

OLDHAM RLFC MATCH UPDATE



OLDHAM RLFC v ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC



SUNDAY
10TH JULY
3pm Kick-off

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD COACH

Hello and welcome to todays local derby match up with our near neighbours the Rochdale Hornets.

Rochdale come here on the back of a good win at Hunslet as I write these notes. Rochdale have a lot of experience in their team and we will have to be on our mettle to get some rewards today.

Onto ourselves we were very disappointing in our last outing over at Keighley. Straight from the kick off we struggled to gain a foothold in the game, and we found ourselves 12 points down before really getting hold of the football. Keighley are a very strong team, but we were off the mark in way too many areas and continually invited pressure upon ourselves.

Nyle Flynn worked hard all day and I thought Emmerson Whittell was his usual busy self. The only other player to come out of the game with any real credit was Callum Cameron who has been steadily growing in confidence with each performance. I felt Callum had a real dig on the day and was unlucky to be sin binned towards the end of the game.

The game was very frustrating as the performance team felt we had turned a corner after a couple of more consistent performances in the build up to the Keighley game. We are currently two completely different sides in which our worst performance is not near our best. We will keep working hard on forming better habits and actions whilst under fatigue in order for us to become the team we are all striving to be. We need to close the margins between our best and worst performances.

We are fresh of a weekend without a game so have had a good chance to recharge our batteries, rest up some bodies and we need to see that replicated in our energy levels today. Personally, I am now looking forward to getting into week-to-week Rugby as I feel this helps with building momentum and consistency levels.

With a local derby I am sure our fans will do their bit in supporting the boys. It really is appreciated, and you can be our 18th man today.

I hope you all enjoy the game.

Stu - Head Coach



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to today's local derby against the Rochdale Hornets. After the last performance against Keighley we again find ourselves in the position where we need to provide a much needed filip to you, our fans.

It was another game where we failed to do ourselves justice, and that has happened too many times this season. Some players need to have had a long, hard look at themselves following that game and as a club we expect to see a big improvement today.

This year was always going to be a bit harder, given the massive turnaround we have had in the playing squad but one thing we will not accept is lack of application and a desire to work hard.

There is no magic wand we can wave to turn things around but it is certainly time for less talk and more actions on the pitch, when it matters, and that is something I will be watching carefully today and moving forward. We work very hard to give the players the best platform possible to perform on the pitch and at times this season it has been a one way street.

Nothing less than 100% effort, grit, determination and desire from minute one to minute 80 - regardless of the scoreline - is acceptable. Simple as.

Unlike a lot of people though, we have not written off the season, and our aim is to put some kind of consistent run together to get into the Play Offs. We will see.

This week is an important week off the field also with a meeting on Wednesday which will see the first stage of consultation with IMG, the RFL's new partners, who have been charged with trying to secure a better future for the game. I think the game is at a major crossroads at this present time and certainly the teams in League One have borne the brunt of the financial cuts that have created a lot of the current uncertainty.

This is still only the very early stages of the discussions but it will certainly be an important landmark as everybody fights to secure the best options or their clubs and the game in general.

Back to today and thank you for your support at Keighley. It is really appreciated and we hope to give you plenty to cheer about this week. Enjoy the game!

Christopher Hamilton - Chairman & CEO



OLDHAM RLFC v ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC



SUNDAY 12TH JUNE
3pm Kick-off

OLDHAM RLFC – FOCUS ON: EMMERSON WHITTEL

**HIS squad number is 13 and he has a surname that is spelt “wrongly”,
but most of the stuff that Emmerson Whittel does on the field
for Roughyeds has absolutely nothing to do with
luck and is far more “right” than “wrong”.**

He's a back-row grafter and he always has, and always will, give 100 per cent. He doesn't know any other way. We saw that in 2019 and we are seeing it again in 2022.

He's not the biggest forward, but he always works above his weight and for that reason alone he can reasonably claim to be a fans' favourite.

He tackles hard, carries the ball in hard and generally goes about his business with the sort of consistent performance that indicates to all and sundry that he is genuinely enjoying what he is doing.

But there's a more tangible reason why we have chosen Emmy as our focus player today. It's because he is on the threshold of hitting a significant career milestone... 100 senior games in England plus a whole lot more in Australia.

He's made 36 appearances for Roughyeds (24 in 2019 and 12 up to now this season); after 16 for Keighley Cougars in 2017 and 2018); 46 for Gloucester All Golds between 2015 and 2016 and a solitary one for Bradford Bulls in 2014.

Emmy did well for us in 2019 and last November, happily, we were able to announce that he was back from Australia, back living in Halifax and back at Roughyeds, a club he had never REALLY wanted to leave in the first place.

After two years Down Under, playing first for Rockingham Sharks in a suburb of Perth and then for Cairns Brothers in Far North Queensland on the other side of that vast country, he and his partner Chloe arrived back in England.

He signed a one-year deal, thus returning to the club he represented 24 times out of a possible 26 (nine starts and 15 subs) in the League One promotion season of 2019.

Only ever-present prop Scott Law and hooker / captain Gareth Owen, one game behind, made more appearances that season than Whittel, who will never forget the dramatic Promotion Final against Newcastle Thunder, in which he made a telling contribution off the bench.

