



HEAD-TO-HEAD TODAY'S SQUADS



Coach Scott Naylor sponsored by Muse Developments Ltd

Head Coach Peter Smith

ORLFC Player Name:

1: Richard Lepori	Rita Walton
2: Adam Clay	fireplacesuperstore.com
3: Jon Ford	June Hibbert
4: Jack Holmes	The Society Rooms, Stalybridge
5: Jamel Chisholm	Nathan Gibbison
6: Lewis Palfrey	fireplacesuperstore.com
7: Steve Roper	Les and Eileen Davison
8: Phil Joy	Oldham Past Players' Assn
9: Sam Gee	John and Lynda McAndrew
10: Jack Spencer	fireplacesuperstore.com
11: Josh Crowley	John and Lynda McAndrew
12: Danny Langtree	Charlotte Gothard and Daniel Haigh
13: Liam Thompson	ORSA
19: Adam Files	Frankie and Bennys 0161 624 7745
20: Gareth Owen	Bev, Kelly and Paul Hulbert
21: Kenny Hughes	Rita Walton
22: Danny Grimshaw	Pam Taylor/TTX
23: Craig Briscoe	BuySportsKit.com
24: Will Hope	Mick Harrop
25: Tom Ashton	Hanlon and Wright 0161 330 7631
26: Michael Ward	Sylvia and David Patterson
Gary Middlehurst	Patsy Batterton
Joe Burke	

Ref, J Bloem; TJs, J Pulein, T Hudson; Res ref, R Snelson;
M Com, N Robinson; Time keeper, T Brown.

Assistant Coach Lee Spencer sponsored by Muse Developments

Kells' Player Name:

1: Lewis Smith
2: Reece O'Neil
3: Craig Benson
4: Martin O'Neil
5: Daniel Joyce
6: Tyrone Dalton
7: Ross Gainford
8: Dave Lowery
9: Nathan Doran
10: Ross Ainley
11: Scott Lofthouse
19: Paul Culnean
13: Carl Sice
14: Dominic Wear
15: Lewis Wilson
20: David Ford
17: Alan McGuinness
Tony Burns
Ryan Watson
Barry Boyd
Jordan Herve
Lewis White

OLDHAM vs KELLS



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How Scott sees it...

View from the Roughyeds' dug-out

HELLO everyone and welcome to today's game
against Kells ARLFC at Bower Fold.

Our opponents today are an amateur team from
Whitehaven and over the last three seasons they
have gained successive promotions from National
Conference division three to the NCL premier
division which is an incredible achievement, showing
what kind of club it is and what the players and staff
are all about.

Amateur rugby is tough and unforgiving
and any player who gives
up his time and effort to
play the game at any
level should be
commended. All
amateurs deserve huge
respect from the
professional game.

We all start as amateurs and without clubs like Kells
there wouldn't be a professional game right through to
Super League.

Kells now have a chance to make club history and get
to the next round of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup so
we need to show them the same respect we show
teams like Leigh Centurions and Bradford Bulls in our
division.

In their last cup game they beat Hemel Stags so they
already have a League One scalp to their name and we
need to make sure they don't get a Championship
scalp to add to that.

I want to thank our fans who made the huge journey
to Workington Town last Sunday to support the lads.
We all know how far it is to Cumbria and what it costs
to get there and then to pay to get into the ground.

Thank-you again from the players and staff. It's always
a pleasure to see you and to hear you all getting
behind your Oldham players, home and away.

The result wasn't what we went for, but
the lads are giving their all to keep this
club in the KP Championship division
so keep travelling with us and, sure,
we will reward you with wins,

Many thanks,

Scott



Muse Developments Ltd are
sponsors of head coach
Scott Naylor AND of his
assistant of the past
three seasons
at Oldham RLFC,
Lee Spencer

New-boy Joe up for the challenge

HE isn't surnamed 'Blogs' or 'Public'; this Joe, OUR Joe now, comes from Newport in South Wales, speaks with a pronounced Welsh accent, has the family name of 'Burke' and loves to clock up huge minutes on the field, a trait that has made him one of the most resilient forwards in the KP Championship and KP League One.

A tall, long-striding prop, Burke has signed for Roughyeds from cash-strapped North Wales Crusaders on a deal to the end of November, 2016. He was one of seven players who were released from NWCs contractual agreements because the Wrexham-based club couldn't honour them.

