

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
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
23 FORD, Jonathan	Oasis Academy Oldham
25 ASHTON, Tom	Oasis Academy Oldham
21 LEPORI, Richard	ORSA
27 HEWITT, David	ORSA
HOPE, Will	ORSA
LIKU, Elliot	ORSA

KEEP OFF THE GRASS!

At the end of today's game fans must NOT, under any circumstances, go on the pitch. Please keep behind the boundary walls to allow the presentations to take place and then to permit a lap of honour by the winning team.



36 Josh Guzdek
25 Andy Gabriel
4 Danny Lawton
30 Rikki Sheriffe
5 Paul White
33 Adam Brook
7 Paul Handforth
8 Scott Law
9 James Feather
19 Matthew Bailey
17 Oliver Pursglove
12 Brendon Rawlins
35 Tyler Dickinson
11 Ash Lindsay
15 Neil Cherryholme
28 Josh Lynam
31 Scott Lee
24 Liam Darville
34 Samir Tahraoui
13 David March
32 Hamish Barnes
26 Paul March
1 Jesse Sheriffe
16 Jode Sheriffe
21 Sean Kelly

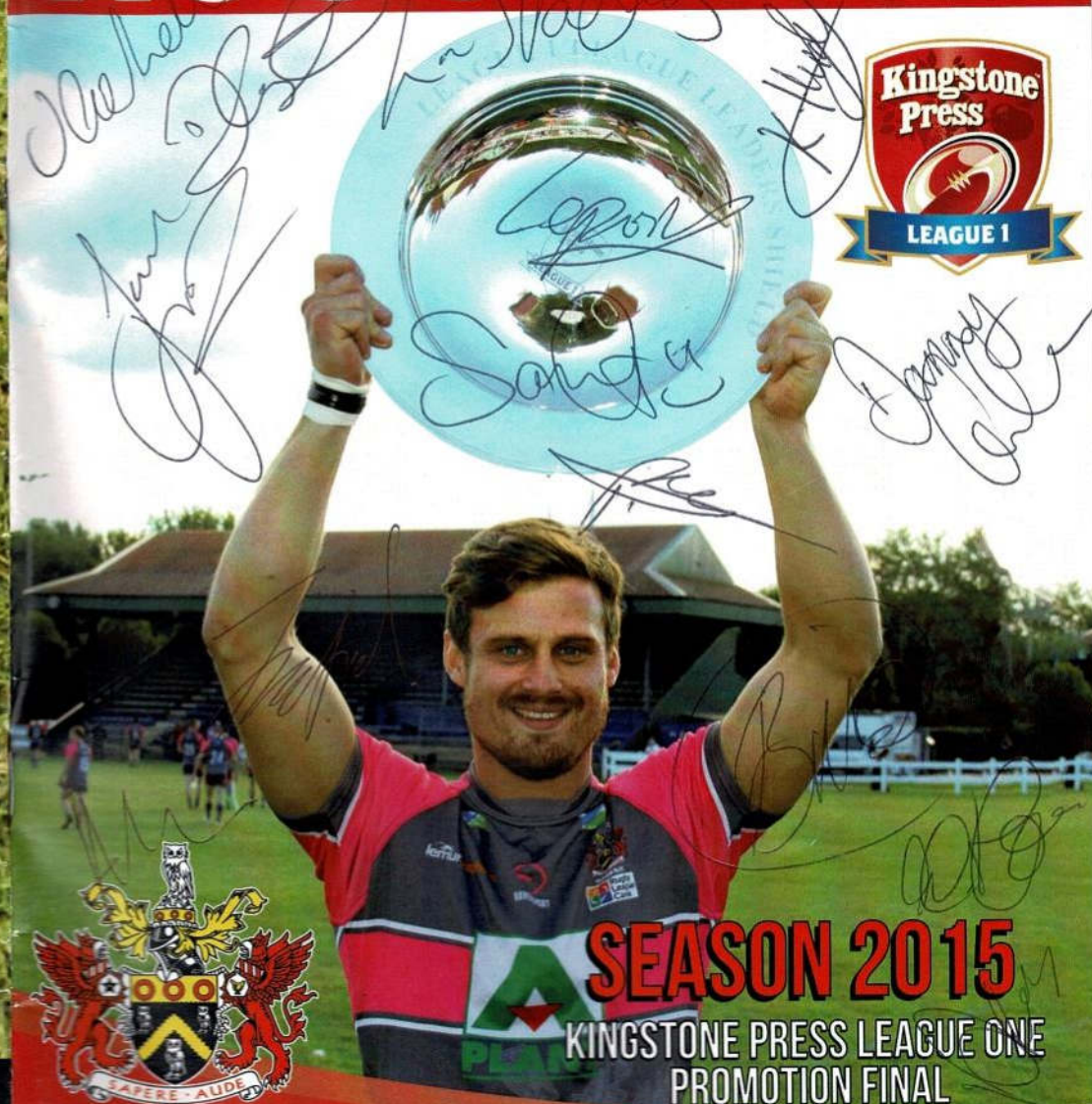
Officials: Referee, M Woodhead;
Res. J Bloem; TJ, R Webb; TJ, I Scott;
Res TJ, S Daniel; In-goal, N Woodward;
In-goal, J Page;
Match Commissioner, G Fairbairn;
Timekeeper, D Campbell.
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COUGARS

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SEPTEMBER
KICK-OFF 3pm

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PROMOTION FINAL



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NATTER WITH NOBBY
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HELLO everyone and welcome to today's 'Promotion Final' against Keighley Cougars at the Whitebank Stadium

You obviously don't need me to tell you how big and important today's encounter is for the club and also for you, the fans.

As a group we've been preparing for these play-offs for the last six weeks and we fully expected to be playing against Keighley today.

The Cougars are a quality unit, players and coaching staff alike, and they have shown all season that they deserve to be in today's game and pushing for promotion.

