

ROUGHYED REVIEW

2021 PROGRAMME NO.10

SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST

KICK OFF

3:00PM

**Try-king Tyler
closes in on
Wardy record
-- page 6**



**OLDHAM
RLFC**



**TOULOUSE
OLYMPIQUE**



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Welcome back to Bower Fold for the first of two very difficult fixtures.

All games in the Betfred Championship are difficult - our results this season underline that. However, it is fair to say that this season Toulouse Olympique look to be a class above everybody else and from all accounts are a Super League team in waiting.

This will be, of course, our only meeting against them this year due to the game in France having been cancelled because of the UK government's quarantine rules on people returning from France.

I might be wrong, but I think there are a lot of people who don't realise the extents to which the Toulouse team have been going in bids to get matches on. They want to fulfil their fixtures as much as possible, both in France and over here.

When we were due to go in early July, they were prepared to charter a plane for us to enable us

A CHAT WITH THE CHAIRMAN

CHRIS HAMILTON

to fly in and out on the day and you can take my word for it, that doesn't come cheap.

They are also subject to their own quarantine rules each time they return to France. That means they also have to isolate when they get back although, as a full-time team, they are allowed to train.

Nevertheless, it is still a major commitment by the club. For their players and staff to do that every fortnight is a significant sign of their intent this season.

If you look at their squad it is packed with players who have either played in Super League or could be expected to do so in future and we can only look on enviously at their spending ability.

We had another disappointing result last weekend but as Big Mac has said, and continues to point out, we are making things hard for ourselves with the amount of possession we lose. We cannot afford

to keep doing that and expect to win games.

I have said on so many occasions that this group of players have worked so hard, and it is painful to see the amount of effort they put into each training session and then each game without reward.

Over the last few matches, the improvements have continued to be seen and we will be striving for a further improvement today.

As I write, the game is in a state of flux. We still don't know what is happening in terms of promotion, relegation and finances for clubs. Those clubs outside of Super League are effectively, via the RFL, standing at the Super League table with a begging bowl which, depending on if and how much they give, may determine the future of some clubs and their ability to carry on in the professional game.

(cont. on page 21)

ON THE INSIDE . . .

with Brian McDermott

Hello all,
It's been three weeks since we last played at home and it's been a little over five weeks and five games since I started working with the club

In that time we have seen the team compete hard in each game and we've seen the team in 'the contest' on many occasions in each of those games.

We've been working heavily on what we do defensively and how we can fill-in the little cracks in our D (defence) that we are willing to show the opposition.

As the last few weeks have gone by we've put more emphasis on what we're doing with the ball and how we might break down the opposition's defensive line.

Running alongside all of that, we've been working on three things that any team needs to have in its armoury to be able of to play Rugby League at any level

1 - Keeping hold of the ball while we are in possession.

2 - Finishing each possession (set) with a good kick to gain good field position.

3 - Defending the opposition's attack without conceding a line break or a try.

We haven't been great in points 1 and 2... yet we've been remarkable at defending what the opposition throws at us. Given that, I'd mark points 1 and 2 at a little more than 4/10.

The fact that we've even been in contests at all, given how much ball we give up, is an indicator of how much the players care about the team and club.

I've mentioned something to the players a couple of times and I'll now share it with everyone. Toughness, bravery and sheer hard work in a sporting environment is

often overlooked and dismissed unless you're on TV a lot or have a public profile in which it's easy for people to see what's happening.

The first thing I noticed about this group of men was how willing they were to change and adapt. Their work ethic surely comes from the fact that these men have to work to earn a living and if they don't 'show up' they don't get paid. I can see that same attitude towards hard times on the field.

(cont. on page 21)



'Image SWPix'



YOUR CAPTAIN CALLING

Gareth Owen on the ball

It was really hard to take the defeat by Sheffield at The Keepmoat Stadium.

In patches we played very well indeed and I thought we were very dominant through the middle thanks to the efforts of our forwards.

Once again, we could point to the amount of mistakes we made as our downfall.

