



BRADFORD BULLS

HEAD COACH: FRANCIS CUMMINS

○○○	BRETT KEARNEY	1	○
○○○	ELLIOT KEAR	2	○
○○○	ADRIAN PURTELL	3	○
○○○	MATTY BLYTHE	4	○
○○○	JAMIE FOSTER	5	○
○○○	LUKE GALE	7	○
○○○	MATT DISKIN	9	○
○○○	TOM OLBISON	11	○
○○○	DALE FERGUSON	12	○
○○○	CHEV WALKER	13	○
○○○	MANASE MANUOKAFOA	14	○
○○○	ADAM SIDLOW	15	○
○○○	DANNY ADDY	16	○
○○○	LEE GASKELL	17	○
○○○	JAMES DONALDSON	18	○
○○○	ADAM O'BRIEN	19	○
○○○	LUKE GEORGE	20	○
○○○	ADAM HENRY	21	○
○○○	SAM WOOD	22	○
○○○	OLIVER ROBERTS	23	○
○○○	ALEX MELLOR	24	○
○○○	NATHAN CONROY	25	○
○○○	DANNY BRIDGE	28	○
○○○	ANTHONY MULLALLY	29	○
○○○	JAMAL FAKIR	30	○

OLDHAM RLFC

HEAD COACH: SCOTT NAYLOR

○	TOM WHITEHEAD	○○○
○	MO AGORO	○○○
○	BEN WOOD	○○○
○	STEVEN NIELD	○○○
○	DALE BLOOMFIELD	○○○
○	LEWIS PALFREY	○○○
○	BRETT ROBINSON	○○○
○	PHIL JOY	○○○
○	SAMMY GEE	○○○
○	JASON BOULTS	○○○
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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

BRADFORD BULLS



#BELONG

vs OLDHAM RLFC

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL 2014
KICK-OFF: 2PM
THE PROVIDENT STADIUM
ISSUE: 04 // PRICE: £2.50



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THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE
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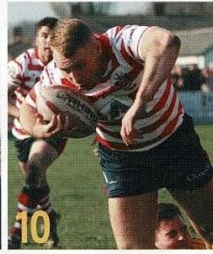
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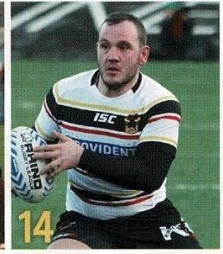
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TODAY'S MASCOT: NATHAN WARD

Nathan, who turns seven tomorrow, is kick-starting his birthday celebrations early this weekend.

The rising Rugby League talent, a member of Bradford Dudley Hill's Under-7s team, is a huge Bulls fan and his favourite player is Luke George.

He attends Pudsey Tyersal Primary School and is eyeing up a future at The Provident Stadium, as a squad member!



BRADFORD BULLS HONOURS LIST:

Super League Champions - (1997, 2001, 2003, 2005); **World Club Champions** - (2002, 2004, 2006); **Championship Winners** - (1903-04, 1979-80, 1980-81); **League Leaders Shield** - (1999, 2001, 2003); **Challenge Cup Winners** - (1905-06, 1943-44, 1946-47, 1948-49, 2000, 2003); **Premiership Winners** - (1977-78); **Second Division Winners** - (1973-74); **Yorkshire League Winners** - (1899-1900, 1900-01, 1939-40, 1940-41, 1947-48); **Yorkshire Cup Winners** - (1906-07, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1943-44, 1945-46, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1953-54, 1965-66, 1978-79, 1987-88, 1989-90); **Regal Trophy Winners** - (1974-1975, 1979-80); **Middlesex 7s** - (2002).

MARC GREEN



A VIEW FROM THE BOARDROOM

Bradford Bulls' new Chairman **Marc Green** brings us up to date with the latest developments from the top of the club's hierarchy...

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to The Provident Stadium for the first time as Chairman and owner of Bradford Bulls.

Since completing the takeover last week we have been working tirelessly to put things in place, designed to ensure this club's future in Super League.

And I am pleased to say things are beginning to take shape. I immediately appointed Steve Ferres as Managing Director, after gaining full control of the club, and there will be further announcements to come.

Most of you will have read various comments about me in the press, some of which are quite astonishing given the fact - at the time of writing - I had not given any form of interview. I am not a believer of self-publicity or talking about the things I am going to do. As the old adage says, actions speak louder than words.

My work has not stopped there, though. Yesterday, construction on a brand-new

shop and ticket office got underway and we are already planning a number of other projects which we believe will instantly generate revenue - and profit.

I hope the takeover has brought with it some much-needed certainty and belief for the players, staff and supporters. Our sole intention is to help Francis Cummins and his team avoid relegation and we will be doing everything possible in order to do so, while re-building this famous club from the ground up.



BELOW:
Steve Ferres has joined the club as Chief Executive

We know what is required to ensure this club survives as a Super League outfit in 2014 and are fully committed to delivering on all fronts.

Eight years ago, Bradford Bulls were champions of the world and reigning league champions. For that reason alone I am honoured to be in charge of such a famous brand.