The league campaign this year has been one of the hardest I've ever been involved in and it shows the strength of the teams in it when we have to win 13 straight games to win the competition on the last day of the regular season at Oxford Blues.

The Oldham players deserve huge credit for what they have achieved for this club already in winning the Kingstone Press League 1 League Leaders' Shield and today is another step in the right direction when we are once again involved in another play-off final game.

Our challenge today is to beat a very experienced and well-drilled team in Keighley, who have class and quality all over the pitch.

They have had some great results since they were beaten here last month. They are on a six-match winning run themselves so we will have to be at our best today to win.

Hopefully, the players will get you the result you crave and finally put this club in the division it should be in.

Many thanks for your support,

Scott



SCOTT Naylor and Lewis Palfrey scooped major League One prizes when the Kingstone Press end-of-season awards dinner was held at the Midland Hotel in Manchester in Monday.

Scott was named coach of the year and Lewis player of the year on a night when the boss and his captain were rewarded for playing key roles in our best season for years.

Interviewed after receiving his award, Scott said: "I enjoy coaching more than playing... it's not as painful."

"I have a great backroom team and a great set of players and it's because of those people that I'm standing here."

Lewis said: "This award is a reflection on what the team has done. As a half-back I rely on my forwards"

"We've had a great year, but the job isn't done yet. Our aim has always been to win promotion and nothing has changed."

The Oldham captain's team mate George Tyson was also nominated for the award along with the Swinton duo of Richie Hawkyard and Andy Ackers.

After the formal part of the evening, Scott said: "We've done well this year, but I didn't expect to win the award. It was nice just to be nominated (he was up against James Ford of York City Knights and John Duffy of Swinton Lions), but to actually win it is really pleasing."

"I'm happy for the club, for Chris (chairman Chris Hamilton), for the lads, the backroom staff, the fans and everyone else associated with the club. It's nice to see us moving forward year on year."

"George (Tyson) will be a little bit disappointed, understandably, but knowing the lad as I do, I know he will be very happy for Lewis and glad that, at least, he didn't have to go on stage and do a speech."

"I'm also made up for Lewis, who has had an excellent season."

Club chairman Chris Hamilton said both awards were thoroughly deserved, as a glance at the final league table would indicate.

He added: "What it doesn't tell you is how much Scott has got out of his players to achieve what we've

achieved so far. He has certainly been the division's outstanding coach."

"Lewis is one of our biggest improvers. In terms of his captaincy, his game management and his

understanding of the requirements of his team, he has gained in experience year on year."

Lewis currently leads the League One goals and points charts (league games only) with 103 goals and

251 points.

In all competitions, he has played in 25 of our 27 games, kicking 124 goals, scoring 11 tries and landing one drop goal for a total points haul of 293.

Double top! Scott and Lewis scoop League One awards for Roughyeds



Suits you, sirs! Scott and Lewis all dressed up for their big night out at the Awards.

A CHAT WITH CHRIS

WHO would have thought it?

Way back in early March, when Coventry were the visitors, the weather was horrendous and the crowd sparse, did anyone imagine that this great club would today be on the verge of achieving promotion to the Championship after topping a division that has been the most competitive for years.

Most people outside of the club wrote off our promotion chances before a ball was kicked and many even suggested we wouldn't make the top five. How little do they know?

They knew nothing about our coaches, about our players and about their collective desire to go a stage further than we have reached on so many occasions previously.

To have topped the league for the first time in the new club's history is a remarkable achievement and should never be underestimated. Those lads have made history and that can never be taken from them.

Of course, we are only too aware that today is completely different and that it's a winner-takes-all prize.

Keighley have done remarkably well, given the tragic circumstances of the passing of Danny Jones, to have maintained a promotion challenge and they will come, no doubt, prepared to do everything in their power to win the match.

For us, it's the next challenge and one we are looking forward to. The lads are ready. After receiving the League Leaders' Shield on Saturday we were also delighted to see Scott Naylor voted Coach of the Year and Lewis Palfrey voted Player of the Year at the annual awards dinner in Manchester on Monday.

Both were richly deserved and Lewis didn't



miss the opportunity to tell me that his award should have boosted his contract. My reply? "That's why I'm chairman and why I made sure I re-signed you BEFORE the awards night!"

Today is (hopefully) when I thank everybody who has been part of Club Oldham this season – all our helpers, volunteers, staff, sponsors, friends and all who have contributed in whatever way to what has gone on this season. We can't do it without you and we don't want to do it without you.

To all the lads, coaches and support staff a massive thank-you for nearly bankrupting me! Now go on and finish the job.

To all of you who have been up and down the country all year, making away games seem like home games, and home games a tough place for anybody to come - thank you on behalf of myself and the coaches and players.

Our aim today is to try to give you what you deserve. Get behind the lads like never before as we strive for one more win.

Up the Yeds!

Chris



APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Cup and league, 27 possible)

	App	DG	Gls	Tries	Pts
ASHTON, Tom	6	–	–	3	12
BROUGHTON, Jodie	1	–	–	2	8
CLAY, Adam	22	–	–	20	80
CONNOR, Jake	2	–	–	1	4
CROWLEY, Josh	27	–	–	13	52
DEMPSEY, Tom	8	1	2	2	13
FAIRBANK, Jacob	1	–	–	1	4
FILES, Adam	23	–	–	3	12
FORD, Jon	15	–	–	10	40
GEE, Sam	22	–	–	7	28
HEWITT, David	6	–	–	5	20
HOLMES, Jack	21	–	–	15	60
HOPE, Will	2	–	–	2	8
HUGHES, Kenny	23	–	–	2	8
JOHNSON, Josh	5	–	–	2	8
JOY, Phil	26	–	–	5	20
JOY, Richard	6	–	–	2	8
LANGTREE, Danny	23	–	–	12	48
LEARMONTH, Micky	2	–	–	2	8
LEPORI, Richard	6	–	–	2	8
LIKU, Elliot	4	–	–	2	8
MASON, Nathan	16	–	–	2	8
NEAL, Adam	23	–	–	2	8
NIELD, Steven	8	–	–	4	16
OWEN, Gareth	24	–	–	5	20
PALFREY, Lewis	25	1	124	11	293
ROBERTS, Oliver	8	–	–	2	8
ROPER, Steve	20	2	18	4	54
THOMPSON, Liam	26	–	–	8	32
TYSON, George	22	–	–	11	44
WARD, Jarrod	12	–	–	4	16
WARD, Michael	24	–	–	10	40

