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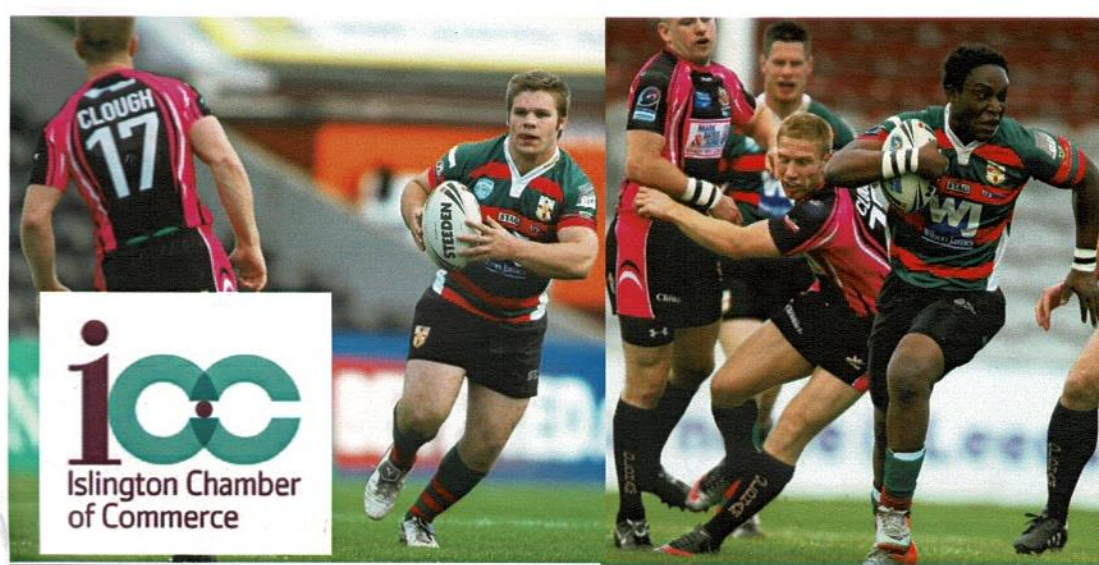
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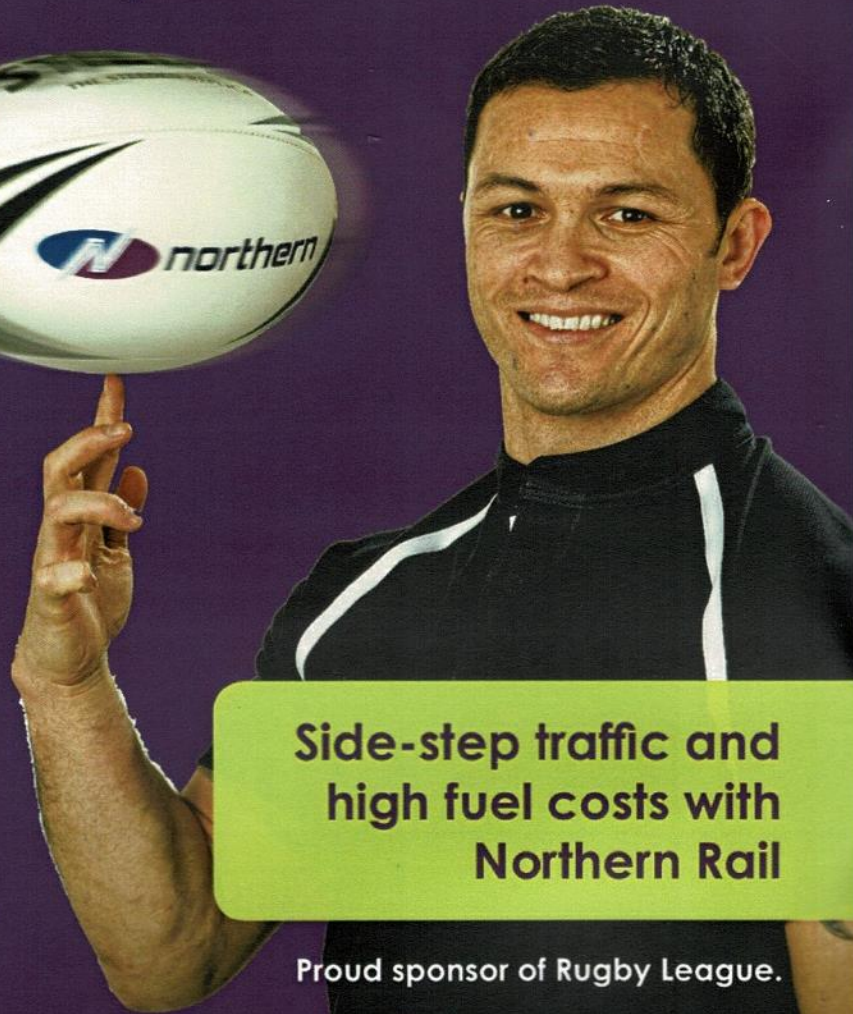
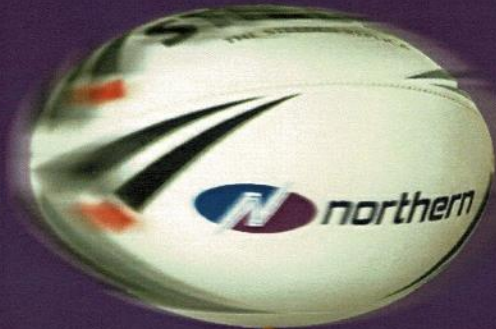


