

ROUGHYED REVIEW

LANGERS HITS TRY TRAIL

No Oldham forward has EVER scored more tries than dashing Danny Langtree. He's on 92 -- and still going strong. Next best is the late Bob Irving, who scored 80. Our top 25 are listed on page 21.

2021 PROGRAMME NO.3

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Hi and welcome back to the latest home fixture in this strangest of seasons.

We are back at Bower Fold after two successive away trips; both losses, unfortunately, but with very different outcomes in terms of the mood.

At Batley we were up against it with injuries before and during the game, but we gave a poor display and made Bulldogs look better than they were.

At London Broncos we again had a host of people missing, but we gave a more committed and encouraging display, this time against a full-time outfit who were virtually at full strength.

I have said for a long time that if anybody could sort out the mental side of this game, they would be mega rich and very much in demand.

Even though we are early in the season, it is again proving how difficult a competition it is. You HAVE to be on your game every week to give yourself a chance.

A CHAT WITH THE CHAIRMAN

CHRIS HAMILTON

With successive home matches, we have a chance to get back on track and put together performances which will give us a chance to win. Putting out what is considered your best team will always help and we are hoping to have a few injured players back.

It won't be easy against Halifax, who beat us in pre-season but who sit in the same position as us after three matches with one win. The challenge is there -- and it would certainly help my Bank Holiday if we won.

Playing on Saturdays is very different to what we have been used to, but it enables fans to watch their teams on Our League while games are still being played behind closed doors.

On that theme, clubs have had a virtual meeting about fans coming back. May 17 has been widely reported as the big day, but it's not as straight forward as that. Clubs have a lot of work to do first and they will all face different issues regarding ground capacities, Government

guidance, seating numbers and the lay-out of standing areas etc.

We have been on with this work for a few weeks. It will be a very different ground that people come back to and, among other things, there will be social distancing inside the ground; capacities will be greatly reduced; and entry and exit will be closely controlled.

Advice is changing about how many fans will be allowed to attend. This forms part of the planning process.

Our first home game with fans won't be until May 30. As we get nearer and things become clearer we'll let everybody know in plenty of time.

Enjoy the game.

***Christopher Hamilton
Chairman***



DISKIN'S DIARY

A peep behind the scenes with head coach Matt Diskin

Following a fantastic opening win against Swinton Lions, our following results versus Batley Bulldogs and London Broncos highlighted our naivety.

The Batley game illustrated an attitude that is not acceptable at this level of rugby. We lost the ruck repetitively and made too many basic errors. Subsequently, we made an average team look exceptional in all areas.

There was a line drawn under the Batley game very quickly and the players produced an exponential increase in effort and positive attitude when we played London.

Unfortunately, the naivety I talked about previously gifted the opposition numerous tries they didn't have to earn. We travelled home, therefore, with the shared feeling that we missed a big opportunity to pick up points in the Capital.

Our group has experienced a tough period due to illness and injuries. This has led to additional recruitment as we have brought in Jack Bibby and Jack Croft to bolster our ranks.

As a group, we are aware of the improvements needed; we are aware of the weekly rigours of the Championship; and we are confident we can deliver a tough and attractive brand of rugby to rival any team in the division.

The support we have had through these strange times doesn't go unnoticed by the group.

Stick with us and we'll be celebrating together sooner than we realise.

Enjoy the game,

**Kind regards,
Matt Diskin**



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YOUR CAPTAIN CALLING

Gareth Owen on the ball

The boys were embarrassed with what we dished up at Batley and after the game Disko asked a lot of questions about our attitude.

Moving on from that disappointing performance, we had a big opportunity at London Broncos to really show what we are about and to put right our wrongs in the Fox's Biscuits Stadium.

We were obviously disappointed to come away from the Capital with another defeat, but on the credit side we were in the game for most of the match. I thought we gave as good as we got.

We conceded some terrible tries which meant we were always chasing London on the scoresheet, but on the balance of play, I thought we gave ourselves every opportunity to win.

Up near the London line, there were patches when we looked really good with ball in hand, but we could have done more defensively because we let them play too quickly with the result that we couldn't control them.

Nevertheless, we made big forward strides when compared to our Batley performance and our challenge now is to continue to improve and to start getting some wins under our belts.

With home advantage in the next two games against Halifax and Whitehaven, both at home, we have the chance to do just that.

We need to make Bower Fold a fortress and a tough place for any team to come to.

