

TODAY'S SQUADS

Officials: Ref: P Brooke TJ: L Moore TJ: T Maher

Match commissioner: K Leyland

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 7 ROBINSON, Brett <small>ORSA</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 8 JOY, Phil <small>Pam Taylor & TTX</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 9 GEE, Sam <small>John & Lynda McAndrew</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 10 BOULTS, Jason <small>ORSA</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 11 CROWLEY, Josh <small>John & Lynda McAndrew</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 12 LANGTREE, Danny |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 13 HOBSON, Mark <small>Colin Appleyard Ltd 0161 330 5148</small> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 15 MOONEY, Paddy <small>Graeme Lee</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 16 HUGHES, Kenny <small>Rita Walton</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 17 WHITMORE, Danny <small>Frankie & Benny's</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 18 DAVIDSON, Alex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 19 WARD, Michael <small>Sylvia, David & Margaret</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 20 TYSON, George |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 21 COOKSON, David <small>ORLFC Players' Association</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | 22 THOMPSON, Liam <small>Spencer Hayes Insurance 01204 505 586</small> |

HEMEL STAGS



- | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mitch Barbara | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | James Cameron | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aaron Small | 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Michael Brown | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | James Hill | 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jy-mel Coleman | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ben Young | 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aiden Pritchard | 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ben Thorburn | 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dan Ljizouli | 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BJ Swindells | 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Carien Clement-Pascall | 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Alex Ingarfield | 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evan Simons | 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Miles McLeod | 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Guy Aldam | 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jimmy Morgan | 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ash Fyson | 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Malikhli Lloyd-Jones | 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Essad Al-Zubeidi | 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ben Kavanagh | 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ellis Gordon | 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eddie Mbaraga | 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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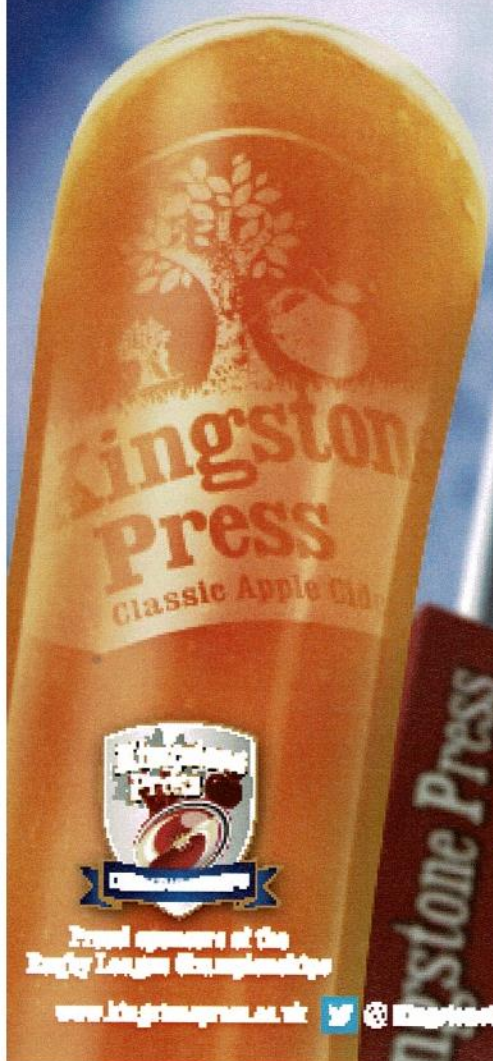
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X --- O X O
NOBBY'S NOTES
O X --- O X

Hello and welcome to Whitebank stadium for today's game against Hemel. It's great to be finally back playing in front of the fans after a long and very tough pre season which I'm certain the lads have hated.

A lot of hard work has been done over the last three months to ensure the team is ready to have another productive and hopefully successful season.

Unfortunately I have to start by talking about last season's grand final disappointment against Rochdale and the harsh fact that we got beat on the day.

The experience and occasion will benefit the team enormously in a good way and having spent the last three months with them I also know it will drive them on to produce a quality season so they can be in this years final and get the right result this time around.

