

ROUGHYED REVIEW

2019 PROGRAMME No.3
Sunday, 10th March
KICK-OFF 3PM
£3.00



ON THE INSIDE

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night,
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Haydock
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the community
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OLDHAM VS HAYDOCK CORAL CHALLENGE CUP, ROUND 3

☎ 07904 898177
(Monday, Wednesday, Friday ONLY | 10am to 3pm)

✉ enquiries@roughyeds.co.uk



CORAL

CHALLENGE CUP



NEWS

Direct from the Dug-Out with **SCOTT NAYLOR**

Hello everyone and welcome to today's game against Haydock at the Vestacare Stadium.

It's very rare that you play the same amateur team twice in three years in a Challenge Cup game but that's what we have today.

The last time we played Haydock they made their club proud in the way they performed on the day and they gave us an early scare, going 8-0 in front on a wet day played at Stalybridge.

Maybe the rugby gods are giving Haydock a second chance to beat us so we have to be ready for the game and professional in our preparation and make sure we give our opponents the respect they deserve.

Even though we were in the Championship the last time we played them, we are, in my opinion, a stronger team this year and we are coming off the back of a good start to the season.

The Challenge Cup is a fantastic competition and is a showpiece of the rugby league calendar.

Kids grow up and dream of playing at Wembley and winning the trophy, so for amateur teams playing against League 1 and Championship teams this is their Wembley dream and their chance to make history for their club and create fantastic memories for their players.

That gives Haydock an edge to winning so we have to match them in all areas of the game and that includes a desire to make history and create memories for ourselves.

Many thanks for your support.

Scott

Scott addressed the fans' forum on Tuesday and said it was important for the club financially, more than ever before, to do well in both the Challenge Cup and the new 1895 Cup.

It wasn't ideal, he said, to ask part-time professionals to play cup-ties in midweek, as will apply in some 1895 Cup ties, but he said there was a chance to play at Wembley and win a trophy and he posed the question:

"Isn't that what we all aspire to?"



Scott Naylor

NEWS

How the chairman sees it with CHRIS HAMILTON

Welcome back to the Vestacare Stadium for the start of our journey to Wembley in the Coral Challenge Cup!

It will, of course, be one of two games we play on the hallowed turf this year as there is also the 1895 Cup to be played as well.

On a serious note, it is good to again see our friends from Haydock, who have done well to progress to the third round. I'm sure everybody will be hoping for better weather than last time we played them.

Talking of weather, I was astonished to read Roger the Dodger Halstead's report on last Sunday's match at North Wales where he described the weather as a "wet, drizzly day".

I've thought for a long time he had trouble with his eyesight from reading his match reports which seemed to be from a different game to the one I saw, but he exceeded himself with that description.

It was chucking down non-stop all afternoon - not just during the match. I wouldn't like to see what he calls heavy rain if that was drizzle!

We managed to get a fortunate win against a vastly improved North Wales team; and the sort of team spirit and determination we showed will stand us in good stead.

Results in other League One matches again demonstrated what a tight and competitive division this is going to be.

I've been to Red Hall, Rugby League HQ, this week for another meeting about 'Return on Investment.'

This is an important change to how clubs receive funding and I am determined to ensure we do everything we can to maximise our opportunities and our income under the new rules.

I will hopefully have had clarification by now of exactly what we can make public so that I can explain to you in detail what things mean and, just as importantly, how you can help.

This week we also held the second of our fans' meetings -- an ideal opportunity for you to find out more about what is happening behind the scenes, and how you can be involved.

The last thing any club can afford to have is apathy among its supporter base.

We need to grow our fan base and there are a number of ways in which we are trying to do it, including offering discounted admission prices for today's game.

Open meetings show how your opinion matters and how the club is listening to your suggestions, but we need you to buy into it all.

The journey we have embarked upon won't give us a quick or easy fix; it's more a strategic plan, and having everybody on board is crucial to its success.

Please don't leave it to others. That's the apathy I referred to earlier. We are, naturally, grateful for your support at matches and in buying season tickets etc, but we need you to come to meetings and other events.