We will be striving to emulate the way we played in the second half against Swinton Lions the last time we were here at the Fold a month ago.

To do that, we'll have to play with the same energy and enthusiasm that we produced in London last week while cutting out the odd lapses in concentration when we did some daft things after working so hard for long periods and doing so many good things.

Can't wait to see you back on the ground.

Thanks for all your support of club, squad and team.

**Enjoy.
Gaz**

Player Focus

Liam Bent



Q: What do you do for your day job?

A: I'm a personal trainer

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

A: Took in a bag of beers, mistaking them for my dinner, and handed them out to my mates

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

A: A gym, and then build a business

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

A: Paul Gallen, Sam Burgess, Michael McIlorum because of how they conduct themselves on the field and how they defend and tackle

Q: How would your team mates describe you?

A: Intense, focused and an over-thinker



SCHOOL DAYS, ME AND MY BEST FRIEND SEAN, WHO PASSED AWAY SIX YEARS AGO. WE WERE AT PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER.

Q: What's your biggest professional achievement so far?

A: Winning promotion to the Championship; continuing to be offered contracts; winning the fans' player-of-the-year award for the last two seasons. Really appreciated.

Q: And your biggest disappointment?

A: Being released by Salford

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

A: Train and watch films

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

A: Loyal fans, great team mates, great coaches; togetherness; and working with and for each other week in and week out.

Q: What's your dream in life?

A: To be a successful player in Super League or NRL and to play for England.



MY MUM AND LITTLE SISTER, GRACE



Past players | Paul Norton

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

No 6: Paul Norton, the no-nonsense prop, who scored nine tries in 66 games for Oldham between 2000 and 2003 before he was forced to retire on medical grounds.

Q: What dates did you play for Oldham and in what position?

A: 2000 to 2003, prop or second-row.

Q: What was your most memorable game, and why?

A: The 2001 Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final . . . the atmosphere, the occasion and the crowd of nearly 9,000.

Q: What sports personality do you most admire, and why?

A: Tyson Fury for the way he fought back from depression

Q: What would you consider to be your biggest professional achievement?

A: Reaching the 2001 NFP Final at Spotland, even though we lost to Widnes. I was in the front-row with Leo Casey and Keith Brennan. If we had won, we would have gone up to Super League.

Q: And your biggest disappointment?

A: Losing that final, 14-24, and being forced to hang up my boots prematurely because of a serious neck injury.

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

A: Daft as a brush with a big nose

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

A: The bond we had.

Q: What prompted your decision to leave?

A: An injury.

Q: What's your day job?

A: Production manager for Global Engineering

Q: What would be your dream role in life?

A: I love my job so I suppose I'm happy with what I've already got in my triple role of husband, father and production manager.



Playing days . . . never to be forgotten





FAMILY man -- and all smiles too. That's me, my wife Gemma and our kids Stanley and Hattie.



Dave Naylor takes a look at today's visitors

Halifax visit Bower Fold this afternoon for their first competitive game against Oldham under their new guise of Halifax Panthers.

One of the 22 founding members of the Northern Rugby Football Union, Halifax competed as Halifax RLFC until joining the newly formed Super League competition in 1996.

Many of Super League's founding members adopted new titles and the West Yorkshire club were no exception. Halifax Bombers was the winner of a local newspaper poll to pick a new name but the club decided upon Halifax Blue Sox on the recommendation of then chairman Nigel Wood.

The Blue Sox branding proved unpopular with many Halifax fans and the club reverted to their original name at the start of the 2003 season. The Blue Sox logo was replaced by the Halifax town crest displayed on a shield with the words Halifax RLFC written underneath.

In 2020, in an effort to arrest a decline in attendance figures and to attract a new generation of fans, the Halifax board of directors set out to identify ways to drive their club forward. A major rebrand was seen as a necessary step to bring the club in line with the world's major sporting brands.

Halifax Panthers — a hat-tip to a former black cat club-mascot — was born and the rebrand began with a flurry of proactive social media activity and slick marketing. CCTV footage of a big cat prowling around prominent Halifax landmarks teased the Panther moniker prior to a full launch at the Halifax Piece Hall in December.

The change has been hailed as a great success. The hashtag [#PanthersAreInTown](#) gained a phenomenally high number of social media impressions while season-ticket and merchandise sales since the announcement have exceeded all expectations. A new Panther logo has replaced the archaic town crest and is seen as a pathway to open up many new opportunities for marketing and engagement that simply didn't exist under the old identity.

