VS BRADFORD BULLS

SUNDAY 1ST MARCH | KICK-OFF 3PM

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUGHYED REVIEW

2020 PROGRAMME NO.2
£3.00



JACK SPENCER . . .
152 career games,
97 of them for Oldham

OLDHAM RLFC

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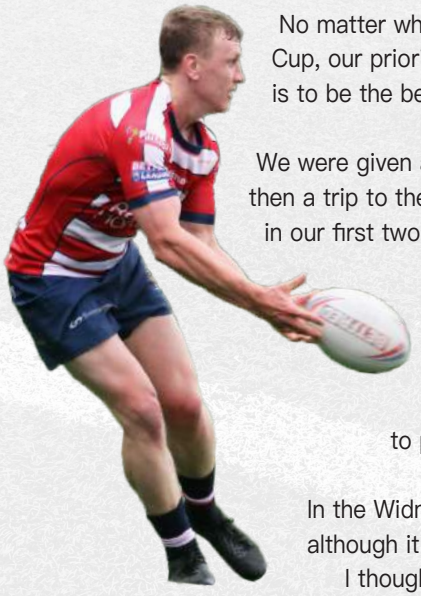
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YOUR CAPTAIN CALLING...



GARETH OWEN

No matter what happened at Widnes last Sunday in the Coral Challenge Cup, our priority this season, as Disco (Matt Diskin) has said many times, is to be the best we can possibly be in the Betfred Championship.

We were given a difficult start with a home game against the Vikings and then a trip to the south of France to take on Toulouse Olympique in our first two fixtures.

It was always going to be tough to get anything from those opening fixtures and, to be honest, we didn't perform as well as we ourselves had hoped. We need to play better than we did in those games and we are certainly striving to play better than that.

In the Widnes game, especially, we never gave ourselves a chance although it didn't help when I was on the receiving end of what I thought was a very harsh sin-binning. While we were down to 12 men, the Vikings scored two converted tries.

Down in Toulouse we hung in there for 50 or 60 minutes, but in the last 20 we allowed them to run riot. That was massively disappointing and it was something we talked about in the changing rooms after the game.

On to the Whitehaven game up in Cumbria on a cold Sunday night when much of the country was being battered by Storm Dennis. The Oldham players knew, just like our fans knew, that this was the big one for both teams and for both clubs.

It's always tough to go to Cumbria and we all knew it was a must-win game against a Whitehaven team that came up with us at the end of last season.

We toughed it out and got two precious league points in very poor conditions. It wasn't pretty and it was a hard-fought two points. The main thing is we're off the mark and we got a vital win.

We now have two games at home with Bradford Bulls here at Bower Fold today and then Dewsbury Rams coming next Sunday --- two home games, a potential four points and a chance to consolidate our position above the bottom few rungs of the Championship ladder.

Our wonderful fans can rest assured that we'll be giving it everything we've got to make Bower Fold a Roughyeds' fortress in the coming months.

GAZ.

Chat With The Chairman
CHRIS HAMILTON

Welcome back to Bower Fold for our second home fixture of the season in the Betfred Championship.

I think it would be fair to say that, since the opening game of the league season against Widnes Vikings on February 2, things have been mixed from an Oldham perspective.

After a difficult opening two games, against Widnes and then down in the south of France against Toulouse Olympique, we got an important win up at Whitehaven but then followed that up with a very disappointing display against Widnes in the Coral Challenge Cup last Sunday.

It was particularly disappointing because we displayed none of the qualities that usually set us apart from other teams – determination, team spirit, self-belief and a never-say-die attitude.

I have made no secret of the fact that those qualities are the ones that money can't buy and we have had them in spadefuls in the recent past.

They are qualities that, in a division in which we are competing against teams with much bigger budgets, will stand us in good stead as the season unfolds.

That is, however, as long as we continue to give 100 per cent for 80 minutes in every match, regardless of the result. Not turning up until the game is already gone, or going through the motions, are not options for us if we want to remain in the Betfred Championship.

That said, and again I make no apology for repeating this, 2020 is a year when we must all keep the faith – especially when things don't go right for us.

