

# The Squads



## Oldham

## Hunslet



Ben HEATON	1	1	Stuart KAIN
Lucas ONYANGO	2	2	Ritchie BARNETT
Marcus ST HILAIRE	3	3	Matthew FOX
Jack BRADBURY	4	4	David CLAYTON
John GILLAM	5	5	Waine PRYCE
Neil RODEN	6	6	Danny GRIMSHAW
Mick DIVENEY	7	7	Paul MARCH
Jason BOULTS	8	8	Adam SULLIVAN
Danny WHITMORE	9	9	Richard CHAPMAN
Dave ELLISON	10	10	James HOUSTON
Andy ISHERWOOD	11	11	Richard BLAKEWAY
Ben WOOD	12	12	Tom HAUGHEY
Valu BENTLEY	13	13	David MARCH
Chris CLARKE	14	14	Luke HAIGH
Luke SUTTON	15	15	Scott WOODCOCK
Liam GILCHRIST	16	16	John OAKES
John CLOUGH	17	17	Robert KELLY
Alistair WILLIAMS	18	18	Joe HELME
Scott MANSFIELD	19	19	Neil LOWE
Johnny WALKER	20	20	Andrew YATES
Mark BROCKLEHURST	21	21	Tabuanitoga CAKAKAKA
Tom WOOD-HULME	22	22	Danny RATCLIFFE
Matt ASHE	23	23	Joe McLOCKLAN
Paul NOONE	24	24	Matthew HARDING
Martin RODEN	25	25	Steve DOOLER

Referee: Thierry Alibert;

Touch Judges, Mark Craven, Robert Hicks; Reserve Referee, Stuart Kilpatrick.

The Official Matchday Programme of the



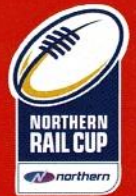
# Oldham ROUGHYEDS

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Sunday 6th February 2011  
**Hunslet Hawks**

Northern Rail Cup  
 Kick-Off 3:00pm



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 £2.50

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# FROM THE **Boardroom**

with Chris Hamilton



## Welcome to Whitebank Stadium for this afternoons game against Hunslet Hawks.

We know from last year just what a tough game it will be which is always the case when Paul March is involved and there is no doubt he will again have his team fired up.

Having got promotion last season the Northern Rail Cup will be a good opportunity for him to see how his squad is developing with the new additions they have made.

As for ourselves i have been delighted with what we have achieved so far not only in matches but in the way the lads have worked so hard in pre season training to take on board what we have been teaching them.

I would also like to officially welcome Ben Wood, Paul Noone, Jack Bradbury, Andy Isherwood, Tom Wood Hulme, Liam Gilchrist, Matthew Fogarty, John Clough to the best club in the game!

Micky Diveney and Alistair Williams have also made the step up from the Reserve team to first team squad.

We never take anything for granted in this game and we know that what we achieved last season, albeit ending ultimately in disappointment, counts for nothing this time around but we know we have the collective desire and determination within the group and the staff to have a real good "go" in every game we take part in this year.

You all know how much we appreciate your support and lets get this season off to a flyer in that respect by really getting behind the lads as we try to cause an upset on day one by gaining a victory over a team from a higher division.

**Christopher Hamilton**  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Rugby League Football Club  
0161 628 3677

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Oldham, OL9 9EF

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# Tony's Talk



Here we are once again at the start of the Northern Rail Competition with the exciting situation of a fresh group of players to face the season of 2011. We have assembled a very young and enthusiastic squad of a high percentage happen to have been born in Oldham. This has generated a very strong feeling of pride and desire in playing for their home town, which has quickly rubbed of on the players joining us from outside the area.