I don't have the statistics to hand, but I have a feeling we knocked-on or lost the ball one way or another more than 15 times and with stats like that you are never going to win a game no matter how dominant you are in the middle.

I can tell you that, as a squad, we are distraught to a man at the position we have got ourselves in, but there definitely won't be any giving up -- NEVER !

There are still ten points to play for, with matches to come against Toulouse Olympique, Featherstone Rovers and

Newcastle Thunder at Bower Fold and against Widnes Vikings and Dewsbury Rams away from home and I can assure you all that we will be fighting every inch of the way.

It's not over until it's over !

On behalf of the players, might I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. It can't be easy to suffer one disappointment after another, but believe me when I say how much we appreciate your fantastic vocal backing.

The more things go wrong, the louder and more supportive it gets. Last week's game was a typical example of that. We'll never forget it. We must have the best fans in the game.

Thanks again,
Gareth

Player Focus

Tyler Dupree



Former Leeds Rhinos player Tyler Dupree is our leading try scorer this season. He has scored in six games in a row to take his total to nine in 14 games. His two at Swinton came in his first start at prop after 12 outings on the bench.

Our top try scorers are 21-year-old Dupree (9), then three more all on five -- Tommy Brierley, Danny Langtree and Martyn Reilly. When we signed Tyler early this year, our then head coach Matt Diskin said: "What a talent ! He has the rugby world at his feet."

Dupree joined the Rhinos youth programme after playing for Siddall and Halifax Elite Rugby Academy and in 2018 he was picked for Yorkshire Academy in their 33-20 defeat by the Australian Schoolboys. The same year he missed only four games for the Rhinos Academy and was praised by his coaches for the impact he made in his 22 appearances off the bench.

On the back of that, he became a member of the Rhinos first-team squad ahead of the 2019 season. That year, he scored eight tries in 17 appearances for the under-19s. As part of his Rhinos development, he had three spells out on loan -- one game for Featherstone in 2018, four games for York City Knights in 2019 and four games for Batley Bulldogs in 2020. Sport runs in the family and his great uncle used to play American Football in the NFL. A boxing fan, Tyler once said that if he could have tickets for any major sporting event it would be to go to a major fight night featuring Anthony Joshua.

Dupree is now one try short of equalling Michael Ward's club record for a prop of ten tries in a season in 2015 and 2017.

Q: What do you do in your day job?

A: I am a residential support worker, looking after young and vulnerable children in one big home and ensuring their time is as good as it can be.

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

A: I was very boisterous. My mates and I set up a "fight club" in our common room, basically a play-fighting free-for-all. Teachers caught on to it and we were excluded.

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

A: A private jet to make a one-way trip out of here.

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

A: Muhammad Ali because of the tough times he went through, especially racism. As a black boxer who became a world champion and a world legend, he showed that as long as you believe in yourself anything is possible.

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

A: Making my senior debut for Featherstone on loan in the Championship Shield, scoring a try and going on to win.

Q and A continued on page 8



TYLER DUPREE IN ACTION

Helping out on a training night at my local club. This rugby league gets in your blood -- a great sport !



All dressed up and ready to go ! Me and my Mum, Jackie... a far cry from Bower Fold, the dressing room and the rigours of rugby league.

Q: What was your biggest professional disappointment to date?

A: I've not had much disappointment due to a lack of professional experience, but losing in the Academy Grand Final against Wigan hit me hard.

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

A: Go to the gym or go to boxing. I'm partial to going on ridiculously long walks as well. Before Oldham, I enjoyed coaching my local amateur rugby league team.

Q: How do you think your teammates would describe you?

A: As strong and aggressive and a bit clueless at times.

Q: What do you like most about being a member of the Oldham squad?

A: Camaraderie. We stick together in the toughest of times when most would crumble.

Q: What would be your dream role in life?

A: To be a billionaire!

Out on the green, green hills of home with my mates Will Scrimshaw and Liam Whitton.



TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE

Coach Sylvain Houles arrives at Bower Fold this afternoon with his Toulouse Olympique side sitting proudly atop the Betfred Championship table. The team from the south of France will be looking to extend their unbeaten record against Roughyeds to remain on course for a shot at a Super League place at the end of the season.

This afternoon's fixture is only the fifth meeting between the two clubs with the results tally recording three wins to one in favour of Toulouse.

The teams first met in the April of 2017 at the Stade Ernest-Argeles in Blagnac close to the Garonne River and on the opposite bank from the Ernest-Wallon Stadium, their current home. A large contingent of Oldham fans made the journey but despite the warm weather and very enjoyable experience experienced by all, Toulouse easily won the game 58-18. Hat-tricks from Stan Robin, Gregory White and Johnathon Ford rubber-stamped the home sides authority with Oldham's three tries coming from Kieran Gill, Joe Burke and Richard Lepori.

The 2017 return fixture was a much closer affair. Toulouse had their noses narrowly in front at the break — leading 6-4 — but were edged out after 80 minutes with Oldham claiming a 14-12 victory. Steven Nield and George Tyson tries for Oldham were

matched by scores from Sebastien Planas and Charlie Buzinac but the boot of Dave Hewitt proved decisive, out-kicking Mark Kheirallah 3-2.

Bower Fold hosted a third game between the two sides in 2017 — a Championship Shield fixture which again saw a closely fought contest. Toulouse earned some revenge for the earlier defeat but Oldham were to consider themselves unlucky in the latter stages of the game and could easily have snatched at least a draw. The French side eventually took the spoils 24-18.

The last time the two sides met was in the early stages of the 2020 Covid-curtailed season. Matt Diskin's Oldham were unable to control a rampant Olympique side at their Ernest-Wallon Stadium with only a Matty Fletcher try and Dan Abram conversion to show for their efforts. Hat-tricks from Paul Marcon and Joe Bretherton were the highlights of a 58-6 for the home side.

The 2021 Championship season has developed into a tussle at the top between two strong sides with a firm desire to achieve Super League status. Toulouse have topped the table for much of the campaign but Featherstone Rovers have been nipping at their heels throughout. Rovers have played and won more games but due to the win-ratio nature of the current season, Toulouse are leading the way with a 100% win record, 11 recorded wins out of 11.

A much anticipated meeting between the two front-runners took place at Featherstone's Millennium Stadium at the beginning of August. A bumper crowd saw Toulouse restrict their hosts to a solitary try before going on to take the two points 23-6.

The ten other wins for Toulouse have all taken place on British soil due to Covid related travel complications. The greater majority of those victories has seen a significant points-gap with only third placed Halifax Panthers coming anywhere near pulling off a victory before finally going down 34-44. The game against London Broncos was awarded to Toulouse as a 24-0 win since the Londoners failed to fulfil the fixture.

Our visitors could field some significant fire-power this afternoon. Goal kicking full-back Mark Kheirallah is always a dangerous threat and half-back Johnathon Ford is consistently a thorn in the side of opposition defences. Super League star Tony Gigot can be found in the forwards and with a large contingent of strong and powerful French talent, the Toulouse side will be capable of scoring tries from any part of the field.

It should be a great occasion to see the League Leaders in action but Oldham are engaged in a fight for Championship survival and will not surrender league points easily.

Three To Watch



JOHNATHON FORD

Born in Toronto, New South Wales, Ford played junior football with the Macquarie Scorpions before starting his professional career at the Newcastle Knights.

Moved on to the Sydney Roosters in 2010 and made his NRL debut against the Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks.

In 2012 Ford joined Toulouse in the French Elite One Championship. At the conclusion of Toulouse's inaugural and promotion winning season in League 1, Ford won the competition's player of the year award.



JY HITCHCOX

An Australian fullback, wing or centre who made his NRL debut for Wests Tigers in 2014, scoring a try on debut against Sydney Roosters.

Moved to England in 2015 to play for Featherstone Rovers before switching to nearby Castleford Tigers.

