#### Co-operative Championship 1

Gateshead Thunder v Oldham Roughyeds - Sunday 30th June, kick off 3pm

#### **GATESHEAD THUNDER**

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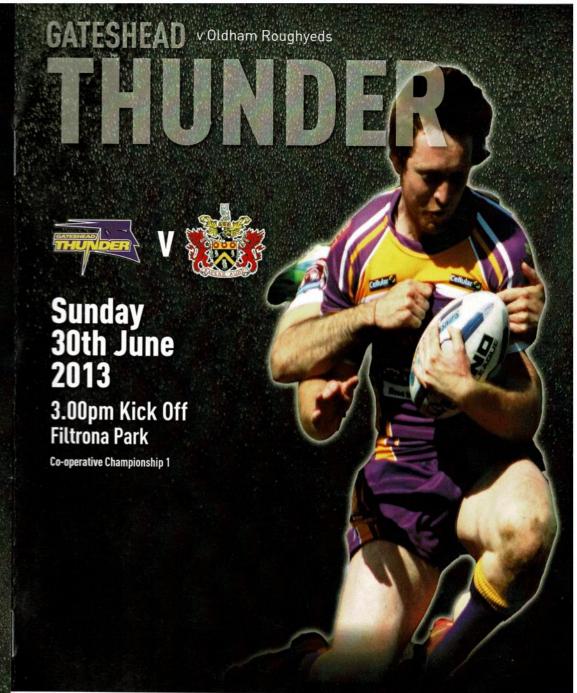
- 1. Luke Hardcastle
- Nick Johnson
- **Josh Neilson**
- Joe Brown
- **Jadob Blades**
- Benn Hardcastle
- 8. Jack Smith
- 10. Stephen Welton
- 11. Jason Payne
- 12. Callum Cockburn
- 13. Curtis Pullen
- 17. Craig Borthwick
- 18. Conor Condron
- 19. Paul Stamp
- 20. Josh Stoker
- 21. Chris Parker
- 22. Tom Capper
- 23. Sam Walsh
- 24. James Pocklington
- 25. Connor Young

#### **OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS**

П

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- 1. Mo Agoro
- Dale Bloomfield
- **Jason Boults**
- 4. David Cookson
- **Josh Crowley**
- Jamie Dallimore
- 7. Adam Files
- Sam Gee
- Liam Gilchrist
- 10. Mark Hobson
- 11. Kenny Hughes
- 12. Phil Joy
- 13. Danny Longtree
- 14. Richard Lepori
- 15. Callum Marriott
- 16. Steven Nield
- 17. Lewis Palfrey
- 18. Neil Roden
- 19. Danny Samuel
- 20. Liam Thompson
- 21. Chris Tyrer
- 22. Michael Ward

































### Chairmans comments

A warm welcome to all visitors to Filtrona Park whether you are home or travelling support and to what I hope is an open and exciting game. We should now be used to playing in South Shields and again have to express our thanks for the use of the facilities. Whether we will be back at Gateshead before the Season ends remains to be seen. Indeed what our future is at the International Stadium remains somewhat uncertain but, hopefully, the next few weeks will provide some answers.

We expect a hard game again today from visitors who are enjoying a good season. Our own form remains disappointing with too many close encounters but all ending in defeat. Losing by one point, three points or four points

point, three points or four points is still losing and that winning habit is still hard to acquire. Scoring fifty two points looks impressive but when the opposition score fifty five

it takes something away from our attacking strength. The talent remains in the team and certainly there can be no complaint about effort, we just that little more to see us move up the league table, which is not beyond our capability. Incidentally for those who collect statistics it is five years since we last scored fifty or more.

On the wider front the Rugby League World Cup is not far away and and what promises to be a great showpiece for our game. Our code of Rugby needs a higher profile and whilst Sky certainly give the game great coverage the same cannot often be said of the rest of the media. Press coverage on the national scene is often woeful and the class divide between the two codes is still evident. Many who criticise us have never experienced a live game or realise that it is tries that win matches not penalty goals often won in circumstances that few understand. So why not do your bit for the game, and Thunder, by bringing a friend to the next

home game, a friend or even two who have not experienced live Rugby League. They will probably be surprised.

The Season is rapidly moving towards the end, a strange situation before the end of June. Hardly making good use of 'Summer Rugby' but we remain at the whim of the controlling powers. The proposals for the restructuring of the leagues look a little confusing and contrived to say the least, and I remain to be convinced that they will do much for our game. They do pose a great threat to Thunder and we do need to ensure that we move away from the bottom

positions that have been our place for too many seasons. However, that is next year and in the meantime and especially today enjoy your Rugby.

