full fitness, he was also warned there was a strong possibility he would need surgery.

That would almost certainly have finished him for the season.

But he has now been told by a knee specialist at the Royal Salford Hospital that with rehab and with

specialist work in the gym on weights and the bike he might be ready to resume light training in six to eight weeks.

Said Tom: "I've got a partial tear in the ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) and a full tear in the MCL (medial cruciate ligament).

"I'm told it would have been more serious if it had been the other way round.

"The MCL can heal naturally and because the damage to the ACL is only partial it looks as though I might escape the knife.

"The specialist examined the range of movement in the knee and he was happy at the way things are progressing.

"He doesn't think I'll need surgery, but I've a lot of work to do on rehab and weights before I see him again in a few weeks.

"It was always going to be a long-term thing, but the latest prognosis gives me a glimpse of the light at the end of the tunnel and it's a massive positive for me."



Roary the Roughyed has a message for Tom – 'Get back soon'



Our vice-captain SAMMY GEE in action against Crusaders. Picture by our official club photographer David Murgatroyd.

A CHAT WITH CHRIS

WELCOME back to Whitebank for what I think needs to be almost a fresh start to the season.

The last two matches have been disappointing in terms of performance and result and we need to re-find that belief and confidence that we have had previously.

Make no mistake, Keighley and North Wales are among the favourites to get promoted for a reason, but there is no doubt that we are capable of beating both of them if we stay strong and keep to the game plan Scott is giving to the players.

Over the last few years we have more than amply demonstrated that we are one of the best teams in the division, but it seems like, at times, some of the players suffer from a lack of conviction when things get tough.

Myself and Scott always meet immediately after every game, home or away, to discuss the pros and cons of each match and we share the same frustrations with the things that are costing us matches. Naturally Scott, with the time he spends with the lads, is more frustrated because he is constantly working on things with them to avoid their costly mistakes. Nevertheless, the frustration is tangible.

The outcome of each and every game is vital and today, against Oxford, we have an opportunity to get back on track.

Look at the league table and the teams currently in positions 1-8 are all capable of being promoted in one of the two places available. The pre season predictions of how tough this division would be have certainly come true.

On the back of that comes a need to be tough, uncompromising and determined week in and week out to ensure we are towards the top of those eight come the end of the regular season.



This week myself and others from the club met again with various representatives of different fans' organisations in our attempts to move the club forward.

It was another positive meeting. We are talking about a wide range of issues, some of which are not entirely in the club's control, so it is inevitable that there is not much to report yet in terms of outcomes.

What is pleasing, and should be therefore for all of you too, is the desire to move forward in unison and hopefully this will continue. Another meeting is planned in mid-July and I will obviously keep you posted.

What are your thoughts on the three divisions this season? Personally I think the RFL must be very satisfied with the way the new structure is working and we aren't even at the point where the top two leagues split into the eights.

We all know how tough League One is but anybody who follows Super League and the Championship can only be enthused with the way those leagues are shaping up with the revised opportunity for promotion and relegation.

The current bottom four in Super League, for example, includes some big clubs and there is going to be an almighty scramble over the next few weeks as they push for the top eight before the cut.

Whilst the mechanics of how the different 'eights' will operate might still be a little confusing to some people, I don't think there can be any doubt that the new structure has had the desired effect – and the best is yet to come.

Enjoy today's match and please get behind the lads.

Chris

Rugby Oldham and ORSA join 'positive' talks

Representatives of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd, headed by chairman Chris Hamilton, had a second "extremely positive" meeting with various supporters' groups on Monday to discuss various aspects of how best to move the club forward in unison.

Supporters were represented by ORSA (Oldham Roughyeds Supporters' Association), Rugby Oldham (the Supporters' Community Trust) and an independent group, led by Mark Heywood, who had initial talks with the club several weeks ago.

Chairman John McAndrew was there for ORSA, while Rugby Oldham was represented by Geoff Cooke (chairman), Ian Wilson (secretary) and Brian Walker. Various issues were discussed in "full and frank" debate and another meeting was arranged for Monday, July 13.

In a joint statement all parties agreed that more progress had been made towards determining the future direction of the club although there was nothing tangible to report at this stage.

