

ROUGHYED REVIEW

PROGRAMME No.11

Sunday, 8th July, 2018

KICK-OFF 3PM

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Community
Radio**
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OLDHAM VS WEST WALES RAIDERS



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LEAGUE 1



PASSIONATE ABOUT RUGBY LEAGUE



In the boss's chair... and drinking from his cup!

NOT that we needed any reminding, but a glance at this week's rugby league trade papers, *League Express* and *League Weekly*, demonstrated all too clearly that clubs at our level are finding life tough in the current financial climate.

It's often said that life's tough at the top. I would venture to suggest it's a darn sight tougher a bit lower down, and not necessarily as far down as the bottom. We read that Barrow, Whitehaven and Keighley Cougars, to name but three, have major financial concerns right now and I would hasten to suggest they're not on their own.

'Barrow on the brink' screamed a headline in *League Weekly*.

'Duo depart cash-strapped Cougars' was the headline on a piece in *League Express*, which went on to tell us that Matty Beharrell and Josh Tonks have left the club as a result of a financial crisis that is threatening its very existence. Earlier this season we've heard of other clubs asking players to take pay cuts. Times are bad. That's clear for all to see - and you've only to look at match-day attendances to see why.

Take away Bradford Bulls, who went to Coventry Bears last week and boosted their attendance to 1,465, and possibly York City Knights, and most clubs in Bedford League 1 think it's their birthday and Christmas rolled into one if they pull in a four-figure crowd.

The average is probably about 500 and frankly, even with my limited knowledge of rugby league financial affairs, I know

ANNE KEARNS... in the hot-seat while Chris is on sick leave

that's not enough to keep even a part-time professional club alive and kicking. What about our own crowds at the Vestacare Stadium? In truth, not good. Our first home league game drew a crowd of 703 for the visit of York, who brought a few of their own fans.

Since then, it's been a downward spiral. 544 v Hunslet; 530 v Keighley Cougars; 455 v Newcastle Thunder; 411 v Hemel Stags; 453 v Doncaster; 419 v London Skolars; and, last week, 486 v Workington Town.

We really do need to address these crowd figures if we are to take the club forward and upwards.

It's the easiest thing in the world to say the club should do this and the club should do that, but you've only to look at the crowd figures for most other clubs in our division, and in some cases even in the Championship, to see that nearly every other club is in the same boat.

Figures in the Championship last Sunday, for instance, included 889 at Batley; 458 at Sheffield; 555 at Swinton Lions.

If you're reading this the chances are you are probably a die-hard, who will love the club and everything it stands for and, as such, will want to do anything you can to lend a hand and help.

As individuals we can only do our bit, but as a collective force - all 500 die-hards of us - we can do a lot; for starters we can all be acting, unpaid marketing men and women, 'selling' the club by word of mouth to friends, neighbours and work colleagues as we go about our daily lives.

You had only to marvel at the sheer effort the players put into their game against Workington last week, in sweltering temperatures and relentless sun, to know that Scott and the boys are sweating blood for this club and for us, the fans.

I know we lost and I know we could

have played better. But even I, who doesn't pretend to know much about the technicalities of the game, could see that defeat was nothing to do with a lack of effort.

As you know I have launched the FEMALE FAN CHALLENGE in which I am asking every female supporter to bring another woman to home matches to see if, like me, they get 'hooked' at the first time of asking.

I've had a positive response from a lot of ladies, but it's not the sort of thing that will show amazing results overnight. It's going to be a slow process and it's something I will need to keep working on.

If the chaps can do something similar that would be a huge bonus.

After today we've only got four more home games in the regular season and the last one is against Bradford Bulls, which will take care of itself.

We mustn't get too ambitious otherwise we'll end up getting disappointed, but I'd like to target 500-plus for North Wales Crusaders in a couple of weeks and then a few more for Whitehaven on August 12 and a few more again for Coventry (that will be the big test) on September 2.

It will take a lot of hard work to get there but COLLECTIVELY, working together to spread the word, we can realistically aim for those figures and see what happens.

Talking of the current hot spell please be aware that the Vestacare is a real sun-trap.

We're not all as young and as fit as the lads on the field, and we need to protect ourselves (ex-nurse speaking) so wear a hat, apply the sun cream and stay safe. Whatever the weather, enjoy today's game against West Wales Raiders, whom we welcome to the Vestacare for the first time. A sincere welcome to you all.