Bill Midgley OBE





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Hello and welcome to Filtrona Park. Our recent games have certainly been entertaining for the neutral but not too good for my mental health and fast changing colour of hair. We have shown for large periods that we are more than capable of matching any team in the competition just not able to finish a team off. Being at the half way stage of the league campaign I'm not happy with our return in points to date. The week without a game has given myself, Michael and Mark an opportunity to review the progress of the squad and assess areas to strengthen for the remainder of the year. At this point in writing we are currently speaking to six players and hope to have at least two or three on board by the time of kick off today.

I have recently been watching a lot of both junior and senior rugby in the North East. It's great to see the number of former players continuing to progress with their respective clubs having taken the experience they gained to help them excel in the conference competitions. The junior clubs are now seeking playing opportunities not just within the region but are going to the heart lands in Yorkshire and Cumbria to test themselves against established clubs and coming away with some fantastic results. Although we only have Andy Kelly in the region as a full time member of the RFL staff the game is continuing to gather momentum. All clubs need to pull together and keep on playing games no matter the numbers or who they are playing against. If we stop playing games through fear of getting beat then why play at all? From time to time I work with the Scholarship and Academy squad based at G.I.S to help the players develop but also give advice to the coaches. The attitudes and enthusiasm from Michael Heap, Jordan Robinson, Lee Carbutt, Karl Stephenson and Rob Jones is second to none. I know there will be

others out there that show the same passion for the North East. The message is simple; If all the clubs show a common interest in developing the region then the region will become self-sufficient and continue to grow and eventually produce players of Super League standard.

Onto today's game and our opponents Oldham. We have now played the Roughyeds twice and haven't come away with a win. I was very encouraged by the first game we played however felt let down in our second outing especially with the first 25 minutes we produced in our league encounter. We know enough about the threat they pose in the pack and playmakers. It is simply down to us whether we will counter these threats and put together a floorless performance which is needed to defeat one of the best teams in the competition.

Right I better get back to the day job of marking assessments and writing reports for the end of term.

Hope you enjoy the game.

Variable

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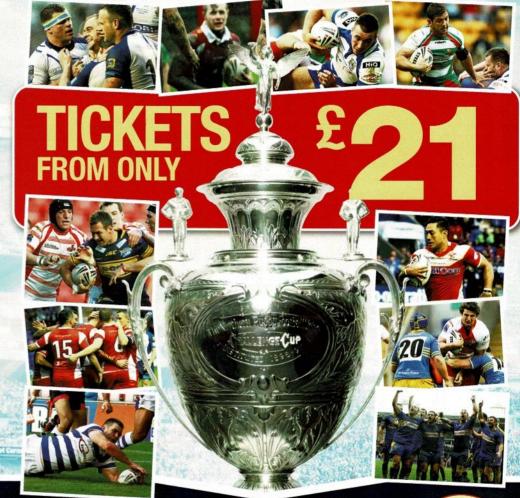


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# TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP FINAL 2013



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Hi everyone and welcome to today's game at Filtrona Park. I hope all the Oldham players, fans and staff had a safe trip down.

We come into today's game on the back of a disappointing defeat against Rochdale and unfortunately I keep finding myself saying the same things. If I keep saying the same things then why don't we fix it you might ask, well if we knew that it would be easy! We turn up every week and work hard in training; we prepare well and head into the game with confidence from a solid week. For some reason we keep performing well below what I believe we as a team are capable of and unfortunately there is no easy explanation as to why but all I can say is we are working hard to put things right. There is nobody who wants to see success back at

Gateshead Thunder more than me and I just ask that you stay patient with us, again!
Oldham has been playing some great stuff recently and I expect nothing less today. This will be the third time we have played them this year. The first time we played them we did okay and staged a pretty good fight back towards the end but we still came out second best. The second time we played them we didn't really turn up and subsequently we got punished for it. I'm hoping for a better performance from the lads today, we have to stand up in the middle against a big Oldham pack.

So on more of a positive note with every game comes an opportunity. We have the chance to pull together and prove the doubters wrong. After all we still have the best fans in rugby league!