In reality it's not long between seasons, it feels like there is barely time to draw breath when you consider that quite a bit of the behind the scenes work started before the 2010 season ended. I don't expect anybody to appreciate exactly how much work is involved in

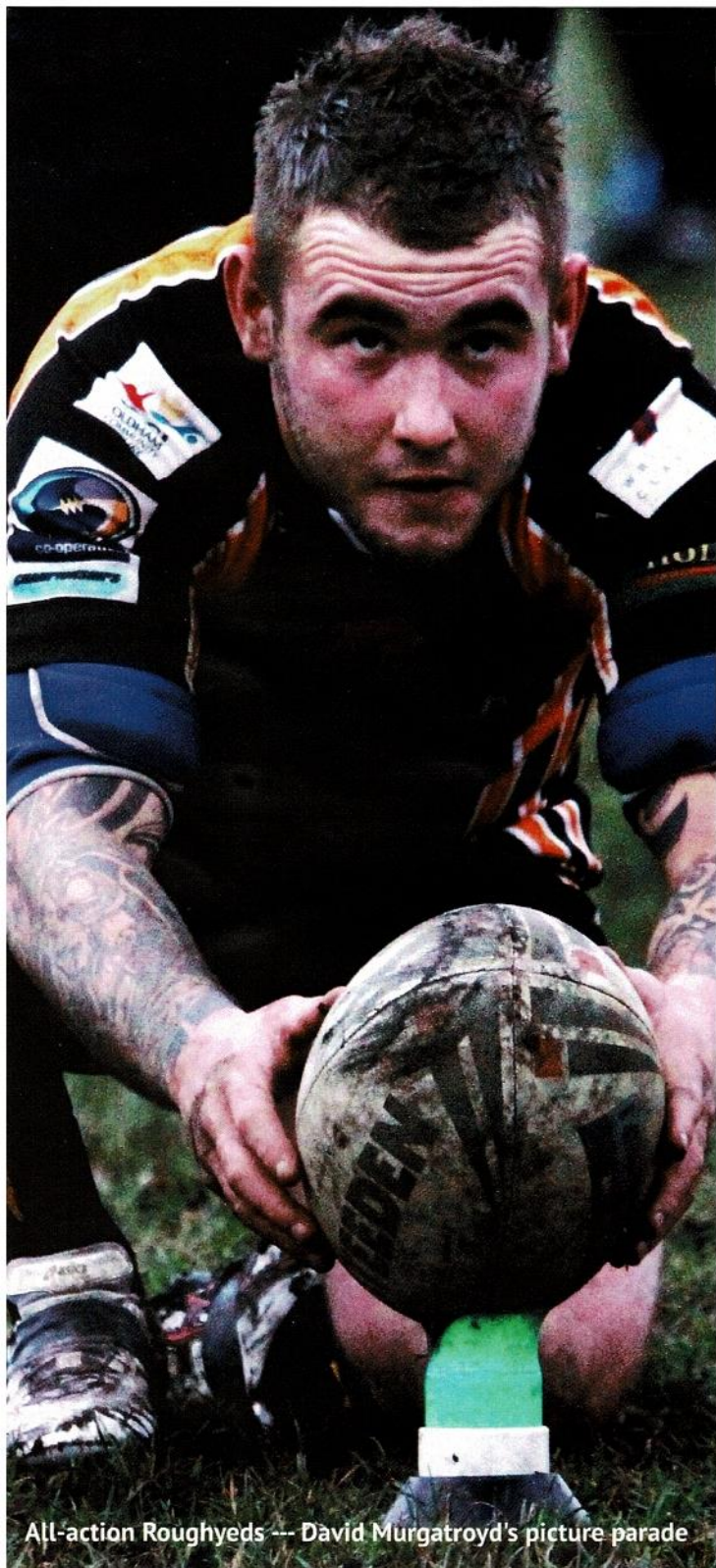
putting a team on the field each season. This is made more difficult by the fact that there is little room for error along the way, with the added pressure of any mistakes being severely punished as the season progresses, as you know there's no second chance in any one season. I think as a club we are getting pretty good at preparing for each season and some very good foundations are now in place to ensure an exciting future.

I'd love a pound for every time I'm asked how we'll go this season. It's a difficult one to answer, one of the biggest variables is our opposition and at this stage of the season I know very little about them. My concentration has been solely on us and I'm proud to report that we are in great shape as a group and are exactly where Martin Roden and I wanted us to be at this stage. We have gelled together really well and have a great spirit as a group. Our fitness tests and pre season games have showed that our tough conditioning regime has worked. I've also been impressed with the individual and team skill levels that have been on show in the preseason games. With this in mind I think we are ready for this phase in our preparation. The preseason has given me an absolute selection headache with every player trailed earning a squad number. It was encouraging to see that even if I made 3 substitutions at once, as a team we didn't miss a beat. The Northern Rail Cup offers us a great opportunity to test our structures and combinations against some quality opposition and of course today's opposition offers a huge challenge in the Hunslet Hawks.