There is such a huge gap between the Championship and League One that, almost inevitably, we will suffer some days like last week. When that happens we will all take responsibility, work harder and move forward to the next challenge.

That next challenge today is against a Bradford Bulls side that, once again, found itself under new ownership during the close season. How they will be craving some stability!

Their fans have been through the mill over the last five or six years. They are playing out of town at Dewsbury Rams this season and that, as we know only too well ourselves, presents a whole host of different challenges to all concerned.

The last time we were in this division we had a memorable win at home against the Bulls courtesy of a fantastic try from Kieran Gill and we would love our lads to repeat the same today.

We have this week signed Ryan Ince on loan from Leigh Centurions and he is a winger with real quality who, most importantly, knows where the line is.

With Jimmy Beckett, Titus Gwaze and hopefully some dual registration input from Wakefield, we will be considerably better off this week than we were last week when it comes to Matt picking his team.

So far to date we have struggled to get what we would call our first choice side out for any game and last week was no different.

We also had both Matthew Fletcher and Ben Davies picking up injuries. We continue to look at all options to bring players in where we can and that won't stop as was seen with the addition of Ryan in the last few days.

Your part in today's proceedings is as important as ever. The lads need your vocal support to help them to get on the road to what would be a big two points.

Please make an effort to really get behind the lads from the outset. It does make a difference!

Enjoy the game,

Christopher Hamilton
Chairman
Oldham Rugby League Football Club


Chris Hamilton

This is Ryan Ince, our latest loan signing, looking proud, prim and proper when wearing his new Oldham shirt for the first time at training this week.

The 23-year-old winger from Leigh Centurions, who has signed initially for a month, was in line to make his Roughyeds debut against the Bulls today.

A Widnes lad, he played his early rugby at Widnes Moorfield before signing for the Vikings, for whom he scored 19 tries in 22 games last season.

He has also figured on dual-reg for Whitehaven, Hunslet and NW Crusaders while chalking up stats in senior rugby of 37 tries in 70 appearances.



Ryan Ince

CDX SECURITY

DISKIN'S DIARY

A peep behind the scenes with head coach Matt Diskin.

Following a difficult few weeks on the road –– or in the air! –– it's good to be back at Bower Fold and looking forward to a Betfred Championship game against Bradford Bulls, one of my former clubs.

Myself and the boys have been humbled by the size of our travelling support over the last few weeks, even in Toulouse, and that level of continued support is greatly appreciated, believe me.

We knew before the season commenced that we didn't have the depth of squad we would need for the week–to–week rigours of Championship rugby.

To have that depth tested so early in the campaign required the remaining players to dig deep under trying circumstances and following the trip to Toulouse they could hold their heads up high because of the big effort they put in.

In contradiction to that effort in France, we gave a very soft performance in the Challenge Cup–tie at Widnes.

The result was frankly embarrassing –– and as a team we wanted the ground to swallow us whole at the end of the game.

We have taken the harsh lessons learned and we now have the opportunity to prove we are mentally stronger than that last performance.

We aim to do that with a fully committed outing against the Bradford Bulls today.

The week before that we had a positive result at Whitehaven that ensured we got our first two league points of the Championship season.

The Recreation Ground is a tough place to get a win at any time of the year but this was particularly harsh on the weekend of Storm Dennis.

Facing atrocious conditions, our lads showed a dogged determination in search of our first win of the year and fully deserved to walk away with the spoils at the close of 80 minutes.

Thanks again for your terrific support,
Matt Diskin



Matt Diskin

MORE THAN 6,000

WATCHED OUR WIN AT WHITEHAVEN ON OURLEAGUE

Nearly 6,100 fans watched our crucial 16–14 win at Whitehaven on OuRLeague –– the third highest ever figures for a Championship game.

The exact figure was 6,088, hugely–encouraging for Oldham, for Whitehaven, for the RFL and for the game as a whole.

The win, in which Dan Abram starred with four goals and a penalty try, lifted us several places up the table and we now sit above Bradford Bulls, Whitehaven, York City Knights and Sheffield Eagles.

Our management committee is hugely encouraged by the club's increasing social media activity across all platforms. Twitter followers have gone up from 8,048 in January to 8,239 at the time of writing –– up 191 in the space of a few weeks.