Anne Kearns,
Oldham Rugby League Football Club,



VIEW FROM DRESSING ROOM AND DUG-OUT ...

this week head coach SCOTT NAYLOR

HELLO everyone and welcome to today's game against West Wales Raiders at The Vestacare Stadium.

A week is a long time in rugby league and in our last week we've been beaten twice by Hunslet and Workington Town - teams we shouldn't lose against, home or away.

I know there was little between us - four points at Hunslet and two at home to Workington last Sunday - but it was the way we lost that caused me some concern.

Every team loses some games, and I don't mind losing to a better team, but when are beaten by opponents who are not better than us it's very tough to take.

It wasn't Hunslet and Workington who beat us. It was US. We beat ourselves. What I mean by that is we made far too many mistakes in good-ball situations, thus putting no pressure on our opponents when we had the chance to do exactly that.

We also conceded too many penalties in both games so on each occasion we had to do a lot of extra defending which we needn't have had to do. Eventually it cost us points.

When you look at the table our defensive record so far this season is as good as anyone's. On average we are conceding approximately 12 points per game, which is table-topping defence.

It's clear that our problem lies in not scoring enough points, but if you can't get to the end of sets or put any pressure on your opponents then you won't score enough points in big games to win them.

We have to fix this issue quickly and if we do then no one will beat us at home or away.

Our attitude is amazing. Our desire is amazing. Our toughness is amazing.

But our composure and our ability to understand the game need to reach the same levels if we



are to have a chance of promotion this season into the Championship, where this club belongs.

Fingers crossed. This week is the start of the rest of our season. Stay with us,

Many thanks,
Enjoy the game,
Scott



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STATISTICS

Betfred League 1 Table

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PTS
Bradford Bulls	15	14	1	0	705	169	536	28
York City Knights	15	13	2	0	655	192	463	26
Hunslet RLFC	15	11	4	0	445	308	137	22
Oldham RLFC	15	10	5	0	496	182	314	20
Workington Town	15	10	5	0	497	283	214	20
Doncaster RLFC	15	9	6	0	507	327	180	18
Whitehaven RLFC	15	9	6	0	468	303	165	18
Keighley Cougars	15	8	7	0	568	377	191	16
Newcastle Thunder	15	8	7	0	466	314	152	16
North Wales Crusaders	15	5	9	1	337	382	-45	11
London Skolars	15	4	10	1	404	527	-123	9
Coventry Bears	14	1	13	0	162	700	-538	2
Hemel Stags	15	1	14	0	170	772	-602	2
West Wales Raiders	14	0	14	0	94	1138	-1044	0

Oldham RLFC Player Stats 2018

Squad No.	Player	Total App	Appearance	Interchange App	Trises	Goals	Drop Goals	Points	Squad No.	Player	Total App	Appearance	Interchange App	Trises	Goals	Drop Goals	Points
1	Kyran Johnson	9	9	0	5	4	0	28	20	Matty Wilkinson	16	6	10	6	0	0	24
2	Dave Eccleston	14	14	0	4	0	0	16	21	Kenny Hughes	11	4	7	1	0	0	4
3	Matt Reid	13	13	0	6	0	0	24	22	Danny Rasool	7	0	7	2	0	0	8
4	Jack Holmes	11	11	0	1	0	0	4	23	Luke Nelses	17	0	17	3	0	0	12
5	Steven Nield	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	24	Liam Bent	15	13	2	2	0	0	8
6	Paul Crook	17	17	0	2	76	0	160	25	Danny Bridge	17	17	0	10	0	0	40
7	Dave Hewitt	17	17	0	7	5	1	39	27	Joe Martin	2	2	0	2	0	0	8
8	Phil Joy	16	16	0	6	0	0	24	29	Zack McComb	10	9	1	9	0	0	36
9	Gareth Owen	12	10	2	1	0	0	4	30	Ben West	11	11	0	7	0	0	28
10	Adam Neal	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	DR	Ryan Lannon	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
11	Craig Briscoe	13	3	10	4	0	0	16	DR	Levy Nzoungou	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
12	Danny Langtree	16	16	0	10	0	0	40	LO	Luke Hooley	7	7	0	3	0	0	12
13	Jack Spencer	14	10	4	0	0	0	0	LO	Kieran Gill	3	3	0	2	0	0	8
18	Ben Davies	2	1	1	1	0	0	4	DR	Daniel Murray	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
19	Adam Jones	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	LO	Lee Kershaw	8	8	0	4	0	0	16
									DR	Gavin Bennion	2	2	0	1	0	0	4