Hitchcox played in the 2017 Super League Grand Final defeat by the Leeds Rhinos at Old Trafford.

In 2019 the player spent a season at Bradford Bulls before a move to France in 2020 where he signed for Toulouse.



TONY GIGOT

A 30yr old French international back, Gigot has previously played for the London Broncos, Sporting Olympique Avignon, Cronulla Sharks and the Catalans Dragons (in two separate spells)

After spending time with the London Broncos youth team, Gigot signed for the Catalan Dragons in 2010. He made his Super League debut in the same year.

At the 2018 Challenge Cup final at Wembley, Gigot was named as the winner of the Lance Todd Trophy, becoming the first French player to win the trophy as Catalans beat Warrington Wolves 20-14.

It ended all-square in our derby-day thriller

MATCH PICTURES IN THE LIONS' DEN BY DAVE NAYLOR

SWINTON LIONS 22, OLDHAM 22



DANNY LANGTREE



JAMES BARRAN



LLOYD ROBY



LIAM BENT



JAMES BARRAN

Past players | Jason Clegg

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Cleggy, a big prop, was always a fans' favourite; big, cuddly, fun of fun, larger than life, a player who worked hard, played hard and always gave of his best. And do you know what, writes ROGER HALSTEAD, he's just the same today, now aged 50, but still playing vets rugby league, coaching youngsters at Littleborough RUFC, going on rugby tours and sinking a few pints and finding time to save lives in his day job as a highly qualified and experienced NHS paramedic.

Proud of his roots in Littleborough and Wardle, and still living there, he scored nine tries in 151 games in the formative years of Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd. Some sources give his final stats as eight tries in 148 games, but according to my records he played between 1998 and 2003 inclusive -- six seasons -- and played per season in 15,31,30,33, 38 and 4 games respectively. Unless my maths is wrong that adds up to 151, and its particularly impressive for a prop to be so consistently good that he amassed 132 games across his four main years.

In 1999, Roughyeds finished next to bottom of the Northern Ford Premiership -- a rough season that produced the start of the Mike Ford era in 2000 -- and in an end-of-year review in the Oldham Evening Chronicle headlined 'Front-row lionhearts deserved better support all round' I wrote: "The consistency of the Casey-Hough-Clegg front-row provided one of the Roughyeds' few plus marks in a disastrous season. At 33 years of age Leo the lionheart led from the front; John Hough more than held his own in a division that was packed full of good hookers; and Jason Clegg had an outstanding first half of the season until a pile-up of nasty injuries inevitably took its toll."

I caught up with Jason one evening recently after he had completed a full day shift on the ambulances, starting at 6.30am. Read on . . .



Still going.. well, something. Rochdale Masters v Underbank and enjoying every minute of it. Wish I could go on for ever.

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

A: Almost from the start after the 1997 restructure. I did about five seasons after signing from Bradford and then finished off at Keighley. I still play at Littleborough RUFC whenever they need a forward and I play Masters rugby league for Rochdale. My son Leo (guess who he was called after) plays for Littleborough RUFC under-13s and my daughter Niamh plays for the girls' under-18s and I coach both those teams.

Q: What's your day job ?

A: I'm a senior paramedic team leader for the NHS, based in Rochdale but working all over the North-West. I started my training before I left Roughyeds, so I've been at it a while now, nearly 25 years. A few years ago, when we still had Rugby League Raw on TV, their cameras followed me around on the ambulances for a full day. It's been manic during this pandemic, but it's good to be working on the front line.

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

A: It would be easy to say the 2001 Grand Final against Widnes when we were one game from Super League. But more memorable

for me were the two games we won during the charge to that final, first at Leigh and then at Rochdale. Nobody gave us a chance at Leigh, but self-belief and team spirit got us through. Then we won after the big comeback at Rochdale. Wow ! Fordy came off the bench to turn the game on its head. I'll still remember those games when I've forgotten the final.