We have 2,722 followers on Facebook and 976 on Instagram, but the biggest success stories are Twitter and OuRLeague, in which we are placed 12th out of 25 Championship and League 1 clubs with 2,275 members.

Whitehaven are one place above Roughyeds with 2,355 and Dewsbury one rung beneath with 2,193.

In the days leading up to the Whitehaven game 115 signed up, including 98 on the night.

Conscious that a lot of our older fans might appreciate assistance in signing up, we will have a special stand at the home game against Dewsbury Rams next Sunday at which management committee members Jenny Travis and Ben Whisker will be available to help if anyone wishes to sign up.

The crucial factor is to make sure you indicate that Oldham is the club you support.

Jenny and Ben will be in the room which is used as a game–day shop and is situated in the area close to the turnstiles inside the ground. Bring your smartphones, tablets etc with you and they will help you to get started.

PLAYER FOCUS: DANNY LANGTREE

Q: Tell us about your day job?

A: I work for a transport company in St Helens called 'Express It'

Q: What was the worst thing you ever did at school?

A: I was well behaved most of the time.

Q: If you won the lottery what would you buy first?

A: I'd sort out my family first and then travel until I was skint.

Q: Which sports star do you most admire and why?

A: Phil Joy, Oldham legend. Pity he can't handle his ale!

Q: Tell me how you think your teammates would describe you?

A: Best looking lad in the team.

Q: What is your biggest professional achievement to date?

A: Promotions in 2015 and 2019 and beating Hull KR in the Cup.



FLASHBACK . . . the day we beat Hull KR in the Challenge Cup, 2016

Boys will be boys!
Mad Monday 2019.



Mad Monday 2018



Q: What is your biggest professional disappointment to date?

A: Grand Final defeats in 2013 and 2014.

Q: Outside your day job and rugby, what do you do most?

A: Gym and getting massive with Chewy, or ending up in the pub.

Q: What's the best thing about being in the Oldham squad?

A: We have the best Mad Mondays.

Q: What would be your dream in life?

A: To have Dan Bilzerian's lifestyle. He's mint.
Does what he wants when he wants.



Promotion in 2019. What a feeling!

STATISTICS

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE 2020

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PTS
Leigh Centurions	3	3	0	0	128	20	108	6
Toulouse Olympique	3	3	0	0	106	30	76	6
London Broncos	3	3	0	0	92	46	46	6
Featherstone Rovers	2	2	0	0	68	40	28	4
Widnes Vikings	3	2	1	0	80	56	24	4
Swinton Lions	2	1	1	0	24	20	4	2
Halifax RLFC	2	1	1	0	34	35	-1	2
Dewsbury Rams	2	1	1	0	28	52	-24	2
Batley Bulldogs	3	1	2	0	50	80	-30	2
Oldham RLFC	3	1	2	0	28	108	-80	2
Bradford Bulls	2	0	2	0	36	48	-12	0
Whitehaven RLFC	3	0	3	0	34	66	-32	0
York City Knights	2	0	2	0	10	56	-46	0
Sheffield Eagles	3	0	3	0	41	102	-61	0

OLDHAM RLFC PLAYER STATS 2020

Squad No.	Player	Total App.	Sub	Tries	Goals	DGs	Points
01	Dan Abram	4	0	2	8	0	24
02	Declan Kay	4	0	0	0	0	0
03	James Worthington	1	0	0	0	0	0
04	Cameron Leeming	2	0	0	0	0	0
05	Kyran Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0
06	Lewis Charnock	4	0	0	0	0	0
07	Dave Hewitt	4	1	0	0	0	0
08	Phil Joy	4	0	0	0	0	0
09	Gareth Owen	4	0	1	0	0	4
10	Jack Spencer	4	0	0	0	0	0
11	Danny Langtree	4	0	1	0	0	4
12	Danny Bridge	3	0	0	0	0	0
13	Liam Bent	4	0	0	0	0	0
14	Matty Wilkinson	4	4	0	0	0	0
15	Ben Davies	1	1	0	0	0	0
16	Jode Sheriffe	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Ed Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Adam Brook	2	0	0	0	0	0
19	John Hutching	1	0	0	0	0	0
20	Harry Aaronson	2	0	0	0	0	0
21	Daniel Igbinedion	1	1	0	0	0	0
22	Matthew Fletcher	4	3	1	0	0	4
23	Jimmy Beckett	2	2	1	0	0	4
24	Titus Gwaze	2	2	0	0	0	0
-	Jack Croft	1	0	0	0	0	0
-	Ryan Ince	0	0	0	0	0	0

