

NEW FOR 2022 OLDHAM RLFC MATCH UPDATE



OLDHAM RLFC VS CORNWALL RLFC | SUNDAY 24TH APRIL | KICK OFF 3.00PM

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD COACH

Oldham Tacklers



Hi and welcome to everyone for today's League 1 encounter against Cornwall. Cornwall are Rugby League's newest club and we wish them every success in developing the game in a brand new area.

Since we spoke last we have had a pretty ruthless performance against West Wales. In this game I felt we demonstrated a good professional attitude. Once we got in front, we were pretty relentless and by controlling the football we then racked up some points that helped our points percentage margins.

After that game we had a short turnaround that led us into the Good Friday derby with our close neighbours Rochdale. As a staff and playing department we felt we were really in the game at half time. The second period saw us start slowly and Rochdale gain a momentum swing that we could not wrestle back. On the day errors at vital times really cost us and meant that we were unable to build pressure as Rochdale did on us. In review their bench really stood up and did a job for them and this is an area that we need to work on currently.

I truly believe that we learn more in defeat and it has identified lots of areas that we need to be better in. We will review honestly but then look to improve things in the build up to today's Cornwall game. The League season in League 1 is a shorter one so it is important that we start to build momentum and confidence within the playing group. We are still a relatively newish group and nothing replicates actual time spent together on the field. This year we have already had 9 players who have made their professional debuts with us from either academy set ups or the amateur game. We are confident we can provide opportunities to develop and that we are heading in the right direction for the future. Our club is built around honest values that ensure we will keep working hard and everything we do will be together.

Enjoy the game!

Stu - Head Coach

MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the Vestacare Stadium for today's first ever game against Cornwall RLFC.

They have had a tough start to life in professional rugby but it is probably nothing they didn't expect and this season will be a big learning curve for everybody connected with the club.

For our part we need to make sure that we get back on track after a disappointing result in the local derby on Good Friday. Once again, we had a game in our grasp but let it slip with some poor errors and that is a part of our game we need to eradicate quickly.

This week has seen us busy in the transfer market as we look to bring in some players that will make us better as a squad as the season unfolds and hopefully you will start to see some of that this afternoon.

This week has again been a busy one and on the playing front we have had the bad news about Tommy Brierley who is now out for the season with an ACL injury. Tommy has had this injury before - on his other knee - and was understandably upset when he got the news. I think deep down, he knew what was coming and it is terribly bad luck for somebody who was looking sharp in the early matches. Tommy is one of those players who only ever

seems to get bad injuries and as a club we are supporting him as best we can and we will continue to help him over the coming months as he gets the operation he will need and then with his rehabilitation.

Of course, as with any club, results on the field are what drive things but off the field we continue to work hard and we will shortly be in a position to reveal details of one of the things we have been working on for a considerable amount of time which will enable us to continue to grow other aspects of the club. I know that might sound a bit cryptic but you all know by now that we always try to do things the right way and rest assured as soon as we can make a formal announcement we will do.

A lot of people put a great deal of time in behind the scenes to make things happen and I would like to thank the Management Board for all their efforts so far and their continued support as we strive to take the club forward - on and off the field. At the end of the day we all benefit from a stronger club!

Enjoy the game and please keep up the support you have given the lads so far this season.

Christopher Hamilton - Chairman & CEO

CORNWALL RLFC 2022 SQUAD

- 01 Liam Whitton
- 02 Harry Aaronson
- 03 Josh Tora
- 04 Kyle Johns
- 05 Henry Symons
- 07 Joe Purcell
- 08 Anthony Mullally
- 09 Jake Lloyd
- 10 Jack Ray
- 11 Josh Hartshorne
- 12 Aaron Thomson
- 13 Luke Collins
- 14 Sam Gilder
- 15 Paul Bolger
- 16 Sam Snell
- 18 Decarlo Trerise
- 19 Matty Turton
- 21 Andy Kay
- 22 James Collins
- 23 Jamie Prisk
- 25 Christopher Chard

Coach: Neil Kelly



CORNWALL RLFC – ONE TO WATCH: HARRY AARONSON

Before every weekly round, the Rugby Football League sends out a comprehensive list of statistics to Betfred League 1 clubs.

It's a useful tool when writing previews for forthcoming games and for the respective press officers at Swinton and Keighley, who see their two respective teams clash at Cougar Park in round five, they would have had memories jogged that in the last three meetings between the two sides, Mike Butt has touched down for the Heywood Road outfit, for example.

From the Keighley perspective, Jake Webster needs just one try to reach 150 in his career which started with NRL side Melbourne Storm in 2003.

Scroll down the comprehensive email a little further and you will see Oldham v Cornwall with no facts and figures to make statisticians purr.

With the sides meeting for the first ever time it simply states: No previous meetings.

However, despite Cornwall's short history, with the club only formally announced as a member of the RFL back in November 2021, there is a notable connection between the two sides and his name is Harry Aaronson.

Born and raised in Oldham, the 23-year-old has kick started his career with the Choughs under the tutelage of head coach Neil Kelly and has been a shining light in Cornwall's tough start to life in the third tier.

Aaronson started off the season playing on the wing and scored a stunning intercept try in Cornwall's first ever game at North Wales Crusaders. Cleverly anticipating a pass from the Welsh side's attack, Aaronson poached the ball and streaked almost 80 metres in his trademark style to finish, swan dive and fist pump included, with aplomb.

Then in Cornwall's second game against Midlands, Aaronson scored the club's first ever try on home soil whilst once again catching the eye with his wonderful knack of being able to slot in at dummy half and break tackles with ease.

