

ROUGHYED REVIEW

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS!

Gregory, Bent, Nelmes
in triple tackle at York

2021 PROGRAMME NO.5

SUNDAY 30TH MAY

KICK OFF

3:00PM



**OLDHAM
RLFC**

V



WIDNES VIKINGS

**WIDNES
VIKINGS**



@roughyeds | enquiries@roughyeds.co.uk | 07904 898177
Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

CDX
SECURITY

MAIN CLUB SPONSOR



BETFRED



CHAMPIONSHIP



CDX

SECURITY



A CHAT WITH THE CHAIRMAN

CHRIS HAMILTON

Hi everybody,

I hope by the time you are reading this, that we will have been given the green light to allow fans back into Bower Fold for what is an important game against Widnes Vikings.

It is beyond belief that it is 14 months since we have seen our fans at a game cheering us on.

Although we had more than 100 at Featherstone we hardly gave you anything to be cheerful about !

Let's hope we have you in the ground today and that you go home with that winning feeling.

Last Sunday at York I thought we put in a decent performance against one of the division's fancied teams. Ultimately, the sending off of Tom Nisbet, on his debut, changed the game and although we hung in there for the first part of the second half, they had too much quality and they made the extra man count.

Preparations for the game were obviously disrupted by Matt having to isolate and the first part of this week will have been the same.

As I have said before, Covid is still very much here, and we need to pay it due respect. That goes for all the spectators inside the ground today, so please bear with us.

Everything that is in place, such as social distancing, staying in one spot, no food outlets being open, are all part of the Government's rules which allow fans to return to matches. At the end of the day, they are all there to protect you so please work with us.

Another frustration this season has been our inability to get our first 17 on to the field. Of course, we are not naive enough to think we wouldn't get injuries and that is one reason why we have a bigger squad this year, but regardless of the 17 we put out we can't even keep them injury free!

It has been really frustrating to see players having to come off in a match due to injury. Not only does it affect our ability to make the substitutions we anticipated but it also totally disrupts the positions that players are having to play.

We have had both Gareth Owen and Dan Abram playing half-back in recent

weeks; Danny Bridge filling in at centre last Sunday; and several of the forwards have had to either do longer minutes than normal - not easy - or again play a different role .

For instance, the likes of Matthew Fletcher, Danny Bridge, Shaun Pick have all had to do spells at prop.

Hopefully, this week will see the start of a bit of good luck in that respect.

Widnes have had a similar start to us and, despite picking up a win last week against Whitehaven, they are only a point ahead of us. It goes without saying that a win today would be a great boost and hopefully you can all play your part.

I haven't been able to say that for a long time !

Enjoy the game and really get behind the lads - you have 14 months of frustration to get rid of !

Enjoy the game.

***Christopher Hamilton
Chairman***

DISKIN'S DIARY

A peep behind the scenes with head coach Matt Diskin

A rugby season is like a roller coaster -- ups and downs -- and we have certainly hit the down slope over the last few games.

The defeat against Whitehaven, when we produced an embarrassment of basic errors, was compounded with a humiliating defeat at Featherstone.

Our last outing versus York City Knights proved challenging in many areas.

Having to isolate, because my son contracted Covid, hindered our preparations, but Brendan and the senior players did a great job in ensuring that we approached the York game with a much-improved mentality.

We were the better team for the duration of the game when it was 13 versus 13.

As a group, we need to find consistency in our approach. We are

not going to win every game but that does not excuse us from striving to compete in every minute of every game we play.

We need to find doggedness -- the determination to ensure that we fight for everything we achieve.

Irrelevant of the result, the players should always look to hold their heads high and to look themselves in the mirror. That is a basic requirement for any sportsman and one that I think our group perhaps lost sight of for a time.

We have a good group that is now holding each other accountable in all areas. As we do this on a regular basis, the positive results will follow.

Enjoy the game,
Kind regards,
Matt Diskin

SPONSORED BY PROPERTY BUYING COMPANY



The
**Property
Buying**
company™





YOUR CAPTAIN CALLING

Gareth Owen on the ball

I was gutted not to have played in the York game. I've been struggling with a chest infection for the last week and I've been unable to train since the Featherstone game.