FIXTURES 2020

Date	TIme	Opponants	Venue	Score	Results	Attn.
February						
Sunday 2	3:00pm	Widnes Vikings	Home	6 - 36	Lost	1,726
Saturday 8	6:00pm	Toulouse	Away	6 - 58	Lost	2,318
Sunday 16	6:15pm	Whitehaven	Away	16 - 14	Won	532
Sunday 23	3:00pm	Chall.Cup 4 - Widnes	Away	12 - 52	Lost	1,564
March						
Sunday 1	3:00pm	Bradford Bulls	Home	-		-
Sunday 8	3:00pm	Dewsbury Rams	Home	-	-	-
Sunday 15	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 5		-	-	-
Saturday 21	3:00pm	Leigh Centurions	Away	-	-	-
Sunday 29	3:00pm	York City Knights	Home	-	-	-
April						
Sunday 5	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 6		-	-	-
G Friday 10	3:00pm	Swinton Lions	Home	-	-	-
Wed 15	7:45pm	Sheffield Eagles	Away	-	-	-
Sunday 19	3:00pm	Batley Bulldogs	Away	-	-	-
Sunday 26	3:00pm	Halifax	Home	-	-	-
May						
Sunday 3	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	Away	-	-	-
Sunday 10	3:00pm	Chall. Cup QT Finals		-	-	-
Sunday 17	3:00pm	London Broncos	Away	-	-	-
Sunday 24	3:00pm	York Ciy Knights	Away	-	-	-
Sunday 31	1:00pm	Swinton Lions	Summer Bash	-	-	-
June						
Sunday 7	3:00pm	Chall. Cup Semis	Double Header	-	-	-
Sunday 14	3:00pm	Leigh Centurions	Home	-	-	-
Sunday 21	3:00pm	Sheffield Eagles	Home	-	-	-
Sunday 28	3:00pm	Bradford Bulls	Away	-	-	-
July						
Sunday 5	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	Home	-	-	-
Sunday 12	3:00pm	Batley Bulldogs	Home	-	-	-
Saturday 18	Noon	1895 Cup Final	Wembley	-	-	-
Saturday 18	3:00pm	Chall. Cup Final	Wembley	-	-	-
Friday 24	8:00pm	Halifax	Away	-	-	-
August						
Sunday 2	3:00pm	Swinton Lions	Away	-	-	-
Sunday 9	3:00pm	Whitehaven	Home	-	-	-
Sunday 16	3:00pm	Dewsbury Rams	Away	-	-	-
Sunday 23	3:00pm	Toulouse	Home	-	-	-
Sunday 30	3:00pm	Windes Vikings	Away	-	-	-
September						
Sunday 6	3:00pm	London Broncos	Home	-	-	-

+ 1895 Cup: Oldham enter in round 2, week starting April 27; Quarter-finals, week starting May 11; semi-finals, Sunday, June 7; Final, Sat, July 18 (Wembley, mid-day).

PICTURE GALLERY . . . OUR BOYS IN CHALLENGE CUP ACTION AT WIDNES.



