

# The Squads

## Oldham

Miles Greenwood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Gillam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark McCulley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew Fogarty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Ballard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neil Roden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jamie Dallimore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Boults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Clough	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valu Bentley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny Whitmore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liam Gilchrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Ellison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Noone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neil Rigby	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lucas Onyango	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shaun Robinson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Dewsbury

Derrell Olpherts
Michael Wainwright
Ryan Esders
Rob Spicer
Austin Buchanan
Ed Barber
Scott Spaven
Ben Jones
Craig Cook
Steve Crossley
John Davies
Josh Tonks
Dwayne Barker
Matty Nicholson
Billy Harris
Nick Fozzard
George Flanagan

Referee J Bloem TJ D Tindall TJ P Huck RR S Bennison MC P Taberner- Sponsored by H Mullaney & son Skip Hire and Recycling



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## BOARDROOM with Chris Hamilton

TODAY we welcome another team from the Championship in Dewsbury Rams and you can be certain they will want to get back to winning ways after defeat at Featherstone last week.

We will be striving to get our first win in the competition although we have a tough task given the quality of the opposition and of the signings they have made in pre season, including the likes of Nick Fozzard, an established Super League player.

We fell away badly in the second half in the last home game against Featherstone after more than matching them for 40 minutes and the players know that as much as anyone, but it was encouraging to see the positive response last Sunday as we gained a draw at Neath.

The pre-match plans were disrupted as much as they could be when Chris Clarke got a finger in the eye in the warm-up which not only prevented him from playing but meant a lot of shuffling in terms of players and the positions they were playing with very little time to adjust.

To come back from 30-12 down to get a draw and have a try disallowed at 36-all was a major show of character after playing on Wednesday and the lads will have taken a lot from that as they contemplated things on the six-hour journey back to Oldham. One thing that has stood out in the two matches so far has been the fantastic support the players have received. It was particularly evident after the Featherstone game when the players were out on the pitch for a few minutes after the game had finished and yet they still received a big response as they came off.

To then see the fans down in South Wales, at no inconsiderable expense, was very pleasing and everybody at the club was very grateful.

We will be going all out today to hopefully give you that first victory of the season. The Reserves will be starting their final preparations this week for their season as we get ready to defend the title we won last year and, as has been the case in the last few seasons, we will be hoping that Ashy can develop some more players to the level where they can make that step up to first team. We wish them well for the coming season and hope that those of you who don't normally get down to Whitebank to see them will give it a try this season. We will be playing our home matches on Thursday evenings this year and whilst our attendances are amongst the best we can never have too many there!