We won't be press-ganging anybody into doing anything they don't want to do; nor will we be having people going away thinking they have to put the rest of their lives on hold because the club needs them full time.

But your attendance at fans' meetings and the like demonstrates your support and gives you an opportunity to express your opinions.

You might not say a word and that's fine, but it is important for us to engage with as many people as possible so that we can measure the depth of feeling for things and know that we are making decisions based on the opinions of a significant number of supporters.

We want to see you, young and old, showing how much you care about our club. Its the future!

At risk of repeating myself, there are many things you can do to assist the club without it costing you a penny. Please take the time to think about this message and how you can do a bit to benefit everybody.

We are, after all, all trying to achieve the same goals - a successful club and one that is inclusive and great to be part of!

Back to today and you can be assured that we will not be taking Haydock lightly. We know from the whirlwind start they made against us two years ago, at Bower Fold, that they are worthy opponents and will provide a stiff challenge. Our attitude and application need to be on the money.

Hopefully, we will be in the fourth-round draw which will be made this Tuesday, March 12, together with the draw for the first round of the 1895 Cup which starts on the weekend of April 14.

The next month of fixtures could potentially include three cup ties so we must strive to be part of that.

Keep up the great support the team has been getting and enjoy the game.

Christopher Hamilton
Chairman
Oldham Rugby League Football Club



Chris . . . good to have him back after heart surgery.

STATISTICS

BETFRED LEAGUE 1 TABLE 2019

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PD
Hunslet RLFC	2	2	0	0	78	22	56	4
Workington Town	3	2	1	0	90	66	24	4
Oldham RLFC	3	2	1	0	80	58	22	4
Doncaster RLFC	3	2	1	0	70	56	14	4
Coventry Bears	3	2	1	0	68	72	-4	4
Newcastle Thunder	3	1	2	0	102	76	26	2
Whitehaven RLFC	2	1	1	0	40	52	-12	2
London Skolars	2	1	1	0	40	66	-26	2
North Wales Crusaders	2	0	2	0	32	64	-32	0
West Wales Raiders	3	0	3	0	26	114	-88	0
Keighley Cougars	1	1	1	0	56	36	20	-10

OLDHAM RLFC PLAYER STATS 2019

Squad No.	Player	Total App.	Sub	Tries	Goals	DGs	Points	Squad No.2	Player	Total App.	Sub	Tries	Goals	DGs	Points
1	Kyran Johnson	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	Adam Brook	2	0	0	0	0	0
2	Aaron Jones-Bishop	3	0	2	0	0	8	18	Ben Davies	2	2	0	0	0	0
3	Zack McComb	3	0	3	0	0	12	19	Jamie Greenwood	1	1	0	0	0	0
4	Jack Holmes	1	0	0	0	0	0	20	Matty Wilkinson	2	2	0	0	0	0
5	Richie Hawkyard	3	0	3	0	0	12	21	Lee Kershaw	3	0	2	0	0	8
6	Paul Crook	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	Danny Grimshaw	2	0	0	0	0	0
7	Dave Hewitt	3	0	2	14	0	36	23	Luke Nelmes	1	1	0	0	0	0
8	Phil Joy	3	0	1	0	0	4	24	Liam Bent	3	1	0	0	0	0
9	Gareth Owen	3	0	0	0	0	0	25	Danny Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Scott Law	3	0	0	0	0	0	26	Anthony Bowman	3	0	0	0	0	0
11	Ben Calland	1	0	0	0	0	0	27	Harry Maders	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Emmerson Whittel	3	0	0	0	0	0	29	Titus Gwaze	3	3	0	0	0	0
13	Jack Spencer	3	2	0	0	0	0								

NEWS

PROUD TO BE LAUNCHING ROARY'S PRIDE

Roary's Pride, our new club for under-16s, will be run by father and son, David and Nathan Murgatroyd with the assistance of 19-year-old Sophie Nixon and the proud lion himself, the fantastic Roary.

The club will be launched at the London Skolars game on Sunday, March 24.

It will include free face painting for children – all Roary-related, of course – and parents will be able to sign up on the day.