On the field of play Halifax began their 2021 campaign with a Challenge Cup defeat away against Batley Bulldogs. Coach Simon Grix must have required a reaction from his players because two weeks later, at the start of the Betfred Championship season, the Panthers hammered London Broncos at home 47-14.

Two more defeats have followed. A narrow one point loss against arch-rivals Bradford Bulls in Round 2 and then a 34-44 home defeat against high flying Toulouse Olympique last Sunday. A second-half fightback against Toulouse from a half-time score of 10-34 shows that a wounded big cat can be a dangerous beast. Had the game ran over 90 minutes the Panthers may well have fully overwhelmed their French visitors and snatched the points. C'est la vie.

Both Oldham and Halifax will be seeking to improve their league win-percentage today especially since both clubs put on valiant displays against promotion chasing outfits in Round 3. Oldham's brave battle with London Broncos will fill the team with confidence to take on a Panthers side containing players such as Gadwin Springer, Connor Robinson and former Roughyeds centre Zack McComb.

It should be fascinating to watch on OurLeague and whet the appetite for fans eager to return to attending live games in the not too distant future.

Three To Watch



BEN KAVANAGH

Entering his third season with his hometown club having joined from Super League side Hull Kingston Rovers, Kavanagh will be a key figure in the Fax pack in 2021 as he returns to action following a hip injury against Hull FC in pre season.

The Scottish international forward has plenty of Super League experience and will look to raise his teammates up to a higher level as the Panthers chase the promotion dream.

With good footwork and skills at the line coupled with his ability to play in the middle and in the back row, Kavanagh will be a vital asset to the club this season, giving options and depth across the pack.



CONNOR ROBINSON

Robinson signed a two-year deal to return to Halifax for a second spell, having spent three years with York City Knights.

An accomplished goal kicker with good ball skills, the points scoring machine was named League 1 player of the season during York's promotion campaign and helped them make the Championship play-offs during their first year back in the division.

With a turn of pace and an eye for a gap, 2021 stands to be a big year for the 25 year old half back as Panthers chase a return to Super League.



GADWIN SPRINGER

Explosive front-rower with plenty of Super League experience. Imposing with ball in hand and packing a punch in defence, the Frenchman is the type of player that fans love to see, with the potential to become a cult hero at The Shay.

He played in the victorious Toronto Wolfpack side that gained promotion to Super League via the Million Pound Game in 2019, and Fax will be hoping he can bring his big game experience to the table when it matters most.

Few forwards injured, so

BATLEY BULLDOGS 48 - OLDHAM RLFC 10



LEWIS CHARNOCK AND DAN ABRAM



DAVE HEWITT



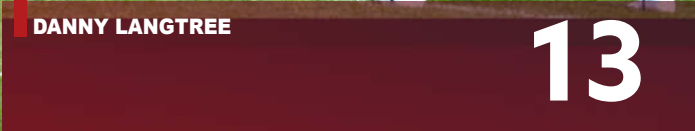
BEN HEATON



BRIDGE AND OWEN



Spencer leads from front



JACK SPENCER

LIAM BENT

DANNY LANGTREE

Media message

by ROGER HALSTEAD

There was a time, when national papers had Manchester editorial offices, printing plants and staff rugby league writers, that the sport got the exposure and the column inches it deserved.

Back in the day, big-name Rugby League reporters like Jack Bentley, Joe Humphreys, Oldham's own Arthur Brooks, Allan Cave and, a few years later, Brian Batty, Paul Harrison (ex-Oldham Chronicle) and John Huxley (ex-Oldham Chronicle) would provide breakfast-time reading for rugby league fans across the North of England.

In its day, the now long-gone Chronicle was a breeding ground for young journalists just starting out in their chosen profession.

John Stapleton (TV), Juliet Bremner (TV), Shaw lads Jack Crawshaw (producer of *This Is Your Life*) and Phil Rostron (ex-sports editor, *The Daily Star*) all cut their journalistic teeth at the dear old Chron.

In Rugby League, the late Bill Dorran, off Fitton Hill, began putting match reports together for the Chron as secretary of Lowermoor ARLFC.

They were good enough to get him a Chron job covering Oldham at Watersheddings. Then came stepping stones at Oldham Press Agency and the Manchester Evening News and he was on his way to becoming a news reporter at the Sunday People, where he rose to news editor.

It was a long haul from Fitton Hill to Fleet Street, but Bill made it -- and the part

played by his coverage of Oldham Rugby during the halcyon days of the 50s can't be over-estimated.