The York game was a very important game for us, not just in terms of the result, but also because we needed a change in attitude and effort. What we served up at Featherstone was unacceptable on all levels.

We could have all the excuses in the world for what happened up there but the long and short of it was that what we dished up on the field simply was nothing like the standards we set ourselves.

We hope not to see anything like that again.

Back to the York game and we spoke about playing the game in ten-minute blocks, concentrating in the first ten on how we started and the need to match and better their aggression and enthusiasm.

I thought we did that. We were tough in defence and we carried the ball well out of yardage -- and it showed because we were first to put points on the board.

The sending-off was really unfortunate for us because we had put ourselves in

a really good position going towards half time and we were playing well enough to go on and win.

After that, it was more about staying in the game as long as we could and eventually fatigue set in and, understandably, we just didn't have enough gas left in the tank to live with the really well-drilled York team.

Moving on to the Widnes game, we are going into it with confidence. We have again spoken about our attitude and how we must turn up believing in our systems and believing that if we play well enough, we can beat any team in this league.

All the lads are really looking forward to this weekend -- and I certainly am -- more so because it's the first game at home we have our fans back in.

That alone will give us the massive boost we need to lift our performance to what it needs to be.

Believe me, it will be fantastic to have you back !

Every good wish to you all,

Gareth

Player Focus

Jack Spencer

**Q: What do you do for your day job?**

A: For the last eight years I've worked for my Dad's company, Lee Spencer Fireplaces, doing fireplace installations. It's good most of the time although we have our moments! One of my best mates works with us and recently my older brother came on board so it's a good little team.

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

A: I often got in trouble, mainly for messing about with my mates and not listening. I always had my mind set on playing rugby full time, so at school I never applied myself properly. I once got suspended for a week for fighting.

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

A: I would try to buy Roughyeds, but I don't think Chris would sell, so I'd probably settle for a new house and loads of holidays.

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

A: Tyson Fury, (a) for the way he's turned his life around (b) because he's absolutely hilarious.

Q: How would your team mates describe you?

A: They're probably sick to death of hearing me constantly talking rubbish. We are a tight group and I like to have a laugh with the other lads. I try to pass on my experience and do my best for the team. I'd like to think they respect me for that.

Q: What's your biggest professional achievement to date?

A: Playing Super League for Salford. That's all I wanted to do growing up as a kid. I made my debut at The Willows, with all my friends and family there, when I was 18. That was a dream come true.

Q: And your biggest disappointment?

A: Getting relegated from the Championship with Oldham in 2017. We did it tough that year with injuries and then lost against Swinton, which was a decider for who went down. That's why it's important for us to turn around our recent form so we aren't in that situation again this season.

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

A: We get little spare time during the season, but I like eating out and going for a beer. My girlfriend Jodie and I are expecting a little boy in July, so plenty of family time to look forward to as well.

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

A: I enjoy being with the lads, having a laugh, being part of the team and playing in front of our fans. It gives us all a buzz to see how passionate they are about the club. They back us, win or lose.

Q: What would be your dream in life?

A: To own a pub with Phil Joy and to watch him get drunk every day while chanting Oldham songs in his rubbish undies!



ONE OF MY FAVOURITE MEMORIES . . .
CELEBRATING PROMOTION IN 2019.



SOON TO BE PROUD PARENTS . . .
JODIE AND I WITH A WHOLE NEW WORLD TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

Past players | Joe McNicholas

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

No 8: JOE McNICHOLAS, a winger who was one of the few to play for the club before and after its 1997 restructure.

He made his debut for Oldham Bears as a substitute in that club's last-ever game, a Super League play-off match at Leeds where they lost 42-16 on September 8, 1997 and then played on the left wing in the first game for Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd, scoring two tries in a 36-16 Law Cup win at Rochdale on New Year's Day, 1998. He went on to score 36 tries in 106 appearances for the 'new' club before heading off to Australia in 2003.