* DR (Dual Registered Player) LO (Player on Loan)

ROUGHYEDS

AGAINST ALL THE ODDS

Oldham Rugby League Club 1997 to 2017

Available at the Oldham Website
roughyeds.co.uk

A FASCINATING insight into the launch of the 'new' Oldham club, and its early days, is provided by former director Sean Whitehead in Craig Halstead's latest book, 'Roughyeds - Against All The Odds'.

It costs £12.95 and it can be purchased at the club on match days, during other office opening hours (07904 898177) or online via the club website at www.roughyeds.co.uk

Whitehead also has some revealing things to say about Chris Hamilton, who has had an official and unbroken connection with the club from day one and is still chairman and owner.

Craig Halstead, the author, is the eldest son of Roger Halstead, our club media manager and former Oldham Evening Chronicle rugby league writer and deputy sports editor.

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Men behind the mic, Gerald Brierley (left) and station manager Dave McGealy.

Your Community Radio men are back behind the mic...

YOUR favourite rugby league commentators from Oldham Community Radio, station manager Dave McGealy and his right-hand man Gerald Brierley, are back in business at the Vestacare Stadium after being off air for most of the first half of the season because of technical difficulties.

They were back on duty for the London Skolars game and they hope to provide live commentary of all our home

games for the remainder of the season, having successfully (and in their words) “jumped through a few hoops and cleared a few obstacles.”

After several years based at a studio in Failsworth, the station had to move lock, stock and barrel to a new home in Oldham town centre and although the exact situation had to be kept under wraps for a few months we can now tell you

Oldham Community Radio is re-establishing itself at a studio that has been specially created in the old Tommyfield Market Hall.

Between leaving Failsworth and setting up at Tommyfield, Dave and his staff at OCR were indebted to Radio Cavell, the local hospitals’ radio station, for the loan of one of their studios, which made it possible for interruptions to

(cont. on page 20)



Roughyed Fan Focus:

Tony Peet

Q. When did you first start watching Oldham?

A. I first started watching Oldham in the 1970s. My first game was Oldham v Bradford Northern in November 1974. My dad said "Come on son, we're going to watch a real man's game".

I love my home-town team and all its supporters, they are like my family. Following Oldham you will experience every emotion possible. My dad was gutted and emotional after that Bradford game and at the time I couldn't understand why he was so upset; my dad rarely showed his emotions.

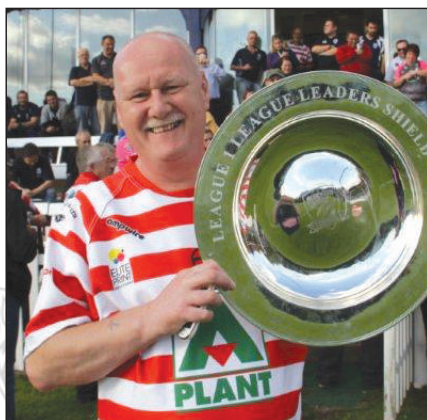
After following Oldham for many years I now know exactly how he felt. Following the Roughyeds is a way of life.

Q. Who are your favourite players, past or present?

A. There have been many over the years: Charlie McAlister, John Cogger, Martin Murphy, Two Bobs, Neil Roden, Lucas Onyango, Paul O'Connor, Richard Lepori, Valu Bentley, and Sammy Gee. At the end of the day any player who wears an Oldham shirt will get my support.

Q. Do you have a favourite away ground?

A. I really liked Toulouse's ground. It's a nice stadium and very warm plus you get to have a weekend away with the Yeds fans.



Q. Which game stands-out in all the ones you've seen?

A. It has to be beating Hull KR at Hull in the Challenge Cup, also beating Keighley to gain promotion after the upset of losing so many grand finals.

Q. Can you recall any funny incidents that you've experienced as an Oldham Fan?

A. At the Summer Bash game against Swinton Lions I was volunteered, by my good friend Dave Thomas, to do the half-time challenge. It was a race against a Swinton fan running around the pitch dressed as a jockey riding a donkey.