At the age of 25, still young for a prop, Burke comes with a couple of targets — first to prove himself a good acquisition by Roughyeds, then to do enough to win a place in the Welsh squad for the 2017 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

His arrival takes Scott Naylor's squad to 23 in number, although Craig Briscoe is expected to be out for the season with his serious knee injury and at this stage there's no telling how long Tom Ashton will be out after major surgery to sort out a burst appendix.

ROGER HALSTEAD takes a look at the career of our latest signing

The 23 doesn't include young centre Jake Bibby, who has played for us for the past few games while on loan from Salford.

Crusaders fans thought a lot of Burke, who was pretty popular with his peers as well judging by his dressing room triumph at the end of last season when he was voted players' player of the year.

Ryan Gould, media manager at Wrexham, told me: "You've got a good 'un in Joe. He's a cracking lad and a superb front-row man."

Over to Oldham chairman Chris Hamilton, who said: "We worked closely with Crusaders and did

things the right way. I've sorted it out with Brian Wake, one of their directors, who has been very helpful and particularly supportive of Joe."

Burke played in all Crusaders' 30 games last season (28 starts, two sub appearances) and then signed for another year. His farewell appearance was as recently as two weeks ago when he played his final game for Crusaders against Barrow.

Added Hamilton: "He's tall and rangy and a different kind of prop to our others. He's been a tough opponent several times and he'll slip easily into the work ethic and ethos of our club."

"He played in the Championship with Barrow in 2014 and now he's keen to get back in there with us."



OUR Joe now, comes from Newport in South Wales

Naylor said: "In this division you need an abundance of forward strength. With only four props (Joy, Spencer, Ward, Thompson) we were walking a tightrope."

"Joe is a quality player. He's mobile, hungry for success and he has the engine to do long spells."

"He's very driven. He's been in the Welsh squad for a while and he wants to stake a claim for a World Cup spot next year."

"The unfortunate situation at North Wales Crusaders has turned out to be a positive for us."

"Joe is an ambitious lad and in view of the problems at Crusaders he thinks they will struggle to get out of League One."

"He now pairs up again with his former Crusaders team mate 'Gaz' Middlehurst, who has put on some weight, is training well and made his debut at Workington."

"We have a lot of competition in the pack now, and that's what's needed."

"We always start the season with a small squad and then add to it when the time is right and appropriate. That's what we've done again."

'Security' is key to new prop's move

JOE Burke has told our club media department that he was looking for "security and progression" when he chose to leave troubled North Wales Crusaders for a new start under Scott Naylor.

Newport-born Burke (25), who has also played for South Wales Scorpions and Barrow Raiders, was one of seven players to depart Wrexham-based Crusaders as a free agent because the club couldn't honour its contractual agreements and players were asked to take pay cuts.

Also among the seven were former Oldham half-back Jamie Dallimore, who left Whitebank in 2013, Naylor's first season, and Burke's fellow prop Ryan Duffy, who has gone to Whitehaven.

Revealing that Mitchell Cox, Frankie Halton, Danny Jones and Danny Rasool had also gone, a statement on the Crusaders website said: "Everyone at the club would like to place on record their thanks to all of them for their commitment and service."

Burke, a tall front-rower, was Crusaders' players' player of the year in 2015, described in his website profile as having enjoyed a superb debut season in which he could easily put in 80-minute shifts.

He also carried his club form on to the international scene with Wales, standing out, it said, in the Dragons' European Championships success.

By beating France, Scotland and Will Hope's Ireland, Wales qualified for the 2017 World Cup in the southern hemisphere and Burke hopes to do enough for Roughyeds this season to be on the Welsh plane to Sydney next year.

"But first and foremost, my aims are to settle in at Oldham; to get to know the other lads; and to get used to the systems that Scott (Naylor) employs," he said.

"It's up to me, as the new boy, to do right by the club, by my new team mates and by the coaching staff."

"It's a sad situation at Crusaders, but it is what it is. It's a short career and I need a bit of security which I'll get by joining Oldham."

"By playing in the Championship again (he did that with Barrow in 2014), I'm hoping to get back into the Wales squad, but first of all I've got to earn some recognition with my new club, and that's down to me."