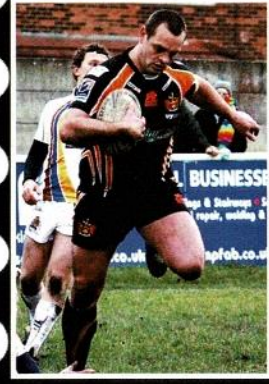
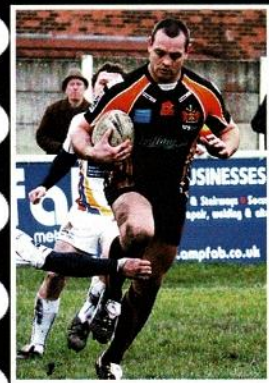
I'd like to offer a warm welcome to Paul March and the Hawks and Thank you for your support here today. I hope you really get behind our team as you are a very important component as we develop as a team toward the 2011 Championship 1 campaign.

Regards

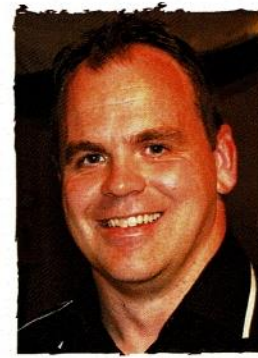
**Tony B**



All-action Roughyeds --- David Murgatroyd's picture parade



# Reserves



**GOOD** afternoon and welcome to my first regular slot about the Reserves and the 2011 Reserve Championship season. Updates, chit-chat and the latest news and progress reports on the squad will be given in each first-team match programme over the course of the season.

After a tough pre-season campaign the boys are very eager to play some games, and they will be in action for the first time here at Whitebank this coming Thursday night, February 10 when we entertain Dewsbury Rams in the first of three pre-season friendlies, kicking off at 7.45pm.

This game will give Paul Ashton and myself an opportunity to look at the new squad in match action for the first time and determine

who will start to stake a claim for a spot in the side for the first league game of the season exactly one month later on March 10.

We started training way back in October. Each player has been given a weights programme --- some of them for the first time --- and we have also been out on the running track under the supervision of Ashy as well as doing a lot of skill drills.

We have trained at a number of venues including Viking Fitness in Lees where the players do weights sessions as a group, but also extra sessions on their own. A big thank-you to Vikings for their support. Thanks also to the Radcliffe Athletics Centre (courtesy of Oldham Community Leisure), to Cardinal Langley School in Middleton and to St Mary's School in Middleton.

The Reserve team squad signed so far is as follows: Steven Nield, Eddie Vaughan, Lewis Brookes, Terry Bridge, Shaun Robinson, Matthew Fogarty, Tommy Connick, Jamie Dallimore, Michael Cadd, Matty Barber, Tom Crosby, Ben Marsden, Austen Barrowclough, Billy Sheen, Jamie Knight, Chris Dean, Michael Ward, Mark Smith, Alex Thompson.

So thoughts now turn to Thursday night when you can see a lot of the new boys in action for the first time. Come and given them your renowned Roughyeds support and get a taste of what's in store over the course of a brand-new season.

See you Thursday,

*John Hough*

## 2011 February

Thurs	10th	DEWSBURY RAMS (F)	H	7:45pm
Weds	23rd	HALIFAX (F)	H	7:30pm

## 2011 March

Thurs	3rd	KEIGHLEY COUGARS (F)	A	7:30pm
Thurs	10th	YORK CITY KNIGHTS	A	8:00pm
Sat	19th	WIDNES VIKINGS	H	2:30pm
Sat	26th	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	H	2:30pm

## 2011 April

Friday	1st	DEWSBURY RAMS	A	7:30pm
Sat	9th	HALIFAX	A	2:30pm
Sat	23rd	YORK CITY KNIGHTS	H	2:30pm
Sat	30th	FEATHERSTONE ROV.	A	2:30pm

## 2011 May

Sat	7th	HALIFAX	H	2:30pm
Sat	21st	LEIGH CENTURIONS	H	2:30pm
Sat	28th	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	2:30pm

