

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

2 Ben Dent
5 Nev Morrison
3 Greg Minikin
24 Michael Channing
19 James Clare
32 Jordan Howden
6 Jonny Presley
8 Mark Applegarth
14 Kris Brining
10 Jack Aldous
12 Ed Smith
15 Josh Tonks
29 Brad Nicholson
9 Harry Carter
4 Liam Cunningham
34 Jack Blagbrough
28 Micky Learmonth
Pat Smith
Ryan Mallinder
Jack Pickles
Casey Canterbury
Lee Waterman
Tyler Craig
Scott Glassell

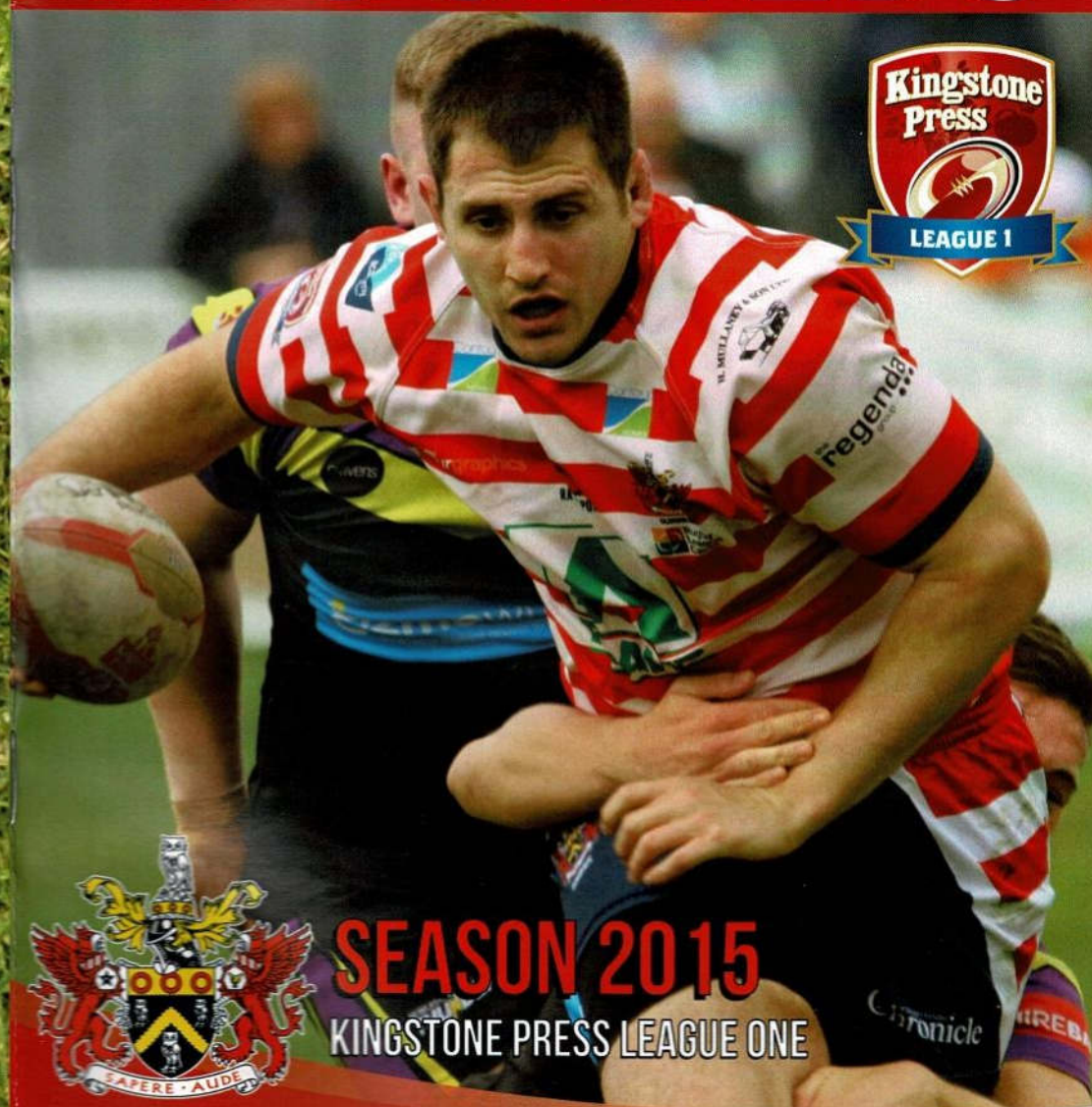
Officials: Referee, D Merrick;
Res, G Melling; TJ, P Stockman; TJ, G Evans;
Match commissioner, P Taberner.
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OLDHAM **YORK CITY**
KNIGHTS

SUNDAY 5th
JULY 2015
KICK-OFF 3pm

ISSUE #10 / £2.00
OFFICIAL
MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