He landed a place in a Wests Tigers reserve-grade side that included up-and-coming stars like Benji Marshall, Robbie Farrah and Bronson Harrison and later became a member of the backroom staff at Wests before joining Penrith Panthers four years ago.

He is now head of athletic development at Panthers where he oversees the strength and conditioning of players who are striving to break into the Panthers grade-one side in the NRL.

On landing his big job at Penrith, in the foothills of the Blue Mountains in New South Wales, he dedicated his appointment, as Craig Halstead revealed in one of his two books on Roughyeds, to the many people in Oldham who helped to prepare him for life in the NRL.

Once a Roughyed always a Roughyed -- that's Joe McNicholas, now 42, and a man with "fantastic memories" of his days at Oldham where he says he made friends for life.



Glen Liddiard and me -- Roughyeds remembered.



That's me and Daine Laurie, the Wests full-back.



Q: When did you play at Oldham and in what position?

A: 1994 to 2003, winger.

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

A: The semi-final against Rochdale in 2001. What a comeback ! We were losing 32-14 with 18 minutes left and we won 39-32. It was an unbelievable game, arousing every emotion imaginable.

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

A: Sir Steve Redgrave. I know relatively little about rowing, but I do know how hard it is to get players up for a big game in rugby league. It must take a super-human effort to do it as an Olympian over so many years. Incredible.

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

A: Getting to work with the absolute cream of the NRL at Panthers has taken me on an incredible journey. I get to see the cream of the crop before they are released on the NRL and then follow them as they forge their careers after so much hard work and sacrifice. Very humbling.

Q: And your biggest disappointment?

A: The sale of Watersheddings and then seeing the club in its darkest hour when it went broke. I've been involved in Grand Finals and other memorable games, but to see a slice of history disappear for ever was very hard.



Backroom boys: me, Kev Kingston (player well-being), Simon Chung (physio), Pete Green (NRL head physio), Mitch Delahaney (NRL physio).



Left to right: Josh Mansour (Souths), Tyrone May (Panthers), yours truly, Nathan Cleary (Panthers captain).

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

A: Hard working, good trainer, 'team first' approach.

Q: What prompted your decision to leave?

A: I was offered an opportunity to travel and to play Down Under (Wests Tigers)

so I decided it was a good time to move on and test myself in Australia.

Q: What's your current day job?

A: Coach (athletic development).

Q: What would be your dream role in life ?

A: I'm in it.

It's a small world full of coincidences. Whoever would have thought, back in the early days of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd, that our then winger, Joe McNicholas, would be teaming up years later and on the other side of the world with our young Aussie star of the 1980s, Glen Liddiard?

Their paths have crossed at NRL club Penrith Panthers, where Joe (42) is in charge of athletic development and Glen (50) is the club's Indigenous Welfare Officer -- a position that's a mandatory appointment at every NRL club.

Said Joe: "Glen has a picture of himself in his Oldham days on his office door and he's full of stories from 'Sheddings. He has very fond memories of both Oldham and Saddleworth Rangers and he has asked me to pass on his best wishes to everyone he knew.

"Incidentally, I've met up recently with John Hough and Bryan Henare and they also wish to be remembered to everyone."

Older fans will recall that we signed brilliant full-back David Liddiard, who came over with younger brother Glen and with their parents. Glen, only 16, joined Saddleworth Rangers, but Oldham's boss back then, Frank Myler, said he was good enough to play professionally even at that age .

Not only did he get him to Watersheddings, but when the brilliant David Topliss was injured in a car smash, he had no hesitation in putting his arm around his shoulder and asking the boy Liddiard:

"How do you fancy playing in a Cup semi-final - at stand-off ?"

The rest, as they say, is history . . . and Glen became the youngest Challenge Cup semi-finalist ever.



Glen Liddiard, then aged 16, playing for Oldham in the 1986 Challenge Cup semi-final against Castleford at Wigan. His elder brother, David, is to his right.



Joe McNicholas in his Oldham days (left) and taking on two defenders (right). In the background is the then Oldham captain, Neil Flanagan.

