

TODAY'S SQUADS

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X --- O X O
NOBBY'S NOTES
O X --- O X

Hello and welcome to today's game at the The Whitebank Stadium against the North Wales Crusaders.

Firstly I would like to congratulate the Crusaders on their win last week in the Northern Rail Bowl Final against London Skolars. Winning big games like that is always a positive in a season and I'm sure the Crusaders will turn up at Whitebank oozing with confidence and ready to play in a game which we are looking forward to immensely. Our squad had no game last week so Spanner and I gave them some time off to recharge mentally and physically to be ready for the remainder of the season, starting with today's game. The response from the lads in training has been outstanding and they are ready to kick on and give everything they have in our remaining four league games to finish the season as strong as possible.

Our last game at home was against the South Wales Scorpions two weeks ago and it was a strange encounter. After a run of eight consecutive games home and away which also included some long distance travelling I think some mental tiredness had crept into the squad and the South Wales game was a perfect example of that. Wales have some outstanding players and a dual reg.

system with Wigan Warriors that also allows them to use some quality players which was obvious in the first half of the game. I don't think we started the game well and defended at 50% of our ability but what is evident in our team is the capability to respond to half time team talks and raise their game in offence & in defence which was clear to see with a 32 - 0 second half performance to win the game comfortably. The squad we have is the youngest in the league and sometimes I think it's forgotten in games. The pressure and physical aspects of rugby are very demanding and experience is huge in both these parts of the game which makes the average age of our squad amazing when you hear it is around 21.

On a finishing note it was really pleasing to see the crowds coming back to Whitebank Stadium two weeks ago for the South Wales game. As a club we are doing everything we can to improve the rugby on the field and the name of the club. To get the crowds back would be the most important thing that can happen to Oldham RLFC this season so hopefully today's game is our biggest crowd of the season and they get the result they have come to see.



Many thanks,

Scott Naylor
(Nobby)

Behind Closed Doors with...