I set off like a bull at the gate and built up quite a commanding lead but as I approached the hurdles, the leg of the donkey outfit got caught on the hurdle and I went head over heels. A first-aider came to my assistance but the Swinton fan overtook me and won the race.

Needless to say I received a lot of stick from my fellow supporters for losing.

Q. Can we achieve promotion this year?

A. Yes I believe we can. It's not going to be easy though, we need to be injury free and have our best players fit but on our day we can beat anyone.



Local memories of a night that will live for ever in our sport's folklore

GEORGE COWBURN continues his series in which he looks at Oldham's contribution to big events in RL history

THIS ARTICLE DWELLS ON THE MEMORIES OF GEORGE COWBURN'S 80-YEAR-OLD BROTHER, WHO WAS A YOUNG APPRENTICE AT STONE WALLWORK WHEN MAKING HIS NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN TRIP TO ODSAL IN 1954.

WHEN the rugby fans from the Stone Wallwork factory in Oldham boarded their ancient coach after work on Wednesday, May 5 to set off for the 1954 Challenge Cup Final replay little did they know what was in store for them.

Halifax and Warrington had fought out a dull 4-4 draw on April 24 in front of 81,841 spectators at Wembley.

Two goals apiece from Warrington's Australian forward Harry Bath and Halifax's Welsh full back Tyssul Griffiths were the only scores.

The two teams, who had finished first and second in the league, had cancelled each other out.

The authorities estimated a crowd of roughly 60,000 for the replay and had planned accordingly.

It was initially set for a 5pm kick-off, but this was changed

to 7pm to avoid rush hour traffic.

What this meant though was that people from all over the North would have time to get to the final - or so they thought. Virtually every coach that could move was pressed into action throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire as folk headed to Bradford.

The first problem for the Stone Wallwork coach was getting out of Oldham and on to Huddersfield Road.

In those pre-motorway days much of the Lancashire traffic would head through Oldham to get into Yorkshire and there was literally a traffic jam all the way to Bradford.

Our intrepid fans finally arrived at Odsal by half-time amid chaotic scenes following a slow crawl in their ancient carriage.

By then some of the fencing around the giant Odsal



GERRY HELME... in his playing days before he became Oldham coach.

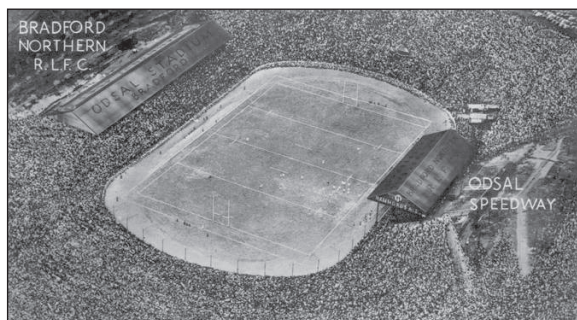
Stadium had been flattened and the official, then world-record crowd of 102,569 was estimated to number around 120,000 - double the original estimate.

Dispersed wherever they could get a view, many of the Oldham men could only see half the pitch but at least they got in for nothing as hordes of latecomers clambered over the flattened fencing.

Amazingly, there were no serious injuries reported as fans found places wherever they could, many on the speedway track surrounding the pitch.

After the match, which Warrington won 8-4, it was a mile walk back to their coach for the Oldham men for a slightly less stressful journey home.





The night Odsal was full to over-flowing



JIM CHALLINOR taking an Oldham training session

In the confusion, however, one person was left behind. He managed to hitch a lift home on another coach.

There is a short two-minute film on YouTube which shows the crowd scenes and a little of the match. It's well worth seeking out.

Oldham's interest in that year's cup competition had ended in the second round at Watersheddings with a 7-4 defeat by winning finalists Warrington.

So to the final replay and one of Oldham's ex-players, Albert Fearnley, was on the Halifax side, having left Oldham in 1951 after 29 appearances for the club.

At Odsal, on that never-to-be-forgotten night, the two try scorers for Warrington, Jim Challinor and Lance Todd (man of the match) Trophy winner Gerry Helme, both became coaches at Oldham in the 60s and 70s.

Gerry Helme became the first man to win the Lance Todd Trophy twice, having first bagged the award in Warrington's 19-0 victory over Widnes in the 1950 final.