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

A: Steve Redgrave, the Olympic rower. To go as long as he did in a sport like rowing is a fantastic achievement. I know you've now got to talk in the same breath of what Chris Hoy and Jason Kenny have done in cycling, but for me there's only one Olympian best-ever and that's Redgrave.

Q: What would you say is your biggest professional achievement in rugby?

A: My Bradford debut against the touring Kangaroos. I think it was 1994. They threw me in against Glenn Lazarus and I played the whole game. Australia beat us easily, but what an experience it was to play against the green-and-golds. I think half of Littleborough turned out to watch that game; well, all my mates did.



They said it would push our physical and mental limits. They obviously hadn't done a Fordy training session ! That's the missus, Sonia, and me at a Tough Mudder event.



Family man. Me and the kids -- daughter Niamh, who plays rugby for Littleborough under-18s and son Leo, called after you know who, a best mate of mine. My Leo plays for the under-13s. His name alone means he has a lot to live up to.



Q: And your biggest disappointment?

A: When the time came to hang up my boots. You know it's got to come some time, but when it happens it's an awful feeling.

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

A: Couldn't really put it into print. Let's say loud and silly and leave it at that.

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

A: The friendship and camaraderie of the other lads -- we'd no egos or attitudes, just heaps of team spirit and a willingness to support Mike Ford in everything he did. I remember one year we played seven games in 21 days and won the lot. That was special.



They asked me to go as Mr Incredible at a fancy dress 'do' in Wales on a Littleborough rugby tour. No prizes for guessing if I won.



DANGER, man at work! That's me back at base in Rochdale. I've been with the North-West Ambulance Service for more than 20 years, now holding the grand title 'senior paramedic team leader'.



Don't tell Mark Sibson, who could run a bit, but this was my trophy for doing the QUICKstep at the NHS version of 'Strictly'. Police, Fire, Nurses and Ambulance were all in competition on a dance floor in Batley.

Q: What prompted your decision to leave?

A: I didn't want to leave, but I had started on shifts with the NHS and there were times when I couldn't train. I only did four games in my last season. It was time to move on. I went to Keighley for a final year, but I ended up stopping for two.

Q: What would be your dream role in life ?

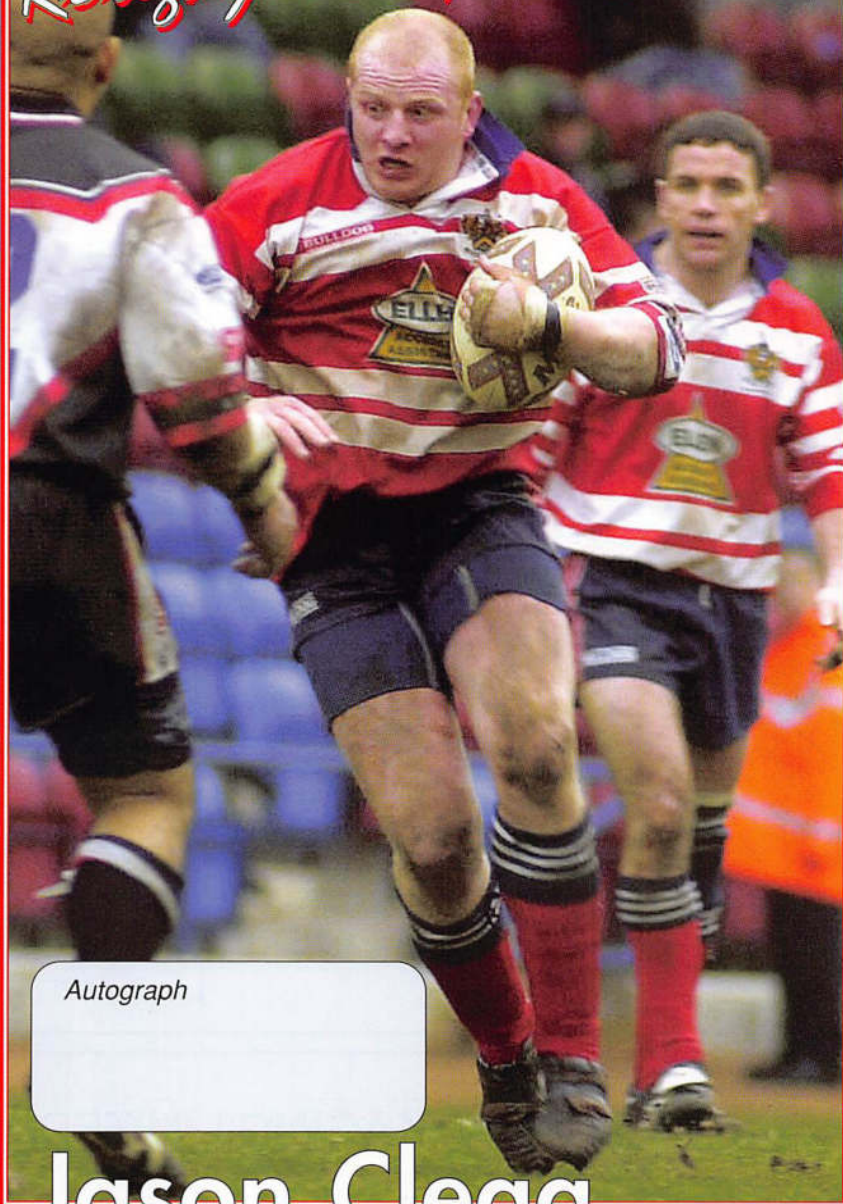
A: That's a difficult one. I just enjoy life. I enjoy being a dad, I enjoy my work, I enjoyed working with Roundy for Melvyn Lord before I joined the NHS. To be honest, I don't think I'd want it any other way... not unless I could turn back the clock to my playing days, and that's not going to happen is it?