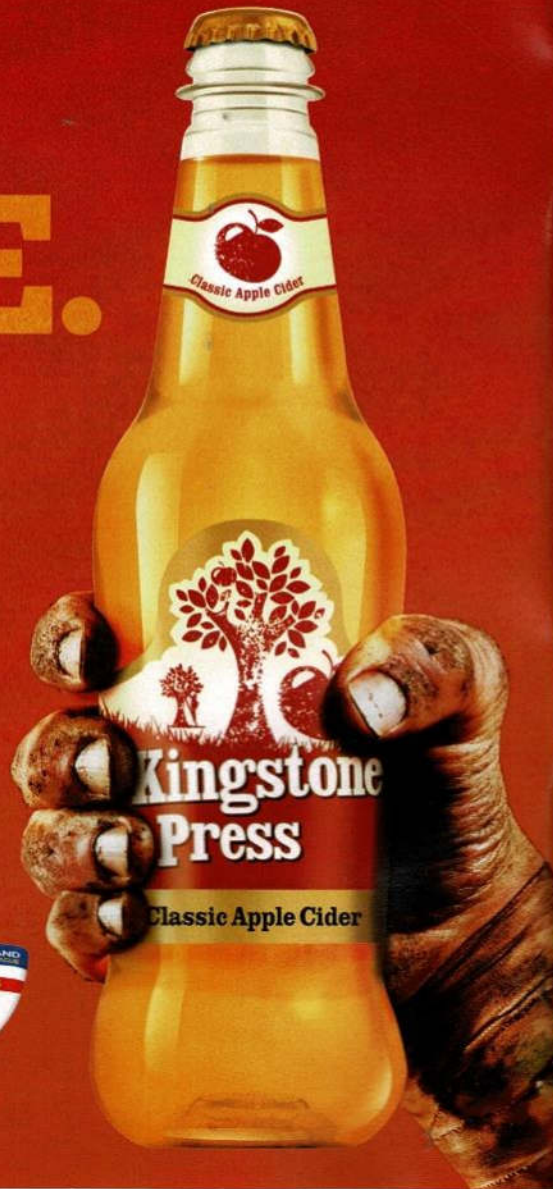
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X --- O X O
NATTER WITH NOBBY
O X --- O X

HELLO everyone and welcome to today's game against York City Knights at Whitebank Stadium.

Today's opponents are, in my opinion, the unheralded underdogs of this season's campaign.

We need to remember that York won Championship One last year with five points to spare on second-placed Hunslet and six points more than us, who finished third.

They won 17 of their 20 games, piled up more points than any other club (738) and over the course of the season they were certainly the best team statistically.

A lot of people talk about the big five that came down at the end of last season and I think that's disrespectful to the team that dominated our league last year.

York are quietly going about their business, winning games and slowly creeping up the table.

They deserve a lot of respect and only a top-class performance by ourselves will be good enough to get a win.

York lost some quality players at the end of last season but they have recruited well and it's showing in their results.

Since we last played at Whitebank, we've won two away games which is great testament to the lads.

Our performance against Swinton was outstanding. To beat a team like that at their home is a huge achievement and shows how much commitment and how much desire our players have to do well for the club.

The support at Sedgley Park was also fantastic and it was great to see at an away ground. It means a great deal to the players and staff, more than you would ever know. Thank you once again.

Last week at Gloucester it was all about the result. Sometimes you just have to win a game away from home and move on - and that's exactly what we did. We were great in spells and it was enough to get us over the line to pick up another two points.

Let's hope today is a good one for the club. And, again, thanks for your outstanding support.

Scott



Tag comp hailed a 'great success'



A TAG-rugby tournament featuring the children of local primary schools Greenhill, St Hilda's and Lyndhurst provided pre-match and half-time entertainment for fans at the North Wales Crusaders game.

For the record, Greenhill and St Hilda's drew and Lyndhurst won both their games (and the trophy), beating St Hilda's by one try to nil and Greenhill by two tries to nil.

But this wasn't about winners and losers; it was about players and supporters of the future coming to Whitebank, enjoying the day and getting a taste of our great game, with its disciplines and ethics of sportsmanship, while still in their formative years.

Said Oldham RLFC Community Coach Daniel Newall: "It was superb to see so many young people playing rugby at one of our League One home games. They behaved impeccably all afternoon and



Lyndhurst Primary team

played some fantastic rugby. "They also had an opportunity to be ball boys for the day and from the feedback we've had they loved it. The club would like to thank the schools for providing us with a brilliant tournament."

Lyndhurst received their trophy, plus the match ball signed by the entire Oldham squad and staff, at a presentation assembly in school on the following Friday. The club is talking to several other local schools with a view to staging similar curtain-raisers during the second half of the season.

Added Daniel: "In partnering schools on this type of project we can hopefully introduce a lot of young people to our great game."



Greenhill Primary team



St Hilda's Primary team

A CHAT WITH CHRIS

WELCOME back to Whitebank for the first of two home games in a row, which is becoming, or so it seems, a regular pattern of our fixtures.

In the two away games since we were last at home, we picked up wins against Swinton Lions and Gloucester All Golds and now, after 12 games in League One, we have a 75 per cent win rate — no mean achievement.

To be where we are in the league at this stage of the season is very promising and I don't think there is any doubt that, at the beginning of the year, we would have taken it.

One thing is for sure; we still have plenty of improvement in us and that isn't a criticism, it's a fact. Coaches and players would agree that we can be more consistent; and the good thing is that, despite not always playing to our full potential, we have shown a new level of resolve this season which has seen us grind out wins that in seasons past we probably wouldn't have done.

That in itself is a great attribute to have when looking at the fixtures we still have to play.

Each week, in the mix at the top, teams are taking points off each other, and starting today all of our remaining home matches are against teams who will be fancying their chances come the end of the season, so we certainly need to be switched on.



As ever, turn up with the wrong attitude or be only 'bit prepared' to work and it's a given that you will lose.

As I have said previously, League One is fantastically well balanced. It must be a great competition to follow for anybody who is not passionate about one particular club. What a shame that, because of that, we can't enjoy it!

At risk of repeating myself, your support on game day becomes even more important now, particularly when we play at home.