In a distinguished playing career scrum-half Helme played 12 times for Great Britain, including five on the 1954 Lions tour to Australasia and four in the inaugural World Cup in France, where he scored the winning try in the final.

Appointed to the Oldham job after player-coach Geoff Shelton moved to Warrington in the 1967/8 season, Helme's first year was undistinguished. Oldham finished 22nd in a 30-team league.

The main bright spot that season was a marvellous 12-2 Challenge Cup victory over hotly-fancied Bradford Northern at Watersheddings after an epic 7-7 draw at Odsal.

The year 1968/9 brought an improvement with a 16th place finish in the league and a loss in the Lancashire Cup final to St Helens.

In the season after that Helme was on a hiding to nothing. Good players were sold off to keep the club afloat and a disastrous 29th place finish meant the end for coach and the entire committee who were voted out of office.

Oldham was a members' club in those days.

Centre Jim Challinor played three times for Great Britain. On the 1958 Lions tour he played in the famous "Battle of Brisbane" Test and two years later he was in the 1960 World Cup tournament which Great Britain won.

He was player-coach at Barrow in the 1967 Challenge Cup final against Featherstone Rovers, who triumphed 17-12.

He also coached Great Britain 21 times, including a winning World Cup in 1972.

Jim joined Oldham for the start of the 1974/5 season when Roughyeds finished third in division two and won promotion to the top league.

The following season he guided Oldham to 12th place and safety in division one.

Tragically, Jim was in hospital at the start of the 1976/77 season and he later died at his Warrington home on December 18 --- a grievous loss to his family and friends and to the whole Rugby League world.

'Pictures courtesy of Oldham RL Heritage Trust



MATCH PICTURES



MATTY WILKINSON



MATT REID



DANNY RASOOL



PHIL JOY



JACK SPENCER

OLDHAM 14 WORKINGTON TOWN 16

VESTACARE STADIUM
SUNDAY JULY 1, 2018



PAUL CROOK



DAVE ECCLESTON



LIAM BENT



KYRAN JOHNSON



GARETH OWEN



UNITED W

Championship and League 1 clubs ready to fight Super League plans

.....

YOU will be pleased to know that clubs outside of Super League, namely Championship and League 1 clubs, including ours, are standing firm and united against moves and ideas by Super League to radically change the format of our sport as we know it.

The trade paper, League Weekly, reported this week that “the relationship between Super League and non-Super League clubs appears to have broken down completely.”

League Express, the other trade paper, told its readers: “Championship and League 1 clubs say they will stand firm against any attempt by Super League to take control of the game from the RFL.”

After a meeting of second and third-tier clubs in Bradford, also attended by acting RFL chief executive Ralph Rimmer and non-executive RFL board members Claire Morrow and Chris Brindley, the clubs’ advisory group issued the following statement:

“After a series of direct statements and questioning from the floor, all the RFL member clubs who were present voted unanimously to support the motion ‘that no change be made to the present competition structure or funding of the professional game unless there was a compelling, robust proposal to do so and that such proposal would need the overwhelming support of rugby league stakeholders’.

“The current competition structure and funding model is in place until the end of 2021.

“The protection and maintenance of the existing game-wide funding levels to non-Super League stakeholders is not negotiable.

“The planned RFL strategy review is underway and we expect this report to be completed later in the year.

“The unanimous position of RFL member clubs present provided a clear, unambiguous statement that they would act responsibly

to listen to and consider any robust proposal brought forward by Super League that was in the interests of the whole game.

“However, there was disappointment that to date no such proposal, or supporting evidence, had been forthcoming despite the SL negotiating group, led by Robert Elstone, undertaking to do so by June.

“SL representatives had previously undertaken to the RFL board and the Championship and League 1 advisory board, that they would present such a proposal for consideration. In fact, this was the key-action item from the original May summit held in Manchester.

“Championship and League 1 clubs were further advised by the RFL that no further communication will occur directly with SL at the request of the new SL executive.

“No reason was provided by the RFL as to why the SL negotiating team had now adopted this stance.

“The Championship and League 1 advisory group remains open and available for further





VE STAND!

discussion, and reassures all rugby league stakeholders that they are committed to acting in the best interest of rugby league.

"CHAMPIONSHIP AND LEAGUE 1 CLUBS ARE UNITED IN THEIR STANCE AGAINST ANY TRANSFER OF POWER, CONTROL AND RESOURCES OF THE SPORT AWAY FROM THE RFL AND ARE NOT IN SUPPORT OF ANY TRANSFER OF FUNDING OR ANY RESOURCES TO SUPER LEAGUE EUROPE, OUTSIDE OF ANY EXISTING COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS."