## 2011 June

Sat	4th	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	A	2:30pm
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## 2011 July

Sat	2nd	WIDNES VIKINGS	A	2:30pm
Sat	9th	FEATHERSTONE ROV.	H	2:30pm
Sat	23rd	WHITEHAVEN	H	2:30pm
Sat	30th	LEIGH CENTURIONS	A	2:30pm

## 2011 August

Sat	6th	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	2:30pm
Sat	13th	DEWSBURY RAMS	H	2:30pm
Sat	20th	WHITEHAVEN	A	2:30pm

**FULL NAME:** Paul Stephen Noone

**D-O-B:** 22-4-81

**BIRTHPLACE:** Whiston Hospital,  
Prescot

**AMATEUR CLUB(S):** Widnes Tigers

**PREVIOUS PRO CLUBS:** Warrington  
Wolves, Harlequins, Widnes  
Vikings, Barrow Raiders

**PLAYING POSITION:** Second-row

**ALL-TIME FAVOURITE PLAYER:**

Ellery Hanley

**FAVOURITE GROUND:**

DW Stadium, Wigan

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** 119 SL games  
with Warrington


National League Cup final win  
with Widnes 2007

Championship Grand Final win  
with Barrow 2009

**HOPES FOR THE FUTURE:** To help

Oldham to win promotion to the  
Championship

SIGNATURE



# PAUL NOONE

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# PAUL NOONE

**ROUGHYEDS had to beat off competition from several other clubs in the Co-operative Championship and sign Paul on a one-year contract in mid-January.**

One of the most experienced forwards in Championship rugby, 29-year-old Noone's CV includes 119 Super League outings with Warrington, 47 appearances with Widnes and 59 games with Barrow where he played in 2009 and 2010.

He also had seven Super League games for Harlequins while on short-term loan to the London club from Warrington in 2006.

In 2007 he played in two finals for Widnes—a 54-6 win against Whitehaven in the National League Cup final in July and a 42-10 defeat by Castleford Tigers in the National League One Grand Final in the October. Two years later he lined up alongside Andy Ballard, James Coyle, Rob Roberts, Dave Allen and Danny Halliwell in the Barrow side that beat Halifax 26-18 in the Championship Grand Final at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, Warrington.

Commenting on Paul's capture by Roughyeds, coach Tony Benson said: "It was one of the last pieces of the jigsaw in our team building for 2011, but it was certainly well worth the wait.

"We wanted somebody to add more experience into our young squad and Paul was the ideal fit. He's seen it all

at the top level of club rugby. He is aggressive in defence and he runs good lines in attack.

"He's also a good bloke to have around and that is always an important factor to us as a club when we are doing our recruiting.

"He will add a lot to our squad and give us a strong back-row with a lot of competition for places."

Paul played in 28 of Barrow's 31 games last year and thought at one stage that he would be staying at Craven Park for a third season.

"I had two good years there," he added, "but that's in the past and I'm looking forward to a new start at Oldham. I'm still only 29 with plenty left in the tank and my aim is to help Oldham to go one better this year and finally get promotion.

"After that there is no telling how far the club can go. I just want to do the best I can to help Roughyeds to go as far as they can. The club has a great tradition and the town is steeped in rugby league. As a lad growing up I used to support Widnes regularly and some of the games they had with Oldham were crackers. Oldham were always there or thereabouts.

"I spoke to a few clubs but Chris Hamilton (club chairman) and Tony Benson convinced me that Oldham was the right club for me. To get to four Grand Finals in a row is no mean feat.

"By signing for Oldham I've joined a good squad and a good club. There is a lot of potential on and off the field and I like the idea of striving with all the other lads to put the club back where it belongs in the Championship."





# Our pre-season's silver lining

**OLDHAM Roughyeds will set out on their 2011 Northern Rail Cup campaign with confidence high after winning two pre-season trophies -- the Law Cup and the SEAT Trophy.**

The serious stuff kicks off today with the visit of newly-promoted Hunslet Hawks to Whitebank Stadium (3pm kick off) in the round-robin section of the NRC.