"I told Crusaders I would give it my all until the day I moved on — and I've played in each of their five games this year."

"I'm sad to be leaving them in the present situation, but at the end of the day I've got to think about security and progression."

Burke cut his rugby league teeth as a teenager with Newport Titans in the Welsh Conference before joining the then Celtic Crusaders' under-18s, with whom he won a National Youth League title.

He moved up to Super League side Celtic's reserve team, but when Celtic relocated to Wrexham he remained in his native South Wales and spent three-and-a-half seasons with Scorpions, making more than 70 appearances in total.

He caught the eye of Barrow and moved north to join the Raiders, for whom he played more than 20 times in the Championship year of 2014.

Next stop was Wrexham where, back on Welsh soil, he figured in all 30 Crusaders games last year, fronting up as starting prop 28 times.

ORSA

NEEDS YOU!



ORSA wishes The Roughyeds Good Luck for the 2016 Season

ORSA - Is the Oldham Roughyeds Supporters Association, the official, but independently run supporters club of Oldham RLFC. ORSA has a dedicated bank account and is fully accountable to all members.

ORSA - Supports the Players and Coaching Staff, by supporting them with various forms of sponsorship or by the provision of equipment/items that are generally outside the club's remit.

ORSA IN 2015 - Apart from more general sponsorship, ORSA committed to be directly responsible for the players' match day nutritional requirements and did so in direct conjunction with the club's backroom staff. At the end of season, Scott Naylor acknowledged ORSA's support as an important asset in maintaining the squad's fitness levels.

ORSA IN 2016 - The challenges ahead are massive. ORSA hopes to extend their membership and increase their support of the coaching and playing staff as they face up to those challenges.

ORSA'S FUNDS - Are achieved by annual memberships; donations; match day fund raising; various events. Every penny is used to benefit the Roughyeds squad.



How You Can Help

- JOIN ORSA FOR AN ANNUAL FEE OF £10 (age 60+ £7.50, age 16 and under £5).
- DONATIONS OR RAFFLE PRIZES ARE WELCOME
- SUPPORT FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

For further details please speak to any ORSA representative on match day or contact the Secretary, Grant Somerville on 01706 844810.

ORSA GIVES FANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP STRENGTHEN
OLDHAM RLFC IN AN ACHIEVABLE WAY.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE TEAMS IN THE 2016

LADBROKES CHALLENGE CUP



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Top-table topics...

Chris Hamilton... from the boardroom

WELCOME back to Bower Fold for today's Ladbrokes Challenge Cup tie against Kells.

Our opponents have done incredibly well to reach the fourth round of the cup -- no mean feat in any year. Most people will know they beat Hemel Stags in the last round and by all accounts 12-6 was rather flattering to the professional club.

They have had recent success in terms of back-to-back promotions under the guidance of head coach Peter Smith.

'Smithy' is a good friend of mine, our friendship going back to 2003 when he was assistant coach at Whitehaven and was also part of the coaching team for the National League under-21s squad. I was manager and we took a squad to play two games in France.

There are a few stories to tell about that trip, including the one in which 'Smithy' slipped on something left behind by one of the local canines in the middle of Carcassonne town centre on a Saturday afternoon and promptly decided to do an impression of a surfer straight out of 'Hawaii Five O'. Suffice to say, he didn't receive much sympathy.

He was also employed as an additional 'weapon' in the first match against the French when, while running on with messages, he was to direct a series of insults at the home players, in their native tongue, to wind them up.

The sight of him running on with messages, shouting abuse at the French in a Cumbrian-French accent and at one point being chased by one of the French players, will live with me, and others who saw it, for ever.

There's one thing for sure. Despite what he has said in the press, his team will come here today full of passion and determined to do their utmost to create another upset -- and don't let him tell you otherwise.

We need to start to put right what went wrong last week. We were off the mark in terms of our display up at Workington and it was a missed opportunity for us because it was certainly a game we could have won.

Part of the learning curve in the Championship is about taking opportunities when they arrive, whether that be individually or as a team, and we have to get that ruthlessness into our game

as soon as possible.

We are fortunate to have a group of players who are willing to work hard and that is one thing you can guarantee will have happened this week, leading up to this game.

As ever, the cup provides an opportunity for those who care to dream about a potential Wembley appearance just by winning a few matches. Our fans will be no different in that respect.