**London Skolars RLFC
Official Match Day Programme £2.50**

**London Skolars v Oldham
22 April 2012**



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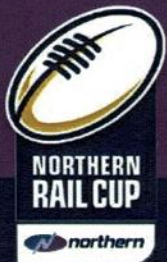


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Club Information

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Chairman London Skolars Limited: Terry Browne
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Presidents Club: Harold Nass
General Manager: Howard Kramer
Commercial Manager: Rob Noble
Administration: Haidee Kramer
Community Development: Paul Thorman
Community Sports Coaches: Graeme Spencer, Neil Thorman

Coaching Team: Joe Mbu, Todd Egan, Marcus Tobin, Matt Thomas, Laura Dunstan, James Lockyer

Video: Barry Watson
Programme: Andrew Jackson, Howard Kramer, Paul Thorman, Dave Farrar
Photos: Gary Baker, Paul Thorman
Front cover: Top: Olly Purslow and Austen Aggrey in action against Oldham last season
Bottom: Dave Arnot (also against Oldham) and Joe Price (in action against North Wales Crusaders)



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Boardroom View



A warm welcome to everyone here today, especially to the players, officials and supporters of Oldham.

With just one of our first four games in Co-operative Championship 1 being at home, today's game is a key one for us. Oldham have started the league campaign well and will be difficult opposition today. But this is the type of game that we definitely need to win if we are to challenge seriously for promotion this season.

Easter weekend was disappointing for us, particularly the game against Doncaster, where we never really competed. Seeing that one of Leigh and Halifax will make the quarter finals of the Carnegie Challenge Cup shows that we aren't that far away; we put in strong performances against both those sides. Today we need to make sure we put in an even stronger performance against a club in our own division.

We also welcome Islington Chamber of Commerce to the game today as match sponsors. They organise networking events, facilitate business growth and development, encourage trade, encourage employment and lobby for businesses, initiatives that are key in difficult economic conditions. With Bradford Bulls currently in well publicised financial difficulties, the business aspect of the sport is key to any club, something which Howard Kramer looks at in more detail elsewhere in today's programme.

Enjoy The Game

Terry Browne
 Chairman, London Skolars



Co-operative Championship 1 League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	BP	Pts
Workington	4	3	0	1	111	66	+45	1	10
Barrow	4	3	0	1	117	76	+41	1	10
Oldham	4	3	0	1	106	72	+34	1	10
Doncaster	4	3	0	1	160	69	+91	0	9
Rochdale	4	3	0	1	118	62	+56	0	9
Whitehaven	4	2	0	2	88	106	-18	0	6
London Skolars	4	1	0	3	106	137	-31	1	4
South Wales	4	1	0	3	76	150	-74	1	4
Crusaders	4	1	0	3	92	168	-76	1	4
Gateshead	4	0	0	4	74	142	-68	2	2



Skolars' Fixture List 2012

JANUARY						
Sun	15th	New River	London Broncos Under 20s	D 42-42	1.00 PM	Friendly
Sat	21st	Colchester	Colchester Army Barracks	W 0-54	1.00 PM	Friendly
Fri	27th	HAC	London Broncos	L 14-42	2.00 PM	Friendly - Capital Challenge
FEBRUARY						
Sun	19th	Mount Pleasant	Batley Bulldogs	L 50-16	2.30 PM	Northern Rail Cup
Sun	26th	The Gnoll, Neath	South Wales Scorpions	W 38-30	3.00 PM	Northern Rail Cup
MARCH						
Sun	4th	New River	Halifax	L 12-16	3.00 PM	Northern Rail Cup
Sun	11th	Spotland Stadium	Rochdale Hornets	L 36-4	3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	18th	New River	North Wales Crusaders	W 66-16	3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sat	24th	New River	Leigh Centurions	L 26-43	3.00 PM	Carnegie Challenge Cup R3
APRIL						
Sun	1st	Derwent Park	Workington Town	L 27-20	2.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Fri	6th	Keepmoat Stadium	Doncaster RLFC	L 58-16	3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Mon	9th	New River	Toulouse Olympique XIII	L 16-32	12.30 PM	Northern Rail Cup
Sun	22nd	New River	Oldham		3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
MAY						
Sun	6th	Recreation Ground	Whitehaven		2.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	13th	New River	South Wales Scorpions		3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	20th	Craven Park	Barrow Raiders		2.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	27th	New River	Gateshead Thunder		2.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
JUNE						
Sun	10th	New River	Workington Town		2.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	17th		NRC quarter-finals			Northern Rail Cup
Sun	24th	The Gnoll, Neath	South Wales Scorpions		3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
JULY						
Sun	1st	New River	Barrow Raiders		2.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	8th		NRC semi-finals			Northern Rail Cup
Sun	15th	Whitebank Stadium	Oldham		3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	22nd	Gateshead International Stadium	Gateshead Thunder		2.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	29th		NRC Final			Northern Rail Cup
AUGUST						
Sun	5th	New River	Rochdale Hornets		3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	12th	Racecourse Ground, Wrexham	North Wales Crusaders		2.30 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Fri	24th	New River	Whitehaven		6.30 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sat	25th	Wembley	Challenge Cup Final			Carnegie Challenge Cup
SEPTEMBER						
Sun	2nd	New River	Doncaster		3.00 PM	Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	9th, 16th, 23rd		Play-offs			Cooperative Championship 1
Sun	30th		Play-off final			Cooperative Championship 1

Next week sees three of our junior sides in action. The Under 18s take on Barking & Dagenham at New River, whilst the Under 16s and the Under 12s travel to Brixton. The Under 14s do not have a game.