Back in the day... I loved my years at Oldham where we had a fabulous dressing room camaraderie and where I made friends for life.



Roughyeds Spotlight



Autograph

Jason Clegg

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Flashback to the old days.

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An interview by Dave Roberts with Jason Clegg



spot on. We have had a lot more info than last season. Sometimes we go to Pilsworth to play bowls which is a good laugh. After the last home game we (or should I say 'they') went for a Chinese. I could not go as I had an engagement to go to.

What's it like being the fans' favourite?

I enjoy it but sometimes it's embarrassing. However the fans here are top class and very vocal, but I think I might be losing the title to Joey Hayes.

You have just moved house!

I have moved from my parents house and bought a cottage, but I still go back to my mum's to get my washing done as I have not got a washing machine yet. It's strange when my mum does my washing because it always comes back ironed and folded. She must have a good machine!

Tell me something amusing that has happened during a game.

The only thing that comes to mind is when we played at the Autoquest Stadium last season. Some Widnes fans were giving me a hard time and decided to shout Butch Dingle at me, but people can shout what they like, it never gets to me.

So what about today's game?

We need to show that it was no fluke winning at Widnes. We know it wasn't but we need to get a result against Dewsbury who, I suspect, are a little weaker than last season, but there is no way we will be underestimating them because they are still a very good side and if we win people should sit up and take notice because we are taking things very seriously here.

DAVE ROBERTS

A great result against Widnes Jason?

Yes! I felt confident on Friday that we could go and get a result. But if Widnes had got back into it and stolen two points it would have been a real bad result. It was the best result from the new Club so far.

You picked up a knock in the second half?

I got a bang on my head and had to have four stitches, I wanted to stay on and finish the game. As for the stitches, I'm not bothered about needles and things, so its no big deal.

How do you find Fordy's training programme?

He is very well organised. He should have been a school teacher, everything is

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Another reminder of days gone by.

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CHRIS HAMILTON (cont. from page 3)

That is a realistic prospect and it is incredibly hard to make any kind of plans for next year - never mind beyond that - when so much is still up in the air at this late stage of the season.

Far too often rugby league has been in this position,

and it is a sad reflection that we are here once again.