The school will receive £100 from the club and each of the pupils who submitted one of the five nominated logos will receive a £10 voucher, to be presented by the club in the near future.

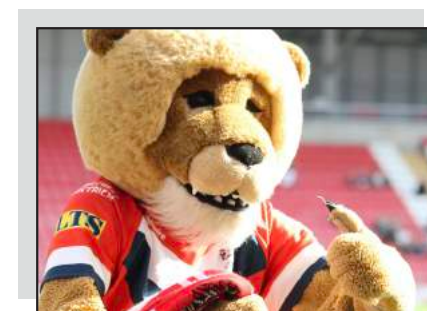
The winning design will become the official logo of Roary's Pride and will feature on all merchandise and membership packs. Pupils, parents and staff will be invited to the launch game and the winning designer, Bailey, and his parents, will be invited to be the club's hospitality guests on the day.

Membership will cost £10 a year which will include a membership pack, regular fun meetings, a signed photo of Roary, other goodies and visits by the members' favourite players.



Pupils in classes 9A and 9C at Co-operative Academy Failsworth designed logos for Roary's Pride and from the five that were nominated this one designed by Bailey Howell was judged the winner. Well done Bailey!

Said David Murgatroyd (49), lifelong fan and a member of the new management team: "I want Roary members to be proud of their town, their club, their team and, most of all, proud of themselves."





We are Haydock! The amateur club's proud fans with their banner. Bower Fold, 2017

By George Cowburn... THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

Over the years Oldham have played several amateur sides in the Challenge Cup, particularly so from the late 1990s when the amateurs became more involved in the competition.

The first ever match against amateurs gave us, for many years, Oldham's record score - a 63-0 defeat of Goole at Watersheddings in 1899. That was the year Oldham first won the Cup, beating Hunslet in the final.

We scored 17 tries that day but only six goals, although as nine tries came from the wingers, Sam Williams with five and Tom Fletcher with four, it is perhaps not surprising.

Tom Fletcher was at it again in the 1901 match against Otley. The Cumbrian again weighed in with four tries.

Maryport and Normanton St John's were the next two sides put to the sword before the Elland club had the unenviable task of facing Oldham for two years running in 1921 and 1922.

In the first match 11 tries were scored and only four goals, all by different kickers! Second time around Elland were tormented

by winger Reg Farrar, who scored four tries in a 29-0 victory.

It was to be 1936 before Oldham played an amateur club again and it was locals Higginshaw who were the opposition in a match watched by nearly 8,000 spectators. Higgy acquitted themselves well against their illustrious neighbours before going down 38-2.

In 1949 the first round of the Cup was a two-legged affair and Oldham were drawn against Cumbrian amateurs Broughton Moor. The Roughyeds won both matches comfortably by 30-0 and 35-0 with a hat trick of tries in both games, first by Jack Casey and then Bob Batten.

The match in 1960 against Barrow club Walney Island must have been a nightmare for the winger facing Oldham's Ike Southward as the Cumbrian helped himself to six tries with Bernard Ganley adding eight goals.

The Watersheddings club's last match against amateur opposition took place at The Willows, Salford on February 28, 1979. A prolonged freeze meant it was Oldham's first match of the year!

After several postponements at Watersheddings, the RFL ordered Oldham to play the match elsewhere as the next round was only six days away. Ace Amateurs of Hull were the opponents, beaten 23-5.

Since the rebirth of the club for the 1998 season, we've played 19 pro-am cup-ties and won them all.

Oldham were originally excluded from the competition in their resurrection season but a special draw between nine interested amateur clubs resulted in the Heworth club from York becoming Oldham's first opponents in an official match.

Appropriately, the first player to sign -- John Hough -- scored the first try in a 36-14 victory. Next up were Eccles in a 26-7 win for the Roughyeds, a match notable mainly for being the first time a Frenchman had appeared for Oldham (two in fact, Laurent Minut and Emanuel Peralta).

In the next three matches lightning fast full back Mark Sibson scored four, four and three tries respectively against Wigan St Judes, Queensbury and West Hull.