GARETH OWEN



MATTHEW FLETCHER



ADAM BROOK



DANNY LANGTREE



BEN DAVIES



JOHN HUTCHINGS



LEWIS CHARNOCK



PHIL JOY



DAVE HEWITT


DAN ABRAM



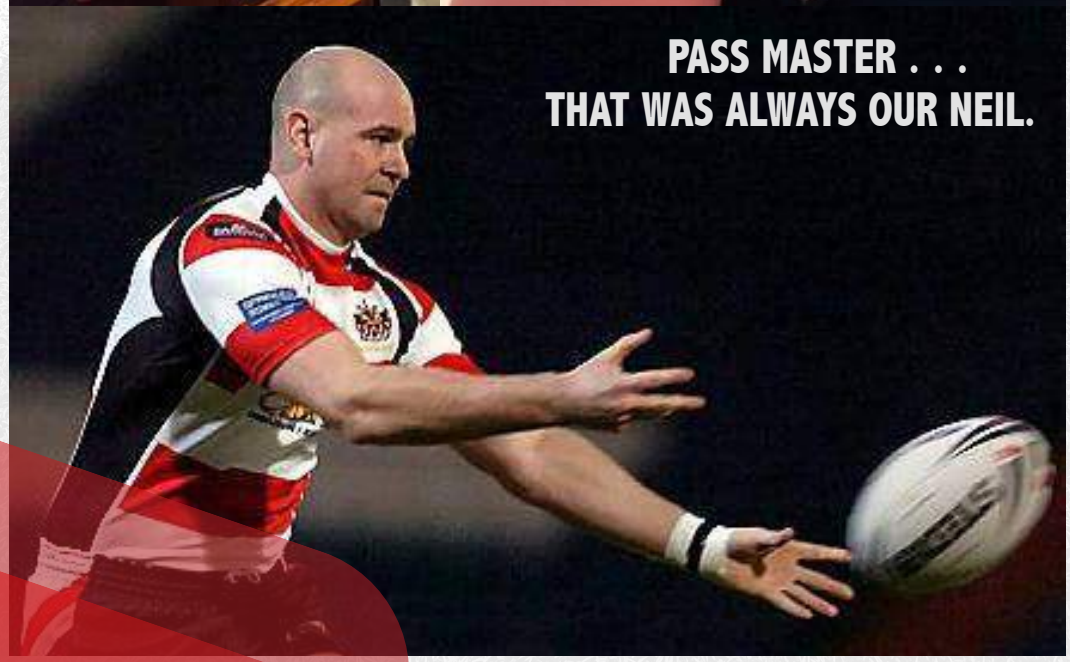
LIAM BENT


DANNY BRIDGE

The Second Of A New Series In Which We Talk To Some Of Our Top Players Of The Recent Past.







PASS MASTER . . .
THAT WAS ALWAYS OUR NEIL.

TOP LEFT: Tanya with the kids, lyla (8), Caelan (4)
TOP RIGHT: Me and my girl

No 2: Neil Roden

Stand–off, captain and another Roughyeds legend.

Neil Roden played in 295 Roughyeds games –– a record since the club was re–formed in 1997 –– and scored 477 points with 113 tries and 25 drop goals. That's service for you . . . and loyalty!

Q: When were you at Oldham RLFC and where are you now?

A: I arrived on loan from Wigan with Phil Farrell in 1990 and apart from one season at Batley I stayed until I retired in 2013, aged 33. I'll never forget my testimonial match, the big farewell ! I'm a Wigan lad, born and bred, but I live in Leigh now with wife Tanya and children lyla (8) and Caelan (4). My dad, Jack, is still scouting for Wigan and has been for many years.

Q: What was your most memorable game and why?

A: That has to be the play–off semi–final against Rochdale at Spotland in 2001. With ten minutes to go we were 18 points down but we turned it round in a sensational finale and snatched a win that earned us a Grand Final against Widnes. We lost that pne . . . just one game from Super League!

Q: Which sports star do you most admire and why?

A: My heroes growing up were Andy Gregory and Shaun Edwards. They convinced me I wanted to be a rugby player. Later, Andrew Johns was my hero. I loved watching him, even though he was an Aussie.

Q: How would your Oldham team mates have described you?

A: A team player, I hope, someone who gave his all, led from the front and was able to organise. Also, as captain, someone who could get the best out of his team and shout instructions when he had to.

Q: What did you like most about being in the Oldham squad?

A: Making mates for life. We still get together on a fairly regular basis and there will be a real old boys' gathering in April when I'm 40. I don't watch much rugby these days, but I always keep an eye on Oldham's results.



NEIL RODEN as we best remember him.
Picture by Oldham RL Heritage Trust.

(Continued from previous page)

Q: What is your biggest professional disappointment to date?

A: Definitely losing that 2001 Grand Final against Widnes. A win would have made such a difference to the club's fortunes. I never won a final. It wasn't for the want of trying!