Brave fight at York where



TYLER DUPREE



SHAUN PICK



DEC GREGORY



we went down to 12 men

YORK CITY KNIGHTS 34 - OLDHAM 6



JAMIE ABRAM



BENT AND GREGORY



WIDNES VIKINGS

Coach Simon Finnegan brings his Widnes Vikings team to Bower Fold this afternoon to face Oldham for the first time this season.

Finnegan is the former coach of Newcastle Thunder and was in charge of the Tyneside side defeated by Oldham in the 2019 League One play-off final. He took over the head coach position at Widnes for the 2021 season and the move marked his return to a club where he began his Super League career back in 2003.

Playing as a back-row forward, Finnegan stayed three seasons with the Vikings, scoring 21 tries in 70 appearances. He had further spells with Salford, Bradford and Huddersfield before returning to Widnes in 2011. During his second Vikings spell he pushed on to achieve more than 100 total appearances for the Cheshire based club. He finally hung up his playing boots with Leigh Centurions in 2014.

Despite the curtailment of the 2020 Championship season, Oldham and Widnes managed to play each other twice before the Covid shutters came down. The two sides met here at Bower Fold on the opening day of the season. Leading 16-0 at half-time, Widnes went on to claim the two points on offer by recording a 36-6 victory over Oldham in Matt Diskin's first competitive game in charge.

Three weeks later the two clubs faced each other again for a Betfred Challenge Cup tie. Home advantage lay with the Vikings on this occasion and they clinically dispensed with Oldham to win 52-12. Nine tries from the home side easily pushed Widnes into the next round with only Dan Abram and Danny Langtree crossing for the visiting Roughyeds.

Widnes defeated Swinton Lions in the following round but when the entire season came to a premature close, the Championship clubs dropped out of all competitions. The cup ultimately made it's way to Headingley after Leeds Rhinos beat Salford in the final.

The 2021 season saw coach Finnegan recruit experienced players such as Matt Cook from Castleford Tigers, Lee Jewitt from Hull KR and Paul Clough from Huddersfield. Ste Tyrer joined from Halifax and Adam Lawton arrived from Newcastle Thunder.

An opening day 30-30 draw away at Newcastle was followed by defeats to Dewsbury and Batley. Round 4 brought a much needed win against bottom club Swinton Lions but a 70-0 trouncing against Toulouse Olympique in Round 5 brought things down to earth with a bump. A home defeat to York City Knights came in Round 6 before Round 7 last week saw Whitehaven travel to the DCBL Stadium.

Having shocked Oldham in Round 6, Whitehaven must have fancied their chances in Cheshire but the Cumbrians fell to a 44-6 Widnes victory. Tries from O'Neill, Lawton(2) Craven(2), Tilleke and Owens show that despite their in-and-out form, Widnes pose a dangerous attacking threat from any part of the field of play.

Let's hope that fans present in the stadium today are treated to plenty of exciting rugby league.



Three To Watch



DANNY CRAVEN

Arriving at Widnes via Blackbrook and West Bank Bears Danny went on to make a seamless transition from Academy to First Team player, scoring two goals as a substitute in his debut at Whitehaven.

Danny displayed a confidence and maturity beyond his years and experience as his debut season saw him finish with 5 tries and 23 goals from 8 appearances at fullback. After an injury interrupted 2011 Danny scored the club's opening Super League try of 2012 with many consummate performances included in his 18 appearances.

Winner of the Young Player of the Year Award for 2012, 'DC' later added further experience with loan spells at Workington, Whitehaven and Halifax before clocking up his 100th career appearance during a stint with Featherstone in 2016.



JACK OWENS

Widnes lad Jack progressed through the Vikings Academy to make his senior debut in the Challenge Cup victory against Siddal in 2011.

In 2010 Jack became the only player selected for the England Academy squad not attached to a Super League club, going on to make his international debut on his 17th birthday against France.

His Super League debut came against Bradford Bulls in 2012 before making 20 appearances in 2013 and finishing the season as top points scorer with 166 points.

Further top flight experience came with St Helens, moving on to Sheffield and Leigh before his return to Widnes, collecting the Fans' Player of the Year Award for 2019.