Said club chairman Chris Hamilton: "It was another positive meeting and it was beneficial to have ORSA and Rugby Oldham present because key to anything we can achieve is the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

"While we are still a way off reaching a decision-making stage, we are moving forward together and that is what we are all trying to achieve."

Ian Wilson (Rugby Oldham): "We were very happy about the positive atmosphere of the meeting and, in particular, of Chris's willingness to discuss, on a serious basis, different possibilities for the future ownership of the club.

"We are very happy also to confirm that we do not have, and have never had, a situation in which we are at loggerheads with the club even though communication has not always been the greatest."

John McAndrew (ORSA): "Definitely a positive meeting – and one on which I will report back to our members at our next meeting."

Mark Heywood (independent fans' group): "This meeting was just as positive as the first one. Our aim was always to get the club and Rugby Oldham together in order to discuss if there is a better way to develop the club, using the expertise of the whole Oldham rugby league community, of which Rugby Oldham and ORSA are huge parts."

Winger Jarrod jets away to a place in the sun

WINGER Jarrod Ward has explained why he made the "agonising" decision to leave the club to take up a new full-time job on the French Riviera.

"I thought long and hard about it," he said. "But in the end I had to accept it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I couldn't turn down. It was impossible to turn it down. I had to think of the future."

He will be based in 'Super' Cannes – a retreat for film stars, top European footballers and some of the wealthiest people in the world – and his job will be to manage a £65million holiday villa, where he has worked previously in a part-time capacity.

This time its for real and it is guaranteed work for at least 12 months.

Jarrod added: "I'm sorry to go in many ways because Oldham is a great club and I've loved my time at Whitebank and playing for my home-town team. I might be back one day, nobody can foresee what the future holds."

His shock departure was described by coach Scott Naylor as "a blow for the team, the squad and the club".

Oldham-born Ward (21) was working in the south of France last close season when we signed him on a one-year contract.

He has been a regular in the side, appearing in 12 of the Roughyeds' 14 games (nine wins) in cup and league and scoring four tries.

Added Scott: "We wish Jarrod all the best and hope everything goes well for him. We'll miss him.

"He has been offered a job he couldn't turn down and as a young man with all his future ahead of him he has made the sort of decision we will always respect."

Collabro to light up Wembley

The RFL are delighted to announce that 2014 'Britain's Got Talent' winners Collabro will provide the pre-match entertainment at this year's Ladbrokes Challenge Cup final at Wembley Stadium.

The five-piece band, who specialise in musical theatre, will sing the Challenge Cup's traditional hymn Abide With Me and the national anthem prior to kick-off.

Collabro, who have backed up the success of their debut album 'Stars' with their second album 'Act Two', spoke of their delight about performing at the historic match, which this year will take place 120 years to the day since the sport's foundation.

"We are very excited to be singing at Wembley Stadium before the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup final," said band member Michael Auger.

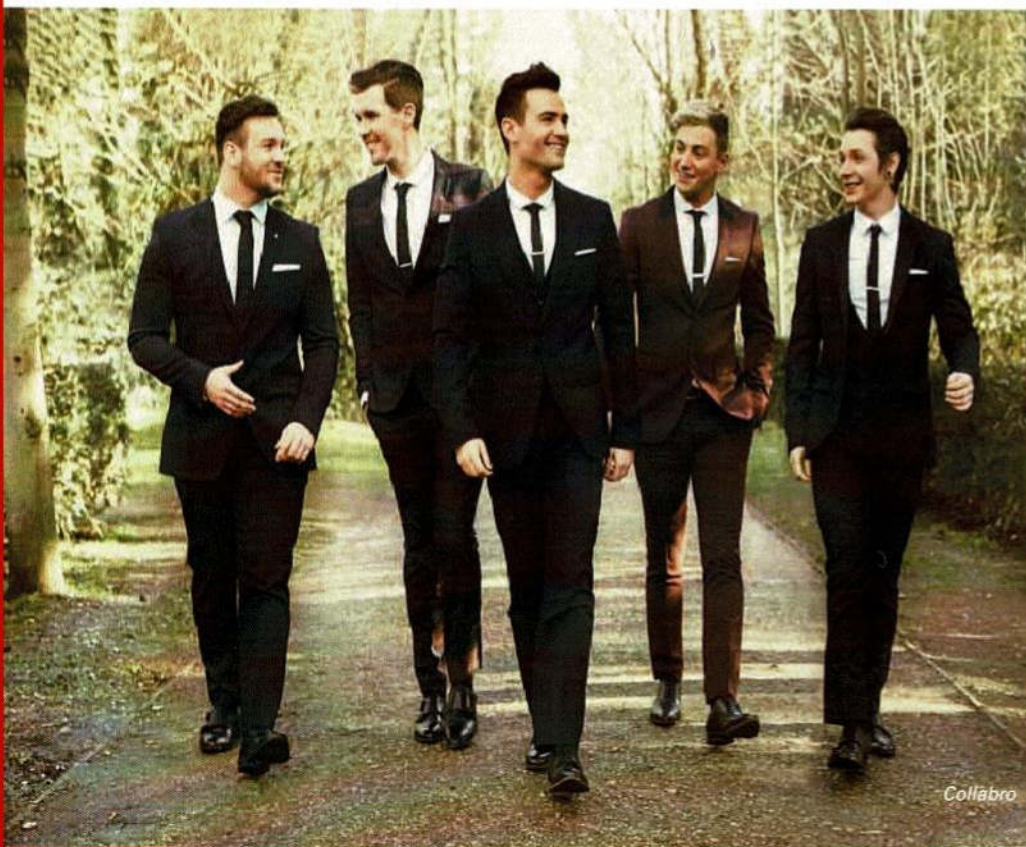
"We're all huge sports fans and can't wait to step out on to the famous Wembley turf to meet the players and perform in front of a passionate crowd.