Having been in that position myself many years ago as a

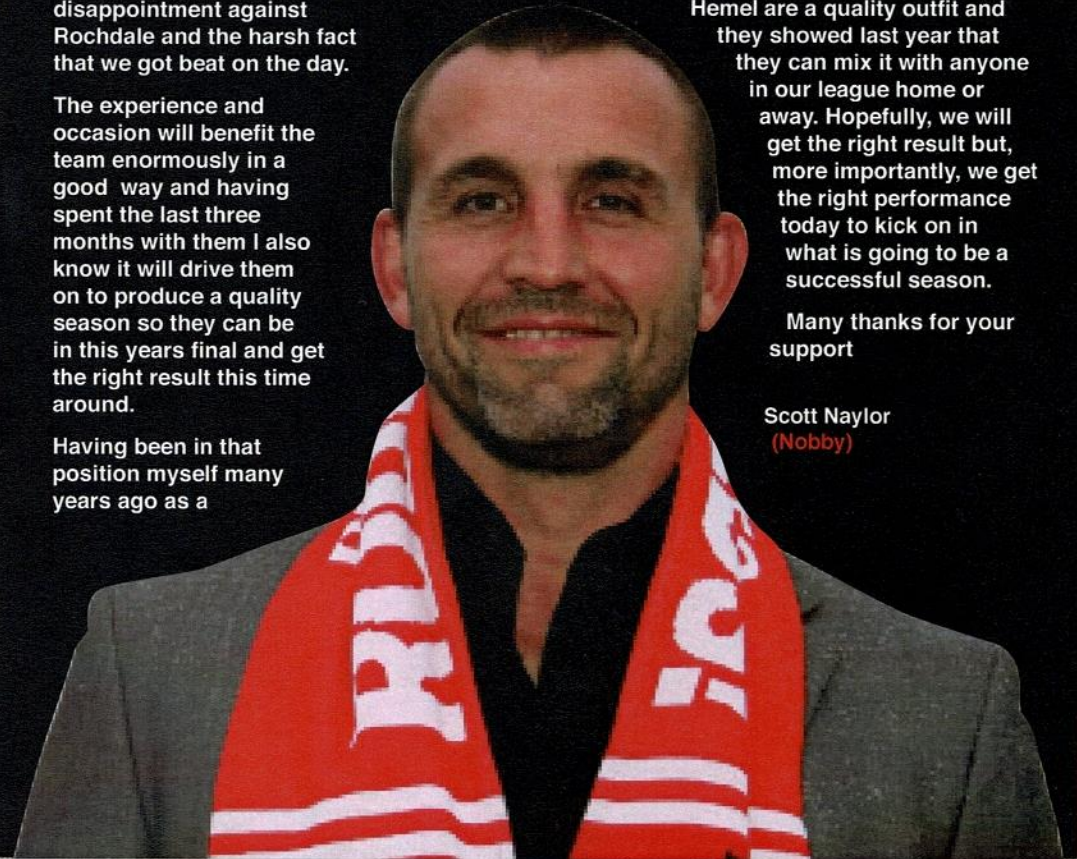
player I know personally the positive effect it can have on you and the extra mental strength you can find to avenge such a disappointment and put things right for the club and the fans, which is so much deserved in my opinion.

Today's game against Hemel will obviously be a very tough encounter. I'm sure they will come to prove a point after their result last week against Hunslet. We have to be at our best in all areas and show them the respect they deserve.

Hemel are a quality outfit and they showed last year that they can mix it with anyone in our league home or away. Hopefully, we will get the right result but, more importantly, we get the right performance today to kick on in what is going to be a successful season.

Many thanks for your support

Scott Naylor
(Nobby)





Ben Wood

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

With Ben Wood

Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

My dad and Alan Hunte

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

Squash, but I can't claim to excel

What is the highlight of your career so far?

Playing in Samoa for an Aussie rep side

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

Barry White and Ray Charles

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

My signed Barry White CD

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

Mark Hobson because he looks like Phil Mitchell

Which TV programme would you never miss?

Piers Morgan's life stories

What was the last book you read?

I can't read

What's your favourite type of music?

Smooth soul (Barry White)

How do you relax after a match?

I get on that train and snooze away

Finally tell me a secret !

I'm a secret Barry White fan

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CHRIS' COMMENTS

A big welcome to everybody to the start of the 2014 season here at Whitebank Stadium.