"If we can beat Kells, then draw x, then draw y, we will be in the semis and anything can happen." You know the score, we've all done it!

Enjoy the game.

Christopher Hamilton
Chairman
Oldham Rugby League Football Club



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Good luck lads!



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Blackpool ... here we come

Sam Gee is ready ... are YOU ?

WE hope to have an army of Oldham fans roaring us on at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool when we play Swinton Lions on Sunday, May 29 (3pm) --- the second day of the RFL's Summer Bash weekend at the famous holiday resort.

a long way to determining our final places in the league table.

If there was ever a special occasion for our borough, our town and Oldham RL fans



Sam Gee - Ready to Bash ...

PLEASE GET YOUR TICKETS FROM WHITEBANK BECAUSE THAT WAY YOU ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ROUGHYEDS AND IF YOU BUY RESERVED SEATING YOU WILL BE IN THE OLDHAM BLOCK, SURROUNDED BY YOUR FRIENDS AND FELLOW OLDHAMERS.

**Please get your tickets from the club
Call: 07904 898 177**

All 12 Kingstone Press Championship clubs will play over the Saturday and the Sunday in a festival of rugby league that is the Championship's equivalent to Super League's Magic Weekend.

Our big game against Swinton will be one of three Roughyeds v Lions clashes in the Championship this season and, for both clubs, those three games will go

past and present to turn out in great numbers and to back the boys in Blackpool, then this is it.

Moreover, the Summer Bash weekend will be packed with entertainment on and off the field, including live performances, constant fan engagement and great prizes.

You can also use your Summer Bash ticket to get exclusive deals at Walkabout Blackpool (including 25 per cent discount on food); a 20 per cent discount at the Adrenalin Zone on South Pier; discounts on Blackpool's transport services; and more.

Whether you want to watch one match or SEVEN (The Saturday programme kicks off with the iProSport Cup Final as an 'extra') ticket prices represent fantastic value and they are available now from the Oldham RLFC office inside the ground at Whitebank Stadium each weekday, Monday to Friday between 9am and 1.30pm. The office telephone number is 07904898177.

Club season-ticket holders get Summer Bash tickets for HALF PRICE which means, for example, if you have an Oldham season ticket and you qualify as a concession you could, if you wished, watch all seven games over two days for £7.50 (unreserved seat). How good is that ?

PLEASE GET YOUR TICKETS FROM WHITEBANK BECAUSE THAT WAY YOU ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ROUGHYEDS AND IF YOU BUY RESERVED SEATING YOU WILL BE IN THE OLDHAM BLOCK, SURROUNDED BY YOUR FRIENDS AND FELLOW OLDHAMERS.

It perhaps isn't widely known that all Championship clubs have to contribute towards the costs of staging Summer Bash but, like the other 11, the more tickets we sell from Whitebank the more of our initial outlay we will recoup.

Please note that all rules and regulations, including ticket prices and concessionary qualification, are governed and laid down by the RFL.

Tickets are available in two categories ---- CAT. 1, reserved seats in West Stand (same side as the tunnel); CAT. 2, unreserved seats in North Stand and in South Stand (behind the posts at each end).

Concessionary tickets are available to 65s and over; students with valid ID, to be shown on the day; 16s and under; serving Military with valid ID, shown on the day.

TICKET PRICES

One-day tickets (available ONLY for the day your team plays, Sunday in our case): reserved seats (Cat 1), £30 adults, £15 concessions; season-ticket holders, £15 adults, £7.50 concessions; unreserved seats (Cat 2), £20 adults, £10 concessions; season-ticket holders, £10 adults, £5 concessions.

Two-day (weekend) tickets: reserved seats (Cat 1), £50 adults, £25 concessions; season-ticket holders, £25 adults, £12.50 concessions; unreserved seats (Cat 2), £30 adults, £15 concessions; season-ticket holders, £15 adults, £7.50 concessions.