Then there was Angela Powers, a young lass who joined us on the subs' desk from The Warrington Guardian. We constantly talked rugby league; little did I know her aim was to join the Sky Sports rugby league presentation team, which she subsequently did.

There were many other young Oldham lads and lasses who got into journalism via Oldham Press Agency.

One of them, Martin Brooks, went on to enjoy a 30-year career with the BBC. Now retired, he's a Roughyeds fanatic, watching every home game and a lot away from home. His late dad Arthur, a great tabloid rugby league man, would be proud of him.

Here in Oldham, we've always had a strong media with rugby league connections. For instance, did you know the RFL's current head of communications is a lifelong Roughyeds fan?

Andy Wilson, head of media at HQ, has been watching Oldham since he was a small boy, following in the footsteps of his father Ian, secretary of Rugby Oldham, and his grandad.

Ian covers all our home games for League Express. His wife Joy, Andy's mum is a season-ticket holder here and their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren, who live in California, watch as many Oldham games as they can when they are over here.

This was the sort of national-paper coverage Rugby League used to get. It was March, 1959 and this is how the Daily Express reported the part played by Ike Southward's young wife in the then world-record £10,650 transfer to Oldham of the Workington Town winger. It all hinged on Betty and the human-interest story provided the northern editions of the Express with a splash news story.

So Mrs W-o-r-k-i-n-g-t-o-n plumps for O-L-D-H-A-M

A £2,200 BUNGALOW MAKES HER
SAY YES TO IKE'S TRANSFER

Express Staff Reporter

BETTY SOUTHWARD, the wife who said No two days ago to her husband Ike's £10,650 world record Rugby League transfer because she did not want to leave her home town of Workington, changed her mind yesterday. It was a new £2,200 semi-detached bungalow which made 23-year-old Betty decide.

So Great Britain right-winger Ike joins the Oldham club.

And that means Betty and 24-year-old Ike will be £600 better off.

That is their share of the £10,650 transfer fee.

But Betty did not make up her mind just like that.

"I wouldn't say a thing until I had seen Oldham," she said last night. "I had been warned it was a bit of a hole.

"I wanted to make sure we had a decent house and a nice place to live in.

So Ike and Betty left Workington in their small car at 8 o'clock yesterday morning to see what Oldham looked like—and to meet the Oldham club officials.

Betty's two-year-old son, David, was looked after by her mother.

'WE'LL FIT PERFECTLY'

Six hours and 116 miles later the couple arrived at Oldham's Rugby League ground. Betty had a look at the bustling town centre and the shops.

She was taken to meet Mr Bill Howard, the Oldham president.

Then she went to Broadway, Chadderton, to see the bungalow which the club had in mind for her.

It thundered and rained. But Betty was too busy studying the layout of the two-bedroomed bungalow to notice the weather.

She said: "I always wanted a bungalow. Our furniture would fit in perfectly.

"But I'll have to get new curtains as we have bay windows at Workington."

In the bungalow, a decorator waited for her to choose her colour scheme.

Betty asked about the nearest

shop—about 100 yards down the

street. About school when

David would be old enough—

10 yards up the street.

She weighed it up carefully.

And then said: "Well, I didn't expect anything like this. I'm

very thrilled.

And so the party went to

meet Mr Tom Mitchell, the

Workington Rugby League club

secretary, to complete the deal.



Ike signs—he's watched by
Mr Mitchell and Mr Howard.



IKE AND BETTY—AND BEHIND THEM THEIR NEW BUNGALOW HOME

column inches in national papers.

More than 50 fans have so far joined 'RL Uncovered' in order to co-ordinate emails, letters and phone calls to influential people, inviting them to join the push for more publicity.

They want the sports editors of every major newspaper to receive at least 100 letters, pushing rugby league and submitting constructive arguments as to why our sport deserves a better deal.

To sign-up, you must love rugby league and be willing to send a few emails or letters to the people who will determine how much coverage the forthcoming Rugby League World Cup will receive.

To find out more, email:
uncoveredrugby@gmail.com

There is also a Facebook page
and a Twitter account
@Uncovered Rugby.

I'm proud and privileged
to have known and
worked alongside all
these Oldham journalists
during my 45 years at the Chronicle.

I digress, however.

The object of this piece was not to
wallow in nostalgia, but to draw the
attention of our fans to a campaign led
by Stuart Glendinning to improve rugby
league's media profile in this World
Cup year.