"To have this opportunity on the day that Rugby League celebrates its 120th birthday makes it even more special for us."

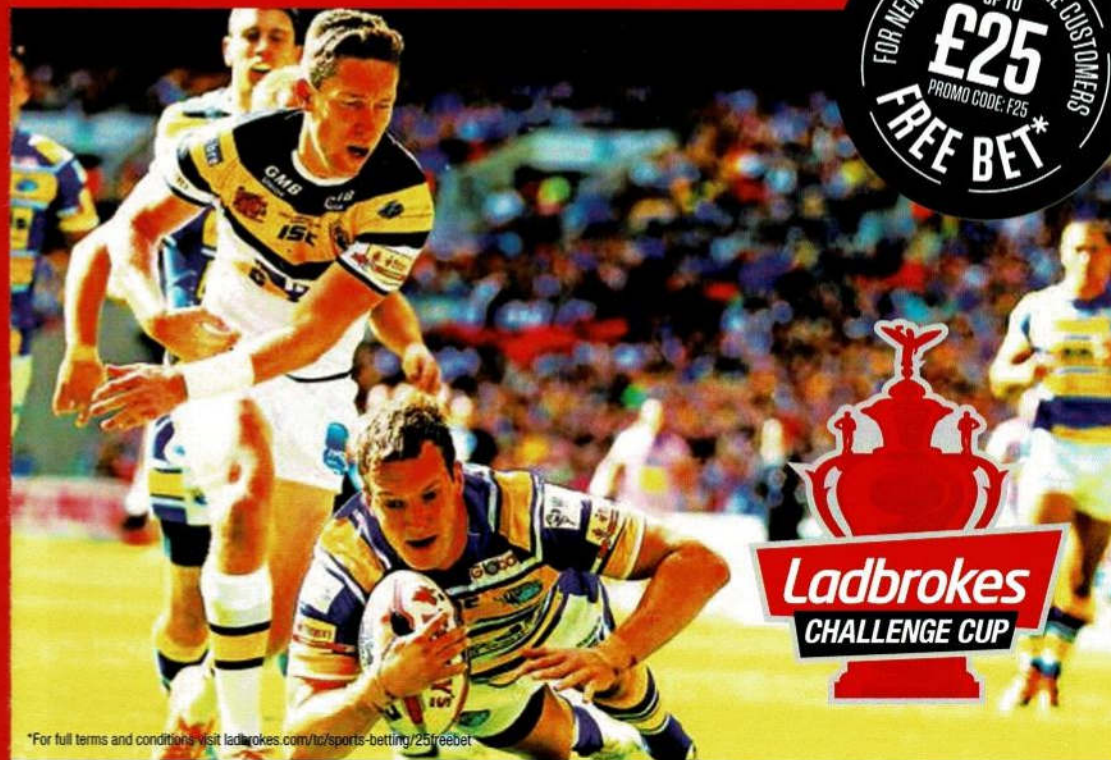
RFL Marketing Director Mark Foster said: "It's great to have a band with Collabro's talent and profile at the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup final.