POINTS TO NOTE

- 1: Alternating between North and South Stands (both unreserved) is NOT permitted.
- 2: Weekend (two day) fans get only ONE ticket, which must be retained for the Sunday.
- 3: Children under 2 go FREE, but MUST have a ticket
- 4: Wheelchair users MUST make pre-arrangements with the RFL.
- 5: Ambulant disabled can get tickets from the Oldham club.
- 6: One-day tickets only available in our case for the Sunday.
- 7: Pass-outs available both days (hand stamped and original ticket needed to get back in).
- 8: Club transport to Blackpool is available on the Sunday (the day we play Swinton) . We leave Whitebank at 10am and return at 7pm, which allows people to watch all three games that day. Cost is £10 per person.

HEAD TO HEAD

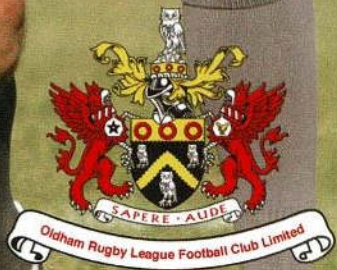
Saturday, May 28: noon, iProSport Cup final; 2.30, Sheffield Eagles v London Broncos; 4.45, Workington Town v Whitehaven; 7.00, Bradford Bulls v Leigh Centurions.

Sunday, May 29: 12.45, Dewsbury Rams v Batley Bulldogs; 3.00, OLDHAM v Swinton Lions; 5.15, Halifax v Featherstone Rovers.



Big Fightback at the Big Fellas

Featherstone Rovers vs Oldham - 28/2/2016



Oldham Rugby League Football Club Limited

Photography: David Murgatroyd

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Submitted By Oldham RL Heritage Trust



FLASHBACK - KELLS A.R.L.F.C.
(4th Round Ladbrokes Challenge Cup)

SINCE the club was formed in 1931, Kells have drawn several semi-pro clubs in the early rounds of the Challenge Cup. In 1946, in a two-legged first-round tie, Warrington struggled to a 3-0 win in Cumberland but won 27-0 in the return leg at Wilderspool. Down the years Kells have taken on Hunslet twice, losing narrowly at Elland Road in the first round of the 1985-86 competition. Before they toppled Hemel Stags 12-6 in the third round of this season's Challenge Cup, however, the nearest they came to claiming the scalp of a pro club was a heroic 4-4 draw at home to Fulham in 1987.

A year later they took on Leeds on Whitehaven's Recreation Ground, losing 28-0 in front of a huge 6,000 crowd.

In last season's third-round match Kells lost at home to Rochdale Hornets 29-12 and in 2014 they

went down 52-4 to Batley Bulldogs at Mount Pleasant. After several notable successes in amateur competitions, from which the Cumbrians moulded a tremendous reputation, the Kells management applied to join what is now the leading amateur competition, the Kingstone Press National Conference, successfully securing a place in the third division.

Since then, they have gone from strength to strength, winning successive promotions and at the end of last season proudly claiming a place in the tournament's premier division. Kells and Oldham have never clashed before, but the Cumbrians are no strangers to this area, having played amateur side Saddleworth Rangers in the league as recently as last season, winning 36-26 in Cumbria and 16-8 at Shaw Hall Bank Road. In previous times there have also been under-18s cup clashes between Kells and Rangers. Back in 1978 the clubs met in the under-18s National Cup up in Cumberland.

Rangers included several Oldham stars of the future such as Paddy Kirwan, who would progress to represent Lancashire; Terry Flanagan (Great Britain) and a 15-year-old Des Foy, who scored the

winning try in a 12-6 triumph for Rangers.

Some six years later, Foy was destined to face the great Wally Lewis in the first Test of the 1984 Great Britain tour to Australia. Oldham are no strangers to the Cumbrian amateur scene either. In recent seasons they have played at Egremont Rangers in both the 2012 and 2014 Challenge Cup third-round ties. In 2012 Oldham won 22-14 and two years later they won 42-24.

The Oldham team for the 2012 match, played on Whitehaven's Recreation Ground, was: Greenwood; Onyango, Cookson, Fogarty, Brocklehurst; N Roden, Dallimore; Boults, Clough, Johnson, Noone, Clarke, Thompson; Subs: M Roden, Whitmore, Ellison, M. Syron.

Tries came from Clough, Clarke, Whitmore and Thompson with Dallimore kicking three goals, Attendance 468.

The Oldham team for the 2014 match, played at the Copeland Stadium, Whitehaven was: Nield, Agoro, Wood, Gee, Bloomfield; Palfrey, Robinson; Boults, Hughes, Ward, Crowley, Langtree, Hobson, Subs: Files, Joy, Okanga-Ajwang, Davidson.