AAs you all know, things are never straightforward at Oldham and last weekend's first game in Maesteg was certainly one not to be forgotten.

The match was abandoned and although we have had confirmation that the result will stand (we didn't expect anything else) it was an incredible day in terms of the incessant, freezing rain that the players had to try and play in.

A total of 31 scrums says it all. It certainly wasn't a game for the purist! The players and staff must take a lot of credit for even going out in those conditions, so to get the win was the least we wanted for all that pain!

Today we welcome Hemel, who acquitted themselves well last season, which was their first in the professional game. They will be better for it and after a defeat at home last week they will come with a point to prove so we need to match that in our own attitude.

Over the past few weeks the Policy Review has more or less been approved in its entirety and as such we know what we are playing for this season and beyond, which is always helpful!

We think we have improved the squad with the players we have brought in and we will need each and every one of them over the coming months if we are to achieve our aim of promotion.

Its been a long time between the Grand Final and today and although once again we didn't get over the finishing line there were lots of positives



Enjoy the game

Christopher Hamilton
Chairman

to take from a season in which we undoubtedly had the youngest team in the division.

As a result of that, the squad's achievements were superb and shouldn't just be gauged on one match. There is no doubt, however, that the experience the players gained from Grand Final day and from the season as a whole are firmly locked in the memory bank and will stand us in good stead as things unfold over the next few months.

We have always been resilient at Oldham. That remains one of our strengths and will continue to do so. Nobody knows that more than you, the fans, and again your support at the final was fantastic and we were all sorry we couldn't deliver the ultimate prize.

This season your role should not be understated and, as always, I am asking for your support along the way for the players and staff as we strive to go one better.

I think there is a real depth of feeling among a growing numbers of spectators that the way the club is progressing - on and off the field - augurs well for the future and in many ways this is on the back of having, in the town, our own ground where we have started to put the soul back into the rich tapestry that is Oldham Rugby League Club.

That was lost in no small way after the sale of Watersheddings, followed by our nomadic existence for many years after that.

Your input takes on many different roles but the most obvious one is to be, once again, the loudest, proudest supporters in the division -- something that is commented on at every club we go to. Keep it up and cheer the lads on to what we hope will be another victory today.

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ON the ball . . . Oldham RLFC chairman Chris Hamilton, Alun Francis, Principal of Oldham College, John Pietrzak, Head of Sport, Oldham College.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

Oldham College touches down with Oldham Rugby League Club

OLDHAM College's Rugby Academy has partnered with Oldham RLFC so that students will benefit from top-level training and coaching as well as professional progression routes.

The link-up offers excellence in sport and education.

Club and College came together for the first time in a joint coaching session at

Whitebank in which potential College players under the watchful eye of Steve Molloy trained with the club's under-20s squad.

Also taking part were Roughyeds coaches Scott Naylor, Lee Spencer and Neil Roden.

Said Scott: "This is a forward-thinking initiative that can have mutual benefits and can only be good for the development of rugby league in the town.

"We intend to have similar sessions at Whitebank in the future and continue to build and strengthen our partnership."

John Pietrzak, the College's Head of Sport, Oldham RLFC chairman Chris Hamilton and Alun Francis, the College's Principal and Chief Executive, all spoke positively about the benefits of the partnership.

Said John: "Through the partnership we can offer excellence in coaching and work experience as well as outstanding education across numerous levels.

"The partnership provides access into the daily running of a professional club and also an insight into many different employment opportunities, not to mention progress into the professional game."

Speaking on behalf of the club, Chris added: "We have a good track record for developing young players

which, for a club of our size, is probably unprecedented in the sport.

"The partnership will provide opportunities for local players to be involved in a professional set-up and to receive schooling while also utilising the club's expertise."

Said Alun: "The Rugby Academy follows the mould of our well established and very successful Football Academy and will provide sports pathway into the industry as a whole."

The Academy is currently recruiting students aged 16+ for starting in September and to be coached and taught by Steve Molloy and his team.