It goes without saying that we hope to see more people in attendance. Not only do the lads deserve to be playing in front of bigger crowds, but as we all know a large vocal support can make a difference and give them a lift, while also proving intimidating to the opposition.

York City Knights, today's opponents, are having a somewhat tough time off the field this year but they have, nevertheless, kept up their challenge on the field.

Over the past few seasons we have had some real battles with the City Knights and this one should be another to add to the collection.

Let's all be loud and proud and hopefully we can help to cheer on the lads to another two points.

Enjoy the game,

Chris

'Saint' David's two-try debut

ST HELENS youngster **David Hewitt** has described his move to Oldham on loan as a "brilliant opportunity" to further his career.

He grabbed that opportunity with both hands in Cheltenham last Saturday when he scored two first-half tries on debut in our 42-30 win against the University of Gloucestershire All Golds.

The former England Schools and England Academy stand-off, aged 19, has signed initially for one month with a view to having the agreement extended for the remainder of the season.

His long-term ambition is to play Super League with Saints, who signed him from local amateurs Bold Miners when he was 16, and he believes a stint in League One will be a stepping stone in that direction.

Said Hewitt: "I'm hoping to prove myself at this level and I thought I fitted in okay when I got my first chance last week.

"It was my first game since the end of April, so it was great just to get out there and to get an early touch of the ball.

"It was my first-ever game against men at senior level, but I had been training with the lads at Whitebank for a couple of weeks and that was a huge help.

"It was great to score a couple of tries, obviously, but I just pushed through in support of the forwards. It was Josh Crowley for the first one and Danny Langtree for the second. They did the hard work.

"I managed a 40-20, but I also made some errors in the kicking department. I guess I was always going to be a bit ring rusty, given that I hadn't played for nine weeks."

Reflecting on the events that led up to his arrival at Oldham, Hewitt went on: "Oldham came in for me at the start of the year, but Saints back then didn't think it was the right time for me to go.

"It's good that Oldham have given me a second chance. It will be a brilliant opportunity for me to get first-team experience and to play against men at first-team level.

"A few people whose opinions I respect have told me that joining Oldham will be a good move for me."

Hewitt was named in the provisional 19-man squad for the Oxford game, but Scott Naylor decided he needed more time to settle into his new surroundings so his debut was put on hold until we travelled to the West Country last weekend.

Born in St Helens, he played as a boy for Blackbrook,

Pilkington Recs and Bold before signing for Saints while in year 11 at St Cuthbert's High School.

He was part of the junior set-up at Knowsley Road from the age of 11 and he became an under-15s and under-16s scholar before accepting part-time terms when he was 16.

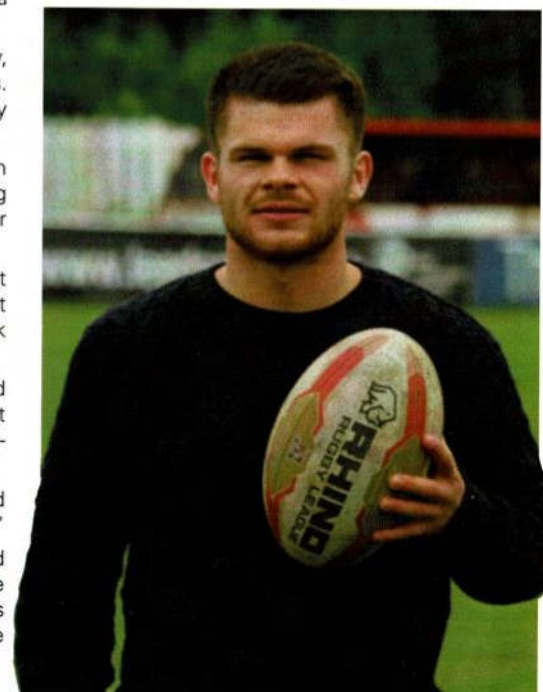
Former head coach Nathan Brown offered him a full-time professional contract last year shortly before he left the club to go home to Australia.

Hewitt twice played for England Schoolboys in France and last season he was England's stand-off in an Academy (under-19s) international against France at Castleford.

He said the biggest influence on his career up to now was his coach for three years at Bold Miners, Mark Saunders.

Saunders is now a Wigan Warriors' scout with Jack Roden, father of former Oldham half-back Neil, and ex-Roughyeds scout John Jackson, who was at Whitebank to watch the Oxford game.

Added Hewitt: "Mark converted me from a full-back to a half-back. He guided me through the process over a long period of time. He was a massive influence."



David Hewitt

Ex-Army man Pat has a key role to play

PLAYERS apart, the one person you see most on the pitch during matches is our club physiotherapist Patrick Hoyte.

Patrick, or Pat as he is widely known, comes from an extremely interesting military and sporting background and it struck me that fans might like to know more about the man who has such a key role to play in maintaining the fitness of our promotion-seeking Oldham squad, writes ROGER HALSTEAD.

Aged 49, the son of an RAF officer, he lived all over the UK and Germany before joining the Army in 1984 as a medic.

He was in the Forces for 21 years, during which time he served with 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, along with 1, 2 and 3 Parachute Regiments, seeing service in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Rwanda, Kosovo and Iraq, ending his Army career in 2005 as Regimental Sergeant Major.

He played rugby league for the Army and for Combined Services and also had a season with Salford RLFC in 1989/90.

About that same period he represented Great Britain in Bobsleigh and he also won selection for the Army and Combined Services in athletics.