Not to be outdone, Dave Gibbons also crossed for four tries in the Queensbury match. To keep things even on Humberside, East Hull were beaten next, 32-6, before Oldham played two amateur clubs in the 2004 competition. First up were Castleford Panthers, beaten 16-8, before Sharlston were vanquished 24-4 in the next round.

A snow-covered Boundary Park hosted Oldham's 2006 match against Saddleworth Rangers who were beaten 34-10, one of only two matches Oldham won in that disastrous season.

After a trip to Hull Ionians RUFC's ground to play East Hull again in 2007, Oldham's game the season after was against The Army at the Aldershot Military Ground where Oldham triumphed 56-10.

So impressed were the club with The Army winger Ben Seru that they signed him on but a serious injury in his only game at Wakefield saw the end of the Fijian's time with Oldham.

Sharlston followed again before Oldham posted a then club record 80-6 victory the season after against Welsh club Blackwood Bulldogs, in which Matty Ashe bagged ten goals and two tries.

Hunslet Warriors and then two tough away matches against Egremont Rangers gave Oldham wins in 2011, 2012 and 2014.

In 2016 a 40-6 victory over Cumbrian side Kells was followed by that unforgettable 36-22 victory over Super League club Hull KR on Humberside.

Wins against Haydock at Bower Fold in 2017 and Featherstone Lions at Whitebank last year bring us right up to date.

Haydock are back with us today at the Vestacare Stadium as we bid to maintain our record of never having lost to an amateur club.



George Cowburn - lifelong fan with statistics at his fingertips

FANS AND CLUB JOIN FORCES TO SAFEGUARD OUR FUTURE



Ready to put heart and soul into supporting Roughyeds and all their new initiatives. Chairman Chris Hamilton (centre back) with some of the fans who attended Tuesday's forum.

Best news from our second fans' forum on Tuesday night was the number of supporters who were now signed up to the OuRLeague app.

We had 748 OuRLeague subscribers last September, but 1,214 currently – an increase of 466 in five months.

We were 11th out of the 26 Championship and League 1 clubs last September.

If we had been in a position last September to claim 1,214 we would have been fourth out of 26.

“We’ve had a huge push and that’s very encouraging,”

said club chairman Chris Hamilton.

“Thanks to everyone who has supported us on this and let’s keep it going.”

Julie Collins, part of the newly-formed managerial team, led the forum on the back of her second professional presentation.



Julie Collins

She said:

“It was another successful evening and we plan to have these forums every three months.”

“Our fans make the club and it’s right that we periodically give them an opportunity to ask questions and to learn what’s going on behind the scenes.”

It wasn’t all good news, Chris revealing that in terms of last season’s average home crowd figures we were 20th out of 26 with an average of 567.

Below us were Hemel Stags, Coventry, the two Welsh clubs, Toronto (who are not required to produce figures) and London Skolars.

“That’s sad – very sad,” said Chris. “And it show how much work we have to do.”

The average for the two games at home so far this season was nearly 100 up on 567 so that was a step in the right direction. He made an impassioned plea for fans to be club ambassadors; to talk-up team, club and our sport; and to encourage others to come to matches.

Julie said a mountain of work was going on behind the scenes in efforts to increase crowds, bring in more revenue and raise the club’s profile.

Roary’s Pride, a new junior club, would be launched at the London Skolars game on March 24 when schools would also be present as part of our Oldham Pledge involvement.

All Oldham Pledge schools have been invited to the game . . . make sure you’re there too!

The club was also engaging with Failsworth School, Saddleworth Rangers, Oldham St Anne’s, Limehurst Lions, local Scouts and Guides, the Oldham Foodbank and Oldham Athletic and consideration was being given to the creation of a family zone for parents and children.

Chris said clubs and the RFL hoped to be in a position to negotiate their own TV deal in 2021.

The RFL’s requirement for clubs to tick boxes; to work hard on the new ‘Return on Investment’ initiative; and to have central funding dependant on comparison with what other clubs were doing, was designed to prepare clubs for tough challenges ahead.