For course details visit www.oldham.ac.uk or contact Peter Scrivens, Course Leader, Sport and Academy on 0161 785 5445 or by email to: peter.scrivens@oldham.ac.uk



ORSA

The Oldham Roughyeds Supporter Association (ORSA) will continue to run the Squad Strengthener scheme for the forthcoming 2014 season, despite having to come to terms with the loss of their Chairman, the late Nigel Marland. Nigel will be very sadly missed by us all, not only as a very good friend but for his boundless enthusiasm and leadership for which he is irreplaceable. It was Nigel who had instigated the successful Squad Strengthener fund at the start of the 2012 season as a way the fans could be involved in supporting the strengthening and development of the squad. He was totally committed to the scheme and even during his failing health, he expressed his regret at being unable to pursue the organisation of the fund for the 2014 season. However, we assured him that we would take care of matters and that is precisely what we are now doing.

During the 2013 season the contributions made to the scheme, were used to support the Club with a number of loan signings, which the coaching staff deemed necessary to bolster the young and developing squad of players they had assembled. Loan signings from clubs in the higher divisions, inevitable come at some substantial cost, so the assistance from our fund was valuable and much appreciated by the Club. The 2014 fund will be available as it was previously, to support the

strengthening of the squad, whether any signing is on a loan agreement or a more permanent basis.

The scheme is run independently of the Club, by members of ORSA and every pound contributed is used for the purpose of squad strengthening. As in 2013, the scheme will be run on a 'player share' basis with every share costing just £5. Any number of shares may be purchased, the minimum being 1 but there is definitely no maximum!!

Payment may be made by cash/cheque or by Standing Order and all payments are logged and receipted by the Treasurer. Every share purchased qualifies for an entry in a prize draw to be held early in the season and despite the scheme being run independently of the Club, the prizes will be provided by the Club in appreciation of the contributions from the fans.

The Club has been successful in retaining most of last season's squad, despite some of them arousing interest from other clubs. That alone has come at a cost, as it has led to some enhancements of contracts. Apart from that, there will once again, be substantial travelling costs and the expenditure incurred in the running of an under-20's squad, so any assistance our loyal fans can offer the Club will be of great value. With that in mind, we hope to gather as much support as possible as we look forward to the challenges of another season in Championship 1.



ADAM FILES
SCORING AT
MAESTEG

FANS who contribute to Squad Strengthener helped the club to secure the services of our highly-rated young hooker Adam Files on a one-year contract.

Files (21) was our second highest try scorer with 15 last season while on long-term loan from Salford.

To make him a fully-fledged Oldham player on contract this year, we had to compete with clubs in the higher Championship division.

Liam Gilchrist, now at Rochdale, and Richard Lepori, who has moved to Australia, are no longer with us, but they have been replaced by new signings Paddy Mooney, Danny Whitmore, Brett Robinson and Ben Wood.

Salford centre Jon Ford, who played for Roughyeds for most of last season on dual registration or on loan, has gone to Sheffield Eagles on season-long loan, but young forwards Alex Davidson (21) and George Tyson (20) have arrived at Whitebank from Salford on similar long-term arrangements.

Our club chairman Chris Hamilton said: "Squad Strengthener was a great help last year and it has come up trumps again this time by contributing to the capture of Adam Files.

"The club is extremely grateful to Squad Strengthener, and to everyone who is involved with it.

"The more people who are in it, the bigger the difference it can make."

The club has retained most of last year's squad, in some cases re-signing players who were being courted by clubs in the higher division.

QUIZ NIGHT

ORSA will stage a Quiz Night in the sponsors' lounge at Whitebank on Wednesday, March 19, starting at 8pm.