ORSA NEWS and THANKS

Oldham Roughyeds Supporters Association (ORSA) officials wish to express their appreciation for the support they have received at their match day fund-raising events this season. In doing so, they also wish it to be known that a considerable amount of the funds they have raised, have directly supported the playing squad with the provision of match day nutrition. They have done this in conjunction with the club's very knowledgeable backroom staff who have ensured that the whole squad have attained an exceptionally high level of fitness this season. By allocating funds in this way, fans have assisted in maintaining the needs of the squad at home and away matches in a very important way. Most recently, funds have also been allocated to provide training kit for the players recently added to the squad for the end of season push for promotion. So once again, many thanks for your support.

Fund raising continues during the close season whenever possible and occasional events take place then in conjunction with Higginshaw ARLFC, at their headquarters in Oldham. Proceeds from these events are shared equally between ORSA and the Higginshaw club, so benefiting both the amateur and professional game in the town.

The next of these events will be a Race Night in October and it promises to be another fun event. If you can support the event with sponsorship, raffle prizes or by being there on the night, your help will be much appreciated.

ORSA and HIGGINSHAW ARLFC PRESENT A...



RACE NIGHT



FRIDAY, 16TH OCTOBER

7.30pm FOR A FIRST RACE AT 8pm

AT HIGGINSHAW SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB,

St Stephens Street, Oldham, OL1 3QT

FREE ENTRY

RAFFLE

FOOD AVAILABLE

If you can help with Race Sponsorship (£30) or Horse Sponsorship (£3 per horse), please speak to Bernard Ward at Higginshaw ARLFC or Phil Ward/Sheila Somerville at ORLFC match days or tel. 01706 844810.

Stability the key as 'Langers' re-signs

PLANNING for next season, we've retained Danny Langtree on a new two-year contract.

Said by our club chairman Chris Hamilton to be the "ultimate in tough professionals", the 24-year-old former St Helens junior will have been at Whitebank seven years by the time his new deal runs out.

It's his first two-year agreement with the club and it dovetails with Scott Naylor's current three-year commitment which runs to the end of the 2017 season.

Stability among coaching staff and senior players is considered to be a key element in the quest for success moving forward.

Said Scott: "He was already at the club when I arrived and I'm delighted he's staying with us. That says a lot about his loyalty to the club that signed him initially as a 19-year old.

"He isn't a big talker, but he's established himself as a team leader because of his strength of character and the example he sets with how he plays. That's how he gets his point across.

"He loves playing for Oldham and he deserves immense credit for all he has contributed to the club over the last five years."

Langtree's first two seasons were spent in the reserves, but he became an immediate first-team regular on Naylor's arrival for the start of the 2013 campaign.

Since then, he has played in 70 of a possible 75 games, scoring 36 tries.



Danny Langtree

The 'voice' is also a good listener...

LEWIS Palfrey, our captain and League One player of the year, has signed a new deal to stay at Oldham in 2016.

As captain, goalkicker, chief tactician and coach Scott Naylor's "voice" in the heat of battle, 25-year-old Palfrey has played a key role on and off the field in what he has described as a "cracking" season so far.

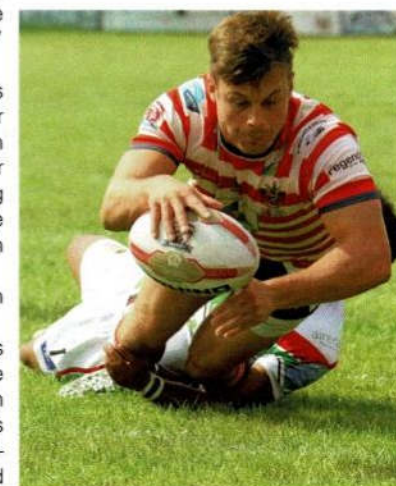
Naylor, delighted to see his captain commit to another year at Whitebank, said: "I've known Lewis since he was a teenager at Salford, so we go back a long way. 'Spanner' (his No 2 Lee Spencer) has also worked with him since he was a kid.

"He was always willing to listen and learn, and he still is.

"He has improved his performance over each of the three seasons we've been together at Oldham and he's matured into the quality half-back we always felt he would become when we had him as

a youngster.

"He's a good captain, too. He has the respect of all the lads and, far from being a burden to him, the leadership thing has actually helped him to develop his own game."



Lewis Palfrey

With 103 goals and 251 points, he finished the League One campaign as the division's leading marksman and top points scorer.

"I was chuffed to re-sign for another year," he said. "This one has been a cracking season so far and we've still got it all to play for. After three years I know the club inside out. There's a lot of stability and that's one of the things I like about it.

"If we get promoted, we'll face different challenges to the sort we have tackled this year, but we're already starting to build for 2016 and with Scott and 'Spanner' still here we'll be well equipped to do okay."

Nobby nailed it – and not before time...

by Roger Halstead

THERE'S no more appropriate time to examine Scott Naylor's record over his three seasons as coach at Whitebank than in the week he has seen his side lift the Kingstone Press League 1 Leaders' Shield and then received that division's Coach-of-the-Year award.

With the utmost respect to Swinton's John Duffy and York's James Ford, the other nominees, it was always going to be difficult to look beyond Oldham's head coach to receive the accolade, not merely because Roughyeds finished on top of the pile but because, on the way, they did a league double over the Lions and, in the one game they played against the City Knights, they won 34-12 at Whitebank.