Whittel rejected a new Oldham offer after the Promotion Final to pursue his dream of playing in Australia, but he said then that he might be back one day.

Of his 24 appearances in 2019, there were 18 wins, including 11 out of the last 12 and play-off wins against Doncaster and finally Newcastle in the successful pursuit of promotion and Championship rugby.

Stu Litterer, still new to the club back then, said: "Chris (Hamilton) has worked hard on this one. Emmerson's work rate made him a stand-out player in the promotion year. He was tough, aggressive and he'll take us forward as a team.



"He's been playing at a very good standard in Australia, so his game will probably have developed a bit too in the last two years.

"He's another who is coming for the right reasons. He shares our vision for the club and what we are trying to do and I'm really looking forward to working with him."

The two sets of parents were shocked and thrilled when Emmerson and Chloe turned up on their doors completely unannounced.

"They were taken aback that's for sure," said Emmerson. "We hadn't said a word about coming home and those I had spoken to on the phone from Australia, like Chris (Hamilton) and one or two others, were sworn to secrecy. We wanted to see our parents' faces when we knocked on their doors and we were standing there when they opened up.

"Australia was an amazing experience. When we left Perth to go to Cairns way up in Far North Queensland it took us three weeks to drive from coast to coast. What an amazing trip that was!

"When we had made up our minds to come home, I messaged Chris and we took it from there."

Rugby-wise, the trip couldn't have gone better for Emmerson, who played in every Rockingham game in 2020. They reached their Grand Final only to lose in extra time. He played for 105 minutes.

Over in Cairns, he played in 17 out of 18 games in 2021. They won the league easily (by something like ten points), but were knocked out of the play-offs in the semi-final.

He was also pleased to be rated 18th out of the top 100 players in the Cairns District League.

He added: "It's been a good three years – promotion with Roughyeds in 2019, beaten extra-time Grand Finalists with Rockingham in 2020 and Minor Premiership winners with Cairns in 2021.

"Over the two years in Australia I've played prop, second-row and loose-forward. I prefer the back three, but I can play 'middles' if I have to, as I did a few times at Oldham in 2019."

On the strength of his performances for Cairns, he received an offer to join Northern Pride, a higher-standard club that has provided the NRL with a lot of players and acts as a direct feeder-club to North Queensland Cowboys.

Said Emmerson: "I was chuffed by that, but home was already calling and we had made the decision to come back.

"I was also talking to two or three other English clubs, one of them in the Championship, but I really enjoyed my time at Oldham in 2019 and Chris is good to talk to – you can have a laugh with him and that makes a big difference – so I was delighted to sign for Roughyeds again.



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OLDHAM RLFC 2022 SQUAD



PLAYER	SPONSOR
1 OWEN RESTALL	GRANT AND SHEILA SOMERVILLE
2 TOMMY BRIERLEY	RUGBY OLDHAM
3 WILL COOKE	JOHN AND LYNDA MCANDREW
4 CALVIN WELLINGTON	GRANT AND SHEILA SOMERVILLE
5 BEN HOLCROFT	DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER
6 MARTYN RIDYARD	SHEDDINGS 107
7 DAVE HEWITT	GRAEME LEE
8 LUKE NELMES	ROBIN HIGHFIELD
9 BRAD JINKS	ORSA
10 TOM SPENCER	DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER
11 JASON MURANKA	MIKE HARROP
12 CALLUM CAMERON	GINNY AND ADRIAN ALEXANDER
13 EMMERSON WHITTEL	PAM TAYLOR
14 SEAN SLATER	247BLINDS.CO.UK
15 JORDAN ANDRADE	YEDS SUPPORTERS CLUB
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	SERVO GROUP
24 ETHAN FERRY	ROBERTO LONGO
29 BILLY YARROW	GORDON SEDGEWICK
31 CONNOR CARR	RUGBY OLDHAM
32 DANE WINDROW	MICK HARROP
33 NYLE FLYNN	CPD PROPERTY SERVICES LTD
34 ROBBIE BUTTERWORTH	DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER
35 DECLAN O'DONNELL	COUNTY END ELECTRICAL

ROCHDALE HORNETS RLFC 2022 SQUAD

1 CREG MCNALLY	19 BEN KILLAN
2 CIAN TYRER	20 JOSEPH HOWE
3 BEN CALLAND	21 FINLAY STEWART
4 TOM ASHTON	23 RHYS DAVIES
5 DAN NIXON	24 BEN FORSTER
6 RANGI CHASE	25 SCOTT PARNABY
7 LEWIS SHERIDAN	27 BEN METCALF
8 FUIFUI MOI MOI	28 AIDEN RODEN
9 SEAN PENKYWICZ	30 CALLUM MARRIOTT
10 GAVIN BENNION	31 RYAN FORSHAW
11 ZAC BAKER	
12 PAUL BREARLEY	
13 JOE TAIRA	
14 CONNOR ASPEY	
15 FREDDIE LOWE	
16 JIMMY CONNAUGHTON	
17 COBI GREEN	
18 LUKE FOWDEN	

COACH:
MATT
CALLAND



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