On leaving the Army in 2005, aged 40, he studied physiotherapy at Salford University and qualified in 2009, joining Oldham RLFC a year later, initially as the reserve team physio. He has been here ever since and is now in his second season as head physio, working alongside Scott Naylor and Lee Spencer as one of the key members of the backroom team.

Said Pat: "Chris (Hamilton) gave me the

opportunity to come to the club and I've been happy here since day one. I have no plans to move on.

"I like the club, the people who work in it, and the fans. The players are a great bunch of lads.

"Maybe one day we'll get the ground a club like this deserves. We would all love to have a super complex, obviously, but buildings don't make a club. Never have, never will.

"A club is 'made' by the people who represent it – and the people who represent this club are top-notch, believe me."



Patrick Hoyte

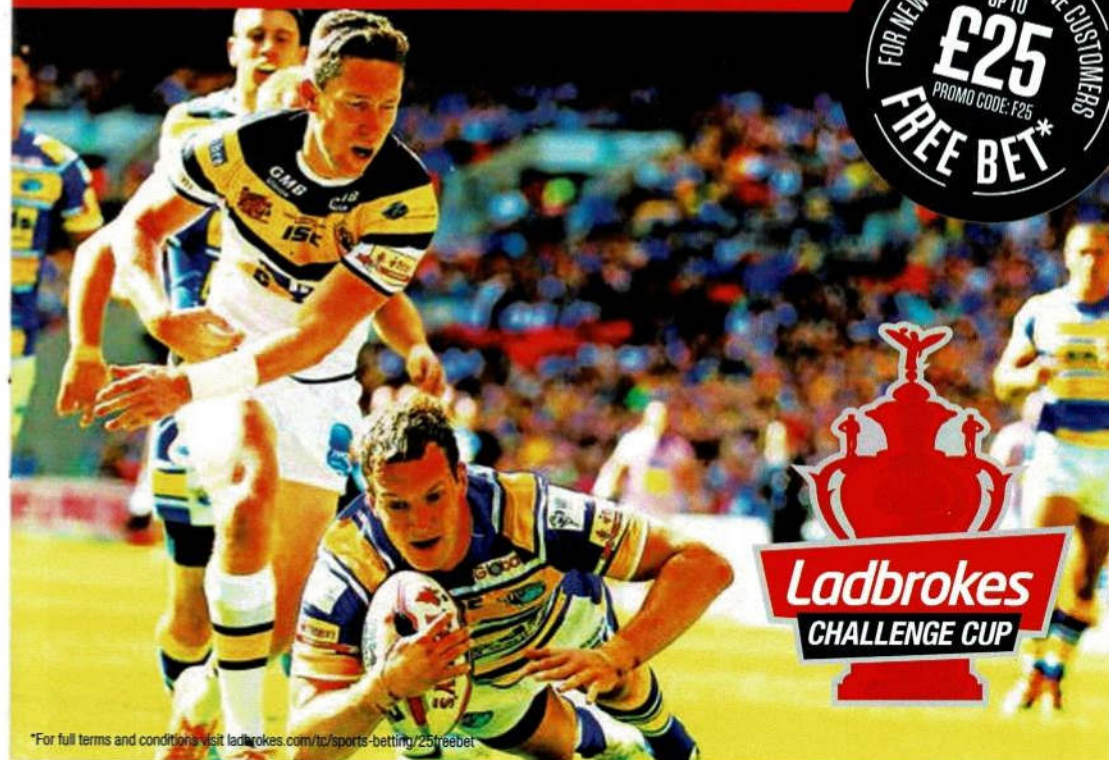
ORSA (Oldham Roughyeds' Supporters' Association) are today's match ball, man-of-the-match and champagne moment sponsors.

Pictures from their big event in the hospitality suite today, a sell-out, will be featured in next week's programme for the Rochdale Hornets game. You get 24 pages in full colour, packed with articles and pictures, all for £2.

To join ORSA (£10 a year) speak to **Sheila** or **Grant Somerville** or to chairman **John McAndrew** or ring **(0161) 633 1791**.

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'Heartbeat' Alan takes it seriously!

COMMUNITY touch-rugby is all about having fun, but our very own Alan Lacey takes it a lot more seriously than that. We're now in week 7 of our Wednesday night sessions on the 3G pitch at Oasis Academy Oldham, Hollins Road (7pm - 9pm, £3 per person) and since week 1 Alan has been tracking his fitness levels with a new piece of technological equipment.

The machine measures his heart beat and tells

him how many calories he is burning off and he has never dropped below 1,500 in two hours. No wonder he enjoys his touch rugby at Oasis.

The RFL is offering good rewards this year for players and club alike if certain targets are achieved and if we achieve them we will qualify for Nando's nights out, free cinema tickets and visits by Super League stars, so it would be great to see more of you giving touch rugby a try and watching those calories getting burned off.



OLDHAM RLFC

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For more information
call 0161 624 9630 ext. 70552
Email oldhamrlfc@btconnect.com

Touch-Rugby players in seventh heaven!

This is Oldham RLFC's Community Coach Daniel Newall's overview of the action that takes place every Wednesday night (7pm to 9pm) on the 3G pitch at Oasis Academy Oldham:

"The first few weeks of this years 'Play Touch Rugby' have been fantastic. We are only in week 7 and every player's fitness has improved, not only from playing but also from new and challenging warm-up routines we now have in place.

"The group's skills as rugby players are also improving each week which in turn builds confidence and self-esteem.