Rachel Johnson

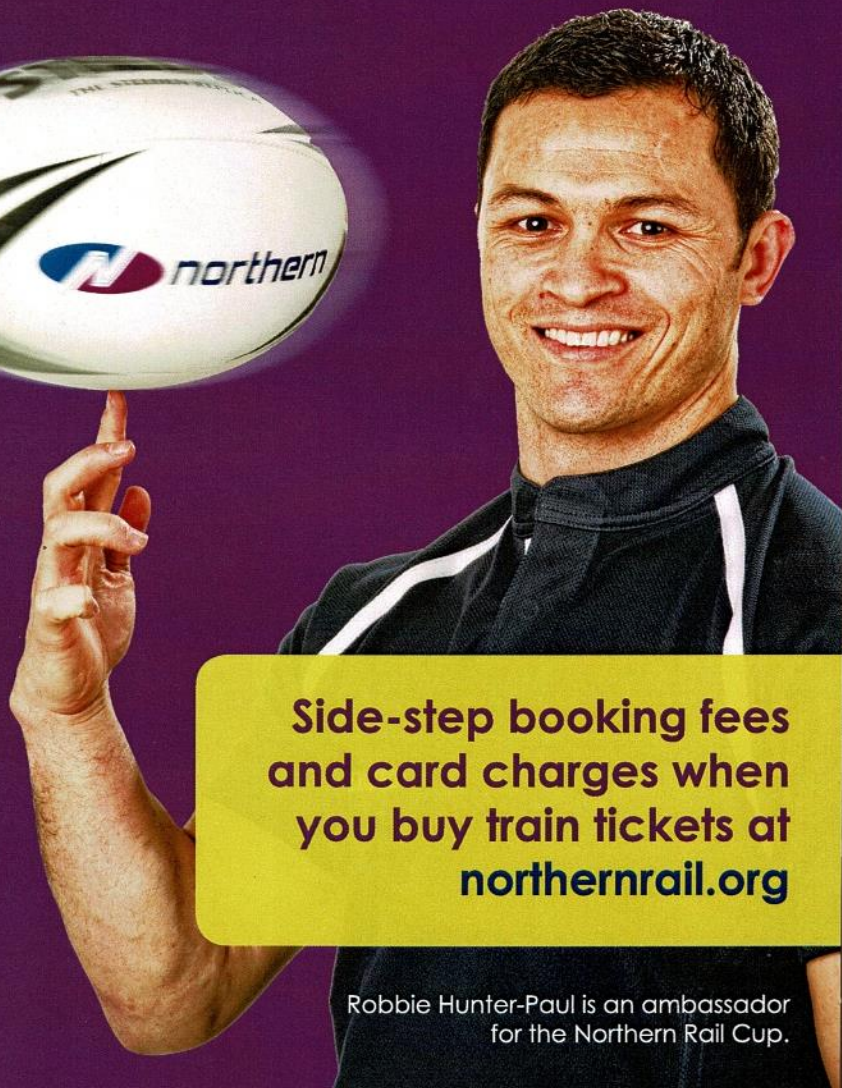
Physiotherapist



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Training tip



Side-step booking fees
and card charges when
you buy train tickets at
northernrail.org

Robbie Hunter-Paul is an ambassador
for the Northern Rail Cup.

Who are your heroes or people you look up to?
Beth Tweddle and Kathryn Driscoll.

If you could invite 2 people to dinner dead or alive who would they be?
Jamie Oliver to cook and Ben Lovett (Mumford and Sons) to entertain me.

If your house was to be hit by an earthquake what would be the first thing you'd save?
My cat... Sonic.

What's your funniest moment at the club so far?
John Gillam sitting on the physio bed and it collapsing. He ended up in a heap on the floor...his face was priceless!

Which TV programme would you never miss?
Hollyoaks (look out for a familiar face as an extra coming soon...)

What was the last book you read?
Chalked up, Jennifer Sey's autobiography.

What's your favourite type of music?
Indie.

Who's the biggest pain in training?
In 8yrs of rugby league no one will ever be as big a pain as Lucas (Onyango) but this season probably Scott Naylor and his demands for coffee!

Finally.....Tell me a secret.
I make the best rocky road in rugby league.



NORTHERN RAIL CUP



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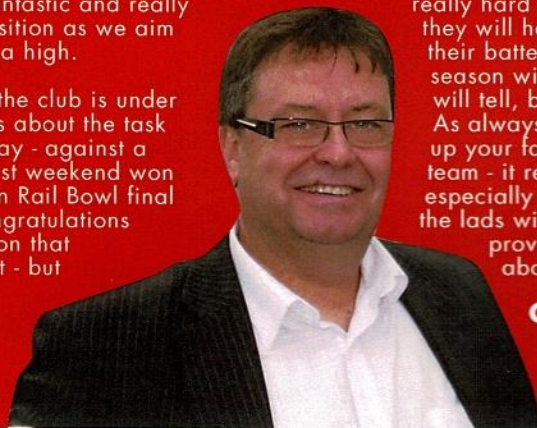
CHRIS' COMMENTS

Well here we go!! This afternoon's game has been in the back of people's minds for a few weeks now and since we lost narrowly to the Crusaders we have been looking forward to them coming here for the re match.

There is no doubt that they have been the pacesetters in the division all season but with the anomalies of the fixture schedule this year we are top of the league and they are second albeit with games in hand.

There is no doubt whatsoever that Scott Naylor will have been drumming the message into the players this week that we again have to concentrate on ourselves and do what we do best because then we won't go far wrong. Easier said than done maybe but we couldn't ask for more than have a game today between the top two sides in the division and with only four matches to go until the end of the regular season for ourselves we have everything to play for. A win today (and to be greedy without a bonus point for the Crusaders!) would be fantastic and really help our position as we aim to finish on a high.

Nobody at the club is under any illusions about the task in hand today - against a team that last weekend won the Northern Rail Bowl final and our congratulations go to them on that achievement - but the buzz around the club



Christopher Hamilton
Chairman

in respect of this match for the last couple of weeks since we last played has been a timely reminder of why we are all involved in this great sport. There is nothing to match the anticipation and excitement that these kind of matches bring.