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Entrance: PETER STREET

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We've never played Kells before, but in recent years we've twice beaten Cumbrian amateurs Egremont in the Challenge Cup. Mark Hobson (right) tries to break a three-man tackle in 2014, while Lucas Onyango (below) tests the Cumbrian defence in 2012.



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BROUGHTON MOOR

1st Round R.L. Challenge Cup. (1st Leg)

at Watersheddings

Saturday, 12th February, 1949

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

Tries came from Nield (2), Crowley (2), Agoro, Hughes, Langtree and Files with Palfrey kicking five goals. Attendance 340

Before then, Roughyeds played Broughton Moor in a two-legged first-round tie in 1949, winning 30-0 at Watersheddings and 35-2 in the return. The Oldham club's first-ever match against Cumbrian amateur opposition was in the 1902 Challenge Cup when they beat Maryport 27-0 away.

One Kells old boy who donned the red and white hoops of Oldham was craggy forward Charlie McCourt, one of three rugby playing brothers.



Charlie played in 74 first team matches for the Roughyeds between 1967 and 1970 before tragically losing his life while working on the construction of the Channel Tunnel.

Congratulations to Kells for again winning promotion and for toppling Hemel Stags in the last round of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup.

The club has enjoyed considerable success over the last few years and long may that continue

Smith & Kells: Doing Cumbrian rugby proud...



by Roger Halstead

"We'll be coming down there to enjoy the day," said Kells head coach Peter Smith in a chat with Roughyeds chairman Chris Hamilton just a few minutes after the draw was made for this fourth-round Ladbrokes Challenge Cup tie.

"Aye... and I'll take that with a pinch of salt too," countered Chris, who has known Peter well for years (they're good pals) and needs no reminding that the man who has won two National Conference divisional coach-of-the-year awards in the last three years always has his sights set on rather more than "enjoyment" when his proud Kells lads go into battle.

Or does he? It all depends, in a rugby context, of individual interpretation of the word 'enjoy' or, as my Collins English Dictionary puts it: 'to take pleasure from'.

Some days later and totally unaware of the aforementioned banter twixt Oldham chairman and Kells coach, I rang Peter in Whitehaven (where Kells are based) and ventured to suggest that, as he had won three promotions in three seasons, leading his club from NCL division three to premier division in the shortest possible time, he must have the Midas touch.

"No, it's about the players... and about enjoyment," said Peter. "We train and play in such a way that the boys really enjoy it. Makes sense, surely. If you're enjoying what you're doing you want to carry on doing it... training, playing, winning."

Smith (49) has spent a lifetime in rugby league in Cumbria. As an amateur growing up in the game, he was a BARLA international. He went on to play

at the Recreation Ground with Whitehaven and when his playing days were over he spent many years on the coaching staff, working under Paul Cullen, Kevin Tamati, Steve McCormack, Dave Rotherham and Paul Creare, now in charge of Barrow Raiders.

He's also spent 15 years with Kells, who have come from nowhere in the past three years to earn their place in the NCL's flagship Premier Division this season, playing their first game last Saturday against Siddal.

Two weeks earlier, on a fabulous weekend for the community game, Smith's men beat Hemel Stags 12-6 — one of five amateur clubs to knock over semi-pro opposition with Hemel, South Wales Scorpions, Oxford, London Skolars and Newcastle Thunder all left licking their wounds.

While many eyebrows were raised, the outstanding success of the community clubs came as no real surprise to League Express's hugely respected authority on the amateur game, Phil Hodgson.

Said Phil: "For years now, I've been writing that the gap is closing. I wasn't all that surprised at the third-round results. The top amateur teams have very good players, great team spirit and in most cases the players have been together for years.

"I certainly wasn't surprised by Lock Lane's win at Oxford. A few Cas lads play for Oxford so there would be a lot of 'local' interest in that one.

"Kells also put up a great defensive performance to beat Hemel. I don't have a lot of knowledge about Oldham these days, but I expect the

Cumbrian lads to put up a very brave and committed performance.

"They're being touted in some quarters as favourites to win the NCL Premier Division at the first time of asking. That's quite a statement. There are a lot of good sides in that division. Wath Brow, for instance, will have something to say about that.