He has created 'Rugby League
Uncovered', a new supporters'
organisation designed to get more

WORLD CUP 2021 - BEST EVER?

No holidays this year? Then smile nicely at your other half, keep the sun cream at the back of the cupboard for next year and book your time off from work to coincide with RLWC2021 in the autumn.

You could even get a match ticket for she who must be obeyed -- she's sure to be hooked --- or, at the very least, book a weekend away in Newcastle, Liverpool, Hull, Leeds, London, Coventry or York to coincide with one of the big games, either in the men's, women's or wheelchair World Cup competitions.

Covid permitting, this World Cup has the potential to be the best yet and in this and future issues of our online Roughyed Review we'll be looking at what's on offer later this year as international teams from all over the world come together in a jamboree of the sport we all love and cherish.

For the first time ever, there will be three World Cups in one -- men's, women's and wheelchair.

There will be 61 matches in total and, one way or another, the BBC will cover the lot.

The World Cup has been the pinnacle of international rugby league since 1954. Now contested every four years, with a series of qualification tournaments

leading up to it, the World Cup is open to all full and affiliated members of the IRL (International Rugby League).

This year the three-in-one tournament will culminate in an epic finals weekend.

We'll look at the women's and the wheelchair tournaments in the weeks to come.

As for the men, England will be looking for their first win, having competed six times in 1975, 1995, 2000, 2008, 2013 and 2017. In three of those years we finished runners-up to Australia, but as England we've never been able to straddle the final hurdle.

Great Britain have triumphed three times, in the first one, 1954, and then again in 1960 and 1972.

Oldham didn't have a representative in Dave Valentine's 1954 side, but Alan Davies, our prince of centres, played a key role in the 1960 triumph, as did powerful, pacy Bob Irving in Clive Sullivan's 1972 trophy-winning side.

In 1960, when it was contested only by GB, Australia, New Zealand and France in a mini-league structure, Britain won all three games and then clinched the World Cup by beating the Aussies 10-3 at Odsal in the decider.

Davies scored a try against the Kiwis and two against France.

Twelve years later Bob Irving flew the World Cup flag for Roughyeds in a Great Britain side coached by Jim Challinor, who became Oldham's team boss a few years later.

Britain beat Australia 27-21 in Perpignan; France 13-4 in Grenoble; and NZ 53-19 in Pau to head the qualifying table.

In the play-off decider, Britain v Australia, it was 10-10 after extra time, but Britain won the trophy because they had topped the qualifying group.

Irving was a non-playing sub against Australia and France, but he played against NZ and though he was on the bench against Australia in the final he took part as a replacement for David Jeans of Leeds Rhinos.

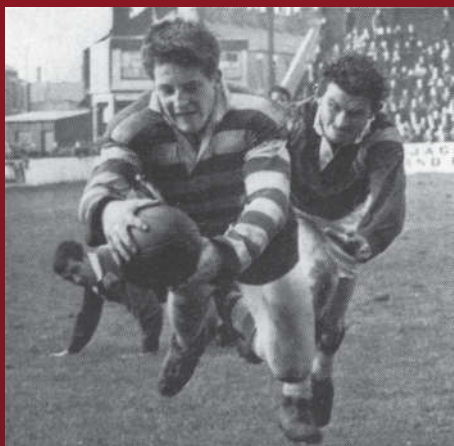
This year there are 16 contestants in four groups including England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, all of whom are in different groups.

England are grouped with Samoa, France and Greece and they kick-off the tournament against Samoa at St James's Park, Newcastle on Saturday, October 23, kick-off 2.30pm.

More on this next week.



Alan Davies busting the Kiwis, World Cup 1960



TRY TIME -- Bob Irving



AS we knew him best - Alan Davies
on Oldham duty



Stop me if you can, Bob Irving.
The grin says it all!



Bob Irving's 1972 World Cup shirt



YOUR country calling! Alan Davies
unlocking the French defence

Blue is the colour!

By **ROGER HALSTEAD**

It was the club that gave us John Blair, Colin Smith, Kevin Flanagan, Ray Fletcher, Geoff Munro, Stuart Bottom, Brian Grace, Mick Wilde, Kevin O'Rourke, Eric Fitzsimons, John Henderson, Mick Bardsley, Brian Quinlan, Emerson Jackman and Sean Cooper.