"A lot of last year's squad have

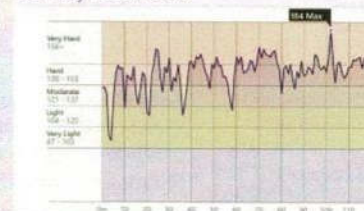
come back for more, including the party from Widnes, but we have also had a steady flow of new faces from the Oldham area, which is very encouraging indeed.

"New friendships have been forged among a great bunch of people, who all enjoy a bit of banter and a few laughs as well as their touch rugby.

"New players are always welcome and all they have to do is to turn up on the night. What can be easier than that.

"Players can also find out the latest Touch Rugby News on our Facebook and Twitter pages, using the #HIITHEPITCH"

Summary Observations



From Watersheddings to Whitebank

An Oldham Rugby League Memoir
by Craig Halstead

The book is selling well and here are extracts from some of the feedback:

Martin C: "An absolute joy. The delights and tortures of becoming a Roughyeds supporter are described perfectly."

Jaykay: "The author shows us his dedication to Roughyeds from an early age."

Georgia Hilton: "An excellent read. Didn't put the book down. Can't recommend it enough."

Stuart Taft: "Enjoyed the memories. A must for Oldham RL followers."

Adrian Marsden: "Brought back loads of memories."

Scott Claber: "Tremendous memories. I get goose bumps just thinking about Watersheddings on a cold, winter's night under floodlights."



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.



TRY READING RUGBY LEAGUE FICTION

For a long time after David Storey wrote "This Sporting Life" in the 1950s, no one in this country had successfully written a novel set against a rugby league background. But things changed in 1988 when former draughtsman Geoff Lee began to write his first novel "One Winter" so called because it was set during the 1962/3 winter. It was inspired by his love and knowledge of rugby league which he had followed since 1947 and the old saying about work that **"They could write a book about this place. It would be a best seller"**.

In order to combine fact and fiction, Geoff created the town of Ashurst which he located 'near' to his home town of St Helens. The town's largest factory is Wilkinsons Engineering, where his main character Alan Greenall is a draughtsman. Among his workmates are Charlie from Thatto Heath and a friend of Alex Murphy, Mick the Wiganer from Platt Bridge, Stan the war hero, Len the trade union man, Joan the tea lady from Leigh and Sam, the former Merchant Navy seaman from Halifax. His presence in the drawing office ensures that Lancashire/Yorkshire humour is ever present throughout Geoff's novels.

"Greeno" has a keen interest in the history of our game and this enables Geoff to include many true stories about Rugby League. One concerned the Bristol and England full back Tom Brown who came north in 1933 to talk to officials of the Warrington club about changing codes. But he never did. When the RFU found out what he had done, they banned him for life! Another tale is told about how the French Vichy Government banned Rugby League during the war

and there are also accounts of how various groups of Lancashire fans, managed to get to Odsal Stadium for Championship Finals and the 1954 Challenge Cup replay when over 120,000 people turned up.

His latest novel is called "Two Seasons". It is set in 2002 and 2003 and one character is Alan's new next door neighbour, Janice originally from Chadderton. Among the chapter titles are "Listening to Eddie and Stevo", "A day on the M62", "A day out in Wigan", "Hazel Says No to Bush and Blair" and "The spoilt papers might win it".

But "E-Mails From Amsterdam" and "A Swedish Affair" indicate that Geoff's tales also come from places far from the rugby league heartlands while "I was born In Barcelona", manages to link Spain in the 1930s with County Durham in the 1980s.

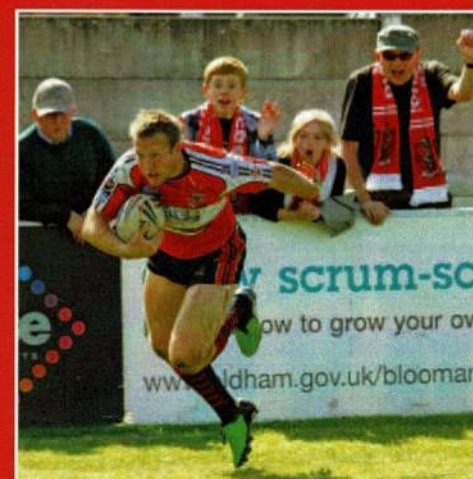
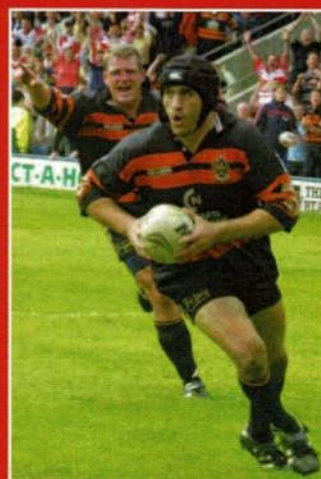
Geoff is now half way through writing his sixth novel. It has no title yet although his first chapter does. It's called "She's A Jehovah's Widnes" while others include "1895 and All That", "Minnie Cotton and her umbrella" and "A Sister Duffy Pass" which is the St Helens way of describing a hospital pass.

One Winter, One Autumn and Two Seasons have been published by London League Publications who have just published "From Watersheddings to Whitebank" and also the novel "Rugby Football: A United Game". This is based on the idea of what might have happened if the northern clubs had been in the majority in 1895.