LOGAN TOMKINS

Born in Chorley Logan played his junior rugby for the Wigan St Pats club before joining the Warriors Scholarship programme and working his way through the Academy structure and signing professional forms at the age of 18.

Appearances for Widnes and Workington followed on Dual Registration together with loan periods with Salford prior to his permanent transfer.

He names his coach at Wigan St Pats, former Widnes loanee Martin McLoughlin, and his family as the biggest influences on his career to date, while citing the 2013 Challenge Cup Final success with Wigan and the 2019 Grand Final with Salford as his career highlights.

IN THIS WORLD CUP YEAR, WHICH PROMISES TO BE THE BEST AND BIGGEST YET, WE TEAM UP WITH THE OLDHAM RL HERITAGE TRUST TO BRING YOU A POTTED VERSION OF THE TOURNAMENT'S HISTORY, COURTESY OF MICHAEL TURNER, THE HERITAGE TRUST'S WELL-KNOWN HISTORIAN.

We have to thank the French for the World Cup. They had been pushing for it for 17 years before Bill Fallowfield got the RFL to support it, ahead of the International Board's decision to accept France's proposal to stage the first World Cup in Paris in 1954.

Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and France took part with Dave Valentine's GB beating France in the final to become first World Cup winners.

Australia hosted, and won, the second tournament in 1957 when three Oldham players, Alan Davies, Derek Turner and Sid Little played for GB.

In 1960, the tournament was played in England for the first time. Britain and Australia, the favourites, were unbeaten going into the Odsal final. Captained by Eric Ashton, GB won 10-3 with wingers Billy Boston and Mick Sullivan each scoring tries.

The fourth World Cup was in 1968 in Australia and NZ. A group match between Australia and GB pulled in 62,256, nearly 8,000 more than the final on Sydney Cricket Ground in which Australia beat France with brilliant performances by Johnny Raper, Ron Coote and Eric Simms.

Two years later the fifth World Cup was held here. Fancied GB won all their group games, including an 11-4 win against Australia, but in the Headingley final, the Aussies won 12-7 with centre Bobby Fulton named player of the tournament.

World Cup 6, held in France in 1972, was won by GB, who beat Australia in a dramatic final in Lyon. It was 10-10 after extra time so Britain won the Cup on league placing. Bob Irving played

as a sub in a match that will be remembered for Clive Sullivan's length-of-the-field try.

The 1975 tournament was held over eight months with GB split into England and Wales. David Treasure played for Wales. Australia finished top and were crowned world champions.

France and NZ played poorly in the 1977 World Cup, staged in Australia and NZ. After a 19-5 win over GB in Brisbane, Australia were firm favourites, but a British side captained by Roger Millward was beaten in the final only by a last-minute try.

From 1985 to 1988 each nation played each other on a home-and-away basis, at the end of which Australia beat NZ 25-12 at Eden Park. Wally Lewis played part of the game with a broken arm.

On July 9, 1988, GB ended a 15-game losing streak against Australia by winning a World Cup qualifier 26-12 at the new Sydney Football Stadium, watched by an excited group of Oldham schoolboys, who happened to be in Sydney on tour.

Eric Fitzsimons, Iain MacCorquodale and Fred Laughton, their tour leaders, managed to get tickets and the boys were thrilled to watch a brilliant GB victory in which Oldham prop Hugh Waddell had a great game.

(The World Cup story continues next time)

**THIS YEAR'S WORLD
CUP WILL BE 'BEST
AND BIGGEST YET'**



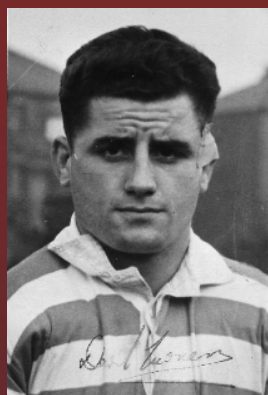
The victorious Great Britain team celebrate after becoming the first winners in 1954.



Mick Sullivan of Great Britain breaks clear in the group match against Australia in 1957.



The officials gather before the presentation of the trophy to the victorious Australian team at the 1957 World Cup final at the Sydney Cricket Ground.