The 'A' team entertain Hammersmith Hills Hoists in the opening game of the Southern Premier division. A full fixture list for the 'A' team is on page 19 of this match day programme.

View from the Dug Out

Skolars' Head Coach Joe Mbu on a key new signing and the performances over Easter



Welcome to everyone to New River for today's game.

Having picked out Mike Worrincy as a key member of the Leigh Centurions in my last programme notes, I'm delighted that he's now on board with us. It's a big step forward for us to have a player with 83 appearances at Super League level under his belt. Having that experience in the side will help the players around him as well. Most of the other clubs in this division have players of that level of experience in their sides, Jamie Rooney at South Wales and Paul Cooke at Doncaster being two of the higher profile players.

The latter brings me to our games over Easter Weekend. Neither performance was what we wanted. After picking up a bonus point at Doncaster, but they rolled us over. We conceded far too many penalties, something we've not done this season, and that gave the Dons far too much possession and territory. The impact of lack of discipline is something I hope the guys have really learned from that game.

The Toulouse game gave me the opportunity to look at a few of the guys that have been on the fringes of the 17 this season. Toulouse also played guys in a similar position, though clearly Nathan Ross was a quality act and was the difference between the two

sides. That game also showed, not for the first time, that a side can have a player sent off and actually raise their game. We should have been able to make that advantage count. Last week's Carnegie Challenge Cup game between Featherstone Rovers and Castleford Tigers demonstrated what a ruthless side can do when they have numerical superiority. Featherstone scored three tries during a ten minute sin-binning and that was the turning point of the match.

The break week has given us chance to regather and, in a few cases, recover from a few knocks and minor injuries. Although the season lasts from February to September, the league campaign of 18 games is relatively short, so having a squad at nearly full strength is quite important.

Oldham have a lot of experienced players. Paul Noone has played over a hundred games in Super League, but there is a lot of experience elsewhere with the likes of John Clough and Neil Roden. Dave Ellison returns to New River and everyone that remembers him at New River will know he never takes a backward step. It's also good to see that Tony Benson has brought on a lot of local talent in his four years at Oldham. It's an area that has produced a lot of talent over the last few years (Iestyn Harris, Kevin Sinfield, Chris Joynt to name but three) but many have not played for their hometown team.

Joe Mbu is sponsored by Office Team



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Community News

Skolars' Community Manager Paul Thorman looks at a cross-code challenge for a common purpose and international honours at student level



Skolars in Cross Code Challenge

The London Skolars under 16s took to the field with one of the most famous names in world rugby over Easter where they were involved in a truly unique event playing a cross code challenge game against north London Rugby Union club, Saracens. The game, held at Bramley Road Sports Ground, was hosted by Barnet and Southgate College with each code featuring; Rugby Union being played in the first half and Rugby League being played in the second half.

Predictably, Saracens came out on top in the Union code with Skolars Juniors showing their mettle, winning the 13 man game. Although it reignited the old cross code rivalry, the initiative highlighted the partnership between both clubs and was dreamt up by the staff and coaches involved in the College of Rugby Education (CORE) and Skolars and Saracens Foundation as an opportunity to showcase the college and course, both clubs, allowing Barnet and Southgate College to recruit for the 2012-13 academic year intake at the same time.

Skolars Community Coach, Graeme Spencer, who leads on CORE delivery for the Skolars and was a key coordinator for the Cross Code challenge said, "The Skolars boys really enjoyed playing in such a novel and high profile event, even more so due to the fact that there was some local pride at stake. The event itself has been a resounding success and has allowed members from both clubs to find out precisely the opportunities they have educationally and Rugby wise in the area."



Dion Chapman Selected in England Students Squad

The Skolars have a rich heritage within Student Rugby League, from their formative years right up to present day, with several student international players on the club's books in recent years. North London local Dion Chapman (right) is the latest on the production line of talented youngsters to be given the opportunity to shine at international level after being selected in the England Students squad following the recently held SRL Regional Championships. Dion, who captained the South East region to the runners up spot losing narrowly to Yorkshire in the final, has been a Skolars Junior for several years initially getting involved through his school, Broomfield. He also went through Barnet and Southgate College's Skolars run CORE programme and is set to attend another of Skolars' partner educational institutes, Middlesex University, later this year. He made his first team debut in the game against Toulouse earlier this month

South East students head coach and RFL London Regional Development Officer, Andy Gilvary, said of Chapman, "From a coaching perspective, and the entire programme's point of view, Dion was an absolute pleasure to have involved. Not only have his performances on the field earned him an England call up, but he represented the London Skolars in the most positive of ways. His attitude was exceptional and he was a true leader both on and off the field. I do believe that without the likes of London Skolars and the CORE he may not have had this opportunity. Dion is a credit to the Club and the College and all the work that goes on in North London."