Chris said the club was determined to meet these challenges head-on but it could only be done with the backing and support of fans and their input into all the various initiatives and new ideas that were being put forward.

In the final analysis the success of the new management team’s contribution would hinge on how much backing the team received from each individual supporter.

After the meeting some fans joined the Club Cash lottery scheme while others put their names forward to be match-day volunteers in such roles as selling programmes etc.

The general feeling from the floor was that the club was definitely heading in the right direction.

Lively Lee's brilliant brace in late fightback against North Wales Crusaders



Emmerson Whittel



Liam Bent



Gareth Owen



Ben Calland



Scott Law



Anthony Bowman



Jack Spencer



Danny Grimshaw



Lee Kershaw



Richie Hawkyard



Matty Wilkinson



Paul Crook

**CRUSADERS 14
OLDHAM 16**

Emmerson Whittel



**OLDHAM
RLFC**

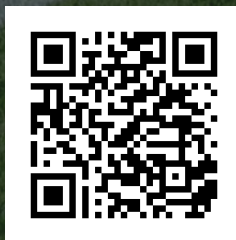
HAYDOCK



Kyran JOHNSON 01	Mick Harrop
Aaron JONES-BISHOP 02	Les and Eileen Davison
Zack MCCOMB 03	David and Val Webster
Jack HOLMES 04	David and Val Webster
Richie HAWKYARD 05	Rita Walton
Paul CROOK 06	Rita Walton
Dave HEWITT 07	Chris Noble MBE
Phil JOY 08	Past Players' Association
Gareth OWEN 09	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd
Scott LAW 10	Les and Eileen Davison
Ben CALLAND 11	Luke, Abbie and Jessica Davies
Emmerson WHITTEL 12	Sponsorship Available
Jack SPENCER 13	Graeme Lee
Adam BROOK 15	Sponsorship Available
Ben DAVIES 18	Sponsorship Available
Jamie GREENWOOD 19	Sandra Bullock
Matty WILKINSON 20	John and Lynda McAndrew
Lee KERSHAW 21	Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust
Danny GRIMSHAW 22	Neil Gibbison
Luke NELMES 23	John and Lynda McAndrew
Liam BENT 24	ORSA
Danny BRIDGE 25	Pam Taylor and LTS
Anthony BOWMAN 26	Graeme Lee
Harry MADERS 27	Sponsorship Available
Titus GWAZE 29	Anne Kearns
Scott Naylor Head Coach	Sponsorship Available
Peter Carey Assistant Coach	Sponsorship Available
Adam Neal Conditioner	Sponsorship Available

Gary ANDERTON
Andrew BACON
Kyle BRAITHWAITE
Adam BROWN
Carl CHEETHAM
Danny DAVIES
Karl DINGSDALE
Dean DOLLIN
David FRODSHAM
Danny GEE
Jordan GIBSON
Scott JOHNSON
Ste JONES
Dannie LEE
Darrell ROTHERHAM
Michael SEXTON
Robert SEXTON
Stuart SIMMONS
Connor SMITH
John TRAVENA
Chris Smith Head Coach
Stuart Simmons Assistant Coach

Referee: A. Moore
Touch Judge 1: P. Cromer
Touch Judge 2: J. Butterfield
Reserve Ref: T. Jones



By Ian Wilson... A RUGBY LEAGUE MISCELLANY ON MEN AND MATTERS...

There are voices around the rugby league that want the Challenge Cup downgraded because of its problems in recent years — the drop-off in attendances in virtually all rounds, and then last year's terrible crowd at Wembley.

The RFL didn't help the competition's status, in my opinion, by its strange decision to require ridiculously large financial bonds - or indeed any bonds - from the 'non-member clubs' [Catalans, Toronto and Toulouse], as a condition of their being permitted to enter the 2019 competition.

The fact that Catalans happened to be the holders was not, in my view, the real issue, though it certainly compounded the level of silliness involved in the decision.

I recognise the financial issues involved for the RFL, but would suggest that a bit of vision could generate huge long-term benefits for the game as a whole.