We cannot do it on our own, though, and I personally would love to see everyone getting behind us from here. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the kind words of support I have received since purchasing the Bulls.

My team and I are taking a triangular approach to the running of the club, which includes our input, the staff's input and, of course, you, the supporters. We are more than aware of the task at hand but I believe we are capable of pulling off what, to some, could be deemed a near-impossible task.



"I TASTED MY FIRST REAL BULLS ACTION LAST WEEKEND, AT WIDNES, AND WAS PROUD OF WHAT I SAW, BOTH IN TERMS OF THE AMAZING EFFORT FROM THE PLAYERS AND THE NUMBER OF TRAVELLING SUPPORTERS"

With your support and belief, we will begin to climb the Super League table and put in place some firm foundations for what could be a very exciting 2015 campaign.

I tasted my first real Bulls action last weekend, at Widnes, and was proud of what I saw, both in terms of the amazing effort from the players and the number of travelling supporters.

We may have fallen short on the scoreboard, but there were plenty of positives to take from the game. The squad may currently be depleted, yet we came within inches of defeating a team currently sitting inside the top four - unbeaten at home - with five wins from six games.

Today sees us enter the Challenge Cup and, on behalf of the club, I would like to welcome our visitors from Oldham. I sincerely hope you enjoy this afternoon's action. The fightback is on.

MG

Marc

FRANCIS CUMMINS

FROM THE DUGOUT

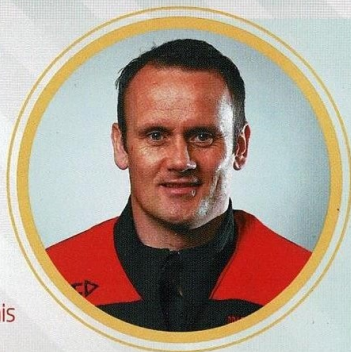
Head Coach **Francis Cummins** shares his thoughts ahead of this afternoon's Provident Stadium clash against Oldham RLFC...

Good afternoon and welcome to The Provident Stadium for today's Fourth Round Tetley's Challenge Cup tie against Oldham.

This is a competition I have great memories of and it is one which we, as a club, are looking to progress in. The magic of the cup is all about doing the unexpected and causing upsets. Though some will argue we have been handed a favourable draw today, we will not be taking our opposition lightly. This is a big game for us.

After a couple of tough weeks on the road, it is good to be back on home soil. We were badly affected by injuries against Hull Kingston Rovers but the players' effort could not be faulted.

The squad we took to Widnes was clearly depleted, with a handful of players sidelined, but what we came up with was extremely pleasing. We started slowly, which cost us in the end, but I felt our second-half showing was very good.



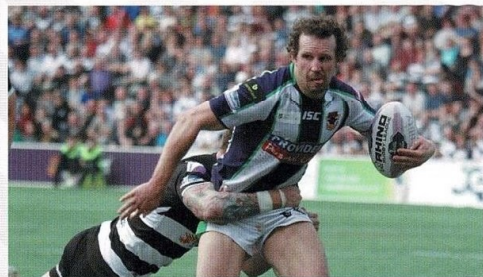
"SOME WILL ARGUE WE HAVE BEEN HANDED A FAVOURABLE DRAW TODAY, BUT WE WILL NOT BE TAKING OUR OPPOSITION LIGHTLY. THIS IS A BIG GAME FOR US"

We left Widnes perhaps feeling a little hard done by. Losing games by only a few points can be hard to take, given the circumstances. Our backs were against the wall, but the boys came out fighting and we put on a strong performance for our travelling supporters. We can take great confidence from the fact we ran an in-form Vikings team very close.

On the injury front, I am delighted with the news which I have been presented with this week by the medical team. I was absolutely gutted when I heard that Dale Ferguson could miss the next two to three months - in addition to his original setback. So it was great to hear he was

LEFT: The boys were mightily close to seizing the points last weekend at Widnes

FRANCIS IS SPONSORED BY:



coming back into contention. Lee Gaskell is also getting very close to making a full recovery and Adam Sidlow, Luke George and Matt Diskin aren't too far behind either.

As they have missed the vast majority of the season so far, Lee and Dale will arrive as, virtually, two brand-new signings. They are a pair of hugely talented individuals, who have only been able to show glimpses of their overall potential. It is safe to say they are extremely frustrated and I am confident they will each prove their worth in the weeks and months ahead.

These are exciting times for Bradford Bulls and I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Marc Green and Steve Ferres to The Provident Stadium. To have a new owner, chairman and managing director in place is a great thing for the club, given the difficulties that administration brings and has, in the past, brought.