Three Oldham players represented Great Britain in the 1957 World Cup in Australia. From left to right: Alan Davies, Derek Turner and Sid Little. All three played in the victory over France and the defeat to Australia. Turner and Little played against New Zealand with Little scoring one of the Great Britain tries.

Team 'togetherness' is visible in empty stadia



By IAN WILSON, a lifelong Oldham fan, who describes what it was like watching games behind closed doors.

Ian, secretary of the Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust, enjoyed the experience and is looking forward to the rest of the season.

I must first of all admit to feeling exceptionally privileged to have been allowed to be present in person at all the club's home matches so far this season. It is a consequence of my role as League Express match reporter for our home games, of course. It has been quite an experience.

Like all regular fans, I have been hugely missing my 'fix' over the period since we last played in front of a crowd in early Spring 2020, and therefore was greatly looking forward to the pre-season 'friendly' against Halifax on March 13th. All new pre-match

protocols having been met, in the form of on-line documentation, I turned up at Bower Fold about an hour before the due kick-off, to find stewards around, but no one else. A few questions to confirm my non-covid symptoms, and a temperature check, and I was inside. And how strange that was!

The players were soon there, of course, going through their pre-match routines under the supervision of members of the coaching staffs, as well as more stewards, the ubiquitous Dave Naylor (with camera), Roger Halstead - of course - Chris Hamilton and a few other members of the officialdom of both clubs, and the Our League team getting ready to provide their streaming of the match. That was it - other than the ref and his team doing their obligatory pre-match laps of the pitch!

It wasn't until the game actually began that I realised just how much I had missed it. It was fantastic to be so close to the 26 blokes out on the field genuinely giving their all for their teams. The noise of body-on-body collisions, in an otherwise virtually silent stadium, was quite remarkable, as well as the speed of the action, and somehow the strange environment made even more obvious than usual how committed an effort the players of our great game put in.

The togetherness of the team has also been extremely visible, whether that be in consoling an individual after he has made a mistake, or in enjoying a success together - sometimes in the form of a strong gang 'hit', or forcing a 'six again', or indeed actually getting over the line for a try.

DEC GREGORY
Lively second hooker



Matt Diskin sits reasonably close behind Roger H and me on the 'press bench', too, and it is instructive at times to hear his orders to his team close to the action charged with carrying his messages on to the pitch. And there is always Chris Hamilton's loudly-voiced encouragement to provide extra entertainment from time to time!

What about the games themselves so far? Having watched the Fev friendly on Our League, I wasn't particularly optimistic for the first home game, and a final scoreline of 18-30, with a side containing no fewer than 11 players new to me out of 20 who took the field, was probably quite a decent outcome against a strong-looking Halifax side in the circumstances.

I must admit that the sheer pleasure of having been at a live game was my over-riding feeling as I walked out of the ground after the match, rather than any strong views on what

TOMMY BRIERLEY
Promising newcomer



the future might hold.

But then came the cup game v Barrow, and the three league matches v Swinton, Halifax and Whitehaven, with pretty awful performances at Swinton and Batley, and a more encouraging one at London, all streamed, interspersed between.

I suppose 'typical of Oldham' would be my overall assessment. Although Barrow in the cup were brave, and never let us get away, there never seemed any likelihood of us failing to get through to the next round.

It was evident that Tyler Dupree in particular was a very promising new signing, that Dec Gregory was a very lively second hooker and Tommy Brierley also a promising newcomer, and that Gareth Owen, Liam Bent and Danny Langtree remain absolutely vital cogs in our side if it is to achieve any success in 2021.

TYLER DUPREE
Promising newcomer



Then came the first two, exceptionally promising, league wins. Apart from more good individual performances, what really stood out in both was character ; to defeat both Swinton and then even more so Halifax after coming from behind spoke hugely of what Matt Diskin and his team seem to be generating this season.

But, of course, this is Oldham we are talking about! The simplest way to summarise the performance against Whitehaven was that I had to wrack my brain long and hard to think of anyone who was deserving of our League Express man-of-the-match accolade!