Taking the league campaign as a whole, Scott's boys won more games than anyone else; lost fewer; conceded fewer points than any other club and were second only to Swinton in the number of points scored over the 22 games.

But it's been coming hasn't it? As chairman Chris Hamilton said this week: "Scott deserves a lot of credit. He has come in and brought his way of thinking to the coaching side. He brought in a lot of lads he and 'Spanner' had worked with before.

"He is what he is – a very good coach – and that's why we made the decision to give him this opportunity. We've kept the core of the squad together for the last two or three years and collectively they've developed."

In Naylor's first season, 2013, Roughyeds finished second to promoted North Wales Crusaders, only two points behind the Welsh side and nine ahead of third-placed Rochdale.

In 2014 there was a third-place finish behind York and Hunslet, both of whom were beaten on their own grounds as Roughyeds made the Grand Final for the second successive year with Naylor in charge.

So to 2015, a top-place finish for the first time in

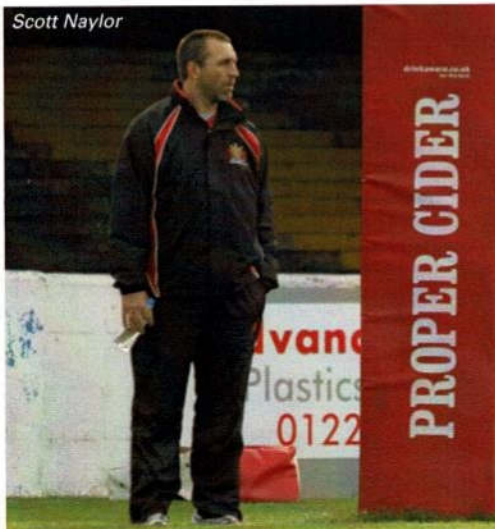
the 'new' Oldham club's 18-year history and now only 80 minutes from promotion with a second chance awaiting them if things go wrong today.

Taking the three seasons as a whole under Scott's tutelage, Roughyeds have won 46 and drawn two of their 58 league games, losing only 10. But now comes the most remarkable statistic of the lot.

IN THREE SEASONS OLDHAM HAVE LOST ONLY THREE LEAGUE GAMES HERE AT WHITEBANK AND TWO OF THOSE WERE THE FIRST TWO WITH SCOTT IN CHARGE, AGAINST ROCHDALE AND OXFORD IN THE SPRING OF 2013.

In the two and a half years since then only North Wales Crusaders, who won 38-28 here in June, have taken maximum league points away from Whitebank – a phenomenal record of which everyone at the club can be as proud as punch, not least Scott, his No 2 Spanner and the man with whom Scott works so closely on a day-to-day basis, chairman Chris Hamilton.

The only surprise about Scott's Monday night accolade was that it had taken so long coming.



Scott Naylor



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Bring on the girls to play at Oasis

IN association with Sport England's #ThisGirlCan initiative and the RFL's Play Touch Rugby League programme, Oldham RLFC offered a FREE touch-rugby taster session for females at Oasis Academy Oldham, Hollins Road and we are hoping to build on that by attracting more girls and women to our regular Wednesday night sessions over the rest of the summer and into the autumn.

Said Danny Newall, our community coach: "We are inviting women to give touch-rugby a try. It's great fun and a fantastic way of keeping fit. We are asking all our existing players to bring a female friend with them."

'This Girl Can' is a national campaign developed by Sport England and a wide range of partnership organisations. It's a celebration of active women

who are doing 'their thing' in sport, no matter how well they do it, how they look, or even how red their faces get.

The RFL, and we at Oldham, are looking to embrace the current marketing campaign by trying to encourage more women to get involved with our touch-rugby sessions. All you need to do is turn up on the night (each Wednesday at 7pm) and speak to Danny, who will welcome you to the fold and introduce you to the others. The charge per individual per night is £3.

Added Danny: "Already, 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. All they need to do is turn up. What can be easier than that."

Speed-merchant Jamel keen for a fresh start

LOOKING ahead to next season, we have signed a young winger who is reputed to be one of the fastest players in English rugby league.

Leeds-born Jamel Chisholm (22) has signed a one-year contract, covering the 2016 season, after catching Scott Naylor's eye while playing on loan for London Skolars in our 32-6 win at the New River Stadium in July.

Scott said: "He's the kind of player we are always looking for – a winger with huge potential, who has not had the break or the little bit of luck he deserves since he left Rhinos, but is keen to take up a new challenge with us at Whitebank.

"I've been watching Jamel for a couple of years now and I'm really pleased we have managed to get him.

"He's an exciting prospect and I'm looking forward to bringing him into the club and working with him. He's fast, strong and athletic, with a good attitude, and I'm sure he's going to do well for us."

He joined Rhinos on scholarship as a 15-year-old with Headingley Hawks and, a year later, signed pro forms for the Super League club where he spent five years playing academy rugby at under-

18s and under-20s levels.

In 2012 he scored 27 tries in 18 academy games, but since Rhinos released him he's been at Featherstone and York, who loaned him out first to Hemel Stags and then to London Skolars, without progressing as quickly as many thought he would.

Said Chisholm: "I've been unlucky with injuries, but I'm fully fit now and I'm hoping for an injury-free season at Oldham so I can get back to playing as well as I know I can.

"It's a new challenge and I can't wait to link up with Oldham for the start of pre-season training later in the year."

When Naylor spotted Chisholm's potential in London, chairman Chris Hamilton took up the case and opened talks, convincing the player that Oldham – and Naylor – would be good for him.

Said Chris: "Jamel admits he's been treading water since leaving Leeds two years ago, but he's got all the qualities you need in a winger – speed, strength, aggression – and he's keen to make a fresh start with us.

"Everything suggests that his best years are still in front of him."

What they said on the day we won the Shield

CHRIS HAMILTON:

"To win 19 games out of 22 in a year when five teams came down from the Championship says a lot about our coaching staff and players and their desire, skill and commitment. It's even more remarkable because the three games we lost were all sandwiched in a four-week period. I'm immensely proud to be chairman of a club like ours."

SCOTT NAYLOR:

"In all my playing and coaching career I've never known as much harmony as there is here. We are all friends and the lads battle for each other as genuine mates. When they're old and their playing days are but a distant memory, like mine, they can tell their children and grandchildren how they won this league for Oldham."

DR PAUL MORGAN:

(president of the RFL, who presented the Shield after a 76-12 win at Oxford): "Oldham's performance was clinical. That's what it's all about."

LEE SPENCER:

"There's more to come... that's all I'm going to say."

LEWIS PALFREY:

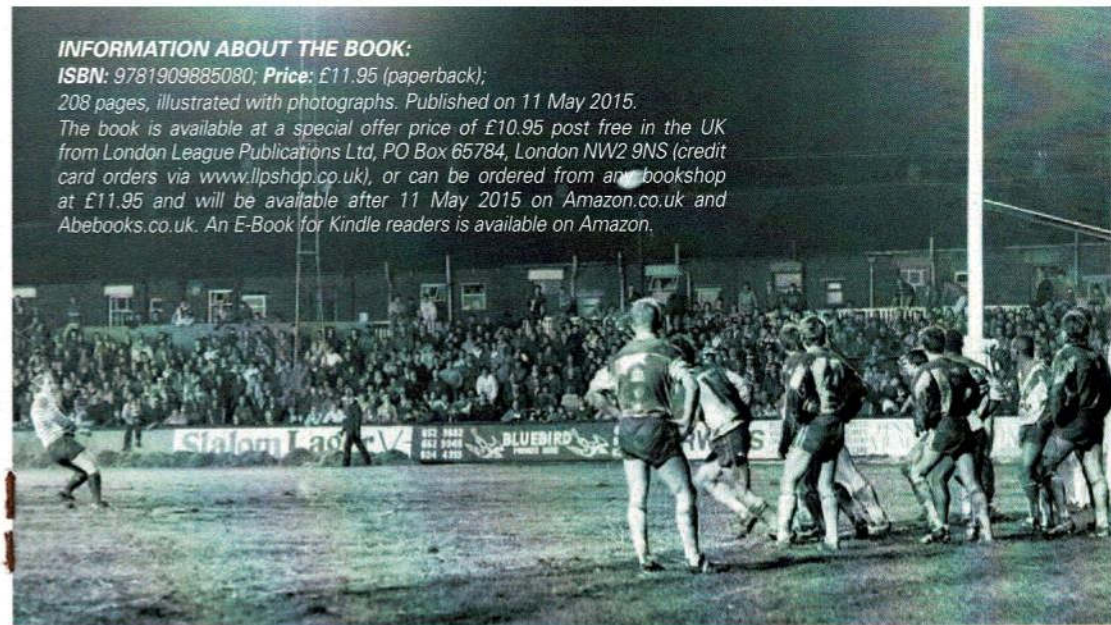
"We're all chuffed to win the trophy, but it's a weird feeling because we've still a big job ahead of us."

INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOOK:

ISBN: 9781909885080; Price: £11.95 (paperback);

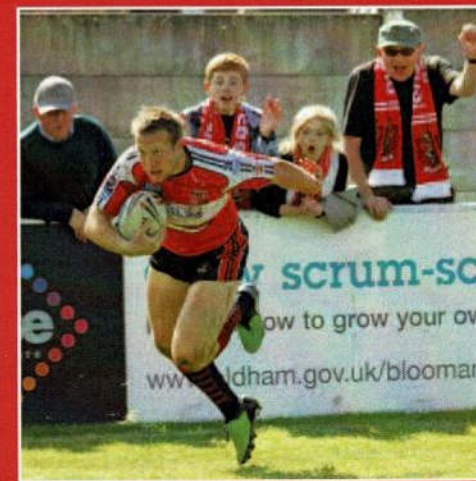
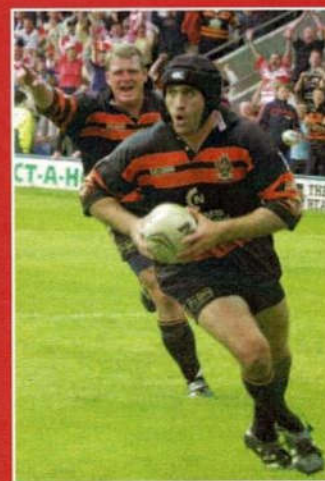
208 pages, illustrated with photographs. Published on 11 May 2015.

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

Keighley out to avenge their biggest defeat of the season

JOSH CHAPMAN sets the scene from the Cougars' camp

SINCE falling to a heavy 38-8 defeat here at Whitebank early last month – their worst reverse of the season – Cougars have won six of the best to make a return visit today for the 'Promotion Final' in red-hot form.

Four of the six victories under review were against southern sides, with Barrow Raiders at home and Rochdale Hornets at Spotland the exceptions.

The return from injury of Paul March and Paul Handforth has also made a huge difference so that Cougars will be much stronger and a much more dangerous proposition this time than they were when they were last here.

Back then, Handforth was out and March had to withdraw just before kick-off when he tweaked a hamstring in the warm-up.

Next up came the long trip to South Wales where Cougars won 48-10, after which Scorpions coach Mike Grady described Andy Gabriel, Paul White and Josh Guzdek as "the best back three in the division" after each had scored a try hat-trick at Mountain Ash.

The Barrow game came next and what a finish that was! With four minutes left, Cougars trailed 17-8, but two tries at the death by Rikki Sheriffe and Gabriel secured a dramatic 18-17 win with only seconds left on the clock.