"Kells have a great pedigree in the Challenge Cup and whatever the result at Bower Fold today they'll do Cumbrian rugby proud. They are a very good club."

Smith has a nice blend of youth and experience at his disposal in a side that includes a few BARLA internationals and just as many who have been in the pro ranks and have now returned to their grass roots.

Best known of the ex-pros is loose-forward Carl Sice, who will be remembered as a more-than-useful hooker for both Whitehaven and Workington. Centres Craig Benson and Martin O'Neil and second-row man Paul Culnean have also enjoyed spells at the Recreation Ground, while stand-off Tyrone Dalton was named NCL first division player of the year in 2015.

Forwards Dave Lowery and Scott Lofthouse are BARLA internationals, but there is nobody more experienced than 35-year-old Sice and his former 'Haven colleague Culnean, who is 39.

Said Smith: "It will be a great day when we come down to Oldham. We had three home draws in a row to get to this stage, so we can't grumble at having to travel. I've a few selection options, but before we hit the M6 for the cup-tie we've got a big game against Siddal, which will put us in the right frame of mind for Oldham.

"Oldham have been knocking on the Championship door for a few years now, so we know how tough it will be at Bower Fold. While Oldham have been going well under Scott Naylor to get to where they are today, we haven't done so badly ourselves.

"In the 2013 season (Naylor's first at Whitebank) we were in NCL division three so we have progressed in parallel with Oldham.

"We had to do a lot of defending against Hemel in the last round and that will stand us in good stead in this game.

"We'll certainly turn up on the day; we won't be looking to hide; and we can guarantee this... we'll enjoy it."



Through to the next round...
Kells celebrate their win over Hemel Stags

Carey enjoying his new life in the Roughyeds' fast lane...

FOUR months into his job as one of two assistant coaches at Roughyeds, Peter Carey says he is confident the squad can achieve its target of accumulating enough league points to stay in the Championship.

The 47-year-old former Salford youth coach, who now forms one-third of Oldham's coaching team with Lee Spencer and head coach Scott Naylor, was brought in last November as the League One champions set out on their preparations for life in the higher division.

Five games in, he is enjoying life in the Roughyeds' fast lane and loving the challenges the job brings.

Said Peter: "We've got a superb set of lads, who made me feel welcome from day one. I've coached a lot of them when they were kids at Salford, as have 'Spanner' and Scott.

"We're very much a three-man team. Scott wants our input. The three of us voice our opinions and then Scott takes it from there. It works well.

"I'm confident we can stay up. It's all about getting up to speed for the Championship and being switched on for 80 minutes. In some of our games we've switched off temporarily and we've been punished.

"Getting that right and getting the lads to have the confidence to stick to Scott's game plans are key elements of what we're doing. We are developing week on week and we hope it will start paying off in the next few weeks.

"We've now got new faces coming in to strengthen the squad. Every week there are 17 shirts up for grabs so all the lads need to be looking over their shoulders because there is a lot of competition."

As well as his two coaching lieutenants, Scott has a third hand-picked member of his backroom team in Kane Daniels, who is responsible for the squad's strength and conditioning.

Said Carey: "When Scott invited me to join him and 'Spanner' I snatched his hand off. He's the best coach I've ever worked with and the opportunity to do it again was too good to turn down."

Carey's appointment on a one-year contract enables Scott, 2015 League One coach of the year, to oversee an extended programme of coaching and preparation to meet the higher demands of our new status in the Championship.

Explained club chairman Chris Hamilton: "Scott felt he needed another pair of hands in order to continue the work he and 'Spanner' have been doing for the past three years, but also to add other aspects of coaching to meet the bigger challenges we meet now.

"The coaching team can now do specific work with individual players; spend more time analysing the opposition; do more video work and other things like that to get maximum benefit from bringing in another experienced coach."

Carey played for Swinton amateur side Folly Lane for 28 years before he was introduced to coaching, like 'Spanner', by the inspirational Don Preston, a father figure to scores of prospective coaches in and around Salford and Swinton over many years.

He worked initially with Salford Service Area squads and then joined 'Spanner' in coaching the Reds' scholars.