Player Profile

Joe Price is due to make his 50th appearance for the club in his third spell at New River

Name: Joe Price

Preferred playing position: Centre

Nickname: Pricey, JP

Occupation: Teacher

Date of birth: 7/1/85

Place of birth: Isleworth, London

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 85kg

Previous Clubs: Harlequins RL, Ealing Trailfinders RFC

Representative Honours: England Colleges Under 19s

Do you have any pre/post game rituals? Just lucky match pants

Favourite meal/type of food: Roast dinner, steak

Favourite Drink: Max Fuel (from JST)

Favourite Band/artist: Drake

Favourite TV show: Take Me Out, Game of Thrones, Spartacus

Name a famous person you would like to be ? Ron Burgundy (Anchor Man)

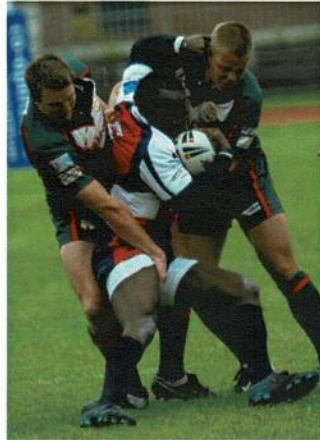
What made you get into rugby league ? Watching Friday Night Super League

	Starts	Sub	Apps	T	G	DG	Pts
2005	24	0	24	2	0	0	8
2007	11	6	17	3	0	0	12
2012	8	0	85	4	0	0	16
Total for Skolars	43	6	49	9	0	0	36

Skolars' debut: 20 February 2005 v Halifax (A)

Right: Top and bottom - Price in action against North Wales this season

Middle: against Oldham in 2007, Price and Martyn Benson tackle Lucas OInyango



Proud Sponsors of London Skolars RLFC, Arriva would like to wish the Skolars' squad every success for the 2012 season



ARRIVA



Today's Visitors

A look at Oldham - grand finalists in four of the last five seasons and again in contention for promotion this season

Former Skolars' coach Tony Benson is in his fourth season with Oldham. He's joined by another ex-Skolar - prop forward Dave Ellison. It's Ellison's third season with Oldham, after playing 58 games for Skolars. His hard-working approach gained him a place in last season's Championship 1 end of season dream team.

Former Widnes and Crusaders Paul Ballard joined the club at the start of the season. He joins a backline that already has considerable experience.

Winger John Gillam started playing with Oldham St Anne's, with spells at Rochdale and Blackpool joining the Roughyeds at the start of the 2010 season. Fellow winger Lucas Onyango was born in Kenya, who he represented at Rugby Union 7s in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. He switched codes with Widnes Vikings, signing for Oldham in 2007. Two other players who have come up through the local junior ranks are Mark Brocklehurst, who started with amateur club Waterhead before joining Rochdale Hornets and Matthew Fogarty (Saddleworth Rangers).

Stand-off Neil Roden has been with the club since 2000 apart from stints with Batley and Leigh in 2005 and 2006 and holds the records for most games and most tries for Oldham since the club was reformed in 1997. Combining with him at half-back is likely to be fellow Wiganer Jamie Dallimore.

Prop forward Jason Boult is in his fifth season with the club following a move from Halifax. Joining him upfront is Liam Gilchrist, a former England and Great Britain Student international. Another prop with international experience is Luke Stencheon. The 26 year old toured down under with the

England Academy in 2004 before spells at Batley Bulldogs and Dewsbury Rams.

Half-back/hooker Danny Whitmore is another Oldham grown player, starting with Waterhead, joining Oldham in 2010 after a spell with Salford City Reds. Hooker John Clough hails from St Helens, but made his pro debut at Salford City Reds, before spells at Leigh and Blackpool Panthers.

Second row forward Paul Noone has 119 Super League appearances with Warrington Wolves under his belt, also playing for Widnes Vikings, Barrow Raiders and Harlequins (7 games on loan from the Wolves in 2006), before joining Oldham in 2011.

Also in the second row Chris Clarke is another player who started with Oldham St Anne's, joining Oldham in 2010. Loose forward Valu Bentley originates from New Zealand, but has played for much of his career in France, with his two brothers playing at international level for France.

Head To Head

Skolars only win against Oldham came at The Stoop last season when they won 36-34. The other game where there was a 2 point margin was at Boundary Park in 2007 when Oldham won 28-26. This was the last league game of the season and Skolars could make the play-offs if they won and results elsewhere went their way. After Byron Ford had scored two tries for the home side, Skolars came back from a 22-6 half-time deficit, with Corey Simms scoring two tries. At 26 apiece Skolars were taking control, but a late penalty for Gareth Morton gave the Roughyeds the win.

Head to Head

Competition		P	W	D	L	Points scored	
						Skolars	Oldham
CC1	Home	5	1	0	4	76	234
	Away	5	0	0	5	106	196
All Games		10	1	0	9	182	430

Today's Squad Line-Ups



Man of The Match

The Skolars' Man of The Match award is sponsored by The Mall, Wood Green Shopping City.



- Ade Adebisi
- Austen Aggrey
- Dave Arnot
- James Anthony
- Alex Bate
- Oliver Bloom
- Lamont Bryan
- Danny Burke
- Cariern Clement-Pascall
- Jermaine Coleman
- Will Colleran
- Brad Hopkins
- Lameck Juma
- Smokie Junor
- Andy McLean
- Chris McNamara
- Jaroslaw Obuchowski
- John Paxton
- Joe Price
- Oliver Purslow
- Joe Ridley
- Louis Robinson
- James Roche
- Dylan Skee
- Aaron Small
- Martyn Smith
- Matt Thomas
- Rob Thomas
- Neil Thorman
- David Williams
- Mike Worrincy