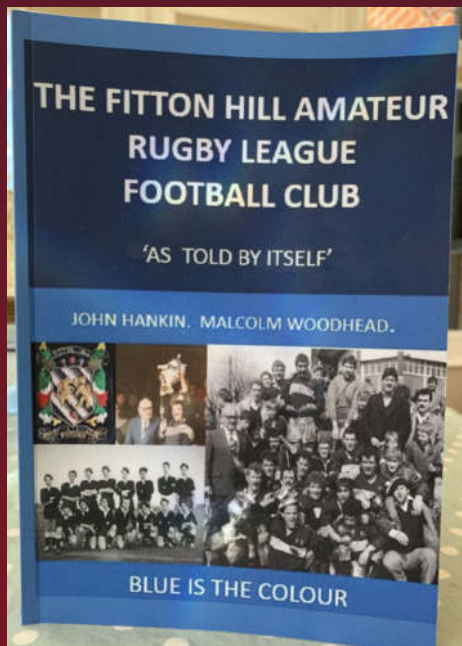
They didn't all come to Oldham direct from Fitton Hill (some went to other pro clubs first), but a lot of them did and to a man they played for their professional home-town team, having been spawned on rugby league in the Fitton Hill way either as player or coach.

Others, like Steve Deakin, Iain MacCorquodale and Mick Coates, played for Fitton Hill in their youth and coached at Oldham in later life.

The theme that hits you on practically every one of the 160 pages of a new book that traces the history of the former Fitton Hill club is how much the club meant to its officials, players, volunteer workers and fans.

Taken on as young blokes, many of them from humble beginnings, former players all recall how much they owe Fitton Hill for raising them not only as good rugby league players, but as good men.

"Blue Is the Colour", by John Hankin and Malcolm Woodhead, published by Amazon and costing £10, tells the riveting story of Fitton Hill's birth in 1964 to its demise in 1996.



Told by those who were there and on the club's front line -- officials, players and coaches -- it's a fascinating read to warm the heart of anyone with a passion for, or an interest in, grassroots rugby league in Oldham.

Fitton Hill was more than rugby, matches, statistics, wins and losses.

It was all about comradeship, camaraderie, team spirit, the will to win and never to give in and other lessons for life that players carried with them into middle and old age.

Few know that one of our former coaches, Steve Deakin, played first for the Oldham 'B' team and then for Fitton Hill.

As we all know Steve went on to become a coach at the highest level in rugby league, not only in England, but also in France.

He was head coach of many English clubs, including Oldham, but his greatest claim to fame was the senior part he played, as John Kear's right-hand man, in helping to steer Sheffield Eagles to that stunning 17-8 win against mighty Wigan at Wembley in the 1998 Challenge Cup final.

He was also assistant coach for a time at Catalans Dragons, a man steeped in rugby league, as was the whole Deakin family. When Steve speaks about rugby league you listen -- and this is just a small sample of what he remembers of his playing days at Fitton Hill.

"After a 34-year career in coaching, the thing that sticks with me (about Fitton Hill) is that the team always prepared to give of their best, and invariably did so. Characters such as 'Bootsie', Vic Mills, Tommy Earnshaw and others left an indelible mark on my philosophy as a coach.

"I've worked with some of the best players in the world and my coaching basics were the same as those back in the day at Fitton Hill.

"Fitton Hill set benchmarks for local rugby league that were as good as anyone could find.

"I only played there for two years -- too small for the forwards, too slow for the backs -- but the impressions I got and the lessons I learned about life are still with me today, 44 years later.

"I was proud to sing, and I still sing: 'Blue is the colour, rugby is the game . . . '.

That just about says it all!

+ You can get the book from Amazon for £10, with all royalties going to the Stephen Gartland Foundation.

We wish to point out also that the Fitton Hill club referred to here should not be confused with Fitton Hill Bulldogs, a new Fitton Hill club formed in 2000 which is very much alive and kicking and has the full support of Malc Woodhead, John Hankin and others who contributed so much to the life and times of the original Fitton Hill club.



Fitton Hill's best-ever year ? This is the Standard Cup Final programme of 1985 when Damian Chadwick scored a late try to earn a 9-8 win against Shaw at Watersheddings in the Oldham Amateur League's annual blue-riband event. It was Fitton Hill's first and only Standard Cup win in their 21st year and the celebrations went on long into the night.



Steve Deakin (left) with chairman Chris Hamilton when he was appointed Oldham's coach in March, 2006. He succeeded John Pendlebury, who rocked the club with his resignation just three games into the new season.