It is generally acknowledged that the BBC do a great job in their presentation of the Cup on TV. What a huge potential asset that is.

Think how English cricket would give its right arm to get 'proper cricket' back on terrestrial TV, in terms of participation in, and profile of, the game. We currently have the BBC so let's make much more of the profile that provides. The Cup should be regarded as a long-term 'loss leader'. Early-round attendances are lowish partly because committed club fans don't get entry on their season tickets to what are sometimes not particularly attractive contests.

So let's give that to them. Let's make entry to every pro club's first home Challenge Cup game, if they get one, an automatic part of every season ticket deal. And, after that, let's make ticket prices a real bargain in every other round..

A system of central subsidies to cover losses incurred as a result could easily be devised. In return for subsidies clubs should be required to sell Wembley tickets early so that a large number of seats are sold long before the finalists are known.

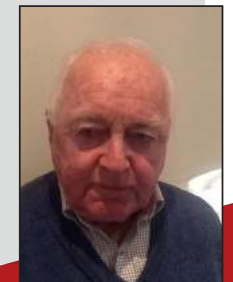
[A similar arrangement has been in operation for some years but perhaps it needs tweaking as part of a huge push by the sport as a whole.]

When we get to the last eight, I would build on last year's successful semis double-header and, finally, we need an agreement with the BBC to allow the scheduling of rounds to be better structured.

We need a shorter time between rounds up to the semis, to enable momentum to be generated, and then a longer period before the final to permit proper marketing to ensure Wembley is a sell-out, irrespective of who gets there.

That won't be easy because Challenge Cup dates have to dovetail with Sky's Super League schedules, but surely the various bodies can agree on a better format than the existing one.

One final thought. I wonder how many we will take to Wembley when we finally get there in the 1895 Cup!



Ian Wilson - our man with something to say

OLDHAM SAINT ANNE'S UNDER 11'S

The youngsters of Oldham St Anne's under-11s and Warrington side, Rylands, lock horns in a curtain-raiser today before enjoying the privilege of carrying out Oldham RLFC's giant flag ahead of our Coral Challenge Cup third-round tie with Haydock.

Saints, pictured, are determined their 2019 season will be as successful, if not more so, than last year.

The squad's improvement in 2018, coupled with the growth of friendships and togetherness, were credit to the St Anne's club, its standards and the ethics it stands for throughout its junior section.

The under-11s are looking forward to playing their friends from Rylands, whom they met only a few weeks ago at St Anne's.

The team has been together for five seasons and friendships for life have been forged while playing what we believe is the world's greatest game.

Back row (left to right): Mark Hammond, Paul Halliwell, Steven Leyland, Gareth Dean.

Middle row: Aimee Burgess, Dan Flynn, Harley Townhill, Ethan Longsden, Declan Winland, Oscar Deakin, Jacob Gartside, Isaac Grant, Travis Snape.

Front: Blake Dean, Shaun Taylor, Max Halliwell, Oliver Atkinson, Alfie Hague, Jacob Leyland, Eugene Tinubu, Ethan Timlin-Hammond, David Collier, Alfie Hewitt, Michael Sandiford-Mitchell.

Rylands Whites under-11s are going into their third season as the White Sharks. In 2018 they stepped up a group and struggled a little bit, but they kept heads held high.

They began the 2019 season with a great win last week.



Charlie Winslade scores against Walney Central in February, 1960.



HERITAGE

Staying in Touch with Our Heritage with MICHAEL TURNER

Welcome to Vestacare Stadium, especially to Haydock's players, officials and supporters, for this Coral Challenge Cup third-round tie.

The Heritage Trust is continuing with its "Pass It On" project and there has been a positive response to the request for volunteers to help with document scanning etc, especially from the ex-players.

I'll keep you informed of the project's progress as the season continues.

Amateur teams have been competing in the Challenge Cup since its origin and when Oldham first won it their first-round opponents were Goole, who travelled to Watersheddings on March 18, 1899.

They were beaten 63-0 with Oldham wingers Sam Williams (five tries) and Tom Fletcher (four) each having a field day.