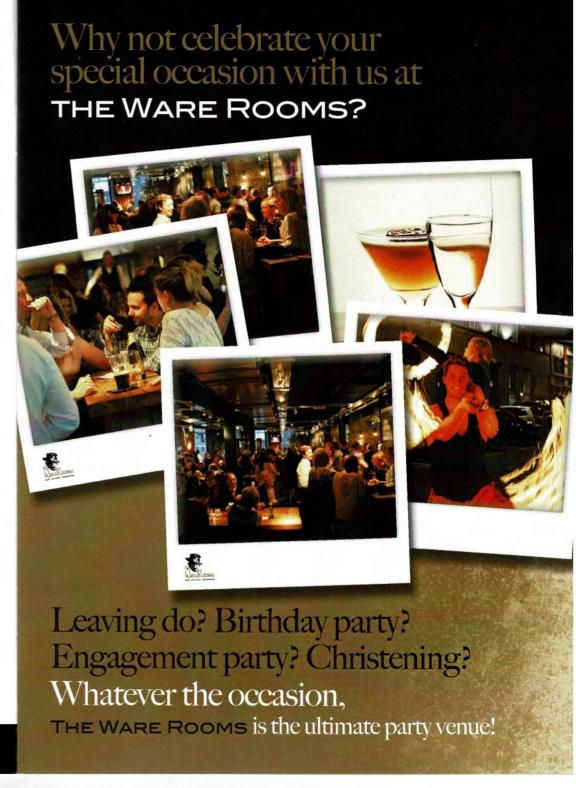
Lastly I would just like to wish Chris Hood all the best for the future. As you will all be aware he is leaving the club to focus on his new business JamesGrace Consultancy. Good luck mate and thanks for your efforts.

I hope you all enjoy the game and I'll catch up with you after.

Over and out,

Jason.

#### Championship One - Table Pts 25 North Wales Crusaders 0 **Oldham RLFC** 0 21 3 Rochdale Hornets 0 3 19 0 Oxford 18 Hemel Stags 0 17 0 17 **London Skolars** South Wales Scorpions 0 13 Gateshead Thunder 0 Gloucestershire All Golds 9 9



# Player Profile Josh Neilson

Name and squad number

Josh Neilson #3

Age - 21

Position - Centre/Wing

Favourite Food - Can't beat Mum's cooking. Anything by Mum!

Favourite Movie - I don't watch a lot of movies. I'd probably go with Zoolander, or just about anything with Will Ferrell in it. Definitely nothing scary

Interesting fact

I'm the only ginger Australian in the world!

Favourite rugby league ground

Been loving Filtrona this season. Also my local ground where I grew up playing. St John's oval, back in Newcastle, Australia, That'd would be right up there as well!

How important is this year for Thunder Massive. We're at about the half way mark now and to be honest, I feel we've under performed. There's a massive amount of potential within this squad and we've still got a really good opportunity to make something special of this season.

What are you expecting from Olldham today

A really big and physical forward pack. That's what you generally get when you play this lot. They're also a pretty fit side, so we'll need to be really working hard to stick with them. They've got a couple of big outside backs who will be a handful if we let them, but we'll all be doing our best not to let that happen.

What are you hopes for the remainder of the season

For us as a team, I want to make the play offs. This is definitely do-able. We're making steps in the right direction and this is a goal I know the whole squad wants to achieve and are working hard towards. Personally, I want to chip in with a few more tries, keep my defense strong and try and stay injury free for the remainder of the season

What attracted you to Gateshead Thunder and why did you want to sign for the club

I was put onto the club by former Thunder player Paul Franze'. I played with Pauly at my local club Central Newcastle back in Oz. I had wanted to travel but I also wanted to keep testing myself with my footy. Pauly got me in touch with Chris Hood, and after a few e-mails and a little research into the club I'd signed. I didn't need a lot of persuading really. From what Paul Franze' had told me about the club, the supporters and the North East in general I was pretty keen to get myself over here and get stuck in. I had originally planned on staying for just the one season, but here I am half way through my second one and loving it.

Anything else you would like to say

A quick Hello to everyone back home (I'm sending them a copy of this program) and just a massive thanks to everyone at the game today, the sponsors, and in particular those of you who manage to get along every week and cheer us on. It means the world to us and I promise we're working hard to repay the faith!