Q: What is your biggest professional achievement to date?

A: I was twice named in the league's team of the season. I was really chuffed with that.

Q: What prompted your decision to retire from rugby?

A: I was 33 and I knew that I was taking longer and longer to recover after every match. I felt it was the right time to go. I coached the reserves for a short time under Scott Naylor but unfortunately that didn't continue.

Q: What is your current day job?

A: I used to work in the Prison Service as a driver, but now I work for Network Rail. I work on track renewals, mainly on the night shift. I enjoy the job, it's good.

Q: What would be your dream role in life?

A: My life is already a dream and it will continue to be so long as Tanya and the children are happy and healthy. Nothing is more important than that. So long as they're okay so am I –– and happy to stay exactly as I am.

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THE 2020 SQUAD



DAN ABRAM
(FULL-BACK)

One of several new signings, son of former Oldham centre Darren. Aged 24, DOB 11/11/95. Previously played at St Helens, Barrow, Whitehaven, Rochdale. Can also play half-back and hooker.
SPONSORED BY RUGBY OLDHAM SUPPORTERS' TRUST



DECLAN KAY
(WING)

On loan from Rochdale in last five games of 2019, including Promotion Final win against Newcastle Thunder. Now on contract. Aged 23, DOB 24/11/96. Wigan-born, he started at Warrington Wolves.
SPONSORED BY ROB LONG



JAMES WORTHINGTON
(CENTRE)

New boy from Wigan Warriors. Aged 20, DOB 21/5/99. Played loan games at Workington, Rochdale and Toulouse in 2018 and 2019. Super League debut for Wigan, aged 18.
SPONSORED BY OLDHAM RL HERITAGE TRUST



CAMERON LEEMING
(CENTRE)

Played ten games at the end of last season (nine wins) after signing from Dewsbury Rams. Aged 24, DOB 3/7/95. Previously played for Hunslet, Keighley Cougars and Dewsbury Rams.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177



KYRAN JOHNSON
(WING)

Starting his third year at Oldham on a two-year deal. Came from Featherstone Rovers. Aged 25, DOB 23/3/94. Scored 12 tries in 31 Oldham games to date.
SPONSORED BY MICK HARROP



LEWIS CHARNOCK
(STAND-OFF)

The only new signing on a two-year deal. Ex-England Academy. Aged 25, DOB 2/9/94. Started at St Helens, then Bradford on loan, then Barrow. Worked with Matt Diskin at Bradford.
SPONSORED BY ANNE KEARNS



DAVE HEWITT
(SCRUM-HALF)

Another ex-Saints boy. Aged 24, DOB 4/11/95. In 95 Oldham games, he's scored 34 tries, 83 goals, 2 drop goals, 304 points. Much will depend on how he and Charnock gell at half-back.
SPONSORED BY DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER



PHIL JOY
(PROP)

Local lad Phil has been at his home-town club for nearly a decade, first a star of the reserves and then a first-team regular since 2012. Aged 28, DOB 4/9/91. Twenty-seven tries in 154 games.
SPONSORED BY PAST PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION



GARETH OWEN
(HOOKER)

Another local, first with Waterhead then Salford where he played in 38 Super League games. Starting his fourth season as Oldham captain. Aged 27, DOB 3/7/92. Fifteen tries in 131 games.
SPONSORED BY ECHO ELECTRICAL LTD



JACK SPENCER
(PROP)

Joined Oldham in 2016 when his dad Lee was assistant boss. Previously played at Salford, Halifax, Barrow and in France and Australia, Aged 29, DOB 21/12/90. Ninety-three Oldham games.
SPONSORED BY GRAEME LEE



DANNY LANGTREE
(BACK-ROW)

Top forward try-scorer in League 1 in 2019. Despite short spell with Hull, he's played in more Oldham games (166) than anyone else in the squad. Aged 28, DOB 8/2/91. Top try scorer.
SPONSORED BY DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER



DANNY BRIDGE
(BACK-ROW)

Irish-capped. Starting a third season with his home-town club. Younger brother of former GB man Chris Bridge. Aged 27, DOB 4/1/93. Previously at Rochdale, then a spell in Queensland.
SPONSORED BY PAM TAYLOR AND LTS