Handforth's return after a calf injury came just at the right time for the tough ask at Rochdale, where he produced a man-of-the-match performance in a 10-8 win, prior to another top show in a 48-24 victory at Gloucester All Golds.

Next up was an emotional rearranged game against London Skolars at Hemel, the one that was originally abandoned because of the tragic death of Danny Jones. Although they had to work hard, Cougars picked up another two points prior to beating the All Golds, also away from home.

With several first-team regulars rested (like Oldham left out one or two at Oxford), Cougars finished in second place thanks to a home win against Hemel last Sunday.



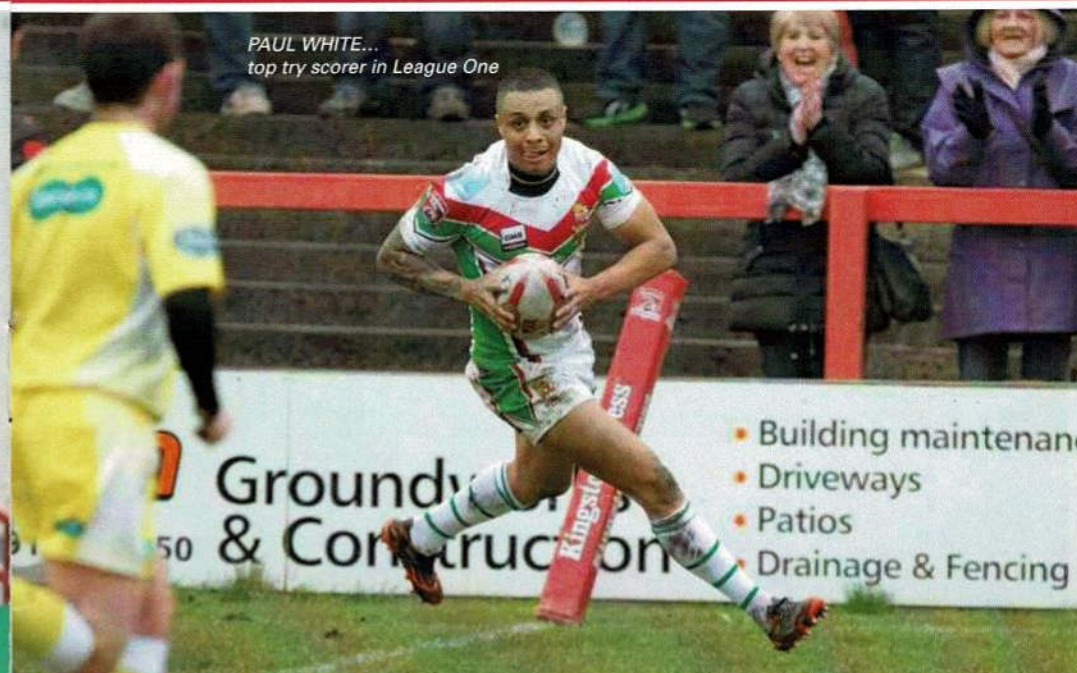
JOSH GUZDEK...
tipped for a big future

THREE TO WATCH

JOSH GUZDEK, an exciting, young full-back, who has impressed massively since signing on loan from Hull KR. Energetic and with an eye for the try line, his ability under the high ball is second to none. He is tipped to have a bright future in the game.

PAUL WHITE, is League One's top try scorer with 25, having totalled more than 30 if you take all competitions into account. A Jamaican international, his partnership with Rikki Sheriffe down the left side is one of the main reasons that Cougars have finished in second place.

ANDY GABRIEL, is the Cougars breakthrough star of the season. He has scored at least one try in each of the last eight games. Since getting into the side during a mid-season injury crisis, he has made the right-wing spot his own, scoring 19 tries in 17 appearances.



PAUL WHITE...
top try scorer in League One

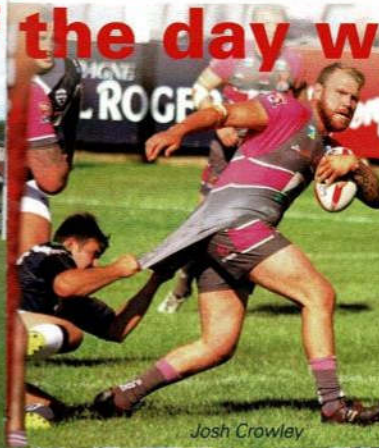


ANDY GABRIEL... scored in each
of Cougars' last eight games

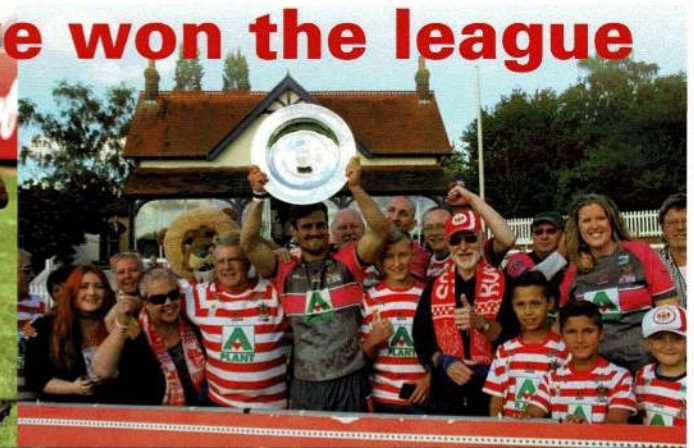
Four-page picture special of the day we won the league