Thank you to our 2013 '1999' Club members:



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**NEIL & CHRISTINE HUTCHINSON** 





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Our 1999 club, named after the inaugural year of Gateshead Thunder, it is designed to allow businesses and individuals to support Thunder and access exclusive benefits, whilst associating themselves with the region's only professional rugby league team in a truly national competition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE 1999 CLUB: EMAIL info@thunderrugby.com OR CALL 0191 4335710

#### Superleague - Table

THE RESERVE TO SHARE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY							_
		P	W	D	L	Pts	
1	Wigan Warriors	18	15	1	2	31	
2	Huddersfield Giants	19	14	0	5	28	
3	Warrington Wolves	18	12	1	5	25	
4	Leeds Rhinos	18	11	1	6	23	
5	Catalans Dragons	19	10	2	7	22	
6	Hull FC	19	9	2	8	20	
7	Hull KR	19	10	0	9	20	
8	St Helens	19	9	1	9	19	
9	Bradford Bulls	19	7	2	10	16	
10	Wakefield Wildcats	18	7	1	10	15	
11	Widnes Vikings	19	6	2	11	14	
12	Castleford Tigers	19	5	2	12	12	
13	London Broncos	19	3	2	14	8	
14	Salford City Reds	19	4	1	14	7	

#### Championship - Table

Street, or other Designation of the last o							-
		Р	W	D	L	Pts	
1	Sheffield Eagles	17	15	0	2	46	
2	Halifax RLFC	17	14	1	2	44	
3	Featherstone Rovers	16	13	0	3	42	
4	Batley Bulldogs	17	12	1	4	41	
5	Leigh Centurions	17	12	0	5	37	
6	Whitehaven RLFC	17	8	0	9	27	
7	Dewsbury Rams	17	7	0	10	25	
8	Workington Town	15	6	0	9	23	
9	York City Knights	16	6	0	10	21	
10	Doncaster RLFC	16	5	0	11	20	
11	Keighley Cougars	16	5	0	11	20	
12	Swinton Lions	17	5	0	12	20	
13	Hunslet Hawks	17	4	0	13	18	
14	Barrow Raiders	17	3	0	14	17	

## GENERAL RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS



#### England coach Steve McNamara will travel to Australia this week to meet with his NRL based players.

McNamara will watch 10 matches during his 20day trip, starting on Friday when he will see James Graham play for Canterbury Bulldogs against Sydney Roosters.

On Saturday he will be a guest at the Wests Tigers versus Canberra Raiders match. Sunday he will watch brothers Sam and George Burgess at Parramatta Stadium, when South Sydney Rabbitohs travel to Sydney's west to face Parramatta Eels. The following day he will take in the 'Monday Night Football' clash between Gold Coast Titans and Melbourne Storm at Skilled Park, where he will meet up with England star Gareth Widdop.

"I always aim to get over to Australia at least once a year to keep up-to-date with what is happening in the NRL and to meet up with the England players playing in the southern hemisphere," said McNamara.

"I will watch ten matches during my visit, including the second State of Origin. I have been invited to observe Queensland's training camp as they buildup to their game in Brisbane.

"I have also organised meetings with the England players to keep them updated and engaged with our plans as we continue to look ahead to the Rugby League World Cup. Even though I speak to our Australian based players at least couple of times a month, the opportunity to see them in person is vital. They are all excited about this year and representing England on home soil. It is a big deal for them."

The England boss will also carry out a number of media interviews during his time in Australia with a view to creating awareness of the England programme and the progress the international side is making.

"I think it is important to continue to spread the word on the work we are doing at international level," added McNamara.

"Our boys are doing us proud in the NRL and for the first time in a number of years there is massive respect for our players and their influence within the game. It is important to embrace the sport and there is no better way to create awareness of the international game than speaking to the Australian media in their own backyard."

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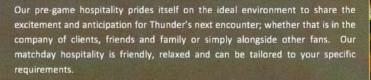




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#### **SQUAD PROFILES**









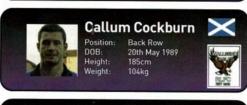














#### **SQUAD PROFILES**













Position:

DOB:

Height:

Tom Capper

Winger

Fullback

178cm

82kg

22nd January 1993

**MMG Sports** 

Position:





#### **OPPONENTS PROFILE**

Today's Opponents - Oldham Roughyeds RLFC

#### Honours

- Championship: 1904–05, 1909–10, 1910–11, 1956–57
- Challenge Cup: 1898–99, 1924–25, 1926–27
- Division Two Championship: 1963–64, 1981–82, 1987–88
- Lancashire Cup: 1906–07, 1909–10, 1912–13, 1919–20, 1924–25, 1933–34, 1955–56, 1956–57, 1957–58 (9 times)
- Lancashire League: 1897–98, 1900–01, 1907–08, 1909–10, 1921–22, 1956–57, 1957–58 (7 times)
- Divisional Premiership: 1987–88, 1989–90

#### Records

- Attendance for a league match: 28,000 v Huddersfield - 24 February 1912 at Watersheddings.
- Attendance in a cup match: 25,000 v Huddersfield - 23 March 1912. (Challenge Cup 3rd Round.) at Watersheddings.