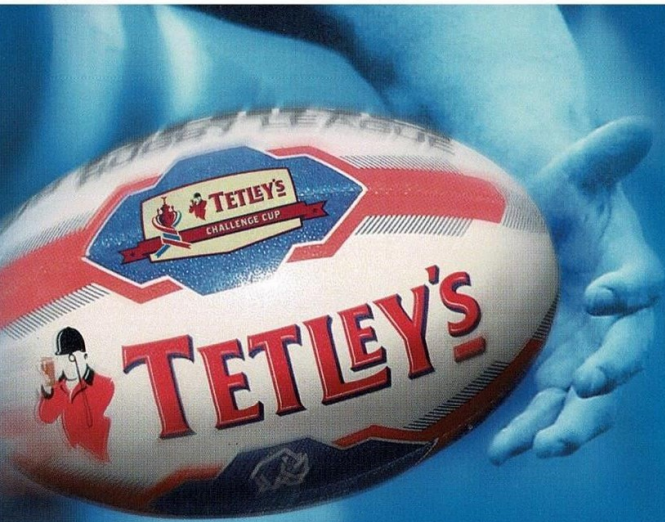
We are a fair way behind the eight-ball but everyone involved with the Bulls is committed to ensuring a bright future for this fantastic club. We are embracing the challenges ahead, while attempting to lay down a marker for the remainder of the season.

The fightback is on for Bradford Bulls and I believe we will come out on the other side as a Super League club, come the end of the 2014 campaign.

Enjoy the game,

Francis





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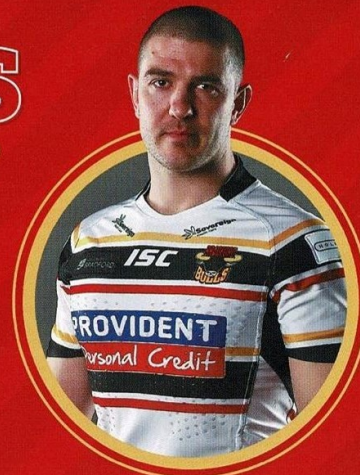
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Please Enjoy Responsibly.

MATT DISKIN

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Captain **Matt Diskin** brings us up to date with the latest from the Bulls' inner sanctum...



There is nothing more frustrating than sitting on the sidelines, watching the action unfold before your very eyes.

I was itching to get out there last Sunday, after picking up a frustrating ankle injury over at Hull KR, and I thought the boys were absolutely fantastic, pushing a strong Widnes side all the way on the 'I-Pitch'.

We really wanted to get a win for the new owner to celebrate, but I am sure what was served up would have pleased him somewhat. With backs against the wall and numbers low, we pushed Widnes all the way. Another five minutes or so and I think we might have come away with the points – and a massive win at that!

It was perhaps not meant to be for us, but we can certainly take a lot of heart from what was a difficult contest. I am hoping to be back playing before the end of the month, so there is some hard work ahead for me personally.

The news coming out of the medical room is very pleasing, though, as it seems we could have a fully fit squad in time for

the start of the second third of the season.

We are being written off by pretty much everyone at this stage but relegation is not something being spoken about here. Despite losing six points, we are more than capable of maintaining our Super League status – that is a main goal for us as a team – and the fightback is on.

“DESPITE LOSING SIX POINTS, WE ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING OUR SUPER LEAGUE STATUS – THAT IS A MAIN GOAL FOR US AS A TEAM – AND THE FIGHTBACK IS ON”

The sorting out of off-field matters has certainly given the boys the confidence they need to kick on and I can sense that, both in the dressing room and on the training paddock. The takeover enables us to focus on all things rugby.

On behalf of the boys, I would like to wish our new owner and

chairman, Marc Green, and his team for all of their efforts over the past week or so.

Marc and Steve Ferres, who I am delighted to see coming in as Managing Director, came to address us after completing the takeover last week, and we were impressed with what they had to say. They certainly have our respect and we aim to go out there and gain theirs in the coming weeks.

Today sees the start of what we hope will prove a long and winding Challenge Cup run, but, unfortunately, this is another clash which I am going to have to enjoy from the dugout!

Enjoy the game.

Matt

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FORMER BULL NAYLOR LOOKS TO MASTERMIND CUP UPSET



Bill Miller profiles today's Challenge Cup Fourth Round visitors...

THE FORMBOOK

Oldham have met Super League opposition six times in the last 12 years in the Challenge Cup, but they haven't played Bradford since their old incarnation as Oldham Bears the year they were relegated from Super League in 1997.

That was the year Bradford won the league title the last time it was staged under the first past the post system and they beat Oldham home and away.

Oldham defeated Egremont Rangers 42-24 in the Third Round and so far are unbeaten in Kingstone Press Championship One and in third place. Full-back Steven Nield and second rower

Josh Crowley both bagged braces of tries against the Cumbrian amateurs and club captain Lewis Palfrey landed five goals.

In the league, Oldham opened up with an 18-4 win away at South Wales Scorpions, before Hemel Stags held them to a 20-20 draw at home. They then won narrowly 18-16 away at London Skolars.

The club has Alex Davidson and George Tyson on long-term loan from Salford Red Devils and Edwin Okanga-Ajwang on long-term dual registration, also from Salford.

CUP HISTORY

There is a glaring omission in Oldham's history in that they have never

been to a Wembley Challenge Cup Final.