"This point has been made plain to the RFL Board and we fully require that the RFL Board comply with the Championship and League 1 clubs' position on these matters.

"The lack of a robust, serious proposal or strategy, and any reasoned evidence or rationale, gives rise to serious question marks over proper due diligence of any ideas for positive change sought by the SL negotiating group.

"The structure of the competition, and promotion and relegation, is one small part of a much wider picture which

must be viewed in the context of what is in the best interests of the whole game.

"Rugby league must move forward as one group and the unanimous vote at the meeting clearly outlines the united view of Championship and League 1 clubs."

The meeting from which the statement was delivered was held 24 hours after Ralph Rimmer had talks with Super League's new chief executive Robert Elstone in Manchester.

It was their first get-together since Elstone was unveiled as the new SL chief and the respective chairmen of Wigan and St Helens, Ian Lenagan and Eamonn McManus revealed intentions to change the league set-up for 2019.

Lenagan, meanwhile, told a BBC Radio Manchester Sport at Six programme: "Super League clubs are more together than they have ever been in the past 10 to 15 years or so and they are there for the good of rugby league, the whole game.

"A vast majority of people believe the way forward for rugby league is the way that Super League are strategically

suggesting it will work.

"Never, ever, has there been such collective togetherness in doing that."

Leeds Rhinos would disagree!

Hunslet chairman Neil Hampshire, meanwhile, has released a hard-punching statement on the Hunslet website which is well worth a read (google Hunslet RLFC, go to 'news' and follow the links).

Extracts include: "As League 1 has its most competitive season ever, providing a product the game can be proud to promote, it's really disappointing to see the wider game starting to tear itself apart at the top."

And... "We definitely don't want to see a split similar to the one of 1895 and, believe me, I don't think that's completely out of the question if things start to go pear-shaped here."

And... "All anyone asks for is a fair deal for all clubs that will help us all to promote the greatest game."

And... "We are after all called Rugby League, not Super League, and we would all do well to remember that."



Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust

Oldham's first matches against Welsh opposition go right back to the pre-Northern Union days when over the New Year period of 1888/89, They undertook a short tour playing Swansea, Cardiff and Newport within the space of four days. After the split to Rugby League the first match in Wales was at Merthyr Tydfil on September 7th 1907 with Ebbw Vale visiting Watersheddings two weeks later.

You then go forward to the 1981-82 season when Cardiff Blue Dragons provided opposition on consecutive weekends. On January 31st 1982 (Cardiff) and February 7th (Oldham).

The Roughyeds played the Celtic Crusaders in the 2007 season with the away match at Brewery Field, Bridgend broadcast live on Sky Sports TV. The first Roughyeds' encounter against the South Wales Scorpions was on April 11th 2010.



Left: Brian Hogan on the charge in Cardiff with Ashley McEwan and Ray Ashton in support. **31.01.1982**

Below: A week later and Brian Caffrey scores a last minute winner to the delight of the Watersheddings faithful. **07.02.1982.**

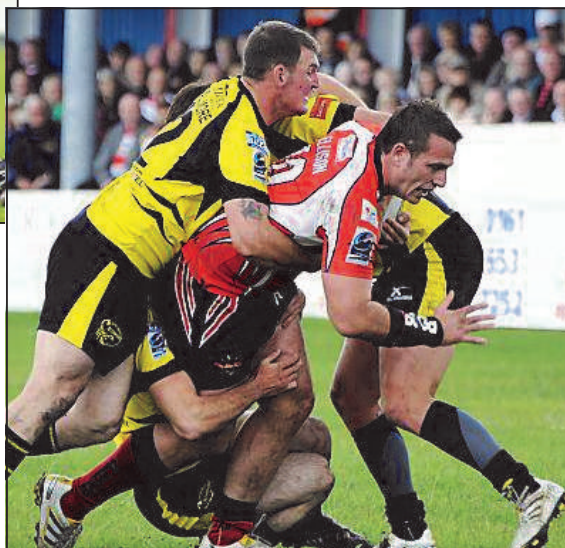


Through the Years... Oldham v West (and) South Wales



Left: Ian Hodson in action against Celtic Crusaders at Boundary Park. **30.08.2007.**

Below: Dave Ellison falls to a three man tackle against South Wales at Whitebank. **01.08.2010**



Below: Dave Hewitt goes under the posts in this season's encounter at Stebonheath Park, Llanelli. **19.05.2018.**



Our Visitors

West Wales Raiders

West Wales Raiders were formed as South Wales Scorpions in 2009, initially playing at The Gnoll in Neath before spells at Caerphilly, Mountain Ash and Maesteg.