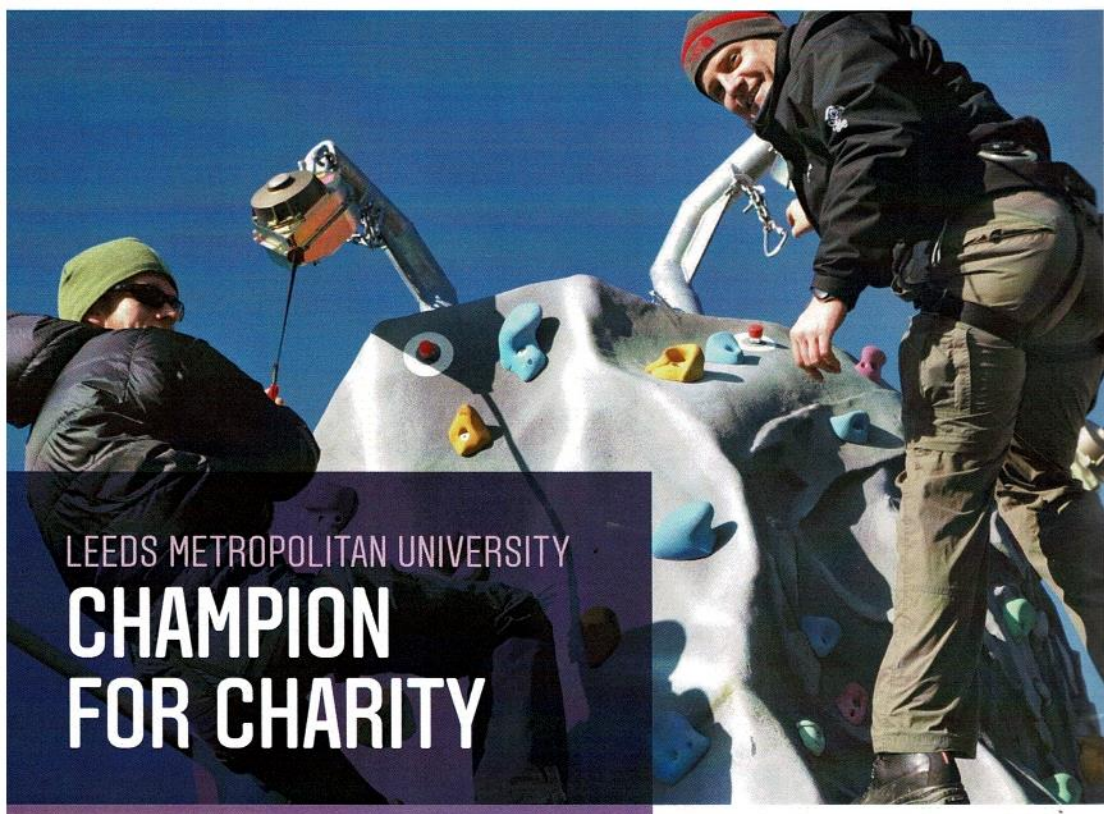
We know we have our work cut out today but please keep up your support for the lads and make as much noise as possible.

Enjoy the game!



**Chris Hamilton**  
Chief Executive





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## EYE, EYE! Unlucky Clarke Ready To Bounce Straight Back

Chris Clarke needs to get rid of that No 13 jersey as soon as he can. The unlucky Oldham boy suffered another setback last Sunday -- the extension to a shocking spell of bad luck --- when he damaged his right eye in a pre-match warm-up at the Neath home of South Wales Scorpions.

This latest injury for the young forward happened just ten minutes before kick off and forced coach Tony Benson into a major reshuffle of his forwards in which Alex Thompson moved off the bench into the second-row and Tony B's assistant, Martin Roden, stepped up from 18th man to substitute.

Said Clarky: "It was a pure accident, obviously. There were a few of us in a tackle while warming up and a stray finger went into my eye. It was a bit scary at first because it hurt and I lost the sight out of it." Roughyeds were advised medically to get Chris to hospital, so chairman Chris Hamilton drove him all the way to Swansea

(30 minutes) to be examined by the hospital's eye specialist, who came in from home on a weekend afternoon specially to examine his patient.

While all this was going on young Thommo (pictured on the front cover) was doing a sterling job in the second row as Roughyeds came back from 12-30 down to force a 36-36 draw and then to have a late try disallowed.

Happily all turned out okay, with Roughyeds coming away with two hard-fought points and Clarky finally being assured by the specialist that there was nothing seriously wrong with his eye.

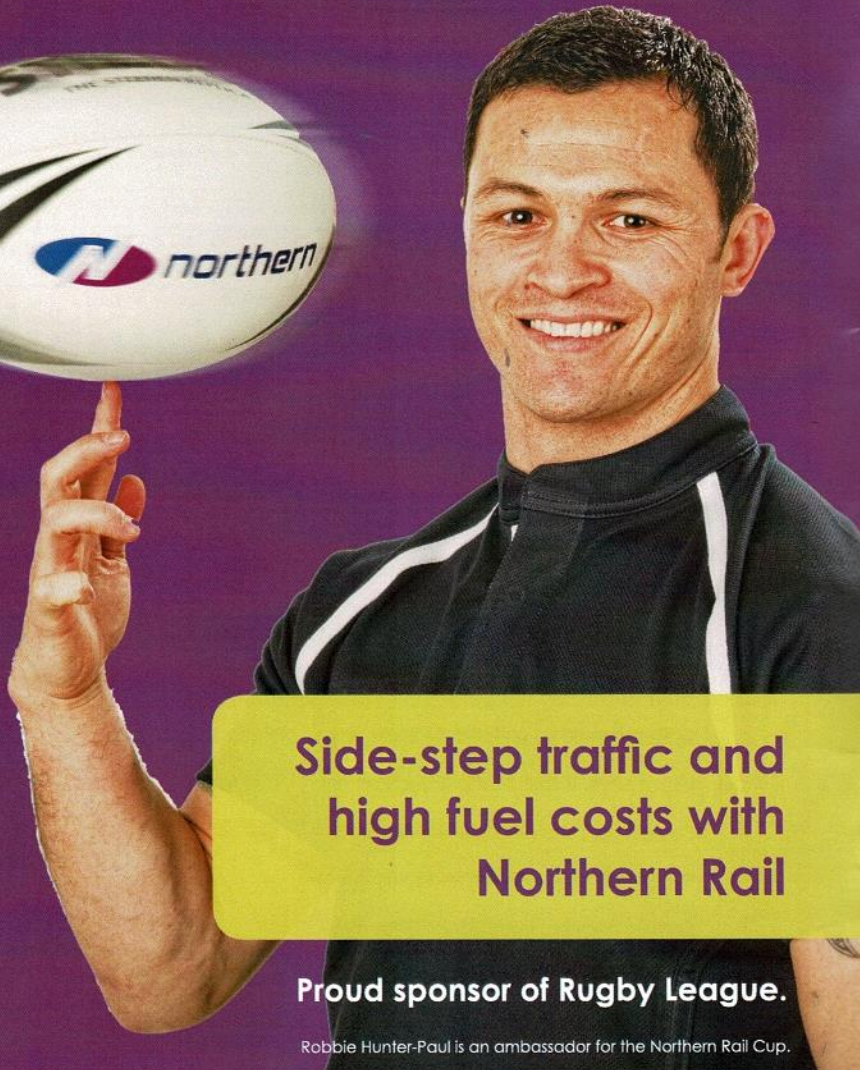
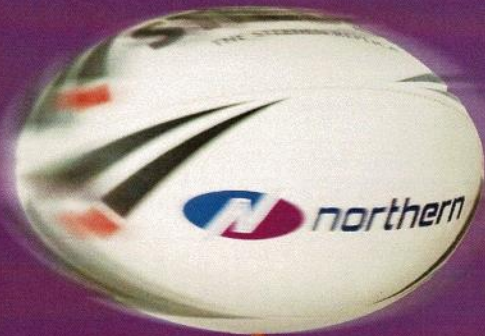
By Monday tea time nearly all the pain had gone; his sight was restored; and he was already talking about his upcoming battle to get back into the side against Dewsbury Rams today.



**Chris Clarke**  
Back Row  
Forward



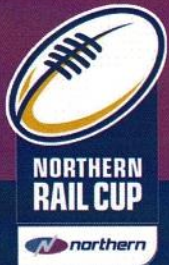
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## TALK from the dug out

IT'S been a tough few weeks here at Roughyeds HQ.

Building ourselves up for another game only for it to be cancelled certainly takes its toll mentally on the players.

Their game starts on the previous Monday, making sure they eat and drink right to aid recovery from the game the day before. Mentally, they'll be picking themselves up from a poor performance or trying to recapture what made them go well.

At Tuesday's training we have a look at some of the smaller, more detailed areas of our game and aim to improve with the use of video, followed by practice.

Wednesday will be a gym session, probably including rehab for some players, then its back to training on Thursday with a gruelling conditioning session and then on to the pitch to develop and improve team work. Fridays are for weights and rehab to get those niggly injuries as good as they can be by Sunday.