One thing for certain is that, moving forward, all clubs will be operating in a very different world with little time to adjust to it. We will see what transpires in the next couple of weeks.

Please keep up your support for the lads because it is really important -- and thank you for your ongoing support for the club.

Enjoy the game

Christopher Hamilton
Chairman

BRIAN MCDERMOT (cont. from page 4)

Their ability to stay in the game even though they're losing a ridiculous amount of possession is a true demonstration of unity. I've rarely seen this level of commitment and honesty within any team.

If the players can stop attempting unrealistic passes and reduce their lost possessions by 30 to 40 per cent, we may just see the other team under more pressure and we may see less version of

their attack and this may convert to a win. A few 'ifs' and 'maybes', I know, but that's what we're aiming for and I think we are getting there.

Until then, the players will continue to give unconditional commitment and keep fighting to the very end.

Today's game will be tough and a lot of credit should be given to Toulouse and to their chairman. They've been gradually building over the last few seasons and

they've become a credible and genuine Super League candidate.

Their coach has developed an attractive and effective brand of Rugby League that is extremely difficult to stop. When it clicks it's really good to watch.

Welcome to Toulouse and let's hope they stay injury free towards the play-offs.

Regards,
Brian

Do you have these match videos ?

The club's Heritage Trust is looking for videos of the following matches:

Oldham v Blackpool, Lancashire Cup, Sept 16, 1984. Hugh Waddell, then a Blackpool prop, scored three tries in the Seasiders' shock win to kick-start a career that brought him first to Oldham and then to a Great Britain Test spot. What a story !

Also, Sheffield v Oldham, Sept 1, 1991; Oldham v Leigh, Sept 8, 1991; Paris v Oldham, April 8, 1996.

Help in acquiring these videos would be much appreciated. Ring Michael Turner on 01457810197.

A ONE-OFF CHALLENGE CUP FINAL AT SPURS

Rightly or wrongly, the World Cup has been put back to next year, as you all know, but there is positive news from the RFL, who have welcomed a two-year extension to Betfred's backing of the Men's, Women's and Wheelchair Challenge Cups.

It will include an historic Final at the superb Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in May 2022, before a return to Wembley Stadium in 2023.

The 2022 Betfred Challenge Cup Final will be played at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Saturday May 28 – the 121st Challenge Cup Final, marking the 125th anniversary of the first in 1897, and the first to be played in May since St Helens beat Wigan in Cardiff in 2004.

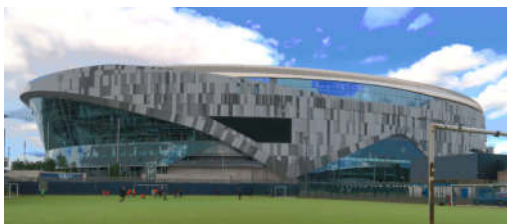
It will be the first Rugby League match at the state of the art, 62,850 capacity stadium – the third largest football stadium in England, which was opened in April 2019.

The Betfred Challenge Cup Final will then return to Wembley Stadium in 2023. That will be the 80th Challenge Cup Final at Wembley since the bold decision to take the game's showpiece occasion to the capital for the first time in 1929.

Betfred Challenge Cup Final tickets for 2022 are now on sale at eticketing.co.uk/ rugbyleague and fans can take advantage of an Early Bird offer of £5 off every ticket, with prices starting from only £25 Adults and £10 Under 16s.

Dates and venues for the 2022 Betfred Women's and Wheelchair Challenge Cup Finals will be confirmed later this year.

Ralph Rimmer, the RFL Chief Executive, said: "This is fantastic news for the sport. We were thrilled. It came at a time of considerable uncertainty for all sport. Fred and his team will continue to elevate our



Challenge Cups, to celebrate their great history and the sport of Rugby League.

"We are sure that Rugby League supporters and players will be excited by the prospect of experiencing the Betfred Challenge Cup Final at Tottenham in 2022, with a return to the event's spiritual home at Wembley in 2023.