The club's first competitive game was against Workington Town on February 28, 2010 which they won 22-20. Eight more victories followed that season to seal a sixth place finish and a spot in the end-of-season play-offs.

A short-lived rebrand to Ironmen in 2017 preceded a takeover in the same year and a permanent move to Stebonheath Park in Llanelli. From the beginning of 2018 the club adopted their current title.

This season has seen a string of heavy losses for the Raiders. An 82-6 cup defeat away at Bradford Bulls heralded the beginning of a string of similar scorelines. A 12-48 loss to Hemel Stags is the only time the opposition score has been kept to under 50 points.

An eye-catching 144-0 defeat at promotion chasing York City Knights

made the unwanted headlines throughout the world of rugby league and had historians reaching for the record books.

At the end of May this year, Raiders were able to announce a partnership with Super League's Wigan Warriors. This project will see a series of development camps, talent camps, coach education and school work. The goal is to ensure the sustainability of the Welsh club.

Raiders' players will gain support through greater exposure to the sport, playing opportunities and the chance for their coaches to work with their Wigan counterparts.

The project begins in earnest this August when a group of Wigan coaches will head down to Wales to run rugby camps, development camps, elite camps and coach education.

Raiders have recently parted company with interim coach Phil Carleton. Chairman Andrew Thorne together with players Steve Parry and Morgan Evans will guide the club

throughout the remainder of the season.

Next season will see former Melbourne Storm high performance manager Kim Williams take over as head coach, a move which demonstrates the club's long-term ambitions.

Last time out, Raiders hosted London Skolars in Llanelli. The Londoners ran-up a 42-0 lead in the first 40 minutes and spectators may have been anticipating a tough second half. The Raiders' players had other ideas and the home side were able to restrict their visitors to only 20 second-half points whilst scoring two converted tries of their own. The game finished 12-62 in London's favour.

Oldham's visit to Stebonheath Park back in May saw the Roughyeds come away with two points following a 74-0 win in the spring sunshine. Despite the emphatic Oldham win, the Raiders didn't give up and their effort was applauded by the travelling Oldham fans.



Three to watch

West Wales Raiders



Alan Pope

A former rugby union player with Waunarlwydd RUFC in West Wales. Represented West Wales RU and the Swansea Council representative sides before switching to rugby league. Signed for South Wales Scorpions in 2010. Rejoined Waunarlwydd for the 2012-13 season before returning to the Scorpions again in 2014.

2015 saw him sign for Raiders and captain the side in the conference league south.



Archie Snook

At 13, Snook played rugby union for Pontyberem RFC where he enjoyed a 2 year spell. At 15 he was then introduced to rugby league and he hasn't looked back since.

Went on to represent his country when he was chosen to play for Wales against England in August 2015.



Andrew Rees Spowart

Full-back and another former rugby union player. Played for Waunarlwydd, Tata Steel and Llanelli RFC in the Principality Premiership.

Andrew has played rugby league with teams such as the West Wales Sharks and CPC Bears before signing for the Raiders.



Your Community Radio men are back behind the mic...

(cont. from page 8)

OCR's normal service to be kept to a minimum.

Said Dave: "We've had a difficult and a harassing few months, moving from one place to another while trying to keep the show on air with as little disruption as possible. You'd never believe the technical problems we've had to overcome and, of course, we've had to succeed with little money and resources.

"When you hit a technical problem in our branch of the media you can usually buy a piece of equipment to solve it, but we are not in that position so we have to get our brains-trust together, improvise and use things like mobile-

phones, dongles and lap-top computers to get things up and running.

"We have been desperate to do match commentaries because we recognise that a lot of people rely on us, but it's not been possible due to technical difficulties and people being away.

"We've almost completed our move to Tommyfield now -- not quite --- but we had another hiccup last Sunday when we were all set to go at the Workington game and then we discovered we couldn't get the signal on to the internet and from there back to the studio.