"They were terrific in Britain's Got Talent last year and I'm sure they will be well received by the best fans in British sport."

Tickets for the final at Wembley on Saturday, August 29 costs from just £20 and can be purchased by visiting www.rugbyleaguetickets.co.uk or calling the Rugby League Ticket Hotline on 0844 856 1113.



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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Cup and league, 14 possible)

	App	DG	Gls	Tries	Pts
ASHTON, Tom	2	—	—	1	4
BROUGHTON, Jodie	1	—	—	2	8
CLAY, Adam	11	—	—	12	48
CROWLEY, Josh	14	—	—	7	28
DEMPSEY, Tom	4	1	2	1	9
FILES, Adam	10	—	—	—	—
FORD, Jon	7	—	—	7	28
GEE, Sam	12	—	—	3	12
HOLMES, Jack	11	—	—	8	32
HUGHES, Kenny	12	—	—	—	—
JOHNSON, Josh	5	—	—	2	8
JOY, Phil	13	—	—	—	—
JOY, Richard	3	—	—	2	8
LANGTREE, Danny	11	—	—	4	16
LEARMONTH, Micky	2	—	—	2	8
MASON, Nathan	12	—	—	2	8
NEAL, Adam	13	—	—	1	4
NIELD, Steven	8	—	—	4	16
OWEN, Gareth	11	—	—	2	8
PALFREY, Lewis	13	1	54	4	125
ROBERTS, Oliver	3	—	—	2	8
ROPER, Steve	12	1	6	2	21
THOMPSON, Liam	13	—	—	3	12
TYSON, George	11	—	—	6	24
WARD, Jarrod	12	—	—	4	16
WARD, Michael	12	—	—	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

THE latest book on Oldham Rugby, 'From Watersheddings to Whitebank' by Craig Halstead, has received favourable reviews in the press.

This is what the papers say:

Oldham Evening Chronicle (Matthew Chambers): "Craig's account (of a life following Roughyeds) is leavened with the sort of humour that is needed to act as an emotional buffer to all the tears, trauma and turmoil.

"Those who were able to attend these matches (the 1987 Challenge Cup win against Wigan and the game against the Aussies in 1986) will feel pangs of nostalgia as they read this entertaining and informative account of a life following Oldham.

"Details of all the main games are there in what is an interesting fan's eye perspective of a middle-of-the-road rugby league team through the years."

League Express (Gareth Walker): "Roughyeds have a story to tell like no other. Frequently on the move in recent years, they haven't always been battling in the lowest tier of the professional game during Halstead's time as a supporter, and on four occasions during that time they were one match away from a Challenge Cup final.

"These games naturally feature prominently in a labour of love by Halstead, whose dad Roger is also a stalwart of the Oldham rugby league community, having written on the sport for the Oldham Chronicle for over 40 years.

"The club has fallen on difficult times at different stages of the last 18 years, but that it remains in place – with the current side flying high in League One under Scott Naylor's guidance – is a great credit to those involved, both administrators and fans on the

terraces.

"For many, if not all, people who support Championship rugby league clubs, the book will strike plenty of familiar chords.

"There will be matches which are of interest to supporters across the game for people to look back on and recall."

League Weekly: "The author, who has dedicated his work to Oldham 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.

"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."

Craig was at Whitebank last Sunday for the North Wales Crusaders game to promote his book and to sell signed copies which, for many fans, will make an ideal present for Fathers' Day.



CRAIG HALSTEAD, the author

Information about the book:

ISBN: 9781909885080;

Price: £11.95 (paperback);

208 pages, illustrated with photographs.

Published on 11 May 2015.