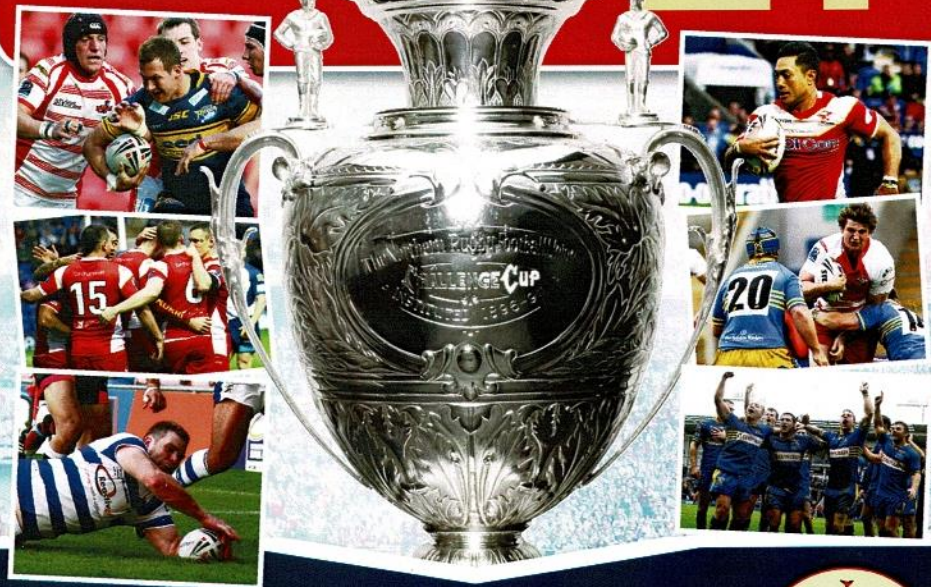
We will be hoping for our biggest crowd of the season and there is sure to be good support for our opponents too, so all the ingredients are there for a classic contest. We are grateful, once again for the support of Regenda who have joined up with us to promote this match to a whole group of people who will be new to rugby league whilst at the same time getting lots of messages across in respect of some of the larger health and well being projects that they, together with partners like us, are working hard on in the local community with great effect. Since we came to Whitebank they have become a fantastic partner for us and are so enthusiastic about what they do. We hope they enjoy their day watching the Roughyeds!

The lads were given a bit of a breather last week with no game but have worked really hard and hopefully the fact that they will have been able to recharge their batteries at this point of the season will be a bonus - only time will tell, but fingers crossed! As always with our fans please keep up your fantastic support for the team - it really can make a difference especially in a game like this and the lads will be doing their utmost to provide you with plenty to cheer about! Enjoy the match.

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No. 8 - LIAM GILCHRIST

AUTOGRAPH

Behind Closed Doors with... LIAM GILCHRIST



Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

Don't really look up to anyone.

Do you play any other sports and if so do you excel in them?

Golf but I definitely don't excel in it.

What is the highlight of your career so far?

Winning the Ashes with Great Britain students on our tour of Australia in 2011.

If you could invite 2 people to dinner dead or alive who would they be?

Muhammad Ali and Denzel Washington.

If your house was to be hit by an earthquake what would be the first thing you'd save?

Myself.

Who's the funniest of your team-mates and why?

Bloomers and Hobbo, they are a good double act and love getting in everyone's heads!

Which TV programme would you never miss?

Dexter. Breaking Bad.

What was the last book you read?

Dan Brown, Angels and Demons.

What's your favourite type of music?

Any, generally chart music and some old school as well.

How do you relax after a match?

Try to just have a laugh with my mates but it depends how we play!

Finally.....Tell me a secret.

Sorry I don't have any secrets. (Yet another coward. Editor)

Our Captain... Lewis Palfrey

OUR captain Lewis Palfrey heads into the top-of-the-table clash with North Wales Crusaders at Whitebank today as Championship One's leading goalkicker and top points scorer.

While Crusaders haven't played a league game since they demolished Rochdale Hornets 48-0 in Wrexham on June 30, our Roughyeds boys have beaten Oxford away 22-4 and South Wales at home 50-22 to replace the title favourites as league leaders.

Stand-off Palfrey kicked three goals at Oxford and scored 22 points against South Wales (seven goals and two tries) to leapfrog Tommy Johnson (Crusaders) and Dylan Skee (London Skolars) in the division's goals and points charts.

The top five in each category are as follows:

Goals: Palfrey (Oldham) 50; Skee (London) 44; Johnson (North Wales) 41; Crook (Rochdale) 31; Leather (Oxford) 31.

Points: Palfrey (Oldham) 112; Johnson (North Wales) 102; Skee (London) 100; Leather (Oxford) 88; Murphy (South Wales) 70.