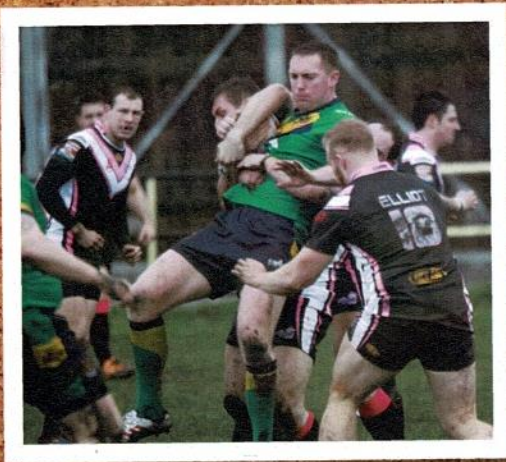
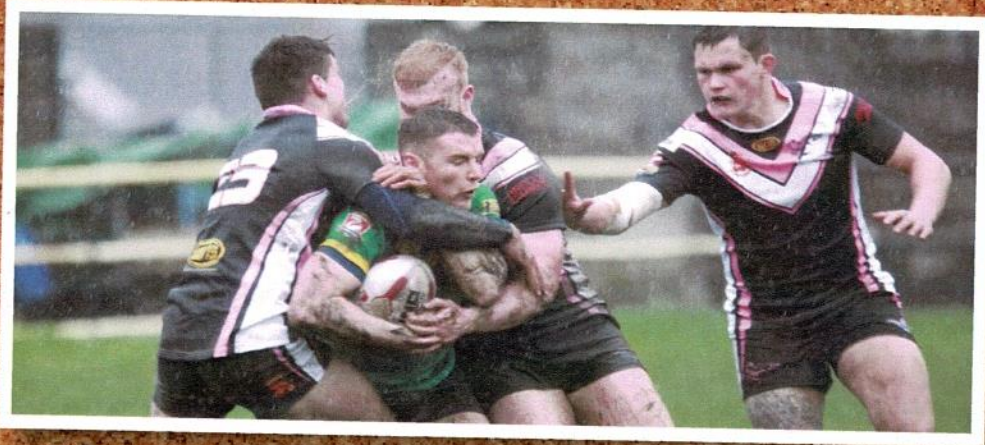
Entry is £1 per person and prizes on offer will include a jackpot of £100 as well as raffle prizes.

Sandwiches available and everyone is welcome to enjoy a pleasant evening with fellow fans and to help us to raise a few quid too.

For more details speak to any member of the ORSA committee or speak to Sheila Somerville either at the game today or by telephone on 01706 844810.

SOUTH WALES GAME IN PICTURES

Courtesy of Ian Lovell Photography





Playing for a meal ticket

EVERY time they take the field at Whitebank in their soon-to-start Championship One campaign, tough-guy Oldham Rugby League players will be striving for more than league points and winning pay.

They'll also be competing with each other... for a hearty meal to keep up their strength!

As part of a man-of-the-match sponsorship link-up with Roughyeds, Frankie and Benny's will reward Oldham's star man in every home game with a voucher to dine out at their restaurant in Centre Retail Park off Broadway.

In addition, they will also sponsor new signing Danny Whitmore for the full season.

"I'll be going all out to pick up some man-of-the-match awards that's for

sure," said the Oldham-born hooker, who has returned to his hometown club after a season with Batley Bulldogs.

"The players are delighted to have Frankie and Benny's behind them and I can promise them we'll be going flat out to make it a season to remember."

Said restaurant manager Nathan Cruddas: "We like to support the local community and our support of Oldham Rugby League Club is one way in which we can do it."

"We will help in any way we can. We are looking forward to working with the club and building great relationships with management, players and fans."

Whitmore (pictured) is flanked by Frankie and Benny's mascot 'Sketch' (left) and rugby club mascot Roary the Roughyed.

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Lorraine Hunt



GROUNDWORK

Young volunteers and Regenda team up to transform Oldham Rugby Club



A group of young people from Oldham have joined forces with Regenda to bring improvements to The Whitebank Stadium – home of Oldham Rugby League Football Club.

The young people are currently taking part in The Prince's Trust Team programme run by Groundwork and have volunteered their time at The Whitebank Stadium as part of the Community Project element of the programme. The team consists of unemployed young people aged 16 to 25 who are determined to

improve their community whilst gaining experience to improve their own lives.

Chris Hamilton, Chairman at Oldham Rugby League Football Club, commented: *"We were delighted when we were approached by Regenda and Groundwork. The work that the team have done will make our match day operations better and I'm sure visitors will appreciate the work that has been put in. We've got lots of opportunities within the stadium for projects like this and for local people to get involved."*

The two week project at Oldham Rugby League Club has involved improvement work to the paths and land within the stadium. The project has received funding from housing group Regenda as the club is a central part of the Limehurst community.