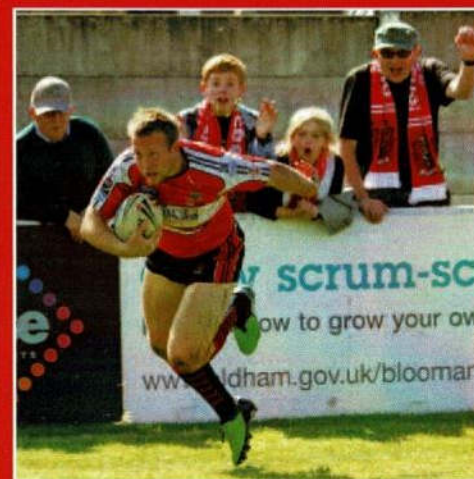
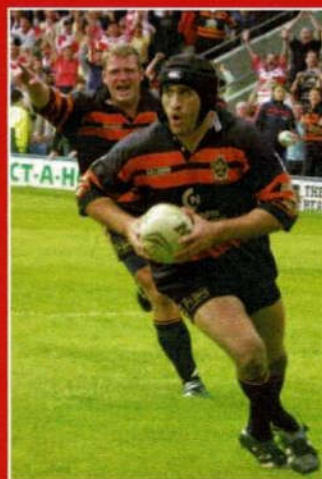
The book is available at a special offer price of £10.95 post free in the UK from London League Publications Ltd, PO Box 65784, London NW2 9NS (credit card orders via www.llpshop.co.uk), or can be ordered from any bookshop at £11.95 and will be available after 11 May 2015 on Amazon.co.uk and Abebooks.co.uk.

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



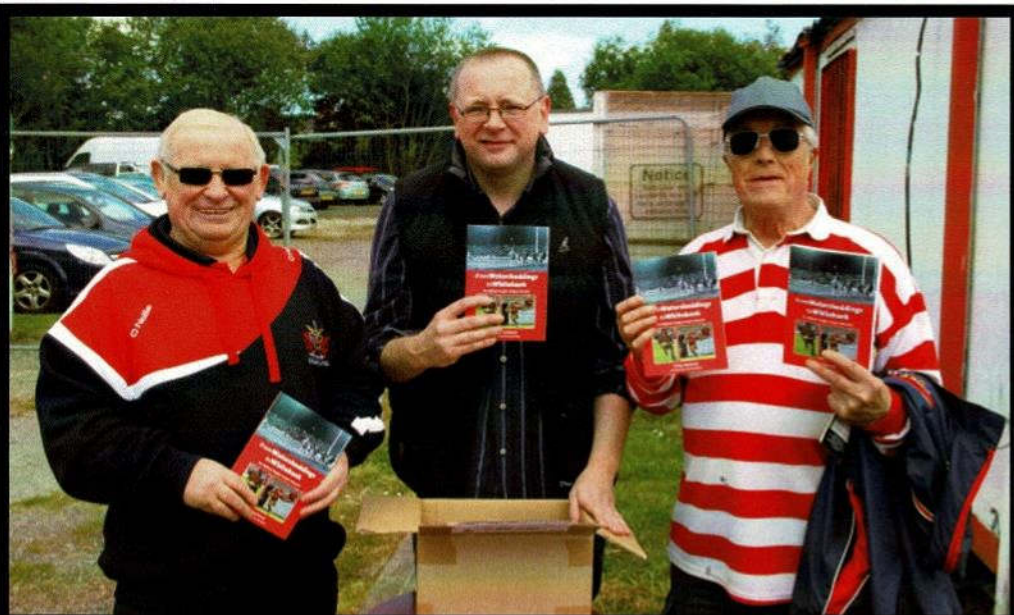
from Watersheddings to Whitebank

An Oldham Rugby League Memoir



Craig Halstead

Foreword by Chris Hamilton



Lifelong Roughyeds fan Craig Halstead was at the Crusaders game at Whitebank last Sunday, selling signed copies of his new book, 'From Watersheddings to Whitebank'. He is flanked by Alan Butterworth (left) and Raymond Fletcher (right).

Though Craig can't be here today (he lives in North Wales down near Bangor) signed books will still be on sale before the game and at half-time from Fiona, who will be stationed in or around the refreshment bar. They are priced by London League Publications Ltd at £11.95.

Crowd figures on the up?

The attendance of 671 at the Crusaders game last Sunday was easily the best Whitebank crowd of the season so far.

The previous best was 491 for the visit of Stanley Gene's Newcastle Thunder, but there is every reason to believe that our attendances will continue on an upward spiral in the second half of the season.

Of the seven League One fixture last weekend only one was better than ours. Barrow v Keighley pulled in 1,141, but the rest were pretty dismal – Gloucester v Hemel 153; Skolars v Coventry 259; Oxford v South Wales 286; Swinton v Newcastle 455 (less than we got here for Thunder's visit); and York v Rochdale 386.