Despite his club's Championship One inactivity in recent weeks, North Wales winger Rob Massam is the division's leading try scorer with 14.

Tries: Massam (North Wales) 14; Ford (Oldham) 12; Middlehurst (North Wales) 12; Files (Oldham) 10; Caton-Brown (Hemel) and Grant (South Wales) 9.

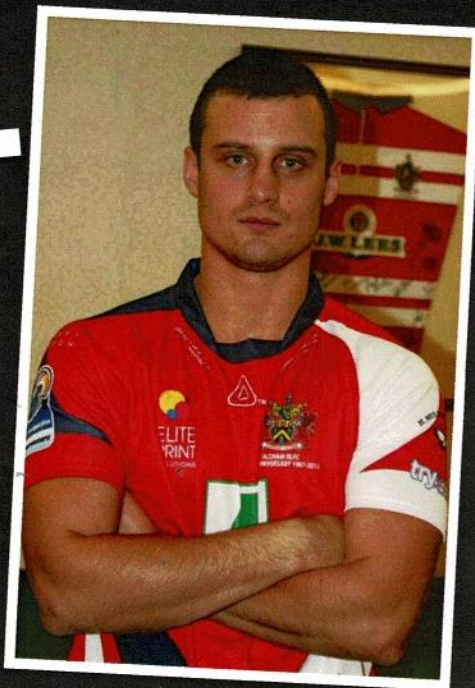


Photo courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

TOM WHITEHEAD, our latest signing, is a young man in a hurry.

With only four games left in the regular season, he's got to get a move on if he is to win a place in the Roughyeds' table-topping line-up.

Oldham-born Tom (21) played his first game for his hometown club at under-20s level against Salford City Reds last Friday and he was due for a second run-out against Hemel Stags at Whitebank last Saturday.

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind period for Whitehead, who was playing stand-off for Old Bar Pirates on the Central Coast of New South Wales, with his fellow Oldhamer and former North Wales Crusaders forward Anthony Morrison, until he came home for his sister's wedding --- and decided to stay.

Said Tom: "Oldham talked to me when I was leaving Salford, but I had already decided to go to Australia with Anthony.

"There are huge lifestyle differences, good and bad, between Oldham and Taree, our nearest town in Australia, but I found it very quiet out there and I missed all my mates in Oldham.

"When Roughyeds heard I was back they got in touch and I've signed for the rest of the season.

"It's a boyhood dream come true, I guess, because my best mate Gaz (Gareth) Owen and I played together at Waterhead for years and we regularly watched Oldham and talked about perhaps playing for them one day.

"As it happened we both signed for Salford. Gaz is in the first-team squad down there now, but he played for them at Whitebank the other Friday night when I pulled on an Oldham shirt for the first time.

"It's all happened quickly and it seems to have come out of nothing, but I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to the next few weeks."

Whitehead moved from Waterhead to Saddleworth Rangers when he was 17; had a brief spell with Huddersfield Giants; and was then courted by Salford where he stayed for three years and came under the influence of Lee Spencer.

Added Tom: "I can play a few positions and I'm happy to play anywhere. I was at full-back against Salford and I enjoyed it. I knew a lot of the Salford lads and it felt good to be back playing rugby on home soil.

"Salford had out a very strong side which included a few first-teamers and I thought the Oldham forwards stood up to them very well indeed.

"On a personal note it was my first game in ten weeks, so I wasn't at my sharpest, but I enjoyed it nevertheless.

"We gave them a game, which is more than a lot of other sides have done."



Chairman Christopher Hamilton with Christopher Standish as Regenda and Oldham R.L.F.C. join forces!



the regenda group

ROUGHYEDS and the Regenda Group are joining forces to improve access to sports and well-being initiatives for residents across Limehurst Village.

"Roughyeds are a key part of our community infrastructure," said Regenda's Chris Standish, Limehurst Project Manager.

Regenda will sponsor today's top-of-the-table clash with North Wales Crusaders at Whitebank and will have a major presence at the game along with other community partners.

Added Chris: "Roughyeds are flying high in the league and Regenda are right behind their push for promotion.

"They are excelling off the pitch too in various community projects, not only creating opportunities for local people to watch and take part in sport, but developing new openings for training, work experience and volunteering initiatives.