Adam Clay



Josh Crowley



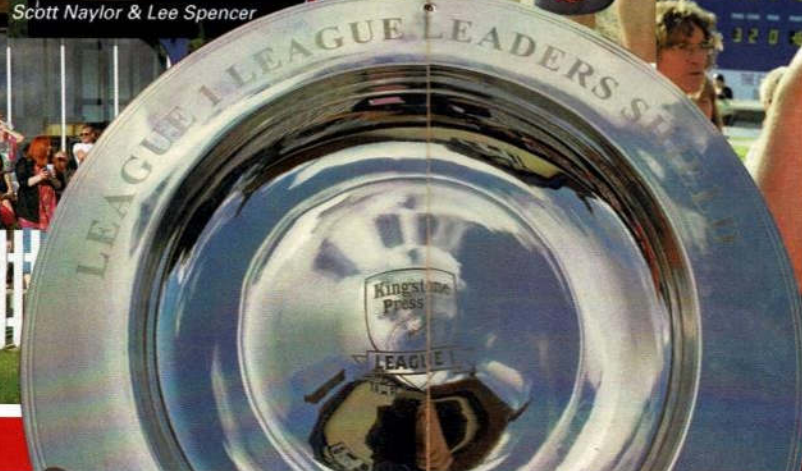
Scott Naylor & Lee Spencer



Gareth Owen & Mum



Chris Hamilton



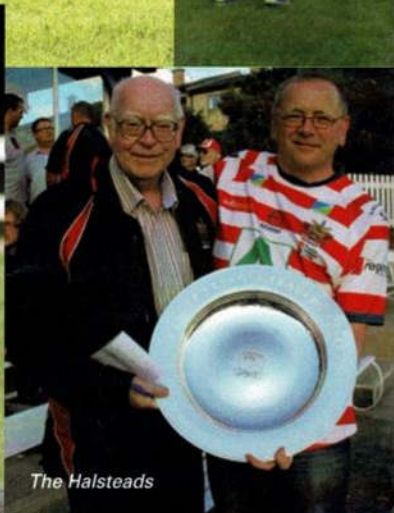
Adrian the Kit Manager



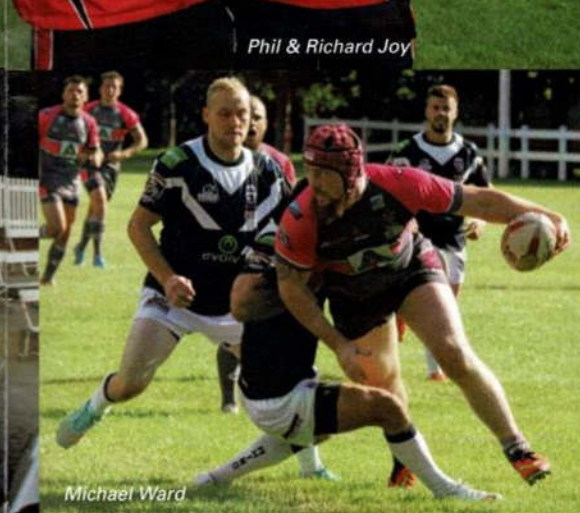
Tom Dempsey



Tom Ashton



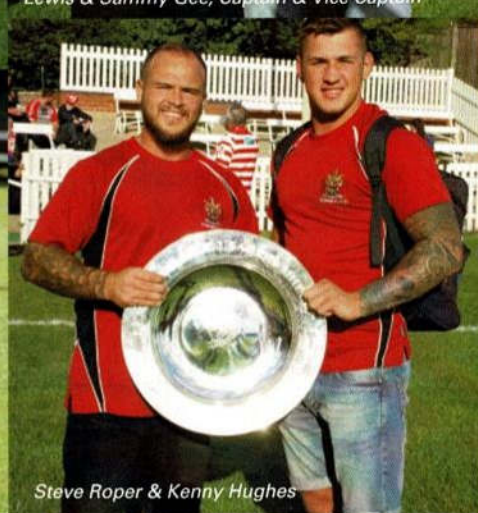
The Halsteads



Michael Ward



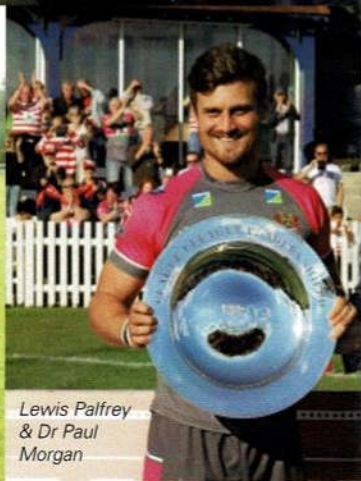
Lewis & Sammy Gee, Captain & Vice Captain



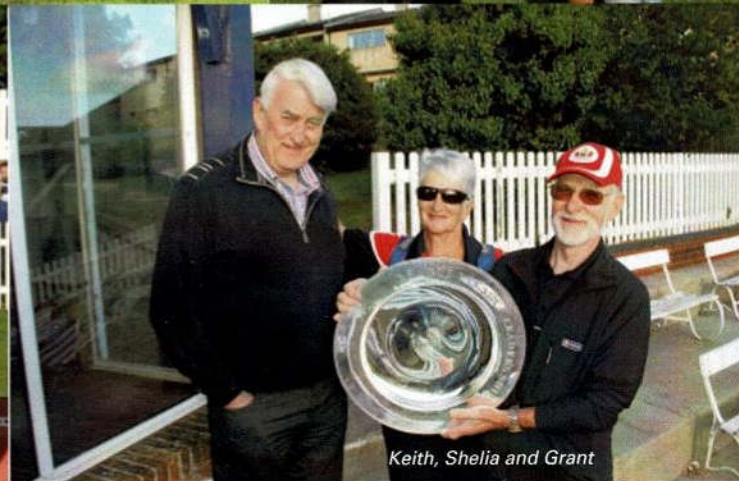
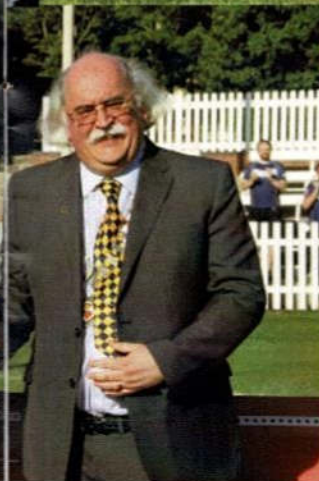
Steve Roper & Kenny Hughes