York are currently experiencing a nomadic existence — and we know something about that — so the fact that the Rochdale game was played at Featherstone was one big factor in their being such a small turn-out.

From the playing point of view, the second half of the regular season will be much tougher than the first from Oldham's perspective, given that of our remaining 12 fixtures, after today, six are against teams who were in the Championship last year and another is against York, who finished top of Championship One in 2014 with six more points than third-placed Roughyeds.

And the other five – against Gloucester, London, Hemel, Newcastle and Oxford are all away.

That means that some of the most attractive games of the season here at Whitebank have still to be played and with them, of course, should come some of our best attendances.

York (July 5), Rochdale (July 12), Keighley (August 2), Barrow (August 23) and Swinton (September 6) should give our aggregate attendances for the season a massive boost, especially if the boys on the field can get back to winning ways and put their recent disappointments behind them.



Two-try Josh Crowley got us off to a good start against Crusaders, taking his touchdown total for the season to seven – more than any other Oldham forward

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 Higginshaw 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.

Come and join us in the sponsors' lounge

PAUL Hulbert, who was the Roughyeds' kit-man for many years and is now an active member of ORSA, is leading a big ORSA event in the sponsors' lounge at Whitebank when we entertain York City Knights in our next home game on Sunday, July 5 (3pm kick off).

At a ticket price of £7.50, including a first-class buffet, all supporters are invited to this pre-match and post-match event, starting from 1pm. Please note that the ticket price does NOT include match-day admission.

Come and join us at this ORSA-sponsored event, which provides a buffet lunch and will enable you to buy and enjoy a glass or two from our bar, which will be stocked with real ales and lagers.

During the build-up to the game you can listen to interviews with club personnel, which usually include a player who is not on duty that day as well as Chris Hamilton or Scott Naylor, sometimes both.

Tea and coffee will be available at half-time, and then we return to the lounge after the game when



Man-of-the-match Adam Neal presents 'guess-the-crowd' winner Val Halstead with her prize in the sponsors' lounge last Sunday.

you can meet the two players who will come in to receive their champagne-moment and man-of-the-match awards.

We are always looking at new ways of engaging with fans and we believe this is excellent value at £7.50 per head.

Paul will be here at the ground today selling tickets or you can also speak to John McAndrew or to Grant or Sheila Somerville and they will point you in the right direction.

Alternatively, you can ring (0161) 626 9880 after 6pm on any weekday for further information or to buy tickets.

JONES 6

TENORS
OF ROCK

BROTHERS IN ARMS
IN MEMORY OF DANNY JONES

TOR are honoured to be re-releasing 'Brothers in Arms' to celebrate the life of Danny Jones.

After speaking to Gary Fawcett the Chairman of Danny's club - Keighley Cougars there was no doubt that this song was a perfect tribute.

Rugby League is one of the most brutal sports of them all. But the game isn't just a game - it's a family.

Rugby League has a tradition of honour, bravery and respect. The release of this track is to celebrate not only Danny's life and to raise money for his family but to celebrate the sport.

Danny leaves behind a wife and 5 month old twins. The heartache for his family must be unbearable and if we can do anything at all by releasing this song in memory of Danny then we are truly honoured.

Rugby League stands strong together for Danny's family just like Brothers... Brothers in Arms.

DANNY JONES #6

<https://youtu.be/bCEWUq29oEs>

OFFICIAL RELEASE 31ST MAY

THE Tenors of Rock, backed by Keighley Cougars, have re-released their single 'Brothers In Arms' (In Memory of Danny Jones) for the benefit of the Just Giving DannyJones29 fund that has been set up for his five month old twins Bobby and Phoebe. Sales of the single are going well and you can buy it on iTunes on this link itun.es/gb/Ng417 on

Amazon, or on Google Play. The cost is 79p and all profits will go into the fund. Proceeds will help Danny's little family and, in a wider sense, the higher this single gets up the charts the greater the benefit to the rugby league family and sport. Thank you for your help and support so far - Gary Fawcett, chairman, - Keighley Cougars.