Nearly 8,000 watched Higginshaw play Oldham in the first round in February, 1936 and more than 11,000 saw Oldham beat Walney Central of Barrow in the second round on their way to the 1960 semi-final.

The first Challenge Cup match for the "new" club was on January 18, 1998 when 2,943 hearty souls turned up to see Oldham win 36 - 14 against Heworth on a waterlogged Boundary Park.

Oldham have maintained a 100 per cent record against amateur opponents in the Challenge Cup, but two years ago Haydock gave them a scare when racing into an early 8-0 lead in a fourth-round tie at Bower Fold which was streamed live by the BBC.

A muddy pitch didn't make for open rugby and it was to Haydock's credit that they settled into the conditions quicker than Roughyeds.

Oldham's fitness and experience proved decisive but Haydock left the field with heads held high after a great effort.



Michael Turner

A LOOK AT HAYDOCK

“What a start, what a sensational start from the team eight divisions below the top flight.”

So said BBC commentator Dave Woods in March 2017 when Oldham last faced North West Premier side Haydock, otherwise known as The Yickers. The fixture was a Challenge Cup Fourth Round tie, played at Bower Fold in Stalybridge and streamed live on the BBC website. Woods’ comments followed Haydock’s 6th minute opening try from their talismanic player Jordan Gibson.

In round 3, Halifax community side Siddal had given glamour boys Toronto Wolfpack the fright of their lives and neutral observers wanted more of the same in round 4.

A muddy pitch – which progressively got worse during the game’s 80 minutes – a partisan travelling support and a live BBC audience backing the underdogs all provided for a potential banana-skin experience for Championship side Oldham – and Haydock were playing in yellow.

Things got worse for the Roughyeds on ten minutes when Dean Dollin slid over in the mud carrying a gaggle of Oldham defenders with him. The Haydock fans went wild and Dave Woods announced to the online audience “Whatever the script was suppose to be, rip it up and start again.”

Oldham had other ideas though and recovered from their slow start to gradually take control of the game; in the end running out 40-12 winners.

The memory of that day will not be lost in the minds of the Oldham players who wore the famous red and white hoops.

Haydock, 2016 North West Premier Champions and 2018 BARLA National Cup finalists, arrive at the Vestacare Stadium today for their third away game of this year’s Coral Challeng Cup.

Round 1 took them to NCL Division Two side Shaw Cross Sharks. Leading 18-10 at half-time the Yickers kept up their momentum and sealed the game in the second-half with a Karl Dinsdale touchdown seven minutes from time.

Round 2 took Haydock to Normanton Knights in West Yorkshire. Coming from behind at 16-4 Haydock went on to win the game in style with six tries from Sexton, Dollin, Dinsdale, Frodsham, Gee and Cheetham.

The round 4 draw, shown live from St Mary’s Guilhall in Coventry, paired Oldham and Haydock together for the second time in two years and set-up today’s game.

Last weekend, as Oldham were claiming victory from the jaws of defeat in Wrexham, Haydock won a tough game 28-14 at home to Heysham Atoms.

Haydock have nothing to lose today and can play with no fear. They will relish the opportunity of knocking-out Oldham to join Championship sides such as Widnes, Toulouse, Toronto Wolfpack and Leigh Centurions in round 4. They’ll need no further motivation than that.

If today’s game lives up to the watery thrills and spills of 2017, we should be in for some fun..

Writes Dave Naylor.



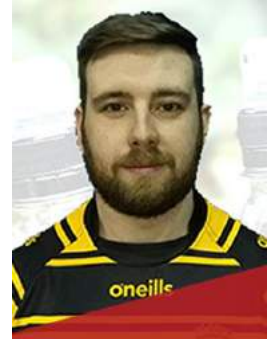
SQUAD THREE TO WATCH

Adam Brown

A Power house of the Haydock pack, consistent yard maker who doesn’t mind the physical side of defence when needed.

Adam is still learning his trade and big things are to come when he hits his prime.

Adam is improving with every game



Karl Dingsdale

Top top try scorer in the NWML Premier league last season, and the clubs all time leading try scorer.