Take a bow Langers -- our highest try-scoring forward EVER.

THAT'S right -- Danny Langtree has scored more tries for Oldham than any other forward since statistics started to be recorded in the late 1800s.

You might be surprised at that but it's a fact, as the table on page 21 (right) will show.

Dave Naylor, our club statistician, dived into the archives to put together the top 25 try scorers, and although 16 players have scored more than Langtree's 92 they are all centres or wingers apart from half-backs Neil Roden and Frank Pitchford.

Mercurial centre Alan Davies tops the list with 174, followed by wingers Syd Rix (155) and Mike Elliott (153).

Of the 25, Langers is the only one still playing, and with eight required to reach his ton that's something for him to strive

for in the coming months.

His best season was 21 tries in 26 starts in the 2018 League One campaign when he scored more tries than any other forward in League One that year.

Now aged 30, he is one of the squad's most senior forwards, having made his debut off the bench in a 28-18 home win against Workington Town on August 19, 2012.

The team that day: Miles Greenwood; Lucas Onyango, David Cookson, Michael Ward, Mark Brocklehurst; Neil Roden, Jamie Dallimore; Jason Boults, Alex Thompson, Jamie Acton, Paul Noone, Paul Smith, Chris Clarke. Subs: Danny Langtree, John Clough, Luke Stenchion, Lewis Gilchrist.

Well done Langers, keep 'em coming !



Position	Player	Tries	Total App	Career
1	Alan Davies	174	391	1950-51/1961-62
2	Syd Rix	155	330	1918-19/ 1931-32
3	Mike Elliot	153	446	1962-63/ 1978-79
4	John Noon	126	256	1954-55/ 1963-64
5	Sam Williams	119	132	1897-98/ 1904-05
6	Richard Cracknell	119	213	1953-54/ 1958-59
7	Reg Farrar	114	143	1920-21/1930-31
8	Neil Roden	113	295	1999-2000/2013
9	George Tyson	111	246	1902-03/1911-12
10	Phil Larder	111	328	1968-69/ 1980-81
11	Joe Corsi	107	150	1923-24/ 1927-28
12	Terry O'Grady	105	140	1950-51/ 1956-57
13	Frank Pitchford	105	305	1952-53/ 1962-63
14	Evan Davies	103	323	1911-12/ 1925-26
15	George Smith	100	173	1907-08/ 1912-14
16	Des Foy	96	197	1982-83/ 1990-91
17	Danny Langtree	92	177	2012/2021
18	John Etty	90	150	1954-55/1958-59
19	Vince Nestor	86	232	1955-56/ 1964-65
20	Geoff Munro	84	195	1971-72/ 1985-86
21	Bob Irving	80	296	1964-65/ 1973-74
22	Jack Stephens	79	186	1929-30/ 1934-35
23	Billy Mitchell	76	310	1938-39/ 1954-55
24	Alan Kellet	76	206	1954-55/ 1971-72
25	Lucas Onyango	73	108	2007/ 2012

Our weekly podcast features the players



Have you been listening to our new weekly podcast with the players which goes out on our social media platforms?

We started with club captain Gareth Owen and then did Jack Spencer and the idea is that we'll talk to a player each week, so don't miss them.

We've had feedback from Australia and America so our fame is spreading!

Jack said he was proud to reach the 100-game milestone for Roughyeds. There was, he said, a core group of senior players who had been at the club a while, knew it inside out and who could pass on knowledge to newcomers and youngsters alike.

The environment was such that every new player who came to the club settled in quickly. There were no cliques, no egos but there was a good atmosphere which encouraged camaraderie and team spirit.

Quizzed about training, he revealed that players and coaching staff had regular Zoom meetings to give more time on training nights for other things.

When things went horribly wrong, as at Batley, players and coaches spoke honestly about what had happened and players took it on the chin -- and then moved on.

He said Disco (Matt Diskin) and Shez (Brendan Sheridan) were not only good coaches, but good blokes as well. Because Covid had affected the 2020 campaign so much, they and many squad members were still relatively new to the club and it always took time for a team to gel when there were a lot of new players and coaches.

He went on:

"We suffered a setback at Batley, but we are looking to improve week on week.

"Training and content are good and, frankly, we believe we are better than to be in a relegation battle.

JACK SPENCER



"Chris (Hamilton) has done a really good job in bringing in so many new good players. There's genuine competition and we are all on our toes because we know we are not safe.