LIAM BENT
(LOOSE-FORWARD)

Tackling machine. Regularly records more than 50 tackles in a game. Wigan-born, but signed from Salford 66 games ago. One of the fittest players at the club. Aged 22, DOB 11/10/97.
SPONSORED BY WN1 LIGHTING SOLUTIONS LTD



MATTY WILKINSON
(HOOKER)

Usually on the bench as Gaz Owen's replacement. Quick and elusive, he's scored 21 tries in 54 games from dummy-half. Aged 23, DOB 13/6/96. Came from Salford via North Wales and Halifax.
SPONSORED BY JOHN AND LYNDA MCANDREW



BEN DAVIES
(PROP)

Aged 30, DOB 2/11/89, Ben has been around the block with several clubs in a long career. Came to Oldham from Whitehaven in 2017. Currently battling to overcome a painful back injury.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177



ADAM BROOK
(HALF-BACK)

On loan from Halifax last year, but now on contract. Will be competing with Hewitt and Charnock for a pivotal spot. Aged 25, DOB 29/9/94. Three tries, 12 goals in 11 games last year.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177

(cont. on next page)



JOHN HUTCHINGS
(UTILITY)

Played on scholarship at Wigan Warriors from 14 to 16, then St Helens under-19s for three seasons. Aged 20, another new signing. Can play in the forwards or in the backs.
SPONSORED BY ECS LEISURE



HARRY AARONSON
(WING)

Scored four tries in nine loan games from Swinton last year, but is now on contract. A former Saddleworth player, he had two spells at Swinton Lions and one at Keighley Cougars.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177



JODE SHERIFFE
(PROP)

Another new signing with bags of experience. Recruited from Dewsbury to replace Scott Law, who has retired. Aged 33, DOB 4/7/86. Jode has also played for Halifax, Bradford, Keighle.
SPONSORED BY JOHN AND LYNDA MCANDREW



ED SMITH
(UTILITY)

Primarily a forward – prop or second-row -- he did a good job at centre in the warm-up against St Helens. Aged 27, DOB 12/11/92, this former York captain signed late last season after knee surgery.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177



DANIEL IGBINEDION
(FORWARD)

A Londoner, he came north to sign for Castleford Tigers, but joined Oldham in December after playing more than 50 games for Dewsbury Rams in the last three seasons. Aged 25, DOB 26/1/95.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177



MATTHEW FLETCHER
(FORWARD)

Stalybridge-born, 19-year-old. Reared at Waterhead, then Bradford Bulls Academy, then at clubs in Queensland. Signed a two-year deal and impressed on debut against Saints.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177



JIMMY BECKETT
(PROP)

Signed from Featherstone on season-long loan with a recall clause which kicks in after 28 days. Aged 20, DOB 29/8/99. Played six games on loan last season and scored a decisive try in the Promotion Final.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177



TITUS GWAZE
(PROP)

With us on loan from Wakefield Trinity. Aged 20, Titus played 14 games for Roughyeds on loan last season and he is now back with us, having made his second debut at Toulouse on February 8.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177



RYAN INCE
(WING)

Former Widnes winger, who has joined us on loan from Leigh, Scored 19 tries in 22 games for Vikings in 2019. Has also played on dual reg for Whitehaven, Hunslet and NW Crusaders.
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE 07904 898177

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BRADFORD BULLS

John Kear brings his new–look Bradford Bulls side to Bower Fold today for what should be a thrilling encounter between the two sides.

The Bulls underwent another re–structure in the close season with new owners at the helm and a change of home venue. The rising costs of repair and maintenance to Odsal Stadium meant a departure from their base of 85 years anda new start at the Tetley's Stadium, home of the Dewsbury Rams.

The close season also brought about a large turnaround of playing staff with many first team stalwarts departing for pastures new.

Elliot Minchella, Joe Keyes and Ethan Ryan were amongst those accepting contracts with other clubs but coach Kear dipped into the player market and snapped up speedster Greg Johnson from Salford Red Devils and forward Anthony England from Wakefield.

Centre Rhys Evans left on a season–long loan to West Yorkshire neighbours Leeds Rhinos which became a permanent move but he has recently returned to the Bulls on a loan arrangement.