Regenda's Regional Director, Bill Lovat, said: *"Practical projects combining skills and experience for local people as well as improving the environment are an important part of our 10 year vision for Limehurst. Oldham Rugby League Club is a key partner, helping us to reinforce our commitment to transforming the lives of our community."*

The young people have completed a variety of activities such as digging up the old path, removing moss and weeds from the pathways, filling a skip full of waste vegetation and laying six tonnes of fresh gravel outside the club house.

Mohammed Rahman, 21, a member of The Prince's Trust team said: *"Nowadays employers are looking for experience that we haven't got. The Prince's Trust Team programme is giving me a boost and an opportunity to gain that necessary experience as well as the chance to achieve a qualification and to meet new people. The team leaders have been brilliant and really want to help you to get somewhere in life."*

Adeel Abbas, Prince's Trust Team Leader from Groundwork, said: *"The group have showed excellent teamwork and kept motivated throughout despite the cold weather. The young people have been an absolute pleasure to*

work with and I would recommend this course to anyone aged 16-25 who wants to boost their CV."

The Prince's Trust will help 55,000 disadvantaged young people this year, giving them the confidence and skills to turn their lives around. Three in four young people on Prince's Trust schemes move into work, education or training.

For more information on the course please call Adeel Abbas on **07739 978 796** or email adeel.abbas@groundwork.org.uk



HOW RESTRUCTURING WORKS

The RFL believes passionately that the Kingstone Press Championship and Championship One seasons are set to be the most exciting and captivating we have ever had.

Both divisions are to undergo major change at the end of 2014 as the sport prepares to embrace new league structures from 2015, when the top two divisions will each comprise 12 clubs.

Before then the new season will feature some of the most dramatic action in the competition's history.

The 14 Kingstone Press Championship clubs will battle it out over 26 rounds to secure the top-nine finish they need to retain their place in the Championship.

Eight of the top nine clubs will then go into a play-off series culminating in a title-deciding Grand Final. The five clubs finishing the season in 10th to 14th positions will be relegated into Championship One.

The Championship One season will conclude with a five-team play-off involving the clubs finishing in first to fifth positions at the end of the regular season. The play-offs climax with a Grand Final, the winners of which will be crowned champions and promoted into the Kingstone Press Championship in 2015.

Full details of the promotion and relegation formats were presented to the Kingstone Press Championships clubs at a meeting at Featherstone on February 6, which was attended by Oldham RLFC chairman Chris Hamilton..

RFL Chief Operating Office Ralph Rimmer said: "It was a momentous meeting and as such it was pleasing that all clubs in attendance made a full and candid contribution.

"The return of promotion and relegation across the three top divisions from 2015 has been welcomed by everyone and the Championships clubs remain genuinely enthusiastic about the new structures that will deliver a fully integrated competition.

"The clubs were provided with, and accepted, details of the financial distributions that will be in place from next season, when the sport enters an exciting new era.

"We were also able to confirm that we are exploring alternatives to the broadcasting arrangements for the Kingstone Press Championships for 2014 following the withdrawal of Premier Sport."

The 2014 Kingstone Press Championship season comprises 26 rounds and concludes with the title-deciding Grand Final over the weekend of October 4-5 at a venue still to be confirmed.

Each of the nine Kingstone Press Championship One teams will play an extra four games during the 20 rounds, two of which will be at home and two away. These four fixtures have been selected at random based on finishing positions in 2013.

Oldham's four 'extra' fixtures are against Hemel Stags and the University of Gloucester All Golds at Whitebank and against London Skolars and Gateshead Thunder away.

ANOTHER TRIP TO CUMBRIA

OUR third-round Tetley's Challenge Cup tie against Egremont Rangers in Cumbria next weekend will see us take on one of the best amateur clubs in a county renowned for its strength at grassroots level.

As one of half a dozen NCL premier division sides through to this stage of the competition, Rangers are expected to do well in the community game's flagship competition this season although they suffered an opening-day defeat at Wath Brow Hornets last Saturday.

It's no coincidence that three amateur clubs --- Egremont, Wath Brow and Kells --- will be flying the Cumbrian club in this weekend's cup-ties because the county wedged beyond the Lake District, beside the Irish Sea and south of Solway Firth has always been a stronghold of our sport, writes ROGER HALSTEAD.

Take Egremont as one example. Over the years they have produced numerous players who have turned pro or who have won amateur international honours.