We then play Halifax away next Sunday (Feb 13, 3pm), Swinton Lions away on Sunday, Feb 20 (3pm) and Whitehaven here at the Whitebank Stadium on Sunday, Feb 27. So make a note in your diary of that next home game--Whitehaven here on February 27.

Coach Tony Benson was delighted with what was achieved in the three pre-season warm-up games -- a 34-28 win against Rochdale to win the Law Cup, a 36-10 defeat at Featherstone Rovers and a 50-0 hammering of Whitehaven at Whitebank to win the SEAT Trophy.

In this game Roughyeds rattled up nine tries, and eight of them were scored by the backs after hooker Martin Roden had set the ball rolling by squeezing in from dummy half to score the first try in the seventh minute.

Tony's big problem was to pick a squad of 17 to face Hunslet today from the 24 or 25 who have been training hard for the past two and a half months and who have all staked a claim in the warm-up games.

Twenty players were used against Whitehaven but Jason Boults, Scott Mansfield, Ben Wood (hat-trick hero in the Law Cup win), Marcus St Hilaire, John Clough and Mark Brocklehurst were left kicking their heels.

The rampant Roughyeds got their hands on their second piece of pre-season silverware by winning the SEAT Trophy for the first time at the third time of asking.

The Cumbrians had won it twice previously, both times at the Recreation Ground (in 2003 and 2010), but in this instance Oldham turned on the style to run in nine tries without reply.

Mr David Cook of David Cook Motors, sponsors of the SEAT Trophy, said later at the post-match presentations in the hospitality suite: "It's good from a personal point of view that the Trophy is 'coming home'."

"For a whole variety of reasons the trophy has only been contested twice previously over a number of years, but on each of those occasions we travelled back from Whitehaven, leaving the trophy in Cumbria.

"It's good to see the trophy back on Oldham soil."

Skipper Neil Roden won the club's official man-of-the-match award, but he promptly handed his prize to his half-back partner Mick Diveney. "Mick was the best player on the field, particularly in the first half," said Neil.

"In fact, there were one or two more deserving winners than me in a good team performance. The object of

these games is to improve match on match and we certainly improved on our performance in defeat at Featherstone."

Teenager Matthew Fogarty won the champagne-moment award for his first try in Oldham colours, but he wasn't present in the clubhouse later so fellow centre Jack Bradbury, who also scored his first try for the Roughyeds, went on stage to collect it on his behalf.

Said a beaming Benson: "To be honest I expected a good performance. We have a good squad and we have worked well. These games are all about working on areas of your game that need to be improved.

"Particularly pleasing was the fact that we put into practice what we have been doing in training. It is one thing to do it on the training paddock; it is different altogether to do it when opposed in a match.

"The score didn't matter too much. The important thing was the performance. It was good. The biggest problem I have now is picking a squad of 17 or 18 from all the good players at my disposal. I left six out today, yet we still played 20 and everybody did well.

"The young players have forced the issue over the last couple of months of pre-season training and have forced themselves into contention."

It was the first time for several years that Roughyeds "nilled" a side --- and one of the most pleasing aspects of the performance was the enthusiasm in defence even when the side was 30 or 40 points in front.

### The pre-season campaign went like this:

**OLDHAM 34 ROCHDALE 28 (January 2, 2011 at Whitebank):** Team: Heaton; Onyango, Brocklehurst, Williams, Knight; N Roden, Diveney; Boults, Mansfield, Gilchrist, Isherwood, Wood, Bentley. Subs: Sutton, Ellison, Clough, Walker, Wood-Hulme.

**Goals:** Diveney (3); **Tries:** Wood (3), Williams, Heaton, Sutton, Brocklehurst; Ref: D Merrick (Pontefract); Att: 796.

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**FEATHERSTONE 36, OLDHAM 10 (January 15, 2011 at the Bigfellas Stadium):** Team: Heaton; Onyango, Fogarty, Bradbury, Gillam; N Roden, Diveney; Boults, Clough, Gilchrist, Isherwood, Wood, Mansfield. Subs: Sutton, Wood-Hulme, Walker, Whitmore, Williams, Knight, Ashe.