Anyway, hopefully for ever, the empty-ground phase is now gone, and a crowd is back in today for the first time this season. I hope they all get as much enjoyment as I have so far in 2021 from what is on show on the pitch.

100th anniversary of the Law Cup – May 7th 2021

by MICHAEL TURNER (Oldham RL Heritage Trust)



The Law Cup

The Infirmary Cup (Law Cup) was first contested between Oldham and Rochdale Hornets in May 1921. The trophy was donated by the Rochdale MP, the Right Hon A. J. Law with the proceeds of the match being given over to the infirmaries in the two towns.

After a 0 - 0 draw at the Athletic Grounds on May 7th, Oldham became the first recipients by winning the replay 12 - 2 at Watersheddings on May 13th with Joe Ferguson the first winning captain to hold the cup aloft.

The competition would subsequently become a pre or early season event and when, as in 1954 and 1976, the match ended in a draw the cup was retained by the current holders.

The above article was posted on the Heritage Trusts' news page back in August 2020 with a furtherpiece being added on January 17th of this year in anticipation of the match going ahead.

Alas, just three weeks later the news broke that, understandably in the current conditions, the match had been put on hold for twelve months. However, with the centenary date now with us here are a few more Law Cup facts to add to the information posted in January.

The biggest winning margin was forty points when Oldham triumphed 53 – 13 at Watersheddings in 1961 with the Hornets best effort resulting in a 42 – 8 victory at Spotland in 2006.

Tommy Rees and Jack Read hold the Oldham record for the number of appearances with eleven each.

Over more or less the same time period, Tommy was the full back in consecutive Law Cup games from 1928 until 1938 inclusive, while Jack was in the front row on eleven occasions between 1926 and 1938.

In those matches Tommy knocked over 33 goals but that's not the record.

Needless to say that honour goes to the "Great Ganley". Bernard sent 37 efforts between the post in eight consecutive Law Cup games between 1952 and 1959 which also gives him the most points with 74.



Tommy Rees



Jack Read



Bernard Ganley

Two more Oldham players got into double figures for goals; John Noon 15 and John Blair 10. The honour for most goals in one match goes to Frank Dyson with nine successes in the 39 – 7 victory in 1964.

This also represents the best 'points in a match' haul.



John Noon



John Blair



Frank Dyson

Five Oldham players have scored five tries in Law Cup games: Ernie Large, Alan Davies, Frank Pitchford, Len McIntyre and Geoff Robinson, with Frank's four in 1961 the most in a single match.



Frank Pitchford scoring one of his four tries on August 12th 1961.



Alan Davies



Geoff Robinson



Len McIntyre



Ernie Large



Jim Fiddler



Lewis Palfrey

Since the value of the score was devalued to one point in 1974, only two Oldham players have scored a drop goal in the Law Cup. Jim Fiddler in 1979 and Lewis Palfrey in 2016.

Since 1999 the Karl Marriott Memorial Trophy has been awarded to the Rochdale 'player of the match' in memory of Karl, a popular Hornets' player who died tragically in October 1998 aged just 28.

The Heritage Trust Trophy was introduced in 2004 with the award going to the Oldham 'player of the match'. The first recipient was Ian Watson with Danny Langtree the most recent winner in 2020.



Ian Watson



Danny Langtree

We have OuRLeague supporters around the world

One of the positive spin-offs of the pandemic and playing games behind closed doors has been the greater number of fans who have logged into OuRLeague to watch streamed games on their various digital devices.

To our many supporters scattered around the UK, from Kent to Scotland, Cornwall to the North-East, Wales to East Anglia and various parts of Ireland (north and south) regular OuRLeague streaming of all our games has proved an unexpected bonus.

One long-distance fan told us: "To be able to watch every game was fantastic. We used to think digital score updates were good, but this was something else."

The same applied to our fans across the world. We have them in Australia, New Zealand - and even America, in California to be more precise.

Jude Lawrence, Head of a primary school out there, has been watching Roughyeds since she was a little girl, like her parents and grandparents before her. She's the daughter of Joy and Ian Wilson (Ian is secretary of Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust) and sister of Andy Wilson, the RFL's Head of Communications.