"Regenda are delighted to work with them on projects which will make a real difference to the lives of Limehurst residents."

This latest initiative forms part of Regenda's 10-year Vision for Limehurst Village, which will attract £5m investment over the next two years and provide new homes, new jobs and new community programmes.

Roughyeds were proud to be part of the steering group behind the 10-year Vision.

The club will use today's big game, expected to attract the best crowd of the season, to showcase various features of the Roughyeds' work in the community.

Said club chairman Chris Hamilton: "We appreciate the support of Regenda, who quickly welcomed us into the area when we moved into Whitebank in 2010 and have helped and supported us ever since on initiatives to engage with the local community.

"We are constantly trying to look at ways in which we can provide opportunities for local residents and make a significant difference to their lives."

The club is heavily involved with HEAL (Healthy Eating and Lifestyle) and has accessed funding to run courses in spectator safety up to NVQ level 2.

Thirty-five local people are registered to go on the courses free of charge when it would normally cost £1,000 per person.

Once qualified, there will be career opportunities for them in public-event stewarding.

SWEDEN

(left to right) Sam Gee, Stigge Vivangi, Jacob Vivangi, Lewis Palfrey



FROM the picturesque Swedish ski resort of Bjursås, two hours from Stockholm by ski-bus, to downtown Whitebank... that was a trip made by two Swedish ice-hockey fans with a fascination for rugby league which they had only ever seen on television.

Stigge Vivangi and his 14-year-old son Jacob turned up unannounced at our last home game against South Wales Scorpions, having travelled by bus from Manchester where they were staying as part of their summer holiday in England.

Stigge's wife Anna-Carin and daughter Elina were also on the trip to the UK, but they opted for shopping in Deansgate while father and son set off by bus and taxi in pursuit of some Sunday afternoon rugby league.

Said Stigge: "We wanted to take in some rugby league, Jacob especially, so I looked up fixtures on the internet and Oldham looked the easiest ground to get to from Manchester.

"The game was everything we expected, after seeing it played on television, and we really enjoyed our visit. We liked the game, we enjoyed Oldham's win, and the people were so friendly and hospitable.

"I guess we can now go home and form the Bjursås branch of the Oldham Roughyeds Supporters' Club!"

Added Jacob: "There are similarities between ice-hockey and rugby league, particularly in toughness and physicality. I thought Oldham played really well, especially in the second half. We'll certainly be looking up results on the internet when we get home."

During the game they got chatting to the Oldham fans standing next to them who turned out to be David Cookson's parents.

They took the intrepid travellers into the club after the game where post-match MC David Murgatroyd introduced them on the mic and got Jacob up the stage before donning his other Roughyeds cap, that of official club photographer, and taking this picture of our Swedish friends enjoying some good, old-fashioned Roughyeds hospitality.

Our thanks to Cookie's parents for playing the lead role in making them feel so welcome.

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No. 24 - JON FORD

AUTOGRAPH

Behind Closed Doors with...

JON FORD



Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

I would have to say Jamie Lyon because I grew up watching him at saints.

Do you play any other sports and if so do you excel in them?

Play a bit of golf but I'm not very good at it.

What is the highlight of your career so far?

Going to Australia on tour last year with England Academy.

If you could invite 2 people to dinner dead or alive who would they be?

Russell Crowe and Will Ferrell just so they could quote Gladiator and Step Brother lines all night

If your house was to be hit by an earthquake what would be the first thing you'd save?

My bed

Who's the funniest of your team-mates and why?

I would say Lippy (Lepori) for some of the things he says during games.

Which TV programme would you never miss?

How I Met Your Mother

What was the last book you read?

I think it would have been Lewis Hamilton's autobiography

What's your favourite type of music?

I listen to all sorts it doesn't really bother me.

How do you relax after a match?

I lie on the living room floor unable to move

Finally.....Tell me a secret.