All Oldham's success in the sport's oldest competition came before the move to Wembley in 1929. The pity was that the club was the dominant cup force in the 1920s, defeating Hull Kingston Rovers 16-3 in the final at Headingley in 1925 and beating Swinton in 1927 at Central Park, Wigan, 26-7. They lost the finals of 1924 and 1926 and were

beaten finalists before that in 1907 and 1912. The first of Oldham's Challenge Cup triumphs came in 1899 when they beat Hunslet 19-9 at Fallowfield in Manchester.

BELOW: Half-back Lewis Palfrey



THE COACH

It is a return to Odsal and The Provident Stadium for Scott Naylor, 42, who spent six years at the club and won a stack of medals, including two in the Challenge Cup, when Bradford beat Leeds at Murrayfield in 2000 and the Rhinos again at Cardiff in 2003. He was also in the Bulls' cup team that narrowly lost to St Helens in the 2001 final at Twickenham.

Naylor played a pivotal role at centre as the Bulls thrashed Wigan Warriors in the 2001 Super League Grand Final. He also played in the Bulls' losses at Old Trafford to St Helens in 1999 and 2002 - the year he won the World Club Challenge with the club by beating Newcastle Knights at Huddersfield.

He had two spells at Salford and scored 60 tries in a total of 159 Super League appearances, as well as winning four caps with England and playing in the 2000 World Cup.

Naylor cut his coaching teeth under Shaun McRae at the former City Reds, who recommended him to Oldham in September 2012. He had been keeping his hand in coaching Leigh's rugby union team.

Last season Naylor led Oldham to the Championship One Final only to lose out on promotion to local rivals Rochdale Hornets, although they have started this season promisingly.



ABOVE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): Back-rower Danny Langtree; hooker Sammy Gee; prop Jason Boults; back-rower Josh Crowley. Pics: David Murgatroyd



HONOURS

Championship One: Runners-up: 2009, 2010, 2013

National League Two: Runners-up: 2007, 2008

Northern Ford Premiership: Runners-up: 2001

Trans-Pennine Cup: Beaten finalists: 1998

Rugby League Championship:

Winners: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Runners-up: 1906-08, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

First Division: Champions: 1904-05

Challenge Cup:

Winners: 1899, 1925, 1927. Beaten finalists: 1907, 1912, 1924, 1926



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LAST TIME OUT

WIDNES VIKINGS 22
BRADFORD BULLS 18
at The Select Security Stadium

It was a case of what might have been for Bradford Bulls last Sunday, as they fell to a narrow defeat at the hands of Widnes Vikings.

Francis Cummins's side were 16 points adrift after half an hour, but fought back admirably to set up a thrilling finish at the Select Security Stadium.

A Liam Sutcliffe try – on the stroke of half-time – lit the blue touch paper for a second-half fightback. And it came right from the off, after the break, as the visiting Bulls crossed for a pair of impressive touchdowns.

Jack Owens ended a 15-minute stalemate with a dubious score, following a tense opening which saw Bradford go close on a couple of occasions.

The Vikings' stand-in full-back appeared to have dropped the ball over the whitewash, though referee George Stokes awarded the try to a chorus of boos from the away end.

Danny Tickle was unable to add the extras from out wide, but he was on target shortly after when Kevin Brown crossed after selling the Bradford backline an eye-catching dummy.

The former Hull FC forward was called into action again in the minutes which followed, adding extras to a second Brown try – from bang in front.

Hosts Widnes were in total control as the half-hour mark passed.

But when Chris Dean was shown yellow by the man in the middle and ordered to the sin-bin, the Bulls were presented with a major opportunity.

And loanees Liam Sutcliffe made the most of Bradford's sudden territorial advantage, weaving his way across the whitewash. Half-back Luke Gale brilliantly converted five metres in from touch.

The visitors were back in the mix and they made a rip-roaring start to the second period.

Sam Wood galloped 70 metres, only to be hauled down just short. But the Bulls were not to be stopped, Gale kicking high and wide for Elliot Kear to score a well-worked try. The former Leeds and London talent again added the conversion.

The Vikings though were soon back in control, as former Bull Patrick Ah Van pounced on a Cameron Phelps kick – through to touch down.

With the scoreboard reading 22-12 and less than 20 minutes remaining, Bradford were in desperate need of a score. And their prayers were answered by Australian Brett Kearney, who produced a nomination for the 'Try of the Season' as he raced 50 metres – avoiding four would-be tacklers – to dive over beneath the uprights.

Gale improved with ease and Bradford upped the ante, as the minutes ticked down. But despite the Bulls' best efforts, it was the Vikings who clung on to record their fifth victory of the 2014 campaign.