Cas man Tim spreading his wings in the south

Focus on our visitors by ROGER HALSTEAD

OXFORD coach Tim Rumford is a proud Yorkshireman with massive links to Castleford Tigers, for whom he works full time in a Foundation and Community Trust role.

A Cas lad, aged 37, he coached the Tigers Academy squad in 2009 and 2010, helping to develop the skills of young players like Adam Milner, Daryl Clarke, Ryan Brierley and Jonny Walker on their way up the ladder to first-team status.

He played for Lock Lane, Castleford's Alliance side, York Wasps and Hunslet before moving into coaching and learning his trade as head coach of York amateurs Heworth and later assistant coach for a spell at Gateshead Thunder.

Succeeding Tony Benson at Oxford, and in his first season in the city of the dreaming spires, Tim commutes from his home near Castleford, as does managing director Adrian Smith, who lives near Pontefract.

The board also includes Tony Colquitt, who spent five years as chief executive at St Helens.

Rumford is currently rebuilding a squad that no longer possesses a single ex-Oldham player, let alone TEN, as it did in 2013, the club's first year at this level.

He said: "I still work full-time at Cas and I think I've done every job there apart from bar man. On Tuesday and Thursday nights I'm allowed to leave a couple of hours early to travel down to Oxford. Cas are a great club to work for and I am extremely grateful to them for allowing me to follow my ambitions in coaching.

"When the Oxford job came along I felt it was a perfect fit for me at this stage of my career, and I've got to say I'm enjoying it immensely.



Tim Rumford

"The travelling can be a bit tough and we're under no illusions about the size of the task ahead of us, but it's a natural progression for me and I love the challenge.

"We just have to run with the blows and take the rough with the smooth, but we're not doing too bad up to now with four wins out of eight league games, beating Hemel, Skolars, Gloucester and South Wales all at home."

Tim believes there are two divisions within League One — the top eight that form the northern powerhouse and then the remaining six, of which Oxford are currently on top, much to his pride and pleasure.

He added: "We've made a good start and we're aiming to finish top of the southern group, which is a realistic target for us and one that we would be proud to achieve.

"In an ideal world we'd field a team full of boys from down there, but we've got to balance that ideal with the urgent need to be viable and competitive in a division that is going stronger each year, and particularly so this year with the addition of the five teams which came down.

"People say there's a lot of money in the south but if there is, it isn't coming into rugby league. The day might dawn when one of the clubs down there comes into money, but other than that you could only build a team of locals if you had youth development teams and academies and even then it would be a long-term investment which would also require money to set up and maintain.

Continued on next page



Jack Holmes scoring a try for Oldham against Crusaders

"There are some good lads down there, but it's questionable whether there's enough to go round, so for now we've got to strengthen with northern-based players and I suppose I'm fortunate in that respect because of my links and contacts with the game in Yorkshire"

Oxford have a dual-reg agreement with Bradford and it was interesting to see that in last Sunday's 38-30 win against South Wales they were led by former Super League ace Matty Blythe, who played in the second-row and by all accounts was an extremely influential figure, as anyone would expect.

Among other recent recruits are Jonny Payne, a prop who's been at Castleford and Bradford; Andy Matthews, a winger from Fryston Colliery and Lock Lane; and hooker Dean Mignacca, an Aussie of Italian descent, who has signed on loan from Rochdale Hornets.

Said Tim: "Dean was looking for some game time and it fitted in with what we needed at Oxford. If it helps Dean and it helps Oxford its of mutual benefit and so much the better.

"We've also brought in Steve Scott, a forward, and Andy Matthews, a winger — two young players from the Castleford area. At one time, Andy played in the Tigers' under-20s.

"In a squad of 22 or 23 I've got about nine or ten northern lads.

"I firmly believe that boys from the south have to have something about them. They need to be in the side on merit and not merely because they tick all the right boxes in terms of meeting the local criteria and expansionist ideals.

"We've had a mixed bag of results, but the win against Gloucester was a big one because they have some financial clout thanks to their close links with the university.

"At Oxford we operate on very tight budgets. I knew that when I went. It has to be that way. We've just got to get on with it.

"My remit is to make Oxford credible in this hugely competitive Kingstone Press League One."

No piece on Oxford would be complete without a reference to that April day in 2013 when Tony Benson brought his 'Blues to Whitebank for the first time, including loads of our former players, and they beat us 18-16.