Secrets are meant to remain that way. (Another coward - Editor)



Pitch Sponsors

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& Alicia Barratt	1 Square	Colin Gilchrist	1 Square
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Jeff Brindley	1 Square	John Heap	2 Squares
Chris Broadbent	10 Squares	Peter Heap	1 Square
Alan Butterworth	1 Square	Julie Hibbert	1 Square
Joseph Butterworth	1 Square	June Hibbert	1 Square
Matthew Cavanagh	1 Square	Katy Hogg	1 Square
Mick Cave	1 Square	Carole Hogan	2 Squares
Jean Chadwick	2 Squares	Vera Hough	1 Square
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Gordon Dalzell	2 Squares	Stephen Ingham	2 Squares
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Jacqueline Dyson	1 Square	David Jones	1 Square
		Michael Joy	1 Square

Thank you to all who have sponsored a square of the pitch so far

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Walter Lines	1 Square	Clarice Stevens	20 Squares
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Nigel Marland	6 Squares	Bobby Talbot	1 Square
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Gordon Sedgewick	2 Squares	Raffle	1 Square
Tracey Shaw	1 Square	The Green Army	1 Square

(In memory of Nigel Newton)

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB U20s FIXTURES & RESULTS

MARCH

U20	Friday 1st	Leigh Centurions	A	L 28 - 14
U20	Saturday 9th	Rochdale Hornets	A	L 26 - 12
U20	Saturday 23rd	South Wales	H	Postponed

APRIL

U20	Friday 5th	Rochdale Hornets	H	W 46 - 22
U20	Thursday 11th	Keighley	A	L 48 - 18
U20	Friday 26th	Featherstone	H	L 6 - 52

MAY

U20	Friday 3rd	Halifax	H	W 35 - 18
U20	Sunday 12th	Hemel	A	W 0 - 48
U20	Friday 17th	York	H	L 24 - 36

JUNE

U20	Thursday 6th	Rochdale	A	W 46 - 20
U20	Saturday 22nd	Hemel	H	Postponed

JULY

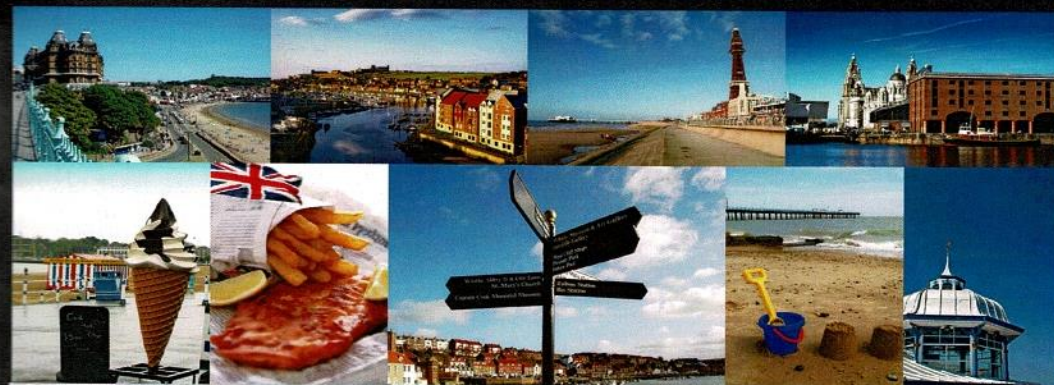
U20	Friday 12th	Salford	H	L 18 - 52
U20	Saturday 20th	Hemel	H	Postponed
U20	Thursday 25th	York	A	8:00pm

AUGUST

U20	Friday 16th	York	H	8:00pm
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Lincoln	Tuesday 9 th July	£16 pp	Departing 8.30am Back approx 6pm
Southport	Monday 22 nd July	£15pp	Departing 9.00am Back approx 6.15pm
Whitby	Wednesday 24 th July	£16 pp	Departing 8.30am Back approx 7.30pm
York	Monday 29 th July	£15pp	Departing 9.00am Back approx 6.00pm
Whitby	Wednesday 31 st July	£16 pp	Departing 8.30am Back approx 7.30pm
Blackpool	Monday 5 th August	£15pp	Departing 9.00am Back approx 6.15pm
Llandudno	Friday 9 th August	£15 pp	Departing 9.00am Back approx 6.45pm
Harrods	Monday 12 th August	£25pp	Departing 5.30am Back approx 9.30pm
Whitby	Wednesday 7 th & 14 th August	£16pp	Departing 8.30am Back approx 7.30pm
Southport	Friday 16 th August	£15pp	Departing 9.00am Back approx 6.15pm
Liverpool	Monday 19 th August	£15pp	Departing 9.00am Back approx 6.10pm
Whitby	Wednesday 21 st August	£16pp	Departing 8.30am Back approx 7.30pm
Bridlington	Monday 26 th August	£16pp	Departing 8.30am Back approx 7.15pm
Stratford	Wednesday 28 th August	£16pp	Departing 8.30am Back approx 7.00pm