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- Valu Bentley
- Jason Boult
- Mark Brocklehurst
- Chris Clarke
- John Clough
- David Cookson
- Jamie Dallimore
- Dave Ellison
- Matthew Fogarty
- Liam Gilchrist
- John Gillam
- Miles Greenwood
- Danny Heaton
- Bruce Johnson
- Danny Langtree
- Mark McCulley
- Chris Murphy
- Paul Noone
- Lucas Onyango
- Jack Reid
- Neil Rigby
- Tom Rigby
- Shaun Robinson
- Neil Roden
- Paul Smith
- Luke Stencheon
- Alex Thompson
- Michael Ward
- Danny Whitmore

Match Officials

Referee: John Cobb

Touch Judges: Bertrand Leze, Sinon Matthews

Scoring Sequence

Skolars																				
Oldham																				



Skolars' Statistics

Player	Sponsor	2012 season							Career						
		Starts	Subs	Total	T	G	DG	Points	Starts	Subs	Total	T	G	DG	Points
143 Ade Adebisi	Ann & Steven Morgan	8	-	8	7	-	-	28	46	2	48	37	-	-	148
93 Austen Aggrey	Alan Greenwood	2	5	7	1	-	-	4	151	22	173	57	-	-	228
213 Dave Arnot	JST Nutrition	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	30	2	32	8	-	-	32
242 James Anthony	Lanes Coaches	7	-	7	2	-	-	8	24	-	24	10	-	-	40
254 Alex Bate	Momento Print	6	2	8	1	-	-	4	6	2	8	1	-	-	4
189 Oliver Bloom		1	-	1	1	-	-	4	28	12	40	7	-	-	28
244 Ben Bolger		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	2	-	-	8
220 Lamont Bryan		7	-	7	2	-	-	8	19	1	20	5	-	-	20
192 Danny Burke		1	1	2	-	-	-	-	10	17	27	1	-	-	4
260 Dion Chapman		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
237 Carriern Clement-Pascall		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	12	16	3	-	-	12
76 Jermaine Coleman		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111	5	116	19	14	-	104
247 Will Collieran		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	8	1	9	1	-	-	4
258 James Fletcher		-	1	1	1	-	-	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	4
254 Brad Hopkins	Greenfox Cars and Courier Services	3	1	4	4	-	-	16	3	1	4	4	-	-	16
250 Lameck Juma		3	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
202 Smokie Junior		2	-	2	2	-	-	8	23	3	26	6	-	-	24
268 Connor McDonald		-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
251 Andy McLean	Finance Claims Company	8	-	8	1	2	-	8	8	-	8	1	2	-	8
249 Chris McNamara	SRL Alumni	7	-	7	1	-	-	4	8	-	8	1	-	-	4
196 Jaroslaw Obuchowski		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	22	8	30	7	-	-	28
201 John Paxton	SRL Alumni	7	-	7	1	-	-	4	39	2	41	13	-	-	52
107 Joe Price		8	-	8	4	-	-	16	43	6	49	9	-	-	36
217 Oliver Purslow	City Cruises	-	8	8	1	-	-	4	38	18	56	5	-	-	20
255 Joe Ridley		1	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-
252 Louis Robinson	Ablestoke Consulting	1	4	5	1	-	-	4	1	4	5	1	-	-	4
257 James Roche		1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
238 Dylan Skee	Dylan Skee fitness	8	-	8	4	22	-	60	34	-	34	10	62	1	165
231 Aaron Small		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	15	1	16	1	-	-	4
253 Martyn Smith	Osbornes Accountants	1	6	7	1	-	-	4	1	6	7	1	-	-	4
178 Matt Thomas	Zealandor Investments Limited	5	1	6	2	-	-	8	64	6	72	29	-	-	116
204 Rob Thomas		7	-	7	2	-	-	8	12	1	13	2	-	-	8
235 Neil Thorman	LoveRugbyLeague.com	8	-	8	1	2	-	8	30	-	30	7	24	-	76
200 Andre Vine		8	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	10	15	-	-	-	-
216 David Williams	FNC General	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	20	3	23	3	-	-	12
256 Mike Worrincy	S P Soyrou and Co	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-

Joe Price is due to make his 50th appearance for the club today. Ade Adebisi is one game behind. He also needs two more points to pass the 150 mark for the club.

Player Sponsorship - your chance to get involved

Sponsoring a player provides an affordable opportunity for companies and fans to support a player, as well as the Club, and get involved with London Skolars RLFC

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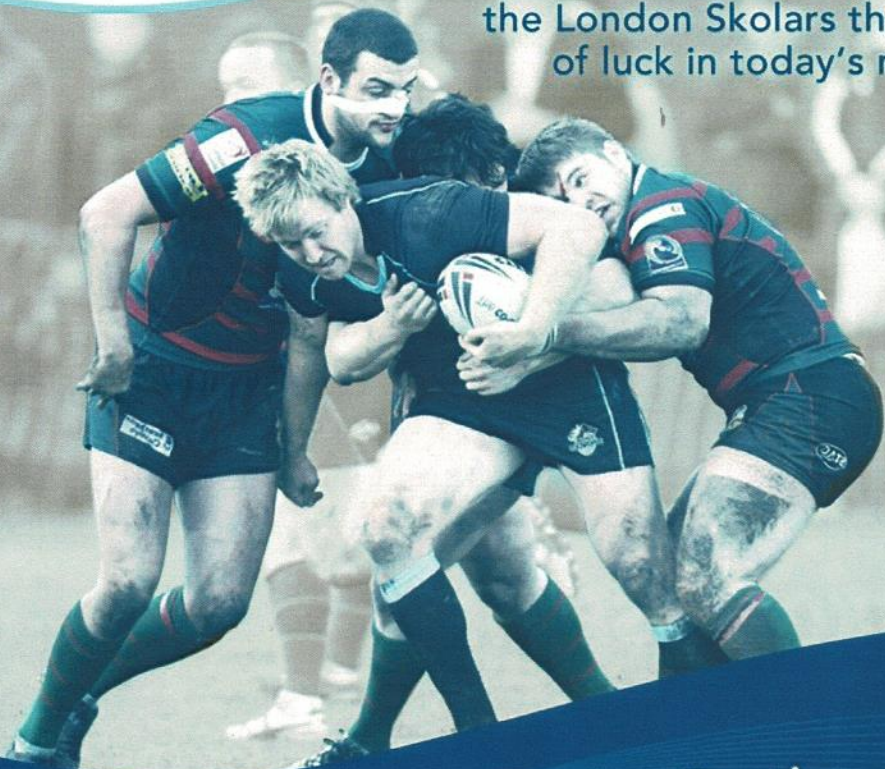
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The ProMedical team wishes the London Skolars the best of luck in today's match.