ABOVE (FROM TOP): Luke Gale pulls the strings from scrum-half; Elliot Kear looks for the tryline to score the Bulls' second try

VIKINGS: Jack Owens, Paddy Flynn, Chris Dean, Cameron Phelps, Patrick Ah Van, Kevin Brown, Tom Gilmore, Alex Gerrard, Jon Clarke, Phil Joseph, Danny Galea, Danny Tickle, Hep Cahill.
Subs: Paul Clough, Paul Johnson, Rhodri Lloyd, Lloyd White.
Tries: Owens (15), Brown (24, 34), Ah Van (51)
Goals: Tickle 3/4

BULLS: Brett Kearney, Elliot Kear, Adam Henry, Adrian Purtell, Sam Wood, Liam Sutcliffe, Luke Gale, Manase Manuokafoa, Adam O'Brien, Chev Walker, Tom Olbison, Matty Blythe, James Donaldson.
Subs: Sutcliffe (39), Kear (47), Kearney (67).
Tries: Sutcliffe (39), Kear (47), Kearney (67)
Goals: Gale 3/3

Attendance: 5,581
Referee: George Stokes

By MATHEW NEWTON

BRADFORD BULLS TEAM TALK

Danny Addy believes the Bulls can gain momentum from today's visit of Championship One side Oldham...

The 23-year-old - who starred for Scotland during last year's World Cup - insists confidence was taken from last weekend's trip to Widnes, which saw Francis Cummins's side run high-flying Widnes Vikings close.

Addy is calling for more of the same when Bradford kick-start their Tetley's Challenge Cup campaign this afternoon.

"Today's game gives us a good chance to gather some momentum and build on what was a solid performance against the Vikings," he said.

"It will hopefully give us an opportunity to get back to winning ways as well and further improve our confidence levels.

"Everyone wants to progress in the cup and get on something of a run, but we are also mindful of the fact that such a streak can provide a major boost to our Super League campaign.

"Last time out we faced a side in great form, who are difficult to overcome away from home. In the end, though, we were genuinely disappointed to have missed out on the two points.



DANNY IS SPONSORED BY:
IAN AND LISA HARRISON

"We gave a much-improved performance and if certain things had gone our way, a couple of decisions or the odd bounce of a ball, the final scoreline might well have turned out in our favour."

Evergreen Addy will today make his 36th consecutive appearance for the club in all competitions.

The utility talent, whose preferred position is in the back row, has been deployed in a number of different roles by Cummins this season and last.

Pontefract-born Addy has thus far appeared at hooker, while covering for injured skipper Matt Diskin, stand-off and at second-row in 2014.

"I do not really mind where I play," he insisted.

"As always, I am willing to play wherever I am needed, whether that is at loose forward, in the halves or even at hooker. As long as I am playing I have a chance to cement my place in the starting line-up and that is the goal of every player."

LEFT: The versatile Danny Addy could make his 36th consecutive Bulls appearance today



Dale Ferguson is counting down the hours to his Bradford Bulls return - some six weeks ahead of schedule...

The Scotland World Cup star was facing a near three-month lay-off after suffering an injury set-back last month, while working to recover from an on-going back problem.

Ferguson, 25, has made only one appearance for the Bulls in 2014 since agreeing a two-year deal with the club last summer, and that came against Castleford Tigers in a pre-season friendly.

The former Huddersfield, Wakefield and Hull KR forward recently underwent surgery, however, and is responding

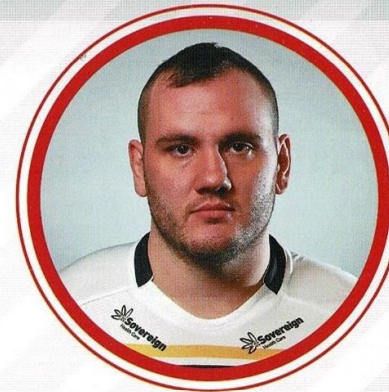
superbly to treatment from Bradford's medical staff.

Now, with his return in sight and this afternoon's clash counting as a realistic option, Ferguson is hopeful of making an impact.

"I am very much looking forward to getting back out there, it has been a long time coming," said the Bulls' back-rower.

"I was initially told I could be looking at 10 weeks on the sidelines, so to be informed I am getting close is very pleasing.

"It has been a massively frustrating period for me. I have only made one appearance so far this year and I was far from my best. But I am back in training, which is going well, and I'm simply now waiting now for the message telling me I am good to go."



DALE IS SPONSORED BY:
IN MEMORY OF HELEN BUTTERWORTH

Team-mate Lee Gaskell, who sustained a knee injury during the Bulls' Round Two First Utility Super League triumph over Wakefield Trinity Wildcats back in February, is also closing in on a return to full fitness.

The 23-year-old stand-off was ruled out for at least two months but, like Ferguson, is recovering ahead of schedule.

Bulls head physio Dan Ramsden said: "Both Dale and Lee are progressing very well in terms of their respective recoveries.

"They are back in light training and we are working very hard to ensure both of them are available for selection very soon.

"Matt Diskin, Luke George and Adam Sidlow are also doing well but like with any injury, it requires us to get these guys back out there, in the thick of the action, for us to fully assess their recoveries."

LEFT: Ferguson's solitary Bulls outing came in a pre-season outing against Castleford





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FOUNDATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1106608

BRADFORD BULLS FOUNDATION PARTNERS



Foundation manager Gareth Cook is heading for pastures new, having taken up a role with Doncaster Rovers and Doncaster RLFC.

Cook, who joined the Bradford Bulls Foundation in 2011 following a successful stint with Leeds Rugby, has played a key role in its development over the past three years.

During his time with the club's official charity, he has overseen the Foundation annually engage with over 50,000 adults and young people.



ABOVE: Foundation Manager Gareth Cook is leaving after three years

In three years, the Foundation has coordinated more than 1,000 player appearances, launched an ambassador scheme which is designed to aid amateur Rugby League clubs in the area, and formed partnerships with the University of Bradford, Heart Research UK, Provident Personal Credit and Incommunities.

In addition, the Foundation has helped a host of young people through apprenticeships and has recruited a number of students for BTEC Level 3 courses, which are currently in their first year of delivery in partnership with Rugby League Cares and Learn Direct.

"I have made some wonderful friends and loved every minute at the club but this is the next step in my career," said Cook.

"I've worked with great staff and an exceptional group of players and coaching staff. The Foundation staff and trustees have been brilliant throughout.

"The last three years have been a rollercoaster but I am immensely proud of the team I have at the Foundation, their drive,

passion and determination are underpinning factors as to why we have maintained our consistency as a charity.

"We have always endeavoured to educate, motivate and inspire the local community by providing positive experiences through our services.

"The board of trustees have been very proactive and are fully behind my decision and I would like to thank them for their hard work. It often goes unnoticed. Finally, I would like to thank the donors and partners of the Foundation."

Since Cook's arrival, the Foundation has successfully run primary education programmes, engaging with 50 primary schools across Bradford each year.

It has integrated and raised funds for the Bradford Bulls Wheelchair Team, built brand-new offices and classrooms – with an IT suite, delivered healthy lifestyle and teamwork assemblies to over 25,000 children and co-ordinated over 250 teams to appear during half-time at first-team games.

The Foundation has launched the B.U.L.L.S social inclusion programme, designed to help young people back into education and recruited high-profile trustees to its board.

Cook added: "Before coming to Bradford I was told it was a family club and I could not agree more. The staff, players and supporters have been brilliant and I have absolutely loved my time here. I will be very sad to move on but the opportunity to progress my career was too good to turn down.

"I would like to thank everyone at the club for their efforts in helping the Foundation get to where it is now. I could not have asked to work with a better group of people. I have made some wonderful, lifelong friendships and partnerships."

The Foundation is to continue its fantastic work within the community and for further information on how you can get involved, get in touch via e-mail: nigel.johnston@bradfordbulls.co.uk.

For more information about the Foundation, visit: www.bullsfoundation.org or follow the Foundation on Twitter @BullsFoundation.

PHIL CAPLAN

FROM THE PRESS BOX

Rugby league is, arguably, the most unforgiving team sport – we trade on the back of its toughness and look in constant awe at the bravery and sacrifice of such as Newcastle's Alex McKinnon – all in the name of our entertainment.

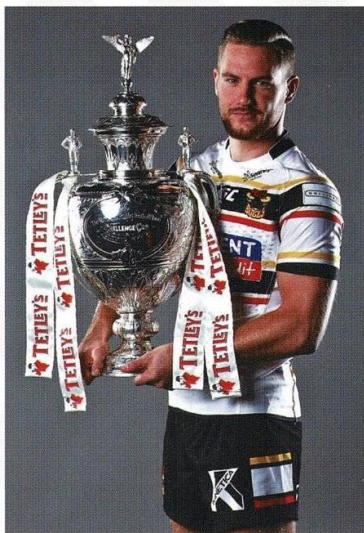
As a result, we have an absolute duty of care to those who play to, wherever possible, pitch like against like in terms of physique and development. Which is why the Challenge Cup might have to change, whatever traditionalists say.

The standards gap between full-time, part-time and little or no time is simply enormous now and increasingly unbridgeable.

The 'romance' of amateurs Milford just going out to Barrow in the last round aside, the results were predictable and margins large as the attendances were small, which helps no-one.

The community clubs, who can't compete on the field, gain the kind of unwanted impression with the scorelines run up that does no justice to their vital role in the truest communities.

Similarly, as no one can really believe that anyone other than a Super League side – and, most likely, one of the top ones at that – can win at Wembley, almost all Championship clubs are now looking for is a draw that will give them an away payday and early



exit, so they can concentrate on the lifeline of promotion or avoiding the relegation trapdoor.

So how do we change the grand old dame, who celebrates 85 years of the final moving to the nation's capital this year, to revive the cup's lustre and be realistic?

Leaving the gap between rounds aside – an issue that the BBC and governing body must

ABOVE: Does the Challenge Cup need a fresh approach to bring fans back through the turnstiles?

surely look at if they want the cup to have momentum, impetus and interest – and whether the final should be moved back from inconvenient late August to ideal late May, there has to be discussions at when each tier enters.

First, every officially affiliated community club should take part, just like in the FA Cup, with the early rounds regional, giving the sport a vital focus on its national spread.

That way, say, newcomers Sussex Merlins can feel a physical part of the same game as the Bulls.

The best of the development regions then go in with the community clubs outside the national conference and – if we were being truly imaginative and adding extra flavour – domestic champions from four European nations (Ireland, Serbia, Italy and Russia maybe) leading to four entrants to go on and mix it with the NCL, Services and Students.

They then distil down to eight clubs to be joined by the 23 sides from the Championship and Championship One and France's best from their Elite competition.

The parcel is passed until two remain, who take their place among the 14 Super League clubs and every match in each round has more riding on it.

Forty -20

BRADFORD HISTORY

GRAND FINALES:

This season **Martin Bass** will review the major finals that Bradford – a club older than both Rugby League and rugby union – have appeared in, since their formation in 1863...

THE CHALLENGE CUP IN THE BEGINNING...

Bradford's first-ever Challenge Cup tie took place back in 1897 – against today's opponents Oldham, at Park Avenue.

Described as the 'crack' side, Oldham were flying high in the league and were being backed to become the first winners of the brand-new piece of silverware.

Though Bradford, commonly known as the 'Avenueites', edged through into the next round, having led at the half – time break thanks to a Calvert drop-goal – then worth four points.

The ever reliable Dobson scored an unconverted try early in the second period, increasing Bradford's lead to seven points. For the remainder of the second-half, however, Oldham pressed hard on the Bradford line. The hosts somehow held out, conceding only a penalty – worth three points.

Unfortunately, there is no accurate record of the attendance for this match but, judging by the popularity of cup competitions prior to the formation of the Northern Union (RL) the previous

season, we can assume that a larger crowd would have attended Park Avenue than we can expect at The Provident Stadium today.

The Challenge Cup perhaps does not grab the public's imagination to the same extent, 160 years on. But, like both teams on display this afternoon, this stadium boasts a proud history in the Challenge Cup.

It took the sport's governing body only four years, following the opening of Odsal Stadium, to designate the ground suitable for staging Challenge Cup semi-finals.

Since its launch, in September of 1934, a 'new' stand had been built where the Provident Stand now sits. Nobody could have expected the size of the crowd which turned up to see Leeds and Halifax contest a place at Wembley.

The match itself was, as expected, a tight affair with the Thrum Hall outfit limping past the Loiners 10-4. But it wasn't the rugby that made the headlines – it was the 66,308 – strong attendance which packed in that attracted most attention.

Prior to the semi-final, the record attendance for a Rugby League match in Britain, stood



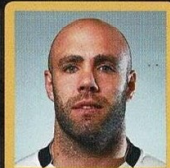
ABOVE: Odsal has a fine tradition in the Challenge Cup, hosting 19 cup semi-finals

at 51,250 – a figure recorded at Wembley for the 1936 Challenge Cup Final between Leeds and Warrington.

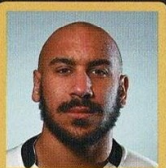
From that day on, Odsal Stadium was used regularly to stage major matches, hosting 19 cup semi-finals, four war-time cup finals and the famous 1954 cup final replay.

In addition, it provided a setting for 12 Championship Finals, nine Yorkshire Cup Finals, 27 international matches and six county contests.

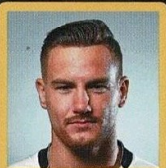
THE DRESSING ROOM



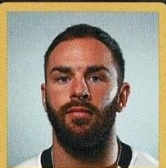
3 ADRIAN PURTELL
CENTRE



4 MATTY BLYTHE
CENTRE

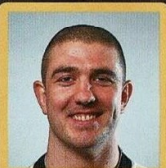


5 JAMIE FOSTER
WING



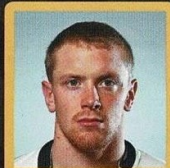
7 LUKE GALE
SCRUM-HALF

KAREN AND JORDAN FISHER

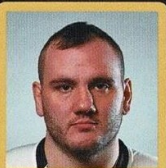


9 MATT DISKIN
HOOKER

MEMBERS OF THE RED AMBER AND BLACK BOARD

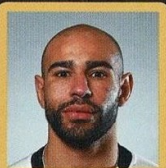


11 TOM OLBISON
SECOND-ROW



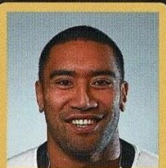
12 DALE FERGUSON
SECOND-ROW

IN MEMORY OF HELEN BUTTERWORTH



13 CHEV WALKER
LOOSE FORWARD

DAVID AND BARBARA WATT



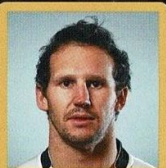
14 MANASE MANUKAFOA
PROP

FIONA, PETER, JONNY AND RACHEL DUTHOIT

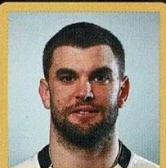


15 ADAM SIDLOW
PROP

**GARETH RIDER
MANAGER AT THORNTON LODGE
DAY NURSERY**

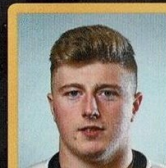


1 BRETT KEARNEY
FULL-BACK



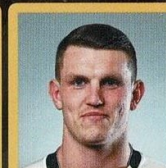
2 ELLIOT KEAR
WING

FUTURE HORIZONS

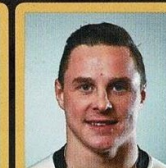


16 DANNY ADDY
SECOND-ROW

IAN AND LISA HARRISON

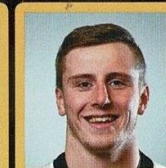


17 LEE GASKELL
STAND-OFF



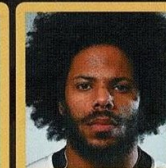
18 JAMES DONALSON
SECOND-ROW

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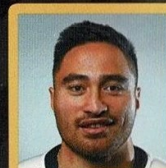


19 ADAM O'BRIEN
HOOKER

MONRO FAMILY

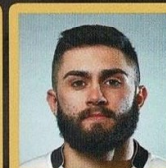


20 LUKE GEORGE
WING



21 ADAM HENRY
CENTRE

PITCHSIDE CREW



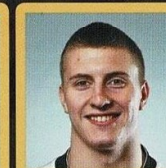
22 SAM WOOD
CENTRE

HELEN SMITH & CATHERINE KENDRICK



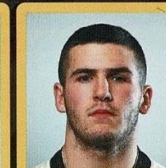
23 OLIVER ROBERTS
SECOND-ROW

PHOENIX GATES & METAL FABRICATIONS

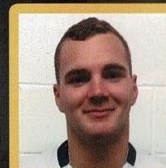


24 ALEX MELLOR
PROP

PETER LE TALBOT



25 NATHAN CONROY
HOOKER



28 DANNY BRIDGE
SECOND-ROW

GEORGE TIMBERLEY, AMELIA AND JAYDEN CUFFE

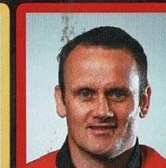


29 ANTHONY MULLALLY
PROP

GEORGE TIMBERLEY, AMELIA AND JAYDEN CUFFE



30 JAMAL FAKIR
PROP



FRANCIS CUMMINS
HEAD COACH



For more information with regards to sponsoring a Bradford Bulls player, or any other commercial opportunities with the club, call Laura Hutchinson on 08448 711 490 (option 2). Alternatively, e-mail: laura.hutchinson@bradfordbulls.co.uk

OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM

Bradford Bulls pay their respects to supporters who have recently passed away...

BARRY SUTLCIFFE

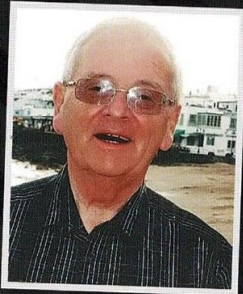
Barry Sutcliffe enjoyed watching the likes of Trevor Foster and Keith Mumby and was one of those who famously met at St George's Hall, Bradford, on 14th April, 1964 in a bid to secure the club's future.

The Bulls have expressed their sincere condolences to the family of Mr Sutcliffe, who recently passed away.

Barry's brother, Brian, via SGS, was heavily involved in sponsoring the then Bradford Northern - a club their family held close to their hearts.

Even while living in Kent, during recent years, Mr Sutcliffe attended several games.

Today, his wife Christine and family will be attending the game in memory of Barry.



DENNIS AYTON

Bradford Bulls would like to express their sincere condolences to the family of life-long supporter Dennis Ayton, who passed away recently aged 85.

Mr Ayton began attending games during the 1950s, with his father-in-law and wife. From there, he developed a keen interest and love for all things Rugby League.

Dennis spent many happy times travelling to home and away games to support both the Bulls and Northern, his favourite player being David Redfern.



NEXT UP AT THE PROVIDENT STADIUM...

The Bulls return to First Utility Super League action next Sunday, as Brian Noble's Salford Red Devils come to The Provident Stadium.

The Round Eight contest will get underway from 3.00pm and tickets are now available, priced at £20 (adults), £15 (concessions) and £10 (Juniors - under-16s)*.

*Admission charges are based on terrace pricing and under-12s can enter for FREE, when accompanied by a full-paying adult.

To secure tickets visit the stadium ticket office, call 08448 711 490, or get in touch via e-mail: tickets@bradfordbulls.co.uk.



BULLS vs RED DEVILS TICKETS: ADULTS £20 / CONCESSIONS £15 / STUDENTS £10 / JUNIOR (5-16) £10*

Building a Bulls Community

WE'LL STAND TOGETHER

Join our Facebook community to keep up to date with the latest Bulls news, match results and for the chance to win EXCLUSIVE prizes in our weekly competitions!

Image courtesy of David Lowdell Photography

PROVIDENT
Personal Credit

Supporting Bulls Supporters

Become part of our team today at facebook.com/supportingbulls