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* Please note these trips do not have a Chronicle courier

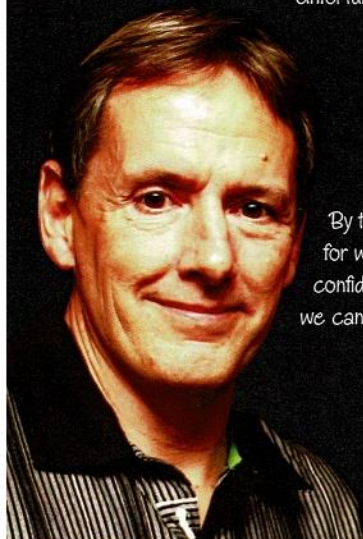
PHIL'S NOTES

At last it was great to get a game under our belts after our enforced lay off. Unfortunately Salford proved to be too strong on the night and ran out worthy winners. Danny Rasool put in another strong performance and is definitely one to watch for in the future.

Hemel's no show AGAIN is just ridiculous and totally unfair on the club and the players.

By the time this programme goes to print we will have travelled to York City Knights for what I am sure will be another tough encounter against another quality side. I am confident, following the show we put on when playing them at home back in May, that we can put up another strong performance and eliminate the individual errors which cost us that game and hopefully this time come away with the result.

Best wishes,
Phil





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OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES & RESULTS

FEBRUARY

SS	Sunday 10th	SALFORD SELECT	H	W 34 - 22
LC	Sunday 17th	LAW CUP	A	W 20 - 22

MARCH

NRC	Sunday 3rd	NW CRUSADERS	A	L 48 - 12
NRC	Sunday 10th	ROCHDALE	H	W 26 - 10
NRC	Sunday 17th	GATESHEAD	H	W 34 - 16
NRC	Sunday 24th	SOUTH WALES	A	W 12 - 24
C1	Friday 29th	ROCHDALE	H	L 18 - 28

APRIL

CC	Sunday 7th	HUNSLET CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 3	A	L 36 - 10
C1	Sunday 14th	GLOUCESTER	A	W 0 - 36
CC	Sunday 21st	CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 4		
C1	Sunday 28th	OXFORD	H	L 16 - 18

MAY

C1	Sunday 5th	BYE		
C1	Sunday 12th	HEMEL	A	W 12 - 30
CC	Sunday 12th	CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 5		
NRC	Sunday 19th	NORTHERN RAIL CUP PLAY OFFS		
C1	Sunday 26th	GATESHEAD	H	W 54 - 16

JUNE

C1	Sunday 2nd	LONDON	H	W 30 - 22
C1	Sunday 9th	NW CRUSADERS	A	L 22 - 20
C1	Sunday 16th	SOUTH WALES	A	W 32 - 36
NRC	Sunday 19th	NORTHERN RAIL CUP QUARTER FINALS		
C1	Sunday 23rd	HEMEL	A	W 26 - 18
C1	Sunday 30th	GATESHEAD	A	W 12 - 44
NRC	Sunday 30th	NORTHERN RAIL CUP SEMI FINALS		

JULY

C1	Sunday 7th	OXFORD	A	W 4 - 22
CC	Sunday 14th	CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINAL		
C1	Sunday 14th	SOUTH WALES	H	W 50 - 22
NRC	Saturday 20th	NORTHERN RAIL CUP FINAL		
C1	Sunday 28th	NW CRUSADERS	H	3:00pm

AUGUST

C1	Sunday 4th	LONDON	A	3:00pm
CC	Sunday 4th	CHALLENGE CUP SEMI FINALS		
C1	Sunday 11th	GLOUCESTER	H	3:00pm
C1	Thursday 15th	ROCHDALE	A	7:30pm
CC	Saturday 24th	CHALLENGE CUP FINAL		

SEPTEMBER

C1	Sunday 1st	BYE		
C1	TBC	CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAY OFFS (Sunday 8th / 15th / 22nd)		
C1	Sunday 29th	CHAMPIONSHIPS GRAND FINAL		

OCTOBER

SL	Saturday 5th	SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL		
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