- Record Attendance [All games]: 62,217 v Hull - 18 May 1957. Championship Final at Odsal Stadium, Bradford.
- Super league attendance record: 7,709 v
   Wigan 30 March 1996 at Boundary Park
- National league 2 attendance record : 4,327 v Celtic Crusaders - 30 August 2007 at Boundary Park
- Biggest Win: 67 6 v Liverpool City 4 April 1959
- Worst Defeat: 0 84 v Widnes 25 July 1999
- Most Season Goals: Bernard Ganley 224 goals in season 1957–58
- Most Season Tries: Reginald "Reg" Farrar
   49 tries in season 1921–22
- Most Match Points: Bernard Ganley 28 points v Liverpool City, April 1959

#### One to watch

Lewis Palfrey – Lewis is in his first year for Oldham and is their current Captain. Lewis is a key player within the Oldham squad and is always a handful. The halfback has played at Salford, Batley and Whitehaven previous to joining Oldham in 2013.



# QUIZ PAGE

It's a huge year for rugby league, its world cup year! Test yourself and see how much you really know about the greatest competition in the world...

- 1) When was the last time we (Great Britain at the time) won the World Cup?
- 2) Who are the reigning world champions?
- 3) On Saturday 26th October the World Cup kicks off with what fixture?
- 4) Name the only stadium in Cumbria being used as a venue?
- 5) Where will the final be held?
- 6) Can you name the six European teams taking part?
- 7) Who id the England Captain?
- 8) Only one of the Nations has rugby league as their national sport, who is it?
- 9) Where are both semi-finals going to be held?
- 10) Australia have won the most titles but how many have they won?

ANSWERS:
1 - 1972 2 - New Zealand 3 - Australia v England 4 - Derwent Park 5 - Old Trafford 6 - England, Wales, Ireland, 1 - 1972 3 - Nembley Stadium 10 - Nine 19, Scotland and France 7 - Kevin Sinfield 8 - Papua New Guinea 9 - Wembley Stadium 10 - Nine

Championship 1 Sun 30th Jun KO: 15:00, Filtrona Park, South Shields

Gateshead Thunder v Oldham RLFC

JULY

Championship 1 Sun 7th Jul KO: 14:00, New River Stadium

London Skolars v Gateshead Thunder

Championship 1 Sun 14th Jul KO: 15:00, Gateshead International Stadium

Gateshead Thunder v Oxford RLFC

Championship 1 Sun 28th Jul KO: 13:00, The Gnoll, Neath

South Wales Scorpions v Gateshead Thunder

AUGUST

Championship 1 Sun 4th Aug KO: 15:00, Gateshead International Stadium

Gateshead Thunder v North Wales Crusaders

Championship 1 Sun 11th Aug KO: 15:00, Spotland Stadium

Rochdale Hornets v Gateshead Thunder

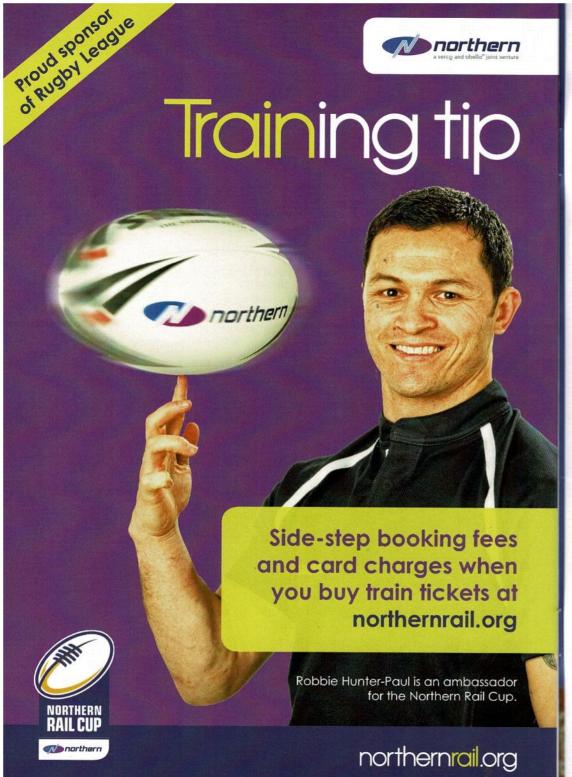
Championship 1 Sun 18th Aug KO: 15:00, The Prince of Wales Stadium

Gloucestershire All Golds v Gateshead Thunder

SEPTEMBER

Championship 1 Sun 1st Sep KO: 15:00, Gateshead International Stadium

Gateshead Thunder v Hemel Stags





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