At the invitation of Alan Hunte, head of youth development at Salford, he later became head coach of the Foundation side (under-16s) before progressing to assistant boss of the under-18s, a role he performed for several years,

A spell at Swinton Lions, where he worked with a new under-21s squad, was followed by a return to Salford in 2007 when he was asked by Hunte to look after the Reds' under-21s with Naylor.

After two years in that role he became head coach of the academy and under-19s teams, having previously gained experience working on the RFL's regional camps.

His Salford service ended in 2014, whereupon he returned to his former amateur club, Folly Lane, as first-team head coach in 2015.



Peter Carey says he is confident the squad can achieve its target of accumulating enough league points to stay in the Championship.



FIXTURES & RESULTS



Comp,	Date	Opponents	Venue	Kick Off	Result	Att
FEBRUARY						
KP Champ	Sunday 7th	London Broncos	H	3.00pm	L 0:22	767
KP Champ	Sunday 14th	Leigh Centurions	A	3.00pm	L 48:18	3,371
KP Champ	Sunday 21st	Dewsbury Rams	H	3.00pm	W 38:16	816
KP Champ	Sunday 28th	Featherstone R.	A	3.00pm	L 20:6	1,739
MARCH						
KP Champ	Sunday 6th	Bradford Bulls	H	3.00pm	Post*	
KP Champ	Sunday 13th	Workington T	A	3.00pm	L 23:12	637
CC (4)	Sunday 20th	Kells	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Good Fri 25th	Halifax	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Mon 28th	Swinton Lions	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
APRIL						
KP Champ	Sunday 3rd	Batley Bulldogs	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 10th	Sheffield Eagles	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (5)	Sunday 17th					
KP Champ	Saturday 23rd	Whitehaven	A	6.30pm	TBC	TBC
MAY						
KP Champ	Sunday 1st	Featherstone R	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (6)	Sunday 8th					
KP Champ	Sunday 15th	Leigh Centurions	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 22nd	Halifax	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
Summer Bash	Sunday 29th	Swinton Lions	BR*	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
JUNE						
KP Champ	Sunday 5th	Batley Bulldogs	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 12th	Dewsbury Rams	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 19th	London Broncos	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 26th	Whitehaven	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
JULY						
KP Champ	Friday 1st	Sheffield Eagles	A	8.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 10th	Swinton Lions	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 17th	Bradford Bulls	A	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
KP Champ	Sunday 24th	Workington T	H	3.00pm	TBC	TBC
CC (S/F)	Sunday 31st					

NOTE: The above 23 Kingstone Press Championship fixtures *(11 home and 11 away plus the additional Summer Bash game against Swinton Lions at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool) will be followed by another seven in the Super 8s, these to be played on Sundays throughout August and September.

*NOTE: The postponed home game against Bradford Bulls has been provisionally rearranged for Sunday, May 8 at Bower Fold (3pm), but it will only happen if both clubs are out of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup by then.

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SUMMER BASH

■ BLOOMFIELD ROAD, BLACKPOOL ■

28-29 MAY



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► BLOOMFIELD ROAD, BLACKPOOL ►

28-29 MAY



SATURDAY 28 MAY

12NOON - **UPRO** LEAGUE 1 CUP FINAL

2.30PM - SHEFFIELD V LONDON

4.45PM - WORKINGTON V WHITEHAVEN

7PM - BRADFORD V LEIGH

SUNDAY 29 MAY

12:45PM - DEWSBURY V BATLEY

3PM - OLDHAM V SWINTON

5.15PM - HALIFAX V FEATHERSTONE

► SUMMER BASH ►

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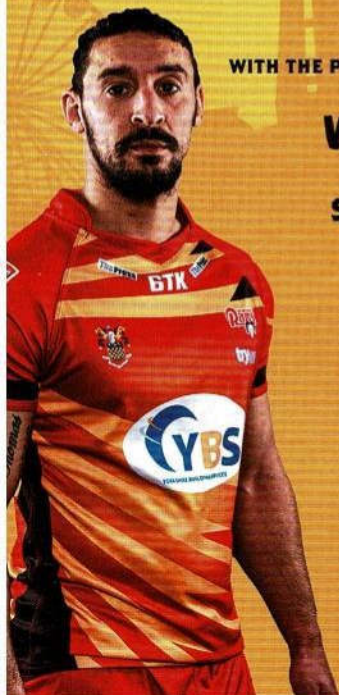
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