Another former Rhinos man, half–back Jordan Lilley, will be a big factor inhow the Bulls move around the park this year, aided by another returning player, stand–off Rowan Milnes. A product of the Bradford club's academy system, Milnes joined Hull Kingston Rovers but has returned to his former teamon a loan basis for 2020.

A familiar face to Oldham fans will be French forward Levy Nzoungou. Big Levy appeared for Oldham in pre–season prior to the start of the 2018 League 1 campaign, arriving on dual registration from Salford Red Devils. Roughyeds next saw him again when he played against us for Whitehaven on a season opening encounter up at Whitehaven.

It was only a matter of weeks before he returned to Oldham colours as Scott Naylor's side travelled to North Wales Crusaders. At only 22 years of age let's hope that Levy can cement a regular position at his new club and make a name for himself as a Bull. Maybe starting next week though.

Last season Bradford finished 6th in the Championship after promotion in 2018 with 16 wins from 27 games.

The highlight of their season though was surely the 24–22 victory over Leeds Rhinos at Odsal in the Coral Challenge Cup. The game was watched by over 10,000 spectators which brought back memories of previous titanic encounters between the two old rivals.

This season has seen the Bulls fall to two narrow defeats. Relegated Super League outfit London Broncos took the spoils 18–14 in Dewsbury on the opening day of the season. That was followed by a losing visit to Featherstone Rovers two weeks ago, Rovers winning that one 30–22.

Amateurs Underbank Rangers were the Challenge Cup visitors to Dewsbury lastweekend and put up a spirited performance in the Tetley's Stadium winter mud. The Holmfirth side failed to register a point on the scoreboard but were able torestrict the Bulls to just 22 points. Energy sapping mud or not, that was some achievement.

The Bulls will be looking to register their first league points of the season today and Oldham will be hoping to put last week's heavy loss at Widnes behind them. It should make for a good game.

Writes Dave Naylor.

THREE TO WATCH

GEORGE FLANAGAN



Hooker — 33yrs old

Bradford–born Flanagan began his career in the Bradford academy system but made his professional debut for Batley Bulldogs in 2009. Enjoyed spells with Dewsbury, Featherstone Rovers and Hunslet but returned to the Bulls in February 2018.

A fan–favourite, he was a key member of John Kear's squad during the 2018 and 2019 seasons, making a combined total of 40 appearances and scoring 20 tries. A highlight was scoring against Leon Pryce's Workington Town in the League Oneplay–off final. Has signed a new one year deal to stay at the club until the end of the 2020 season.

STEVE CROSSLEY



Prop–forward — 30yrs old.

Bradford–born prop Crossley is in his third spell with his home–town club.Made his professional debut for the Bulls in the 2010 season before spending time with Dewsbury Rams, Featherstone Rovers and Castleford Tigers.

Crossley was recruited for the Toronto Wolfpack squad in their inaugural season where he made twenty appearances for the Canadians. Rejoined Bradford in October 2017 and was made club captain for the 2018 season. Has signed a one year extension to his contract taking his stay at the Bulls up to 2021.

JORDAN LILLEY



Half–back — 23yrs old.

Bramley born Lilley started at the amateur club Stanningley ARLFC in Leedsbefore turning professional for his home city. He made his Leeds Rhinos debut against Wakefield Trinity Wildcats in 2015.

In 2016 Lilley became a regular in the Rhinos line–up owing to the absence of the injured Danny McGuire. Joined Bradford initially on loan in 2017 and then returned in 2018, eventually signing a 2 year full–time deal with the Bulls.

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Jordan **LILLEY**	07
Anthony **ENGLAND**	08
Thomas **DOYLE**	09
Steve **CROSSLEY**	10
Adam **ROOKS**	11
Connor **FARRELL**	12
Sam **HALLAS**	13
George **FLANAGAN**	14
Liam **KIRK**	15
David **FOGGIN-JOHNSTON**	16
Levy **NZOUNGOU**	17
Evan **HODGSON**	18
Matty **DAWSON-JONES**	19
Daniel **WAITE-PULLAN**	20
Sam **BARLOW**	27
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