Karl is fast and elusive and has worked hard on his overall game over the off season and its showing this season.

Expecting another big year.



Jordan Gibson

Club Captain and leader of the side. Play maker and possess a great kicking game, and solid in defence.

Represented BARLA Lions in the 2018 tour to Fiji, and also represented the NWML Lionhearts several times.

Ex Leigh RL junior.



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COMMUNITY WORK GATHERS MOMENTUM

Several schools and colleges have benefited from Anne Kearns's woman's touch.

Our office manager's club clear-out unearthed old rugby balls and club playing jerseys – unable to be used by us any more but still smart and fit for purpose.

Chairman Chris Hamilton distributed the rugby balls to schools and called on the help of a good friend of the club, Lorna Phillip, to make sure the jerseys went to worthy recipients.

Lorna, retired deputy head of Hathershaw College and still active in local schools as co-ordinator of Oldham Pledge, made sure the jerseys were distributed appropriately.

It was part of Oldham RLFC's ever-developing community programme which is active on several fronts across the borough.

Hathershaw pupils Saif Rahman, Jake Travis and Hussain Ali were proud to show off their newly-acquired kit.

Jake said: "We are thrilled to wear Oldham kit. It might even improve our game"

Two Hathershaw teams will benefit from the club's initiative as well as the crack under-15s at Saddleworth School where all teams are coached by PE teacher and head of rugby Gary Melling, an RFL grade-one touch-judge.

Steve Hill, deputy head at St Joseph's Primary in Shaw, will take more Oldham jerseys to Africa for distribution there.

Helping Lorna is former Oldham RLFC captain Gareth Barber, who's on the staff at Hathershaw.

Roughyeds' links with Oldham Pledge, designed to prepare pupils for life after school, will come to the fore at one of our home league games later in the season.

Said Lorna: "We are recycling Oldham's gear to as many places as we can.

"We are grateful to the club for this kind gesture."



FIXTURES

Date	Time	Opponents	Venue	Score	Results	Attn.
February						
Sunday 17	3:00pm	Workington Town	Home	28-32	Lost	765
Sunday 24	3:00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	Home	36-12	Won	546
March						
Sunday 3	2:30pm	North Wales Crusaders	Away	16-14	Won	426
Sunday 10	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 3 - Haydock	Home			
Sunday 24	3:00pm	London Skolars	Home			
Sunday 31	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 4				
April						
Sunday 7	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	Away			
Sunday 14	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 5				
Friday 19	3:00pm	Hunslet RLFC	Home			
Saturday 27	3:00pm	West Wales Raiders	Away			
May						
Sunday 5	3:00pm	1895 Cup 1				
Sunday 12	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 6				
Sunday 19	3:00pm	Coventry Bears	Home			
Sunday 26	3:00pm	Keighley Cougars	Away			
June						
Sunday 2	3:00pm	Challenge Cup QF				
Wednesday 5	7:30 pm	1895 Cup 2				
Sunday 9	3:00pm	Doncaster RLFC	Away			
Sunday 16	3:00pm	Keighley Cougars	Home			
Sunday 23	3:00pm	Workington Town	Away			
Wednesday 26	7:30pm	1895 Cup QF				
Sunday 30	3:00pm	West Wales Raiders	Home			
July						
Sunday 7	3:00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	Away			
Sunday 14	3:00pm	North Wales Crusaders	Home			
Sunday 28	3:00pm	1895 Cup SF				
August						
Saturday 3	3:00pm	London Skolars	Away			
Sunday 11	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	Home			
Sunday 18	3:00pm	Doncaster RLFC	Home			
Saturday 24	4:00pm	Challenge Cup/1895 Cup Final				
September						
Sunday 1	3:00pm	Coventry Bears	Away			
Sunday 8	3:00pm	Hunslet RLFC	Away			
Sunday 15	3:00pm	Play-offs				
Sunday 22	3:00pm	Play-offs				
Sunday 29	3:00pm	Play-offs				
October						
Sunday 6	3:00pm	Promotional Final				

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All Oldham Pledge Schools have been invited to the
game - make sure you're there!**