For more information visit www.llpshop.co.uk and click on Fiction.

from Watersheddings to Whitebank

An Oldham Rugby League Memoir



Craig Halstead

Foreword by Chris Hamilton



APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Cup and league, 17 possible)

	App	DG	Gls	Tries	Pts
ASHTON, Tom	2	–	–	1	4
BROUGHTON, Jodie	1	–	–	2	8
CLAY, Adam	14	–	–	17	68
CROWLEY, Josh	17	–	–	8	32
DEMPSEY, Tom	6	1	2	1	9
FILES, Adam	13	–	–	1	4
FORD, Jon	8	–	–	7	28
GEE, Sam	15	–	–	3	12
HEWITT, David	1	–	–	2	8
HOLMES, Jack	14	–	–	12	48
HUGHES, Kenny	14	–	–	1	4
JOHNSON, Josh	5	–	–	2	8
JOY, Phil	16	–	–	2	8
JOY, Richard	4	–	–	2	8
LANGTREE, Danny	14	–	–	6	24
LEARMONTH, Micky	2	–	–	2	8
MASON, Nathan	15	–	–	2	8
NEAL, Adam	15	–	–	1	4
NIELD, Steven	8	–	–	4	16
OWEN, Gareth	14	–	–	3	12
PALFREY, Lewis	16	1	75	4	167
ROBERTS, Oliver	5	–	–	2	8
ROPER, Steve	14	1	6	2	21
THOMPSON, Liam	16	–	–	4	16
TYSON, George	14	–	–	10	40
WARD, Jarrod	12	–	–	4	16
WARD, Michael	14	–	–	3	12



ADAM CLAY, our top try scorer with 17 in all competitions



DANNY 'BOY' LANGTREE, he cut Swinton apart in the first half at Sedgley Park.

Focus on today's visitors... with a flashback to our great battles in 2014

YORK CITY KNIGHTS 2014:

Final Position: 1st in Championship One

Challenge Cup: 4th Round

(Lost v Swinton Lions)

Top Tryscorer: Ben Dent (21)

Top Points scorer: Ben Reynolds (163)

Biggest Win: 76-0 v South Wales
Scorpions (Home, 23/3/14)

Heaviest Defeat: 12-31 v Oldham
(Home, 21/9/14)

2014 REVIEW:

It was so near yet so far for the York City Knights as following storming to the League Leaders trophy they fell away in the play offs.

Despite finishing the regular season with ten consecutive victories, the Knights suffered shock back-to-back home defeats at the hands of Oldham and Hunslet in the play-offs to end their promotion push.

After beginning 2014 with four consecutive victories which included defeating Whitehaven in the Challenge Cup, the Knights suffered back to back defeats at the hands of Swinton in the Cup and Oxford in the League.

The regular league season would only bring two more defeats, a heart breaking last minute drop goal defeat at Oldham and a shock narrow two point defeat on the road at the Gloucestershire All Golds.

A 40-0 thrashing of Hunslet at Huntington paved the way to a phenomenal run of form to take the club into the play offs as firm favourites to secure promotion up into the Championship.

Four point triumph over Gateshead and two point over Hunslet gave Knights there only real tests as they comfortably swept aside all before them including the Oldham Roughyeds who they thrashed 54-12 at home to really lay down the marker going into the final months.

York City Knights secured the league leaders shield with a game to spare following the 20-18 victory at home to the Hunslet Hawks, but in the play offs things would not go their way.

With home advantage to their favour, York imploded, being seen of 31-12 by a defiant Oldham side before the club's final ever game at Huntington saw them the victims of a 32-24 comeback defeat to Hunslet.

These defeats ended all hopes of promotion and then to the amazement of all involved, the departure of Gary Thornton as head coach.

2015 SQUAD:

Jack Aldous, Mark Applegarth, Peter Aspinall, Austin Bell, Kris Brinning, Elliot Bulmer, Harry Carter, Jamel Chisholm, Tyler Craig, Liam Cunningham, Adam Dent, Ben Dent, Corey Hanson, James Haynes, Jake Joynt, Ryan Mallinder, Greg Minikin, Nev Morrison, Brad Nicholson, Josh Nicklin, Jonny Presley, Colton Roche, Ed Smith, Pat Smith, Josh Tonks.

WHO'S IN:

Former fans favourite Mark Applegarth has returned to York following years away with the Batley Bulldogs and will take up the role of Player-Assistant Coach.

New Knights Coach James Ford has also added experience and pace to his back line with Leeds Rhinos academy product Jamel Chisholm arriving following a year at Featherstone in which he spent most of on loan at the Hunslet Hawks.

The Centres pair of Nev Morrison and Liam Cunningham have both joined from Doncaster RL, whilst forward Micky Learmonth has come into the squad on-loan from Super League side Huddersfield.

Continued on next two pages

Focus on our visitors *continued*

Also joining the Knights on loan last month was fellow forward Jack Blagbrough. The Leeds University student came from Sheffield Eagles and will be looking to impress during his spell at the Knights in order to earn a starting place back at the Championship outfit.

The most recent acquisitions are a triplet from dual-registration partner Castleford Tigers. Michael Channing and James Clare bring first team Super League experience to the Knights side, whilst halfback Jordan Howden has been exemplary in his first few starts, picking up a pair of man of the match awards already.

WHO'S OUT:

James Ford hung up his boots to become the new Head Coach, with Jason Golden also announcing his retirement.

The Knights will feel the losses of Captain Jack Lee and team mate Brad Brennan who have both joined recently promoted Hunslet Hawks.

Benn Hardcastle made his loan switch to Gateshead Thunder a permanent one whilst Iain Morrison has made the move to the Swinton Lions.

The Knights have also released nine players, which include veteran forward Lee Paterson and Benn's brother Luke Hardcastle.

Lee Waterman returned to the club for a second spell, but left recently after less than 2 months back at the Knights, whilst Pete Aspinall, Elliot Bulmer, Corey Hanson and Austin Bell have all moved on since the start of the season.

THE COACH:

James Ford was appointed Head Coach following retirement to replace Gary Thornton, who was sensationally removed from the position at end of the 2014 season.

Ford, who was a centre, finished his playing days with York after a career which saw him play for five clubs over seventeen years.

After breaking through with the Featherstone Rovers, Ford moved on to the Sheffield Eagles where his performances attracted Castleford Tigers who took Ford from the Eagles where he would play regularly in Super League over two seasons at The Jungle.

A spell at Widnes followed before the move to the Knights where Ford finishing his playing days and will now start his coaching ones.

Away from Rugby, Ford and his Player-Assistant Mark Applegarth teach at Wakefield College.

THE GROUND:

With the Huntington Stadium now closed to be transformed into the brand new York Community Stadium for both Knights and the York City football club, they were due to share City's current home of Bootham Crescent for the next two seasons.

However, the on-going row between York City Council and Knights Chairman John Guildford now means this ground share has fallen through and left YCK homeless for the near future.

This season the Knights have used three different home grounds- two inside the City (Heworth ARLFC and York Rugby Union's Clifton Park) as well as a pair of matches hosted at Featherstone's Big Fellas Stadium.

SEASON SO FAR:

The season began in emphatic fashion in the iPro Sport Cup with a Round 1 78-10 victory over the London Skolars, before a 22-4 in South Wales in the Challenge Cup meant the Knights' new era under James Ford had begun brightly.

However, a disappointing 38-24 defeat at the hands of Newcastle Thunder in the iPro Sport Cup 2nd Round- in which the Knights blew a 20 point lead - lowered the mood in the camp, which was improved the week after somewhat 'as passage into the Challenge Cup 5th Round was secured thanks to a 58-8 win over amateur side Featherstone Lions.

With their league campaign starting with a Good Friday defeat at Keighley, the Knights responded by going the rest of April unbeaten, with league victories over Oxford and Coventry and a Challenge Cup 5th Round victory at another amateur side-Leigh Miners Rangers.

May saw a tight loss at Swinton, whom the Knights beat at home last week, followed by a hammering of Gloucestershire and then a defeat at the hands of reigning Super League champions St Helens in the 6th Round of the Challenge Cup. The Knights gave a great account of themselves despite the 46-6 scoreline, with Tyler Craig grabbing an historic score in the dying embers of the contest.

The Knights' inconsistency was then shown with a 70-0 win over South Wales followed by a gutless 32-14 loss at rivals Newcastle Thunder. The Knights appeared to have turned a bit of a corner since this defeat though, with three consecutive wins over Rochdale, who topped the division at the time of the encounter, London Skolars and finally Hemel Stags, who were dispatched of by a score of 70-10.

Three To Watch



Jack Aldous:

Winner of the 2014 Players' Player of the Year and York Press Player of the Year awards, Jack Aldous remains a Knights player for the fourth straight season and will be looking to build on his impressive performances last term.

A definite fans' favourite at the Knights for his relentless energy and effort, Jack will look to lead from the front once more as one of the captains in the leadership group.

Aldous plays long stints in the middle showing incredible fitness levels for a forward, and prides himself on doing unselfish work for his teammates.

Defensively sound, the 24 year old also has tremendous footwork and always carries the ball strongly, building momentum for the team.

Liam Cunningham:

A former Hull FC U20s captain, Cunningham joined the Knights from Championship side Doncaster and has made an immediate impact.

Featuring in all but two games this season, the centre has grabbed 9 tries so far and brings great attitude and work ethic to the side.

Having spent two seasons in South Yorkshire, Cunningham brings with him valuable experience of that level of Rugby League which the Knights will call upon as they seek promotion.

As a fast and skilful player, he is an influential attacking threat on the field who also brings with him a large degree of versatility by being equally adapt in the back row too.



Kris Brining:

The hooker has filled the huge void left by the departing Jack Lee almost seamlessly, and has so far arguably being the shining star in the Knights side in 2015.



Despite being out for over 2 months with a hand injury, the former Scabourough Pirate leads the club's scoring charts with 12 tries to his name this so far this year, including a pair of hat-tricks.

Renowned for his incredible upper-body strength, Brining is a force close to the line and scores many of his tries through sheer determination and power, barrelling over from close range.

He also owns a great turn of pace, intricate footwork and a mean pass out of dummy half, making him a real star player who has a bright future in the game.



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	W 64 - 0
KPL1	Sunday 21st	SWINTON	A	W 32 - 26
KPL1	Saturday 27th	GLOUCESTER	A	W 42 - 30

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

Another club stalwart leaves us... RIP Harry Brereton

THE sincere condolences of everyone at the club are sent to Deirdre and her family at the passing of lifelong Oldham fan Harry Brereton, a former chairman of the Supporters' Club in Watersheddings days. He died in Avalon Park Nursing Home, Salem, aged 82.

He leaves his wife, three daughters, Debbie, Karen and Katie, seven grand-children and one great grand-daughter. A son, Paul, died seven years ago. Outside of family and work, Harry devoted his life to Oldham Rugby and, in his younger days, he would be at Watersheddings to watch training, colts' matches and 'A' team games as well as first-team matches.

"Of the regulars who turned up to watch training you could always count on Harry being there, even in the depths of winter," recalled Oldham RLFC media manager Roger Halstead, who was the Oldham Evening Chronicle's rugby league reporter for more than 41 years until he retired in 2005.

"Only those who watched training at 'Sheddings for an hour or so on a Tuesday or a Thursday night in January or February will appreciate how much it meant to Harry and his like just to be there."

As well as being actively involved with the

Supporters' Club, he was also the club's kit manager for a time.

His youngest daughter Katie was the last Oldham Rugby Queen in 1986.

On match days Harry would always stand close to the tunnel where he was well known for his wit and repartee as players of both sides, and particularly the referee and touch judges, left the field at half time and full time.

Like thousands of others, he was devastated when the original Oldham club went into liquidation, but he continued to support Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd as a season-ticket holder and a regular home-and-away fan until ill health forced him into 'rugby retirement' two and a half years ago.

At Whitebank he developed a firm friendship with winger Lucas Onyango, with whom he would chat over the boundary wall during stoppages in play on match days.

Said his wife Deirdre: "Oldham Rugby was Harry's life. As a family man he loved us all to bits, but outside his family his only passion was for the Roughyeds. The club meant the world to him."

When the programme was ready for printing, funeral arrangements had not been finalised.

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HOW WE STAND Kingstone Press League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
OLDHAM	12	9	0	3	445	250	195	18
Keighley Cougars	11	9	0	2	395	215	180	18
York City Knights	11	8	0	3	422	186	236	16
Barrow Raiders	12	8	0	4	382	202	180	16
Rochdale Hornets	12	8	0	4	406	235	171	16
Newcastle Thunder	12	8	0	4	329	260	69	16
North Wales Crusaders	11	7	1	3	340	183	157	15
Swinton Lions	11	6	1	4	361	256	105	13
Oxford	11	5	0	6	229	402	-173	10
Coventry Bears	12	4	0	8	250	417	-167	8
Gloucester All Golds	12	3	0	9	306	359	-53	6
Hemel Stags	12	3	0	9	218	489	-271	6
London Skolars	11	1	0	10	160	359	-199	2
South Wales Scorpions	12	1	0	11	140	570	-430	2

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

TEN games to go – seven of them against northern sides who will all have a realistic chance of making the cut.

Looking at the table – and isn't it great to see Oldham back on top – it's reasonable to assume that our finishing fate will probably be determined by how many points we garner from our five remaining home games against York today, Rochdale next Sunday, Keighley and Barrow in August and Swinton on the first Sunday in September.

Every game is crucial, but those five clashes here at Whitebank are the key marginals in our battle to gain control of a seat alongside the other four promotion play-off qualifiers.

In theory, the higher you finish the better chance you have of earning one of the two promotion places.

At the very least, the eight northern clubs will all fancy their chances of making the five. And as things stand right now, with only two points separating Oldham in top spot and Newcastle in sixth place, anything can happen over the next couple of months.

The so-called 'big five', those clubs which came down from the Championship last year, were expected by many pundits to dominate the

new, 14-club League One, yet Oldham, York and Newcastle have proved conclusively in the first half of the season that they can go toe-to-toe with them and more than hold their own.

Two of the Roughyeds best performances of the season were in the wins at Rochdale and Swinton, but defeats at Barrow, Keighley and at home to North Wales indicate clearly that we need more consistency in the many 'big' matches that lie ahead of us.

The next two games promise to be absolute crackers. York are a fine footballing side, as we saw last year when they finished top of the table with five points to spare, and we had a great game with them here at Whitebank where we edged a thriller in the last minute, winning 31-30.

In the return game at their place, they thumped us 54-12, but we avenged that result in great style in the play-offs, winning 31-12 to book our place in the Grand Final with Hunslet Hawks.

Next Sunday we're home again for the derby with our old friends from Spotland – two tough games that will go a long way to determining where we finish in the final shake-up.

Roger Halstead

KINGSTONE PRESS LEAGUE ONE

Official Team Sheet



Oldham V York City Knights, 5 July 2015

OLDHAM R.L.F.C		V	York City Knights	
9	SAM GEE John & Lynda McAndrew	FULL BACK	2	BEN DENT
2	ADAM CLAY Fireplace Superstore	WINGER	19	JAMES CLARE
26	OLIVER ROBERTS Oasis Academy Oldham	CENTRE	24	MICHAEL CHANNING
21	JAKE CONNOR Oasis Academy Oldham	CENTRE	3	GREG MINIKIN
4	JACK HOLMES Oasis Academy Oldham	WINGER	5	NEV MORRISON
6	LEWIS PALFERY Fireplace Superstore	STAND-OFF	13	JORDAN HOWDEN
23	DAVID HEWITT Oasis Academy Oldham	SCRUM-HALF	6	JONNY PRESLEY
8	PHIL JOY Pam Taylor and TTX	PROP	8	MARK APPLGARTH
15	GARETH OWEN Bev, Kelly and Paul Hulbert	HOOKER	7	PAT SMITH
10	ADAM NEAL ORSA	PROP	10	JACK ALDOUS
12	DANNY LANGTREE Charlotte Gothard and Neil Haigh	2ND ROW	12	ED SMITH
11	JOSH CROWLEY Lynda & John McAndrew	2ND ROW	15	JOSH TONKS
13	LIAM THOMPSON ORSA	LOOSE FORWARD	29	BRAD NICHOLSON
22	NATHAN MASON ORLFC Past Players Association	SUB	14	KRISS BRINING
14	ADAM FILES Rita Walton	SUB	4	LIAM CUNNINGHAM
16	KENNY HUGHES Rita Walton	SUB	34	JACK BLAGBROUGH
19	MICHAEL WARD Sylvia, David & Margaret	SUB	11	RYAN MALLINDER

REFEREE

MR D MERRICK