Saturday morning means an early start and off to training where we put it all together and practice our game plan. Then it's Sunday, the crescendo, game day! Nice if we are at home, a bit of a sleep-in but if it's away the lads have to get up early to prepare and meet the bus. You can now imagine how players feel when they receive a text mid morning Sunday to say the game is off after all the commitment, sacrifices and mental build up they have put in through the week.

On the other hand imagine what it must be like for players when a Wednesday night game in very heavy and taxing conditions, against one of the best teams outside Super League, is thrown into the middle of it all. Then four days later you've got to be up around 6am to get on a bus at 7.30am for the six-hour trip to South Wales. Still sore and tired, you get off the bus and play one and a half hours later.

As if things aren't bad enough you lose a significant player in the warm-up and have to reshuffle people in key positions at the last minute. You won't get a single moan out of these men, as we witnessed at Neath last Sunday. They just got on and did the best they could. I'm in no way pleased with a lot of our game and, like you, I wanted a win. But I'm encouraged by the improvement from the Featherstone game.

We've got a lot of work to do, but to mount such a significant comeback in the second half of a very hard match was phenomenal. We were down to bare bones and out on our feet but we refused to give up when everything was stacked against us . . . and that's why I'm so proud of each and every one of the boys who pulled on an Oldham shirt last Sunday.



**Tony Benson**  
Head Coach

### Oldham Rugby League Football Club

#### How get in touch with us:

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Fax: 0161 627 5700

Skype: Oldham.rlfc

Email: [janetorlfc@btconnect.com](mailto:janetorlfc@btconnect.com)

Twitter - Oldham Roughyeds

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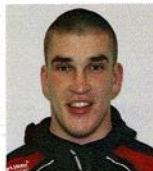
**Alex Thompson**  
Loose Forward  
Born 11-02-90  
Sponsor: WILSCAFF