Her husband is Chris, a businessman, and Mum, Dad and children Ruby (18), Elsa (16), a rower of some repute, and James (12) are all members of Rugby Oldham.

California is eight hours behind this part of the world, but Jude has logged on to OuRLeague and watched most of our games and will continue to do so whenever possible.

It made us think what an interesting feature it would make if fans from abroad made contact, possibly with a family-group picture, and told us where they were, how they came to be there, how long they had supported Oldham, and brief memories of early days in this area.

Please send in your information and a picture to: enquiries@roughyeds.co.uk and mark the message for the attention of programme editor Roger Halstead.



The Lawrence family of California, lifelong Oldham fans and OuRLeague regulars. Left to right: Mum Jude, Dad Chris, Ruby, Elsa and James. Jude says the "one bright spot" of the pandemic has been OuRLeague coverage of every game.

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>

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP - LEADING SCORERS

(League games only)

TRIES

Gareth Gale (Featherstone Rovers)	8
Abbas Miski (London Broncos)	8
Matty Marsh (York City Knights)	8
Kieran Gill (Newcastle Thunder)	7
Andy Gabriel (Dewsbury Rams)	6
Ed Barber (Halifax Panthers)	6

GOALS

Connor Robinson (Halifax Panthers)	32
Kieran Dixon (York City Knights)	31
Anthony Marion (Toulouse)	28
Danny Brough (Bradford Bulls)	26
Chris Hankinson (London Broncos)	22



OLDHAM RLFC



WIDNES VIKINGS



01	Dan Abram	Rugby Oldham	01	Jack Owens
02	Tommy Brierley	David and Val Webster	02	Jayden Hatton
03	Ben Heaton	Stephen Butterfield	03	Jake Spedding
05	Ryan Ince	Oldham RL Heritage Trust	04	Ste Tyrer
06	Lewis Charnock	Anne Kearns	05	Deon Cross
07	Dave Hewitt	Gordon Sedgwick	06	Danny Craven
08	Phil Joy	Past Players Association	07	Matty Smith
09	Gareth Owen	CDX Security	08	Paul Clough
10	Jack Spencer	Graeme Lee	09	Logan Tomkins
11	Danny Langtree	David and Val Webster	10	Matt Cook
12	Liam Bent	Pam Taylor/ LTS	11	Shane Grady
13	Martyn Reilly	Dynasty Denture Solutions	12	Adam Lawton
14	Matty Wilkinson	John & Lynda McAndrew	13	Kenny Baker
15	Luke Nelmes	Gareth Hughes	14	Lee Jewitt
16	Tyler Dupree	Gerry Jones & Caroline Hughes	15	Connor Dwyer
17	Liam Kirk	Fab-tek Installations Limited	16	Owen Farnworth
19	Matthew Fletcher	Waterhead under 13s	17	Joe Lyons
20	Jode Sheriffe	The Property Buying Co	18	Lloyd Roby
21	Shaun Pick	Available - Ring 07904 898177	19	Joe Edge
22	Kyran Johnson	Mick Harrop	20	Owen Buckley
23	Callum Green	Available - Ring 07904 898177	21	Calum O'Neill
24	Max Roberts	Available - Ring 07904 898177	22	Josh Wilde
25	Danny Bridge	Gerald Brierley	23	Lewis Else
26	James Barran	Available - Ring 07904 898177	24	Will Tilleke
27	Ben Holcroft	Available - Ring 07904 898177	25	Daniel Hill
28	Joe Hartley	Available - Ring 07904 898177	26	Ollie Brookes
30	Dec Gregory	John and Lynda McAndrew	27	Eribe Doro
31	John Hutchings	Available - Ring 07904 898177	28	Brad O'Neill
33	Jamie Abram	Available - Ring 07904 898177	29	Ellis Robson
Matt Diskin		Property Buying Company	Coach: Simon Finnigan	
Brendan Sheridan		Property Buying Company		
Jode Sheriffe		Property Buying Company		

Referee: J Smith

Touch Judge 2: A Williams

Time Keeper: P Taberner

Touch Judge 1: H Neville

Res Referee: J Collier