"At this stage, we are planning for Community clubs to return to the early rounds of the Men's competition, which was not possible in 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. That will restore a dimension of the competition which we missed this year, and I know Betfred are relishing that prospect as well."

Fred Done, founder and owner of Betfred, said: "Following on from this year's terrific final, I am delighted to be extending our Challenge Cup sponsorship for a further two years.

"We're excited about having the 2022 Final at Tottenham before returning to Wembley in 2023 .

"I'm especially pleased that we're again including the Women's and Wheelchair competitions in our unique sponsorship, and that the Community clubs and teams from all around the country will hopefully be back in the Challenge Cup in 2022."

The RFL has also confirmed that the final of the AB Sundecks 1895 Cup will also be staged as part of the big Cup Final Day at Tottenham on Saturday, May 28 next year.

NEWS ROUND-UP Eagles chief says relegation this year would be unfair

Chris Noble MBE, the Sheffield Eagles chairman, says his personal view is that there shouldn't be relegation from either Super League or Championship "in this disrupted year."

Writing in his club's match-day mag for the Oldham game, he said Clare Balding, the RFL president, interviewed ex-international athlete Michael Johnson during the BBC's Tokyo Olympics coverage and had agreed with him that all athletes had suffered from Covid, mentally or physically, and this year, therefore, should not be used as a guide to the future.

Chris, who lives and works in this area, went on: "I don't disagree with two from the Championship going up into Super League and two from League 1 moving up to the Championship because they have fought for their places. But to punish teams with relegation in this totally disrupted year is massively unfair."

It began in pre-season when Ed Smith and Cam Leeming retired early and Matty Wilkinson broke a leg while training. Then Phil Joy was hurt in a warm-up game at Featherstone -- just the start of his injury troubles that have restricted him to three games all season.

And so it went on. Ben Heaton, James Barran and Jack Spencer have all faced long spells in casualty corner, while Liam Kirk will now be sidelined for the next three weeks after concussion; on-loan Lloyd Roby has returned to Widnes Vikings, and there are injury concerns for two of our latest young recruits, Fenton Rogers (concussion) and Brad Jinks (shoulder), both hurt during impressive debuts against Sheffield,

Fair to say, it's not been our best season for injuries !

Young forward Matty Fletcher, one of three players to leave the club last week, has joined Dewsbury Rams on an agreement to the end of the season. Kyran Johnson and Callum Green have also been released after a change in their full-time work patterns and we thank them for their services. Kyran was with us more than three years and played in our 2019 Promotion Final win over Newcastle Thunder. John Hutchings has gone to Workington on loan.



Ben Heaton



Jack Spencer



Phil Joy



OLDHAM RLFC



TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE



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 Nelmes	Gareth Hughes
16	Tyler Dupree	Gerry Jones & Caroline Hughes
17	Liam Kirk	Fab-tek Installations Limited
20	Jode Sheriffe	The Property Buying Co
21	Shaun Pick	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
	Brian McDermott	Property Buying Company
	Brendan Sheridan	Property Buying Company
	Jode Sheriffe	Property Buying Company

01	Mark Kheirallah
02	Jy Hitchcox
03	Junior Vaivai
04	Mathieu Jussaume
05	Paul Marcon
06	Johnathon Ford
07	Lucas Albert
08	Rémi Casty
09	Harrison Hansen
10	Andrew Dixon
11	Dominique Peyroux
12	Anthony Marion
13	Lloyd White
14	Éloi PÉLISSIER
15	Maxime Puech
16	Joe Bretherton
17	Joseph Paulo
18	Mitch Garbutt
19	Bastien Ader
20	Ilias Bergal
21	Latrell Schaumkel
23	Justin Sangaré
24	Guy Armitage
28	Romain Navarrete
31	Tony Gigot

Entraîneur: Sylvain Houles

Ent Adjoint: Christophe Toustou

Referee: J Smith

Touch Judge 2: L O'Brien

Res Referee: A Marsh

Time Keeper: P Taberner

Touch Judge 1: C Sharrad