"That might have been an operational error on my part, but the first half was about

half way through by the time we got on air.

"I'm not going to guarantee that we'll be able to broadcast every minute of every home game between now and the end of the season but I'll be very sad and despondent if we can't.

"It's amazing how many people there are in town, mainly elderly, who want to be kept in touch even though they can't get to games any more and we feel very responsible to them for providing them with the link.

"We're looking forward to settling in at Tommyfield because it suits us to be in the town centre, for obvious reasons, and it's easier to get people into the studio."

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Date	Time	Opponents		Result	Attn.
FEBRUARY					
Sunday 18	3.00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	A	14—0 (won)	785
Sunday 25	3.00pm	Featherstone Lions (Challenge Cup Round 3)	H	42—0 (won)	364
MARCH					
Sunday 11	3.00pm	York City Knights	H	22-24 (lost)	703
Tuesday 20	7.30pm	Halifax (LCC, rd 4)	A	27-6 (won)	688
Sunday 25	2.30pm	North Wales Crusaders	A	30-2 (won)	449
Friday 30	6.00pm	Bradford Bulls	A	12-30 (lost)	4,036
APRIL					
Sunday 8	3.00pm	Hunslet RLFC	H	16-24 (lost)	544
Sunday 15	3.00pm	Keighley Cougars	H	32-18 (won)	530
Sunday 22	3.00pm	Hull KR (LCC) at Bower Fold	H	0-32 (lost)	1,064
Sunday 29	3.00pm	Workington Town	A	32-10 (won)	712
MAY					
Sunday 6	3.00pm	Newcastle Thunder	H	H 28-12 (won)	455
Sunday 13	3.00pm	Hemel Stags	H	74—6 (won)	411
Saturday 19	3.00pm	West Wales Raiders	A	74—0 (won)	424
JUNE					
Sunday 3	3.00pm	Doncaster RLFC	H	32-12 (won)	453
Sunday 10	3.00pm	Coventry Bears	A	60-0 (won)	337
Sunday 17	3.00pm	London Skolars	H	44-12 (won)	419
Sunday 24	3.30pm	Hunslet RLFC	A	12-16 (lost)	605
JULY					
Sunday 1	3.00pm	Workington Town	H	14-16 (lost)	486
Sunday 8	3.00pm	West Wales Raiders	H		
Sunday 15	3.00pm	Keighley Cougars	A		
Sunday 22	3.00pm	North Wales Crusaders	H		
Sunday 29	3.00pm	Doncaster RLFC	A		
AUGUST					
Sunday 5	2.00pm	Hemel Stags	A		
Sunday 12	3.00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	H		
Sunday 19	3.00pm	Newcastle Thunder	A		
SEPTEMBER					
Sunday 2	3.00pm	Coventry Bears	H		
Sunday 9	3.00pm	York City Knights	A		
Sunday 16	3.00pm	Bradford Bulls	H		
Sunday 22	3.00pm	London Skolars	A		



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1. Kyran Johnson

2. Dave Eccleston

3. Matt Reid

4. Jack Holmes

5. Steven Nield

6. Paul Crook

7. Dave Hewitt

8. Phil Joy

9. Gareth Owen

10. Adam Neal

11. Craig Briscoe

12. Danny Langtree

13. Jack Spencer

18. Ben Davies

19. Adam Jones

20. Matty Wilkinson

21. Kenny Hughes

22. Danny Rasool

23. Luke Nelmes

24. Liam Bent

25. Danny Bridge

29. Zack McComb

30. Ben West

Luke Hooley

Lee Kershaw

SCOTT NAYLOR - Head Coach

PETER CAREY - Assistant Coach

Mick Harrop

Les and Eileen Davison

Les and Eileen Davison

David and Val Webster

Clarice Stevens

Rita Walton

Chris Noble MBE

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Morgan Evans

Morgan Jefferies

Nye Walker

Phil Cowburn

Ross Price

Rowland Kaye

Sam Baker

Shaun Owens

Shaun Tennant

Steven Parry

Taine Hendy

ANDREW THORNE - Head Coach

STEVE PARRY - Head Coach

MORGAN EVANS - Head Coach

Referee: J. Roberts

Touch Judge 1: J. Barr

Touch Judge 2: P. Cromer

Reserve Ref: K. Murphy

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