"We are so looking forward to getting our fans back in. To hear them shouting for us again will be brilliant."

It sure will -- and the sooner the better.

LISTEN HERE:
<https://anchor.fm/old-ham-rugby-league>

HOW TO GET 'LINKED UP' WITH OUR WEBSITE

Now you've enjoyed our match-day online programme, why not stay in the mood for all the action at Bower Fold by following the links to the many features on our Roughyeds website.

They range from squad info, statistics, fixtures, latest news, ORSA, and league table to what we have available in the club shop.

We've got the best range of club merchandise for many a year so its well worth checking it out online.

The links in question are these:

Squad: <https://roughyeds.co.uk/players>

Stats: <https://roughyeds.co.uk/player-statistics>

Fixtures: <https://roughyeds.co.uk/fixtures-and-results/oldham-fixtures>

League Table: <https://roughyeds.co.uk/fixtures-and-results/league-table>

ORSA: <https://roughyeds.co.uk/orsa/orsa-information>

Shop: <https://payments.roughyeds.co.uk>

STEVE'S SUMMARY

If you are reading this before the match, you will be interested to know that the summariser for the Our League presentation of Oldham v Halifax Panthers is Steve McCormack, former head coach of the Scotland international side.

The son of former Oldham centre, and ex-Wigan player Jim McCormack, Steve was in charge of Scotland from 2004 to 2017 and coached them in three World Cups.

He's also coached at Salford, Whitehaven, Widnes, Barrow and Swinton Lions. He is currently Welfare and Development Manager of Rugby League Cares, having joined the charity as Transition Manager in 2019, following a spell as Player Welfare Manager at Wigan Warriors.

Our League coverage is free to home-side season-ticket holders and costs only £4.95 for everyone else if purchased before game day.



OLDHAM RLFC



HALIFAX PANTHERS



01	Dan Abram	Rugby Oldham
02	Tommy Brierley	David and Val Webster
03	Ben Heaton	Stephen Butterfield
05	Ryan Ince	Oldham RL Heritage Trust
06	Lewis Charnock	Anne Kearns
07	Dave Hewitt	Gordon Sedgwick
08	Phil Joy	Past Players Association
09	Gareth Owen	CDX Security
10	Jack Spencer	Graeme Lee
11	Danny Langtree	David and Val Webster
12	Liam Bent	Pam Taylor/ LTS
13	Martyn Reilly	Dynasty Denture Solutions
14	Matty Wilkinson	John & Lynda McAndrew
15	Luke Nelves	Gareth Hughes
16	Tyler Dupree	Gerry Jones & Caroline Hughes
17	Liam Kirk	Fab-tek Installations Limited
19	Matthew Fletcher	Waterhead under 13s
20	Jode Sheriffe	The Property Buying Co
21	Shaun Pick	Available - Ring 07904 898177
22	Kyran Johnson	Mick Harrop
23	Callum Green	Available - Ring 07904 898177
24	Max Roberts	Available - Ring 07904 898177
25	Danny Bridge	Gerald Brierley
26	James Barran	Available - Ring 07904 898177
27	Ben Holcroft	Available - Ring 07904 898177
28	Joe Hartley	Available - Ring 07904 898177
30	Dec Gregory	John and Lynda McAndrew
31	John Hutchings	Available - Ring 07904 898177
33	Jamie Abram	Available - Ring 07904 898177
34	Jack Bibby	Available - Ring 07904 898177
	Jack Croft	Available - Ring 07904 898177
	Matt Diskin	Property Buying Company
	Brendan Sheridan	Property Buying Company
	Jode Sheriffe	Property Buying Company

01	Scott Grix
02	Nick Rawsthorne
03	Greg Worthington
04	James Woodburn-Hall
05	James Saltonstall
06	Liam Harris
07	Connor Robinson
08	Elliot Morris
09	Brandon Moore
10	Dan Murray
11	Matt Garside
13	Jacob Fairbank
14	Kevin Larroyer
15	Gadwin Springer
17	Ben Kavanagh
20	Curtis Davies
21	Zack McComb
22	Amir Bourouh
23	Sion Jones
24	Ben Tibbs
26	Sam Hewitt
27	Paul Brearley

Head Coach: Simon Grix

Asst Coach: Rikki Sheriffe

Asst Coach: Scott Grix

Referee: G. Hewer

Touch Judge 1: C. Astbury

Touch Judge 2: M. Mannifield

Reserve Referee: B. Bragg

Time Keeper: P. Taberner