Remarkably, that was the last time we lost a league game at Whitebank until North Wales Crusaders came to town last Sunday and beat us 38-28 to end a run of 27 league games on home soil without being beaten — a fantastic achievement.



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	L 28 - 38
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

Widnes to host Kingstone Press Finals Day

THE Select Security Stadium at Widnes will host the season-ending Kingstone Press Finals Day on Sunday, October 4 when glory will be up for grabs by clubs from the sport's second, third and fourth tiers.

The action kicks off at 11.30am with the Conference Challenge Trophy final and continues with the Kingstone Press League One play-off final at 2.00pm.

A memorable day will end with the final of the Kingstone Press Championship Shield at 4.30pm.

RFL Chief Executive Nigel Wood said: "The new league structure has gripped the imagination across all competitions with more unpredictability of outcome than ever before and the Kingstone Press Finals Day will make for a fitting finale to a season in which every minute really does matter.

"Following on from the success of the Summer Bash and Magic Weekend, the Kingstone Press Finals Day has all the makings of another terrific festival of Rugby League."

The League One play-offs involve five clubs and will determine the second promotion place to the Championship for 2016. At the end of the regular season, first will play second for automatic promotion as champions: the loser of that match will then join the clubs that finished third, fourth and fifth in the play-offs.

First or second will be at home to fifth and third at home to fourth: the winners will then contest the League One play-off final.

The Kingstone Press Championship Shield final will involve two of the top four teams from the Championship Shield – the third of the Super 8s that will be created when the 24 First Utility Super League and Kingstone Press Championship clubs split into three groups at the end of the regular season.

First will play fourth and second will host third with the winners going through to the Championship Shield final for the chance to end the year with a trophy.

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HOW WE STAND Kingstone Press League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Keighley Cougars	8	7	0	1	265	155	110	14
Rochdale Hornets	9	6	0	3	340	155	185	12
OLDHAM	9	6	0	3	307	194	113	12
Newcastle Thunder	9	6	0	3	268	226	42	12
North Wales Crusaders	8	5	1	2	258	147	111	11
Swinton Lions	8	5	1	2	241	190	51	11
York City Knights	8	5	0	3	286	150	136	10
Barrow Raiders	9	5	0	4	302	170	132	10
Oxford	8	4	0	4	193	282	-89	8
Gloucester All Golds	9	3	0	6	252	253	-1	6
Coventry Bears	9	3	0	6	180	301	-121	6
Hemel Stags	9	3	0	6	184	349	-165	6
London Skolars	8	1	0	7	118	274	-156	2
South Wales Scorpions	9	0	0	9	94	442	-348	0

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

EVERYBODY associated with the Oldham club was pretty cheesed off last Sunday when we were beaten at Whitebank in a league game for the first time since April, 2013.

Lots of fans will remember that Tony Benson's Oxford did us 18-16 in a very strange game by virtue of the fact that the visitors paraded almost a full team of players who had been at our club in the previous season just a few months earlier.

There was also the Benson factor to take into account and, not unexpectedly in the circumstances, Tony was petty upbeat after his win.

On that Sunday afternoon in late April two years ago, however, who would have ever believed that we would go another 27 games on home soil before suffering another loss in the league.

We had a few close shaves... like the 24-24 draw with Gloucester at the end of the 2013 season; the 20-20 draw with Hemel at the start of the 2014 campaign; and the two wins by one point in thrillers against York (31-30) and Hunslet (24-23).

In both those games the Roughyeds showed

phenomenal desire, self-belief and a never-say-die spirit to come from behind in the last few minutes and to clinch glorious victories — in much the same way that they went away to Hunslet and York in the play-offs at the end of that season and triumphed again, 25-24 at Hunslet and 31-12 at York.

Even in the final, although we were not at our best on the big day, the crown went to Hunslet only on a golden-point drop goal after the scores were locked up at 16 apiece at the end of normal time.

Fast forward a few months and we have just seen us concede 26 points at Keighley in the first half and a similar number before half time in the next match against Crusaders.

That wasn't the Roughyeds we have come to know and love — and it wasn't the Roughyeds that, under Scott, went nearly two and a half seasons before losing two league games in a row.

That's another phenomenal feat. Time to get back on the horse boys and to show us that the REAL Roughyeds are still alive and kicking!

Roger Halstead