**Goal:** Diveney; **Tries:** Wood, Heaton; Ref: Jamie Leahy (Dewsbury); Att: 615.

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**OLDHAM 50 WHITEHAVEN 0 (January 23, 2011 at Whitebank):** Team: Heaton; Onyango, Williams, Bradbury, Gillam; N Roden, Diveney; Ellison, M Roden, Gilchrist, Isherwood, Walker, Bentley. Subs: Fogarty, Sutton, Whitmore, Clarke, Wood-Hulme, Ashe, Noone.

**Goals:** Diveney (6), Ashe (1); **Tries:** M Roden, Heaton (2), Williams (2), Gillam (2), Fogarty, Bradbury; Ref: P Brook (Manchester); Att: 426.

# 2011 Fixtures



## Oldham RLFC Fixtures 2011

### January

LAW CUP Sun 2nd	ROCHDALE	H	3:00pm
	Sat 15th	FEATHERSTONE	A 5:30pm
SEAT TROPHY Sun 23rd	WHITEHAVEN	H	3:00pm

### February

NRC Sun 6th	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	3:00pm
NRC Sun 13th	HALIFAX	A	3:00pm
NRC Sun 20th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm
NRC Sun 27th	WHITEHAVEN	H	3:00pm

### March

CC1 Sun 13th	GATESHEAD	H	3:00pm
CC1 Sun 20th	WORKINGTON	A	3:00pm
CC1 Sun 27th	SWINTON	H	3:00pm

### April

CC1 Sun 3rd	KEIGHLEY	A	3:00pm
CC1 Sun 17th	LONDON SKOLARS	H	3:00pm
CC1 Fri 22nd	ROCHDALE	H	3:00pm
CC1 Mon 25th	WHITEHAVEN	A	3:00pm

### May

CC1 Sun 1st	DONCASTER RLFC	H	3:00pm
CC1 Sun 15th	SOUTH WALES	A	3:00pm
CC1 Fri 27th	SWINTON	A	8:00pm

### June

CC1 Sun 5th	DONCASTER	A	3:00pm
CC1 Sun 12th	SOUTH WALES	H	3:00pm
CC1 Sun 26th	GATESHEAD	A	3:00pm

### July

CC1 Sun 3rd	WHITEHAVEN	H	3:00pm
CC1 Sat 9th	LONDON	A	5:00pm (The Stoop)
CC1 Sun 24th	KEIGHLEY	H	3:00pm
CC1 Sun 31st	WORKINGTON	H	3:00pm

### August

CC1 Sun 14th	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm
CC1 Sun 21st	SOUTH WALES	H	3:00pm
CC Sat 27th	CARNEGIE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL		

### September

CC1 Sun 4th	WORKINGTON	A	3:00pm
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### October

Sun 2nd CO-OPERATIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS DAY



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## A PARTNERSHIP SET IN CONCRETE

WE are delighted to announce, as you may have seen already on our website and in the local press, that Mark Bates and Sons Ltd, ready-mix concrete suppliers of Middleton Junction, have "significantly increased" their support of the Roughyeds to become main club sponsors in 2011.

Managing director Mark Bates (42), who has a football background, got hooked on Roughyeds and on our determination to build a future here at Whitebank when his company backed us for the first time as a shirt sponsor in 2010.

Now, club and company have forged a new deal in which Mark Bates and Sons Ltd will increase the firm's financial commitment and, in so doing, will head the club's sponsorship portfolio over the next 12 months.

"Mark has literally bought in to what we are trying to achieve," said Roughyeds chairman Chris Hamilton. "Needless to say, we are extremely grateful to him for his support which he has increased significantly this year.

"With Mark's help, and that of others like him, we can make Whitebank a ground that people will be proud of and hopefully attract more people who are interested in backing us at a corporate level."

Said Mark: "I really enjoyed my first season as a Roughyeds supporter and so did several members of my extended family whom I introduced to the sport.

"This year Tony B and the boys are targeting automatic promotion and I have a feeling they will be there or thereabouts. I sense that we are a lot stronger now than this time last year.

"I was particularly impressed by the way we 'nilled' Whitehaven and the enthusiasm we displayed in keeping our try line intact when our opponents were playing down the slope in the second half.

"Our rearguard action was terrific, and it speaks volumes, I think, for the squad that Chris and Tony have put together."

Picture shows Mark at Whitebank with the Roughyeds' commercial manager Rachael Marsters.



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