**Jamie Dallimore**  
Halfback  
Born 20-08-88  
Sponsor: The Junction



**Matthew Fogarty**  
Centre  
Born 16-02-92  
Sponsor: Rob the Gardener



**David Cookson**  
Backrow Forward Centre  
Born 01-10-88  
Sponsor: Oldham RLFC Players Association



**Shaun Robinson**  
Winger/ FullBack,  
Born 13-07-89  
Sponsor: Hillcrest Electrical Contracting Ltd.



**Mark Brocklehurst**  
Utility Back  
Born 27-09-85  
Sponsor: John Barratt



**Danny Whitmore**  
Hooker  
Born 22-12-88  
Sponsor:



**Liam Gilchrist**  
Prop-Forward  
Born 28-03-89  
Sponsor: ORSA



**Danny Heaton**  
Prop-Forward  
Born 19-04-1981  
Sponsor:



**Mark McCully**  
Centre  
Born 24-10-79  
Sponsor:



**John Gillam**  
Winger  
Born 15-10-84  
Sponsor: Nigel Marland



**John Clough**  
Hooker  
Born 13-09-84  
Sponsor: Mick Harrop



**Chris Clarke**  
Back Row Forward  
Born 29-03-89  
Sponsor: Paul Whalley & Kyle Cook



**Paul Smith**  
Back Row Forward  
Born 17-05-77  
Sponsor: John & Lynda McAndrew



**Jason Boults**  
Prop Forward  
Born 07-09-83  
Sponsor: Sue & Spanish Roughyeds



**Neil Rigby**  
Back Row Forward  
Born 05-02-86  
Sponsor: ORSA



**David Ellison**  
Prop Forward  
Born 02-04-82  
Sponsor: June & Julie Hibbert



**Neil Roden**  
Half Back  
Born 09-04-80  
Sponsor: OJT Communications



**Valu Bentley**  
Back Row Forward  
Born 09-10-82  
Sponsor: Sylvia David & Margaret



**Luke Stenchion**  
Prop Forward,  
Born 15-02-86  
Sponsor: Maureen & Peter Woodhead



**Bruce Johnson**  
Prop-Forward  
Born 26-01-84  
Sponsor:



**Paul Noone**  
Back row Forward  
Born 22-04-81  
Sponsor: Levers Fish and Chip restaurant



**Lucas Onyango**  
Winger  
Born 11-04-81  
Sponsor: Pam Taylor & TTX



**Chris Murphy**  
FullBack,  
Born 19-09-89  
Sponsor:



**Miles Greenwood**  
FullBack,  
Born 30-07-87  
Sponsor: AMP Wire



**Tom Rigby**  
Utility Back  
Born 06-12-90  
Sponsor:



**Jack Reid:**  
Utility  
Born 24-03-91  
Sponsor:



**Michael Ward**  
Back Row Forward  
Born 10-02-91  
Sponsor: Pizza Hut Oldham



**Paul Bollard**  
Full Back Winger  
Born 04-09-84  
Sponsor:



## Player PenPics 2012

To sponsor any of our players please contact Janet: 01616283677





**Full Name:** David Cookson

**DOB:** 1/10/1988

**Place of birth:** Rochdale

**Amateur Club(s):** Oldham St Anne's

**Previous clubs:** Rochdale Hornets (as an amateur)

**Playing position:** centre

**All time favourite player:** Keith Senior

**Favourite ground:** Millenium Stadium

**Career Highlight:** Playing in the same Hopwood Hall team as Danny Whitmore to win the Academy Cup for Hopwood for the first time.

**Hopes for the future:** To improve game by game and to hopefully make it to Super League one day.

**Signature**



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# DAVID COOKSON

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## David Cookson

IT'S so far, so good for David Cookson as he takes his first tentative steps into the minefield that is professional rugby league. A reserve-team centre last year, the 23-year-old former Oldham St Anne's and Great Britain under-23s amateur international has played in each of Oldham's four games so far -- two of them pre-season warm-up games -- and has suitably impressed as a rookie with exciting potential.

A centre or second-row forward, he has been contracted to Roughyeds to November 30, 2012 to follow the lead set by his reserve-team colleagues Jamie Dallimore and Danny Langtree.

Describing Cookson as an "exciting prospect", club chairman Chris Hamilton said: "He's played at centre, second-row and prop in our reserve team, and his strength and stature enable him to do that. But I would like to see him get an extended run at centre.

"The way he tackles, runs the ball and has an eye for a try make him ideally suited to play in the backs. It's up to him now to show the desire and put in the hard work to realise his full potential."

Said Cookson: "I'm not bothered where I play, so long as I'm on the field, but my preference would be centre or second-row. I've only played the odd game at prop, and I don't really think that's for me.

"I scored a few tries from centre in the reserves. I scored on my Oldham debut at Leigh in May and then I got a hat-trick when we hammered Sheffield Eagles at Whitebank a few weeks later. "Paul Ashton (Now Roughyeds' reserves coach, but back then the No 2) had watched me playing for St Anne's and invited me to Roughyeds for trials. I was chuffed to be offered a contract. Now I can't wait to get the chance to show what I can do at first-team level."

A native of Rochdale and a product of Matt Calland's Hopwood Hall RL Academy, Cookson has played for both Littleborough and Oldham Rugby Union clubs, but for the four years before he turned pro with Roughyeds he had

played rugby league with Oldham St Anne's. His list of representative honours in rugby league includes Lancashire at under-18s and open age; BARLA Great Britain under-23s; England Students; Ireland Students; and a National Conference League select side, the Eagles.

He travelled twice to the Ukraine with BARLA, in 2009 and 2010 when the tour party was captained by his now Roughyeds team mate Dallimore.

Three years earlier he played for England Students in France in a Euro Nations Cup alongside two more players who were later to play for Oldham, Danny Whitmore and Matty Barber. Said David: "Paul Ashton saw me play at Oldham St Anne's and invited me to play for Roughyeds Reserves to show what I could do.

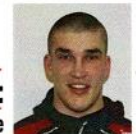
"I was offered a first-team contract on the strength of my performances in the reserves." Ashy isn't the only name who should figure strongly on Cookson's Christmas Card list. Others have given him a helping hand, while his full-time employers --- Rochdale-based electrical company Jackson and Jackson --- are doing all they can to give him the best possible chance of making it as a pro rugby league player as well as an accomplished electrician. David explains: "We tend to work all over the place, but the firm is very good in allowing me always to be back in Rochdale by 4.30-pm so I won't be late for training with the Roughyeds. It's a fine gesture by the firm and one I really appreciate. I'm loving being a member of the senior squad, improving as a player and learning new skills.

"I don't think the senior game at our level is as fast as the reserves ---- definitely a lot tougher and more physical, but not quite as fast I don't think.

"Before coming to Oldham I spent one season with Rochdale reserves as a trialist, but I always felt the set-up there wasn't as good as anything we can offer at Oldham.

"After two draws --- at Whitehaven in the friendly and then down in Wales last Sunday --- we need to get a win under our belts ."

**David Cookson:**  
Centre







## NEWS FLASH WHITE HAVEN FRIENDLY CALLED OFF

BY the time you read this update on the Reserves, Paul Ashton's squad might already have played its first pre-season friendly at Halifax, but the squad's first run-out at Whitebank will be next Saturday, March 3 when Whitehaven visit Whitebank for a 2pm kick off. Make a note in your diary because it will be very encouraging for the boys if they run out for their first home game, albeit a friendly, to the cheers of a decent crowd.

It will also set them up nicely for their first league game of the new season, which will be against Sheffield Eagles here at Whitebank five days later on Thursday, March 8, with a 7.45pm kick off.

All our home league games are fixed for Thursday nights at 7.45pm so please remember that Thursday night is Reserves night at Whitebank when the boys will be striving to emulate the success they enjoyed last season in bringing silverware to Whitebank.

This time there are six teams in the competition --- Oldham, Keighley, Featherstone, Sheffield, York and Halifax.

Ten games were not thought to be enough, but 20 were considered to be too many so a compromise situation has been reached which gives each club 16 games, eight at home and eight away.

We play York four times and each of the

others three times. We get Sheffield and Halifax twice at Whitebank but to balance that out we have to travel twice to Keighley and Featherstone Rovers. Pre-season training has been going on for a couple of months or so at the Hunt Lane track; on the 3G pitch at Hunt Lane; and also up at Strinesdale which has been the venue for hill work to build up fitness and stamina. Ashy currently has a squad of about 28, having lost players like Jamie Dallimore, Danny Langtree, David Cookson and Alex Thompson to the first-team squad. He recruited Jack Reid and Tom Rigby from Widnes, but early indications are that they might also be involved at senior level.

Another absentee, at least in the early part of the season, will be prop Matty Barber, who has been struggling to fit in his rugby alongside extra work commitments and longer hours.

Set again that, there are several new faces in the squad, including those of Craig Noon, a half-back from Salford, and Ben Bailey, a prop or second-row forward from the Widnes area.

"Everything has been going well," said Ashy, "and we are all eagerly looking forward to getting some action on the field after all those weeks of pre-season graft." It would be great to have another



## RESERVES NIGHT CONTINUED..

fantastic season -- and that's what we'll be striving for --- but at the end of the day success has to be measured in the quality and numbers of the players we get coming through into the first team. That's really what reserve-team football is all about."

Among the many players who have been retained from last year are Scott Mansfield, now fully fit after missing much of last year through injury, Kenny Hughes, Tommy Connick and Stephen Nield.



## RESERVES' CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES

<b>March</b>	Thursday 8th	Sheffield Eagles	H	7.45pm
	Saturday 17th	Keighley Cougars	A	2.30pm
	Saturday 31st	Featherstone Rovers	A	2.30pm
<b>April</b>	Thursday 5th	York City Knights	H	7.45pm
	Thursday 19th	Sheffield Eagles	H	7.45pm
<b>May</b>	Saturday 5th	Halifax	A	2.30pm
	Thursday 10th	Keighley	H	7.45pm
	Thursday 17th	York City Knights	A	8.00pm
	Saturday 26th	Featherstone Rovers	A	2.30pm
<b>June</b>	Thursday 7th	Halifax	H	7.45pm
	Thursday 14th	York	A	8.00pm
	Saturday 23rd	Keighley	A	2.30pm
	Thursday 28th	York	H	7.45pm
<b>July</b>	Saturday 14th	Sheffield	A	2.30pm
	Thursday 19th	Featherstone	H	7.45pm
<b>August</b>	Thursday 2nd	Halifax	H	7.45pm
	Saturday 11th	Play-off 2 v 3		
	Saturday 18th	Play off 1 v winners 2 v 3		





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## UP THE JUNCTION

FANS should note --- and particularly those who live on the Waterhead, Moorside, Water-sheddings, Derker side of town etc ---- that the Junction Inn at the corner of Ripponden Road and Huddersfield Road (opposite Hill Stores) will continue this season to lay on their transport service to matches, both home and away. This is a terrific gesture by Mike Nuttall and Mark Corbett, who run the pub jointly and are staunch Roughyeds supporters.

Their FREE service on the home run --- that's for matches at Whitebank ---- extends to both first team and reserve team games with transport leaving the Junction at 2pm and returning straight after the game.

Prices for away travel are kept to a minimum just to cover costs, but both both home and away matches it is advisable to inform Mike or Mark in advance, either over the bar or on 0161 633 2759.

They say: "Advance payment is required be-

fore a booking can be accepted in order to avoid footing the bill for no shows. We cannot reserve places without payment.

"To pay, see us at the bar or post us a cheque payable to The Junction Inn. Our address is The Junction Inn, 13 Ripponden Road, Oldham, OL1 4EW. Remember to enclose a contact number and the names of those travelling."

For the trip to Keighley next Sunday (2pm kick off) a minimum of 16 bookings are required for the trip to run. Booking deadline is 10pm on Thursday 1st March in order to give people a working day (Friday) to make alternative travel arrangements if we don't get enough bookings. Updates on booking numbers will be circulated. In the event of cancellation a full and immediate refund will be issued.

Fans are urged to book as early as possible so the Junction can give the bus company the green light before they get booked up with other jobs.



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# 2012 Fixtures

## Oldham RLFC Northern Rail Cup and Cooperative Championship One

FEBRUARY	<b>NRC</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Featherstone</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>L 68-0</b>
	NRC	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	South Wales	A	D 36-36
MARCH	<b>NRC</b>	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dewsbury</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
	NRC	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Keighley	A	2:00pm
	CC1	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Workington	A	3:00pm
	<b>CC1</b>	<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Gateshead</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
APRIL		Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Carnegie Challenge Cup Round 3		
	CC1	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Barrow</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
	CC1	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Rochdale	A	TBC
		Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Carnegie Challenge Cup Round 4		
	CC1	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	London	A	3:00pm
MAY		Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Carnegie Challenge Cup Round 5		
	<b>CC1</b>	<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NW Crusaders</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
	CC1	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Doncaster	A	3:00pm
		<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Whitehaven</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
JUNE		Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	South Wales	A	3:00pm
		Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Euro Weekend		
	CC1	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	NW Crusaders	A	2:30pm
JULY		Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Rail Cup Quarter Final		
	<b>CC1</b>	<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rochdale</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
	CC1	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Whitehaven	A	3:00pm
		Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Rail Cup Semi-Final		
AUGUST	<b>CC1</b>	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>London</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
	<b>CC1</b>	<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>South Wales</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
		Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Rail Cup Final		
	CC1	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Barrow	A	3:00pm
SEPTEMBER	<b>CC1</b>	<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Doncaster</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
	<b>CC1</b>	<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Workington</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
		Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Carnegie Challenge Cup Final		
OCTOBER	CC1	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gateshead	A	3:00pm
		Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Co-Operative Championships Play Off Games		
		Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Co-Operative Championships Play Off Games		
	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Co-operative Championships Grand Final			
	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Super League Grand Final			



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