He continued his early season purple patch at Doncaster last time out for the Choughs and was involved in the try of the match. Receiving the ball behind his own line, Aaronson sprinted clear of the would-be Donny defence and after finding the supporting Joe Purcell, Cornwall had turned defence into attack with devastating effect. Two plays later and Joe Burton crossed out wide for a sensational Cornish score which was due in no small part to Aaronson.

The feats mentioned above won't come as any kind of surprise to Oldham fans however as they have seen Aaronson's excellence first hand both in the Roughyeds famous red and white jerseys and for other clubs too.

The speed demon, who is comfortable playing at either full-back or on the wing, began his professional journey with spells in the academy set-ups at Super League clubs Wigan Warriors and Huddersfield Giants.

It was in 2015 where Aaronson first caught the eye in senior rugby with Swinton.

Opting to further his education at Leeds University, Aaronson swapped Manchester for Keighley and joined the Cougars before moving back to Swinton in 2019.

During the last post-pandemic season, Aaronson moved to his hometown team Oldham on loan while they were playing at Whitebank and on their way to securing a Championship return.

For the ill-fated 2020 season, Aaronson moved permanently to Oldham and despite starting their first two matches, the global covid-19 pandemic saw all competitive rugby below Super League declared null and void.

During the summer of 2020, with the future for rugby league players and clubs in the lower leagues very much up in the air, Aaronson decided to hang up his professional boots and focus on a career in recruitment.

However, the chance to rekindle his love affair with rugby league by playing for England's newest entity was an attraction Aaronson could not turn down.

It would be fair to say that it is an opportunity he's grabbed with both hands so far and although the majority reading this will be anticipating that Stuart Littler's men claim the two league points on offer, deep down, they will also be hoping one of their very own, wearing gold and black, continues his rugby league resurgence on familiar territory.



Harry Aaronson

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Weekly rollover Jackpot from **£500 to £10,000**
Plus **10 x £10** consolation prizes per week.

To find out if you've won a **£10** prize, please contact the club.

 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NYCDA WEEKLY DRAW

OLDHAM RLFC 2022 SQUAD		SPONSORS
01	Owen Restall	Grant and Sheila Somerville
02	Tommy Brierley	Rugby Oldham
03	Will Cooke	John and Lynda McAndrew
04	Calvin Wellington	Grant and Sheila Somerville
05	Ben Holcroft	David and Val Webster
06	Martyn Ridyard	Sheddings 107
07	Dave Hewitt	Graeme Lee
08	Luke Nelmes	Robin Highfield
09	Brad Jinks	ORSA
10	Tom Spencer	David and Val Webster
11	Jason Muranka	Mick Harrop
12	Callum Cameron	Ginny and Adrian Alexander
13	Emmerson Whittle	Pam Taylor
14	Sean Slater	247blinds.co.uk
15	Jordan Andrade	YEDS Supporters Group
16	James Thornton	Anne Kearns
17	Jack Coventry	Players' Association
18	Joe Hartley	ORSA
19	Dom Newton	247blinds.co.uk
20	David Mills	CPD Property Services Ltd
22	Liam Copland	Oldham RL Heritage Trust.
23	Kian Morgan	Sponsorship available
24	Ethan Ferry	Roberto Longo
25	Jamie Pye	Gordon Sedgewick
26	Ryan Wright	Barton Services Limited
27	Jack Arnold	Phil McGarty of County End Electrical
	Stuart Littler	Sponsorship available
	Brendan Sheridan	Sponsorship available

FOCUS ON: LIAM COPLAND



STU Littler has gone public in his admiration of Liam Copland's form on the Roughyeds' right wing.

At the age of 28, Liam is a man in a hurry and he got his big chance when the unlucky Tommy Brierley suffered that terrible leg and knee injury in the first league game of the season against Keighley Cougars.

Tommy is out for the season and the thoughts and best wishes of everyone at the club are with him as he prepares to tackle his long months of rehabilitation.

"Copy", meantime, has made the right-wing spot his own in the three games since Tommy's mishap - and the Head Coach has described his current form as "outstanding".

Added Stuart: "Liam came to us for the right reasons, put his best foot forward, and has really ripped into everything we've been doing.

"He came in search of an opportunity and he has got his rewards. He has often been out at the front in fitness tests and he is always challenging me with relevant questions.

"And he has the added appeal, of course, of being able to play in nearly every position across the back line, although wing is his favoured position."

A Leeds lad, Liam started his rugby journey when he joined West Leeds Eagles at the age of six. When he was 17 he had a brief spell with Wakefield before joining Bramley Buffaloes, for whom he played in a 2014 Grand Final at Castleford against West Hull.

Wortley Dragons, his local club, came next, followed by two years out of the game and then a return with the well-known Stanningley club in division three of the National Conference.

Despite playing for only the second half of that season, he was unsuccessfully nominated for a player-of-the-year award as Stanningley won promotion to division two.

They were expected to toil in the higher division, but they finished top and this time Copland won the individual award as Stanningley again moved up the ladder, this time to division one.

They again took the division by storm to reach the play-off final, in which they played hot favourites Featherstone Lions at what was then known as Post Office Road; 'like a home game for them', mused Oldham's latest signing.

Stanningley put up a good show, but the game went away from them in the second half.

It was, however, the first Stanningley team ever to get so close to qualifying for the premier division of the NCL - the top amateur division in England.

It was on the back of his performances in that run of two promotions and a play-off final appearance in three years that Copland was signed by Hunslet.

Covid struck soon afterwards and things didn't work out for him, but he is now determined to prove himself at Oldham.

He said: "When I first arrived at Oldham, Chris (Hamilton) promised me two things - first, I would become a better player; second, I would enjoy the Oldham experience.

"He was right on both counts. My love of the game has been restored - and that's since I've been at Oldham throughout pre-season.

"We've all got a hunger to succeed and I think we'll do well this year."

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