In 1989 they won the NCL Challenge Cup and a year later carried off the BARLA National Cup with an 11-4 final triumph over Saddleworth Rangers.

They were crowned NCL premier division champions in 1998, while in the following year they hit the headlines by trouncing Workington Town 18-0 at Whitehaven in the Challenge Cup.

Little wonder then that Scott Naylor will warn his Oldham outfit to expect a tough and demanding test next week.

Having lost first time out at Hunslet Hawks last year, the Roughyeds' boss is eyeing a decent run in this competition in his second season at Whitebank.

But as player and coach he's been in the business long enough to know that his young squad of part-time professionals will have to negotiate a potential minefield in round three.

Of the 11 amateur teams through to the third round, Egremont is the only one to face opposition from beneath second-tier

Championship level and, as such, will be considered to have the best chance of causing an upset.

Said Scott: "We'll have to be on our mettle. Cumbria is never an easy place to go to. They'll have a good-sized crowd behind them and they'll see it as their one big chance to take a professional scalp.

"We'll be as well prepared as we will for every game, but it won't be easy.

"Fans can rest assured, however, that we'll be going up there to win because we want to go as far as we can in this cup competition, particularly after going out so early last year.

"We didn't get the rub of the green at Hunslet -- four tries disallowed --- but if we had played them two months later when we were starting to get things right it could have been a different story."

The Egremont game will be a re-run of the 2012 clash, which Oldham edged 22-14 in a tie played on a Friday night at the Recreation Ground, Whitehaven in front of nearly 500 fans.

Tony Benson's side, which didn't get on top until late in the game, included only three players who are still playing at the club --- David Cookson, Jason Boults and Danny Whitmore.

Roughyeds had to play on the Friday night because Whitehaven were at home on the Sunday and Wath Brow Hornets were given use of the ground on the Saturday because of the distance South Wales Scorpions had to travel.

"We're more fortunate this time in that four of the five west Cumbrian clubs are drawn away," said Oldham chairman Chris Hamilton.

"Last year we were one of the five Championship One clubs which were put into the amateurs' side of the draw which meant we were sure to be paired with either a Championship club or another Championship One side.

"This time we avoided that, so it was a better draw for us all round, though it will still be a very tough tie for us."

(See fixture list for full details of all our games in 2014)

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB U20s FIXTURES & RESULTS

MARCH

Saturday 8th	Leigh Centurions	H	2:30 pm
Saturday 22nd	Sheffield Eagles	A	2:00pm
Saturday 29th	Featherstone Rovers	H	2:30pm

APRIL

Saturday 12th	Halifax	H	2:30pm
Saturday 26th	Sheffield Eagles	A	2:00pm

MAY

Saturday 3rd	N E Academy	H	2:30pm
Saturday 10th	Midlands Academy	A	2:30pm
Saturday 24th	Cumbria Academy	A	2:30pm
Saturday 31st	Sheffield Eagles	H	2:30pm

JUNE

Thursday 12th	Keighley	A	7:30pm
Saturday 21st	Featherstone Rovers	A	2:30pm

JULY

Saturday 5th	Halifax	H	2:30pm
Saturday 12th	Gloucester	H	2:30pm
Wednesday 30th	Leigh Centurions	A	7:30pm

AUGUST

Saturday 9th	Keighley	H	2:30pm
Thursday 14th	Halifax	A	7:30pm

NEIL'S NOTES

Hi all,

PRE-SEASON training has gone well with the under 20s and it has been quite an experience for me in coming to terms with the transition from player to coach.

The lads have put a lot of effort into every session. They are a good bunch with a top team spirit and I'm sure that's going to stand them in good stead over the course of the next few months.

It has been disappointing not to get any pre-season friendlies because of game cancellations, but the lads are ready and are itching to get started.

We've got a young and talented squad and we couldn't have faced a much tougher start to the season than Leigh at home, Sheffield away and Featherstone at Whitebank.

We opened up with Leigh at Whitebank yesterday and our next scheduled game is away at Sheffield on Saturday, March 22, this game to be played at the Sheffield Hallam University sports park, kicking off at 2pm.

Featherstone, our next opponents here at Whitebank, pay us a visit on Saturday, March 29, kick off 2.30pm.