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This Month in Time

A look back at Skolars' history 5, 10 and 15 years ago



1997

Skolars beat Brent Ealing 40-24 in their last league game of the season, with Brett Sinclair scoring on his debut. However, results elsewhere meant that they could not retain their league title. They'd lost just two games and drew one, but London Colonials finished two points ahead, with Brent Ealing third, just ahead of Hemel Hempstead, with the second team winning the Second division East.

The London Cup final also saw Colonials victorious, beating Skolars 64-14, a disappointing end to the season. Skolars also went on an Easter Tour, beating Blackpool Stanley 8-40.

Skolars and 14 other clubs had applied to join National Conference League, which was the premier amateur competition running from August to April. Oxford Cavaliers were the only other southern club to apply. Things were also moving quickly in the set-up of a summer competition.

2002

The club was drawn in the southern group of the Rugby League Conference along with West London Sharks, South London Storm, Crawley Jets and Kingston Warriors. The expansion of the league meant that there would be a second stage of group games with the top 3 competing against the top 3 from the Wales and West division. The opening round of league games was scheduled for May.

2007

April saw the start of the league campaign. Good Friday saw Skolars take on Celtic Crusaders for the third time in six weeks. The visitors raced to an early 12 point lead before Jermaine Coleman and Chris Shears scored to narrow the margin. Celtic were to win the league that season and they showed that dominance with six unanswered tries before late tries for Kurt Pittman and Coleman for a final 18-42 scoreline. The game saw the return of Rubert Jonker after over a year out through injury.

Easter Monday saw a trip to York and Skolars suffered a similar defeat, this time 40-18. A try for Dene Miller

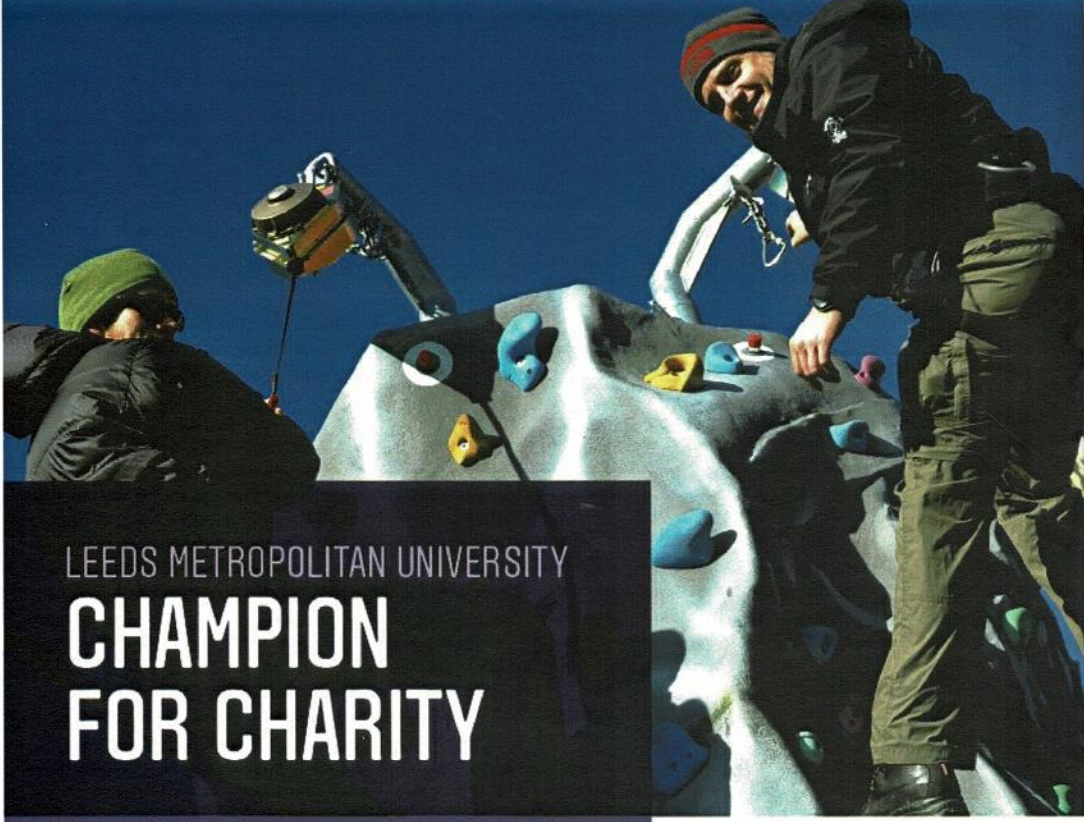
two minutes before half-time saw Skolars go in 24-4 at the break. He scored a second with Alan Barker and Corey Simms also recording tries, Paul Thorman kicking one goal.

The following week saw Skolars come close to a win against Swinton. Ironically it was a local boy who did the damage for the Lions, with Desi Williams from Palmers Green notching up a hat-trick against his old junior club. On a windy day at Sedgley Park, Swinton attacked with two 40-20 kicks, which both led to tries. Joe Price slipped a ball inside for Jonker to score, with Lydan Maitua also touching down. A 26-8 half-time scoreline looked unassailable, but Skolars worked hard to get back into the game. Two breaks by Alan Barker put the Lions under pressure with Maitua and Will Webster scoring tries. Williams' third try sealed the game for the home side. It was the first season that the bonus point system in operation for a point for a team losing by less than 12 points, so Pete Hodgkinson's late try was both a consolation and at 34-26 ensured Skolars' first league point of the year.

The final game in April also saw Skolars record a bonus point, though after spending most of the second half camped on Workington's line, they might have hoped for better than a 12-22 defeat. They had twice led early in the game. Will Webster's early penalty saw Workington respond with a Darren King try, but Hodgkinson re-established the lead. Town scored two tries before the break, both for Liam Campbell. The second half saw Skolars dominate a scrappy half but they couldn't make inroads until Frank Reid's try on 67 minutes. King added a second late on to secure the win for the visitors.

Right: Will Webster in action from 2007 with Jamie Nowland and Joe Price in the background





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Is there life outside the M62 corridor

Dave Farrar's inimitable views on the structure of Co-operative Championship 1

Our visitors Oldham Roughyeds, and Rochdale Hornets share an unusual distinction in British RL this season as they will be the only two sides from the traditional 'M62' corridor to compete in Championship One. Although all sides will have travelled vast distances, the Skolars for instance over 4,000 miles, I suggest it will be harder for these sides as they will be playing in some areas that are comparatively new to the game.

Ever since Coventry tried their luck at the sport in 1910, there have been sporadic attempts to expand the game to other parts of the country but at least in our division it seems to be working. Next year with the addition of Hemel and Northampton and possibly two more the profile could change even further. The last round of the Challenge Cup saw

two Welsh sides, the London Broncos and Gateshead all in the last thirty two and this could show the world outside the Rugby League bubble that it is not just a northern game.

Can I pay my condolences to the family of Tony 'Tank' Gordon', the former London Crusaders and New Zealand coach who passed away last weekend. Tony did a great job at the Crusaders taking the side to Old Trafford and playing some of the most exhilarating rugby ever seen in London. A sad loss.

Enjoy the game

Dave Farrar
Follow me on twitter @brancoskolar

Play Touch Rugby League

Do you want a fun way to get fit, burn calories, build muscle tone and have fun with your friends without having to go to the gym? Well you can do all those things by playing touch Rugby League.

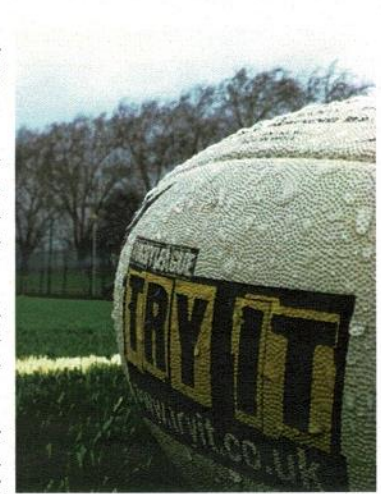
A new competition is kicking off at White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre, White Hart Lane in May. Play Touch Rugby League is a fast, skilful and action-packed six-a-side team sport played in a fun, social atmosphere but without any of the tackling you see in a traditional game.

It's a fast moving, minimal contact, evasive game that's played throughout the world by men and women of all ages and skill levels. You can enjoy it whether you are new to the sport or a seasoned player.

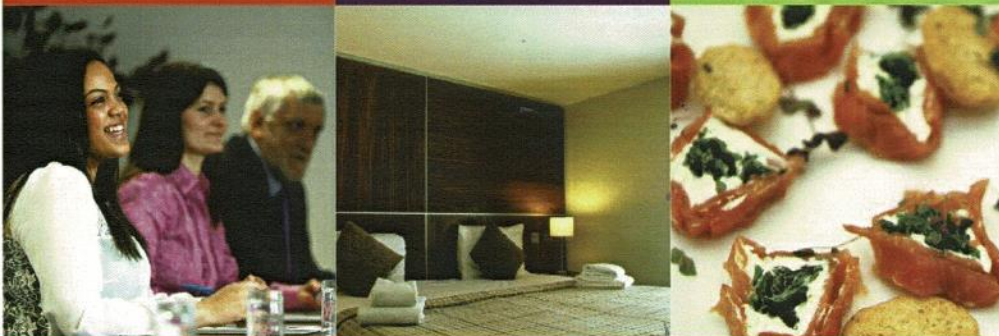
Touch is a great way of meeting people or involving partners or friends and is ideal for team building. You can come along as an individual or alternatively form a team with your friends or workmates.

Here are the details:

Venue: White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre, White Hart Lane, Wood Green N22 5QW
Date: 24th May - 26th July (Thursday nights - 10 weeks) Time: 7pm
Cost: £300 per team (up to 10) / £30 individual entry
London Skolars Contact: Paul Thorman 020 8888 8488 or paulthorman@skolarsrl.com
Contact: Jennifer Morris 07775511071 or Jennifer.Morris@rfl.uk.com



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London Skolars 'A'

The reserve team's season is about to get underway

Skolars' reserve team's season gets underway in earnest next week with a tough start – playing last season's Southern Premier champions, Hammersmith Hills Hoists. The division is always a tough one, the national champions of the Rugby League Conference have come from this division in 4 of the last 6 seasons and 7 times in all since Skolars first won the competition back in 1997. 1998 saw the competition become the Rugby League Conference and the introduction of the Harry Jepson trophy. As a result of the restructuring of the community game, the RLC no longer exists, but the Harry Jepson trophy will now be played for by the winners of each of the regional premier leagues.

Even though the southern division didn't produce the RLC champions last season, there is a still a national trophy winner in the division, with Elmbridge Eagles winning the RLC Regional final and they have moved back up to the premier division.

There is a new competition this season, with a knockout cup being introduced for all sides in Tier 4. This is for all the sides below the National Conference League, so the likes of Hemel Stags and St Albans Centurions (both in Conference 3) won't be taking part. Skolars will be hoping to emulate

the 2003 and 2004 when they won the Rugby League Conference Challenge Cup, which did include teams from the higher divisions, in the only two seasons that the competition existed.

Skolars 'A' are coached by Dave Roberts with Nimai Parmar as his assistant.

Sat	21-Apr	Super 9's	
Sat	28-Apr	Hammersmith Hills Hoists	H
Sat	05-May	South London Storm	A
Sat	12-May	Elmbridge Eagles	H
Sat	19-May	Cup R1	
Sat	26-May	Hammersmith Hills Hoists	A
Sat	02-Jun	Free Weekend	
Sat	09-Jun	Eastern Rhinos	H
Sat	16-Jun	National Cup	
Sat	23-Jun	West London Sharks	A
Sat	30-Jun	National Cup	
Sat	07-Jul	South London Storm	H
Sat	14-Jul	Elmbridge Eagles	A
Sat	21-Jul	Eastern Rhinos	A
Sat	28-Jul	National Cup	
Sat	04-Aug	West London Sharks	H
Sat	11-Aug	Regional Semi-finals	
Sat	18-Aug	Regional Grand Final	

Anglo French tournament announced

The weekend of June 2 and 3 sees the cream of Rugby League talent from the Co-operative Championship and the French Elite Division will go head to head in June for the right to be crowned European club champions.

English clubs Featherstone Rovers, Sheffield Eagles, Leigh Centurions and Halifax will also be playing for national pride when they compete against the Toulouse Olympique and the three highest ranked clubs from the French domestic competition.

The tournament, the Anglo-French Challenge, will pit Featherstone, the 2011 Championship champions, against the 2012 French Federation winners for the European club title.

The strongest semi-professional Rugby League competition in Europe will be determined by the results of the four-match series. Should the Anglo-French Challenge end 2-2, the best competition will be determined by aggregating the combined points scored in all four matches. The identity of the three clubs who will join Toulouse in participating in the inaugural Anglo-French Challenge will be determined later this month when the French domestic season reaches a conclusion.

The Business of Sport

London Skolars' General Manager Howard Kramer takes a look at Skolars' efforts off the field in engaging more businesses to work with the club



One thing all Rugby League fans have in common is a concern that the club they support is being run properly and is on a sound financial footing. We are all only too aware of some of the recent incidents of Rugby League clubs finding themselves in financial difficulties. In 2010 we witnessed the demise of Blackpool Panthers and then saw Super League Crusaders have to disband and re-form, now playing the sport in Championship 1. Most recently we have seen Bradford Bulls fighting for survival.

Whilst every case is different there is a common theme and that is the need to run the club as a going concern, as a business. This means strict financial controls and budgets being put in place and adhering to them.

Clubs playing at Championship and Championship 1 level are unlikely to rely heavily on match day income and whilst clubs will make small profits from merchandise and food/drink sales it is the "off field" activities the club engages in that can make a big difference.

Not every business the club engages with will have a passion for or interest in sport, yet alone Rugby League, but many will choose to support an organisation such as Skolars who are active in the local community and have run award winning programmes in the borough and surrounding areas.

That having been said we tend to find that most companies have at least one director who has a keen interest in sport and enjoys combining business networking with their sporting interests. A number of good networking groups exist, including the very successful Sport Business Network, run by Roger McKerlie – a good friend of this club.

Recently we have launched our own business newsletter/e-zine called "London Skolars Business" which is sent out fortnightly to our business database and the initial reaction is that it has been very well received by the business community. Following on from the success of the business e-zine

we have now launched the London Skolars Business Network Club and it will hold its inaugural meeting in the City on the 24th May.

If you are interested in receiving the business newsletter or attending the networking event please call Skolars Commercial Manager Rob Noble on 020 8888 8488 or e-mail him on robert.noble@skolarsrl.com

Today sees the Islington Chamber of Commerce sponsor their first London Skolars match and I would like to offer them a warm welcome from everyone at the club and thank them for supporting our efforts in the business community. Islington are a great example of a proactive chamber of commerce who recognise the benefits of bringing local businesses together and through their efforts I am delighted to report that the club are already in talks with a number of new prospective partners.

There are so many opportunities for businesses to get involved with the club, from sponsoring a player (£250) to sponsoring a match or maybe having your business advertise online or in our programme. Call us for a chat and we would be delighted to look at how we can work together.

Howard Kramer



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