Five big smiles



Lewis Palfrey
& Dr Paul
Morgan



Keith, Shelia and Grant



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	W 34 - 12
KPL1	Sunday 12th	ROCHDALE	H	W 38 - 18
KPL1	Sunday 19th	LONDON	A	W 32 - 6
KPL1	Sunday 26th	NORTH WALES	A	W 23 - 6

2015 August

KPL1	Sunday 2nd	KEIGHLEY	H	W 38 - 8
KPL1	Sunday 9th	HEMEL	A	W 70 - 6
KPL1	Sunday 16th	NEWCASTLE	A	W 28 - 16
KPL1	Sunday 23rd	BARROW	H	W 28 - 12

2015 September

KPL1	Sunday 6th	SWINTON	H	W 28 - 16
KPL1	Saturday 12th	OXFORD	A	W 76 - 12

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What the papers say...

Oxford 12 Oldham 76

League Express (Roger Halstead): 'More than half of the 246 fans present were from Oldham and they celebrated joyously with their squad of players, all of whom made the journey to leafy Oxfordshire with the exception of full-back Lepori, who was in Moscow playing for Italy against Russia.'

'With bigger things on their mind, and so many senior players out of action, there was always a danger Oldham might not be ready to operate on full throttle, but anyone taking that view soon had their fears dispelled.'

Oldham Evening Chronicle: 'They call it the Shield, it looks more like a Plate. But, hey, this is the first trophy Oldham have won since the new club was formed in 1997 and it could have been an egg cup for all the Roughyeds contingent cared as chairman, coaches, players and fans celebrated in unison a long way from Whitebank and in the more salubrious surroundings of the Oxford Uni sports complex.'

'Exiled fans travelled from Southampton, Plymouth, Hertfordshire and other Southern counties to watch non-playing captain Palfrey receive the trophy and lift it high into the air as a salute to supporters.'

Oldham 28 Swinton 16

League Express (Ian Wilson): 'What a contest this was! In front of Whitebank's largest crowd of the season, the fact that Oldham eventually came out on top and so in all probability cemented the leadership of League 1 at the end of the regular season was no more than they deserved after what is now a 12-match winning sequence.'

'There were several contenders for Gamestar, all in the Oldham pack, but perhaps Gareth Owen deserves the accolade for the danger he posed the Swinton defence almost every time he had ball in hand.'

Oldham 28 Barrow 12

League Express (Ian Wilson): 'Oldham continued their winning run and what a nail-biting 80 minutes it was. The eventual margin of 28-12 is an awful reflection on the contest in which Barrow were competitive, to say the least, for all but the final 11 minutes.'

'Oldham then showed their class, and probably superior fitness, by scoring 18 unanswered points in those final 11 minutes.'

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Joan Neal



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Lorraine Hunt



HOW WE FINISHED

Kingstone Press League One - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
OLDHAM	22	19	0	3	840	362	478	38
Keighley Cougars	22	18	0	4	759	400	359	36
Swinton Lions	22	16	1	5	899	402	497	33
York City Knights	22	16	0	6	816	382	434	32
North Wales Crusaders	22	14	1	7	677	391	286	29
Rochdale Hornets	22	14	0	8	731	459	272	28
Barrow Raiders	22	14	0	8	661	423	238	28
Newcastle Thunder	22	11	0	11	555	552	3	22
Gloucester All Golds	22	8	0	14	562	677	-115	16
Oxford	22	7	0	15	453	948	-495	14
London Skolars	22	5	0	17	388	671	-283	10
Coventry Bears	22	5	0	17	430	775	-345	10
Hemel Stags	22	5	0	17	422	903	-481	10
South Wales Scorpions	22	1	0	21	274	1122	-848	2

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

ON behalf of Roughyeds supporters the world over may I offer heartfelt congratulations to Chris, Scott, Spanner and all the boys on their achievement in finishing top of Kingstone Press League One with 19 wins from 22 games played — a remarkable reward for a season's hard slog and all the more astonishing when you take into account that five teams came down from the Championship as part of the RFL's major reconstruction of the sport.

Last Saturday at Oxford, when the League Leaders Shield was presented to Lewis Palfrey by the RFL President, Dr Paul Morgan, amid a sea of red-and-white jerseys, excited supporters, hugs and handshakes all round and players with huge grins on their faces, my mind went back nearly 12 months to those scenes of utter dejection when that golden-point drop goal in extra time once again killed our promotion ambitions.

There's no worse way to lose a final than that. Everyone associated with the club was flattened. No one more so than Chris but, having said that, I don't suppose Scott, Spanner and the players would mark that day down as one of the best in their sporting lives.

It took a while for everyone to get over it, but get over it they did. They brushed themselves down, put their disappointments behind them and prepared to start all over again, knowing that the mountain this time

would be twice as steep and rocky because Swinton Lions, Rochdale Hornets, Barrow Raiders, North Wales Crusaders and Keighley Cougars were coming down from the Championship.

What were those words from Kipling's 'If'... "If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, and stoop and build 'em up again with worn-out tools..."?

After the desolation of Headingley there were lots of broken aspirations around Whitebank but, not for the first time by any means, there was also an iron will to "stoop and build 'em up again with worn-out tools".

A glance at the final league table at the top of this page shows they've made a pretty good job of it too. And isn't it typical of this club that the run of 13 wins in a row that clinched a top-place finish should have its origins in a mid-season blip of three defeats in four outings.

The boys bounced back... like this club often bounces back from adversity. And it doesn't happen by accident. It's down to good, strong leadership and stability which, in turn, spreads harmony through the ranks. Win or lose today, and whether we're playing next season in the Championship or again in League One, it's a club we can all be proud to support and cherish.

Roger Halstead