Our first month of matches will be a good learning curve for all of us, myself included, with lots of ups and downs along the way, I'm sure.

We will give our all in a bid to improve game by game. Hope to see you supporting the lads,

Enjoy your rugby,

NEIL

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COMINGS AND GOINGS

WE began the Kingstone Press Championships One season last week in South Wales with a squad of 22 players, some having gone over the course of the off-season and others having replaced them.

Notable departures from the squad that finished the 2013 campaign were Neil Roden, Liam Gilchrist, Richard Lepori and Jon Ford, although Jon was only ever on loan or dual registration from Salford and he is now on similar release at Sheffield Eagles.

Neil's long and distinguished playing career with our club ended with his retirement at the age of 32. Much more will be said of Neil in future issues of this match-day programme, given that he is now in his testimonial year and will be holding several events over the course of the next ten months or so. As most of you will know, he is also now in charge of our under-20s, who had their opening game against Leigh Centurions here at Whitebank yesterday.

Liam went to Rochdale and Richard opted for a spell in Australia, having finished at university and with no ties in his private life. He has gone, initially, for 12 months in which he will be working on a farm in Northern Queensland and playing for a local side up there, Atherton Roosters.

Most of last year's squad opted to sign new deals, but several new signings have been made to produce a 2014 squad which Scott Naylor believes is stronger all round and better balanced than last year's group.

The new boys are Paddy Mooney, Danny Whitmore, Brett Robinson, Ben Wood, Alex

Davidson, George Tyson and, technically, Adam Files.

Danny and Adam need no introduction; Danny because he had three seasons with us before spending last year at Batley Bulldogs and Adam because he had a great season with us in 2013 when he was on long-term loan from Salford. However, he is now a fully-fledged Oldham player and we are delighted to have him on board as 'one of ours'.

Paddy, a 20-year-old prop, has served an apprenticeship with London Broncos, but he is now studying at Manchester University.

Brett, a Wiganer, was at Oxford last season. He comes to provide us with more strength and experience in the key half-back role.

Ben also spent a short time with us at the start of the 2011 campaign. A centre or second-row forward, he has since spent a considerable time in Western Australia where he won State representative honours.

Alex, a prop, and George, who can play most positions in the pack, are young forwards on season-long loan deals from Salford.

George has still to make his Roughyeds debut, but Alex made an immediate impact in the pre-season games against Barrow and Swinton and thus kept his spot for last week's eventful trip to Maesteg.

Only 21, Alex has played in three Super League games for Salford, the first against Hull KR when he was only 18 and the others only last season against Leeds and Huddersfield.

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES & RESULTS

March				
KPC1	Sunday 2nd	SOUTH WALES	A	W 18-4
KPC1	Sunday 9th	HEMEL	H	3:00pm
	Sunday 16th	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 3		
KPC1	Sunday 23rd	LONDON	A	3:00pm
April				
	Sunday 6th	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 4		
KPC1	Sunday 13th	GATESHEAD	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Friday 18th	HUNSLET	A	2:00pm
	Sunday 27th	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 5		
May				
KPC1	Sunday 4th	OXFORD	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 18th	YORK	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 25th	GLOUCESTER	A	3:00pm
June				
KPC1	Sunday 1st	LONDON	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 8th	HEMEL	A	2:30pm
	Sunday 8th	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINAL		
KPC1	Sunday 15th	SOUTH WALES	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 22nd	GATESHEAD	A	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 29th	OXFORD	A	3:00pm
July				
KPC1	Sunday 13th	GLOUCESTER	H	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 20th	YORK	A	3:00pm
KPC1	Sunday 27th	HUNSLET	H	3:00pm
August				
KPC1	Sunday 3rd	LONDON	A	3:00pm
	Sunday 10th	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL		
KPC1	Sunday 17th	HEMEL	H	3:00pm
	Saturday 23rd	TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP FINAL		
KPC1	Sunday 31st	GATESHEAD	A	3:00pm
September				
KPC1	Sunday 7th	GLOUCESTER	H	3:00pm
CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAY OFF GAMES SUNDAY 14th SUNDAY 21st & SUNDAY 28th				
October				
	Sunday 5th	CHAMPIONSHIPS GRAND FINALS		
	Saturday 11th	SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL		