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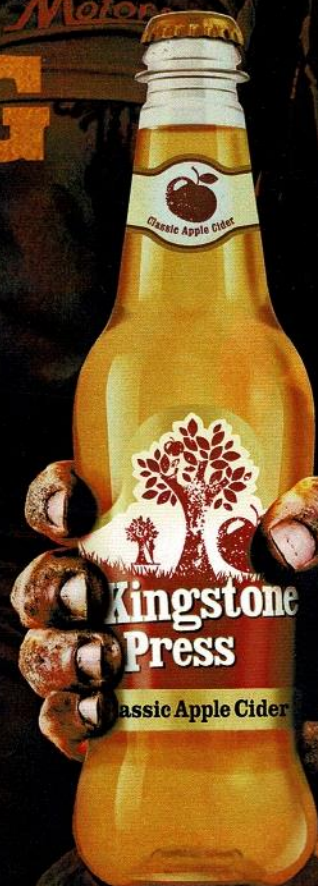
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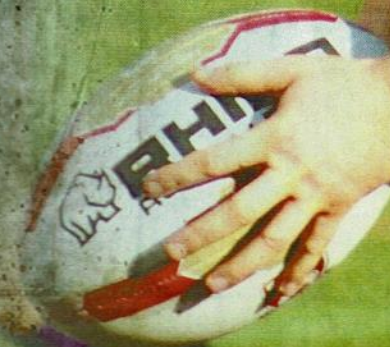
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# GATESHEAD THUNDER 2014

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ROUGHYEDS

JUNE 22nd 2014 - 3pm



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## 2014 FIXTURES

09 March	Gateshead Thunder v Oxford RLFC	47 - 28	W
23 March	Hemel Stags v Gateshead Thunder	37 - 24	L
30 March	Gateshead Thunder v Gloucestershire All Golds	20 - 28	L
13 April	Oldham Roughyeds v Gateshead Thunder	52 - 16	L
18 April	Gateshead Thunder v York City Knights	26 - 30	L
04 May	South Wales Scorpions v Gateshead Thunder	16 - 50	W
11 May	Gateshead Thunder v London Skolars	24 - 16	W
18 May	Hunslet Hawks v Gateshead Thunder	52 - 6	L
01 June	Hemel Stags v Gateshead Thunder	22 - 26	W
08 June	Oxford RLFC v Gateshead Thunder	22 - 36	W
15 June	York City Knights v Gateshead Thunder	42 - 16	L
22 June	Gateshead Thunder v Oldham Roughyeds	15:00	
29 June	London Skolars v Gateshead Thunder	14:00	
04 July	Gateshead Thunder v Hunslet Hawks	20:00	
20 July	Gloucestershire All Golds v Gateshead Thunder	15:00	
27 July	Gateshead Thunder v Oxford RLFC	15:00	
03 Aug	Gateshead Thunder v Hemel Stags	15:00	
10 Aug	York City Knights v Gateshead Thunder	15:00	
17 Aug	Gateshead Thunder v South Wales Scorpions	13:00	
31 Aug	Gateshead Thunder v Oldham Roughyeds	15:00	

## CLUB CONTACTS



Gateshead International Stadium,  
Nelson Road, Gateshead NE10 0EF

Chairman - Bill Midgley OBE

Managing Director - Keith Christie

Head Coach - Stanley Gene

Team Administrator - Ceryn Rowntree

Marketing Officer - Andrew Robson

Media Officer - Adam Gray

Photographer - Paul Clayton

Videographer - Jim Neighbour

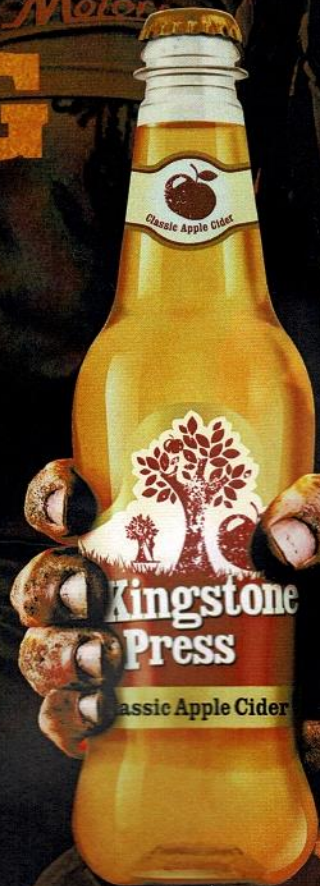
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## BOOM BOOM!

Welcome to Gateshead International Stadium for this afternoon's Kingstone Press Championship 1 match against Oldham Roughyeds.

As usual, I hope you will join me in extending a warm Tyneside welcome to the Directors, Players and fans that have made the trip to the North East.

The Roughyeds are currently third in the Championship 1 table, only a point of the top spot and they will be out to take nothing less than three points back down the road, so we as supporters have a massive job to do today, in terms of supporting our boys and making sure it's us smiling after 80 minutes.

A lot has happened in the Thunder world since our last home game, not least of which is that Thunder is now under the stewardship of Newcastle Rugby Ltd.

This is a massive milestone in the history of this club and gives us a real chance to become a force in the game. I have known Semore for a number of years now and know he is excited about the prospects of Thunder

returning to the top table of Rugby League, however he knows as well as anyone there will be no instant fixes.

We are going to have to work hard to make the necessary strides to compete at the higher levels and we all have our parts to play. We need to spread the word about Thunder. About how we are a club that are going places. About how we are worth people investing their time and emotions.

The off field team and I will be getting that word out and on initiatives to make sure people act on that word and come to the stadium, but there is nothing better than the endorsement of our fans, so do what you can to persuade those you know to give us a try. Bring a mate and swell the gate!


Kind Regards  
**Keith Christie**

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## COACH'S COMMENTS

Good afternoon everybody and thank you for coming down to this afternoon's Kingstone Press Championship 1 match against Oldham Roughyeds here at the International Stadium. We are hoping to give you an entertaining afternoon!

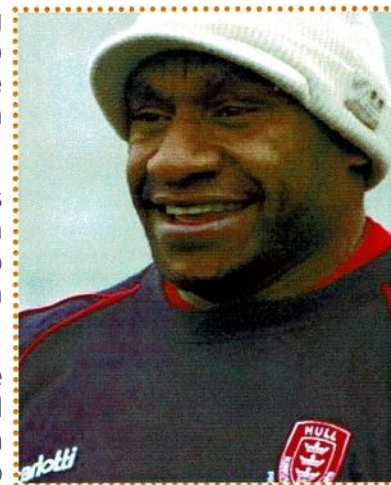
Today we are going up again against one of the strongest teams in the league in the shape of Oldham and I am expecting a through working out for our boys. The Roughyeds are a physical team who have a good all round attack and deserve to be where they are in the table.

Those top three clubs are where everyone wants to be and we have been working hard this week to build a game plan that will allow us to compete. We have played well against these clubs in the first halves of the games so far, the key today will be to keep things going for the full 80.

Last week's defeat to York means we are still outside the play off places at the moment, and it was disappointing to lose the game in the manner that we did.

In the first half, we stuck to our game plan, scored three tries and were almost level at the hooter but in the second, after losing Paul Stamp to injury, we didn't do what we were doing with ease before half time and ended up coming away empty handed.

It was a valuable lesson and one we will need to learn from when we hopefully face these sides in the play offs, but for today, I just want our boys to perform the way they and we know they can so we can get as much out of today's fixture as possible and get into those top five positions. **Stan**



[www.thunderrugby.com](http://www.thunderrugby.com)

# THUNDER NEWS

Rugby League will take pride of place as an exhibition sport ahead of the Commonwealth Games next weekend, as the 2014 Rugby League Commonwealth Championship takes place at Clyde FC's Broadwood Stadium.

A 9s tournament taking place over two days, the championship will feature teams from England, Wales, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, Canada, South Africa and hosts Scotland made up of Under 19 players, providing an excellent opportunity to see some of the future stars of the game.

The tournament gets under way on Friday 27th June with 12 matches taking place from 13:00 in the pool stages.

Here England will join Canada, Papua New Guinea and South Africa in Pool B while Australia, Jamaica, Scotland and Wales make up pool B.

A day later on Saturday 28th, the semi final and Final stages of the tournament will be played with each nation playing a total of 5 games.

Entry is free on both days of the tournament and further information can be found at [www.enjore.com](http://www.enjore.com)



## HUNSLET HOSPITALITY



Supporters and Business have been quick to book their places for Thunder's pre match hospitality versus Hunslet on July 4th, with over three quarters of the available spaces already sold.

The game will be the first match of the season where hospitality has been offered, with guests able to enjoy everything associated with a top quality evening out from a sumptuous three course meal pre match, to executive seating for the game. Guests will also be able to hear exclusively from players and coaches when they visit the hospitality suite pre match, before being able to mingle with the squad for post match drinks.

The remaining Hunslet Hospitality places are available for £30 per person or £250 for groups of ten able to book a full table and Thunder managing director Keith Christie is urging anyone wishing to book, to do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

*"Hunslet is the first of our focus games where the hospitality suite is open and I'm thrilled with the response from both our fans and our supporters in the business community. We have only a few tables remaining for the game and we expect to have these sold well before the week of the game"*

*"I think hospitality that we will be able to offer this season will be excellent and that people will have a thoroughly enjoyable experience on a summer evening out."*

To secure your hospitality place for the July 4 call **07764 933308** or email [keith.christie@newcastle-falcons.co.uk](mailto:keith.christie@newcastle-falcons.co.uk)

[www.thunderrugby.com](http://www.thunderrugby.com)

## GATESHEAD THUNDER BECOME PART OF NEWCASTLE RUGBY LTD

Following weeks of intense speculation, the acquisition of Gateshead Thunder by Newcastle Rugby Ltd was officially announced on May 23rd, a day chairman Bill Midgeley described as "the most significant date in Gateshead Thunder's history."

Now sitting along with union side Newcastle Falcons as part of Newcastle Rugby Ltd, Thunder retain their own identity including name, colours and badge and will continue to play out of Gateshead International Stadium until at least the end of the 2014 season.

The change of ownership brings immediate benefits to Thunder, not least of all additional funds being made available to strengthen the squad in time for the end of season play offs and the use of the Falcons' marketing and commercial functions as Thunder strive to increase attendances at home matches.

Gateshead Thunder chairman Bill Midgeley said: "This is undoubtedly the most significant date in Gateshead Thunder's history since the formation of the original club back in 1998 and its first season in Super League back in 1999. The offer from Newcastle Rugby Ltd was unanimously accepted by the shareholders of Thunder Rugby Ltd and I'm both delighted and excited at the short and long term future for the club."

"There's a lot of hard work ahead for everyone involved but this news gives us a real opportunity to grow not just Thunder but the sport of rugby league in the North East."

Commenting on the ownership change Newcastle Rugby Ltd chairman Semore Kurdi said: "I'm delighted that Gateshead Thunder has become part of Newcastle Rugby Ltd. There are a number of benefits to having both league and union clubs within the same organisation. Resources can be shared off the field in terms of administration, marketing, medical, sports science and facilities that will be to the advantage of both clubs.

"We look forward to the second half of the season now with the aim of Thunder being promoted to the next tier. With rugby league now re-introducing promotion and relegation between the various levels there is a clear path through to Super League and reaching that level is our long term goal. If we achieve that goal by our target date we will have earned our place by growth on and off the field and by becoming a sustainable club.

"We also look forward to the Falcons Community Foundation working with the Thunder Community Programme to benefit both codes and the wider North East community in the future."

Since joining Newcastle Rugby Limited Thunder have made a number of exciting new signings, and we look forward to sharing more news with you as the club continues to develop further over the coming months.



[www.thunderrugby.com](http://www.thunderrugby.com)

# Today's Visitors

Oldham Roughyeds provide today's opposition at the International Stadium, looking to build on an impressive start to their season, that has seen them win seven of nine matches and currently sit third in the Kingstone Press Championship 1 table.

Averaging five tries a game, the Roughyeds will travel to Tyneside in determined mood, knowing a win will put them firmly into the hunt for the league's only automatic promotion place and give them a chance of avoiding the play offs, that have ended their promotion hopes for the past four seasons.

Formed in 1998, Oldham Roughyeds are the continuation of the original Oldham FC, one of the founding members of the Northern Rugby Football Union and which was also one of the founding members of Super League in their guise as Oldham Bears.

A club with a proud history, including three Challenge Cup titles the current squad are looking to build on last year's fine second place in the league and earn the club's first trophy for nearly a quarter of a century.

Oldham began the season a 4 - 18 away win at South Wales Scorpions, in a match that had to be abandoned after 72 minutes when appalling weather conditions and players showing hypothermia like symptoms, left referee Adam Gill with no choice but to call a halt to the game.

In their first home match, the Roughyeds were disappointed to be held to a 20 - 20 draw by a spirited Hemel Stags, after leading 16 - 0 at half time. A 68th minute score for Kenny Hughes had looked to settle the match in favour of the home side however two late tries for the Stags ensured the points were shared.

Following a narrow 16 -18 away win at London Skolars, Oldham established themselves in second place in the early season running following their comprehensive 52 -16 win over Thunder at Whitebank Stadium.

Scott Naylor's sides first defeat of the campaign followed as the lost out 28 - 12 away to league leaders Hunslet, before three consecutive wins minimised the damage caused to their title credentials.

This run of victories included a crucial away win at York City Knights when captain Lewis Palfrey scored the winning try three minutes from time.

With only one point between Oldham and the top spot, today's game will provide Thunder with a massive test and should serve up a classic encounter.



## Scott Naylor

After taking the reins of Oldham in September 2012, former England centre Scott Naylor is the man charged with guiding the Roughyeds back towards the top of English Rugby League.

Enjoying stints with Wigan, Salford and Bradford, Naylor scored a total of 160 Super League tries and was a key feature of the Bradford teams that twice won the Tetley's Challenge Cup.

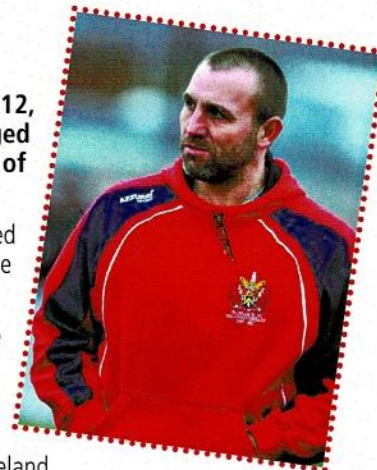
He also played a pivotal role in the club's 2001 Super League and the 2002 World Club Challenge triumphs.

Naylor hit the peak of his international career in the 2000 Rugby League World Cup, where he earned four England caps, partnering Keith Senior in the centre against Australia, Fiji, Ireland and New Zealand.

In his first season in charge the 42 year old guided his team to an impressive second in the overall table, winning 12 matches out of 16 and missing out on automatic promotion by only two points.

A strong play off push saw Oldham qualify for the end of season Grand Final only to lose out to Rochdale in the showpiece match.

As a result, Naylor will be demanding his charges continue their recent form and make a concerted push for the League title and the automatic promotion place.



## Lewis Palfrey

Club captain Lewis Palfrey began his Rugby League career forming part of the Under 15 set up at Eccles and came through the Salford academy system, and spent two years at the club as a full time professional.

The 23 year old joined Oldham at the start of the 2013 season after abandoning plans to play in Australia for Wollongong and was immediately appointed captain by head coach Naylor, who worked with Palfrey at Salford.

A utility back who is primarily used by the Roughyeds at Scrum Half, Palfrey has been in exceptional form with the boot, scoring 22 goals and one try in the team's nine matches to date.

He is a committed player who provides Oldham with many backline options and will direct play with intelligence and maturity.





## Dale Bloomfield

One of Oldham's most potent attacking threats, Dale Bloomfield has been in free scoring form this season with eight tries in nine games and is hot on the heels of Thunder's Jason Payne as the league's top try scorer.

Primarily operating as a winger, but equally comfortable at Fullback, Bloomfield has been one of Oldham's most consistent performers since joining from Rochdale in 2013.

He began playing the sport as a junior for amateur club St Maries before becoming a Widnes Vikings-scholar.

After a two year spell at St Helens, Bloomfield joined Rochdale Hornets in 2010 where he began to establish his credentials as a lethal scoring threat.

After settling into the club, the 26 year old played in every game in 2011 and 2012, scoring 32 tries in total.

Missing only one game for the Roughyeds last season, Bloomfield went on to score 11 tries from his 23 appearances and has continued his impressive scoring rate this term.

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## Sam Gee

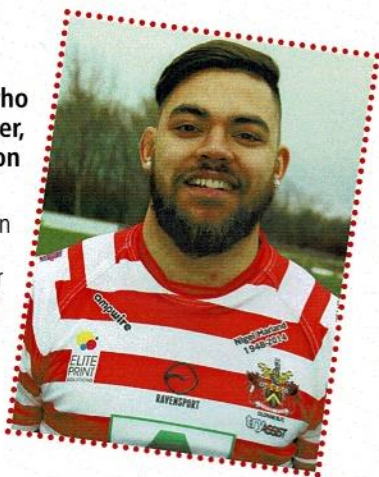
Vice-captain Gee is an extremely versatile player who contributes much all over the park, notably from hooker, loose-forward or even centre where he has played on numerous occasions.

He is currently in his second season at Oldham and played in 21 out of 24 games last year.

He is grandson of the late Ken Gee, a prop who starred for Wigan and Great Britain just after the war and was generally recognised as one of the sport's best-ever front-row forwards.

Sam played his early rugby as a centre at Orrell RU, but he was persuaded to turn to league and was soon selected for England Colleges, where he caught Warrington's interest.

He had two years at Warrington, three at Wigan and two at London Skolars before he moved back north to spend an unhappy season at Whitehaven.



*Autographs*

LEE MAPALS

JORDAN MEADS

JACOB BLADES

JAMES POCKLINGTON

JOE BROWN

ALEX RUFF

TOM CAPPER

JOSH STOKER

PAUL STAMP

CONOR CONDRON

JAMIE ROONEY

IAIN MURRAY

RICKY HOUGH

JOE HODGSON

LEE FEWLASS

CHRIS HEIL

RHYS CLARKE

MATTY BEHARELL

JASON PAYNE (CAPTAIN)

SONNY ESLEMONT

SAM BOWERING

LOUIS SHERRIFF

MATTHEW BARRON

JOEL FARRELL

GATESHEAD  
THUNDER

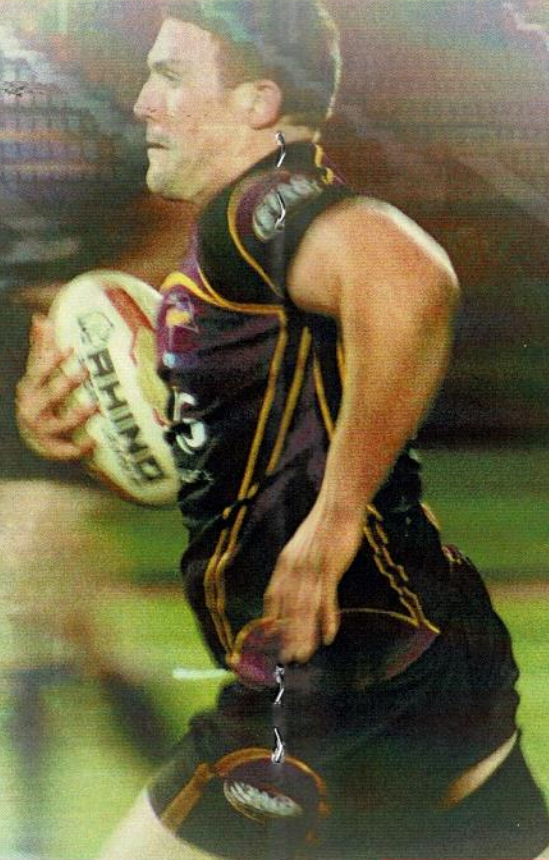
OLDHAM  
ROUGHYEDS



VERSUS



JUNE 22nd 2014 - 3pm



TOM WHITEHEAD  
Fullback

MARK HOBSON  
Loose Forward

MO AGORO  
Wing

ADAM FILES  
Hooker

BEN WOOD  
Centre, Second Row

PADDY MOONEY  
Prop

STEVEN NIELD  
Centre, Wing

KENNY HUGHES  
Hooker, Half Back

DALE BLOOMFIELD  
Wing, Centre

DANNY WHITMORE  
Half Back, Hooker

LEWIS PALFREY  
Stand Off

ALEX DAVIDSON  
Prop

BRETT ROBINSON  
Scrum Half

MICHAEL WARD  
Prop, Second Row

PHIL JOY  
Prop

GEORGE TYSON  
Second Row, Prop

SAM GEE  
Hooker, Centre

DAVID COOKSON  
Centre, Second Row

JASON BOULTS  
Prop

LIAM THOMPSON  
Loose Forward

JOSH CROWLEY  
Second Row

JAKE SHOEL  
Centre

DANNY LANGTREE  
Second Row, Prop

EDWIN OKANGA-AIWANG  
Centre

COACH



STANLEY GENE

COACH



SCOTT NAYLOR



## The Big Interview

**Plying their trade in the third tier of English Rugby League since 2010, Thunder are now back on the rise and looking to establish themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the sport.**

Now part of Newcastle Rugby Ltd, sitting alongside Rugby Union neighbours Newcastle Falcons under the stewardship of Semore Kurdi and showing the best form in over five years, Thunder is a club with a real buzz surrounding it.

New players have been added to strengthen the squad, administrative functions have been bolstered through the secondment of personnel from the Falcons business function and the ultimate goal of once again playing at Super League level has been set. It's a far cry from the situation at the end of the 2009 season when, after surviving their first season in the second tier Championship, the club were rocked by the news that the holding company was to be wound up.

Ultimately the club was to survive, but with a business plan unable to sustain Championship rugby league, the club had no choice but to accept relegation back to the division they had won as champions 12 months before.

Part of the team that secured the future of the club then, is today's managing director Keith Christie, who has once again been at the forefront of the efforts to ensure professional rugby league has a place on Tyneside and is perhaps more than most, looking forward to the next chapter of the Thunder story.

"It's an exciting time for a club that has been a massive part of my life for the last five years and I am really looking forward to what the future has to offer Gateshead Thunder."

"We have achieved an awful lot since 2009. We successfully managed to preserve this club and then build it into a respected entity, one which was recognised by the RFL as the best Community Club in 2010."

"The business plan for the club then was to be based around our community foundation which would use funding from Sport England and the RFL to underpin the club by delivering coaching within the local community.

"Funded for an initial three years, when that came to an end in 2012, it became apparent that it had done excellent work in terms of engaging with the local community, but this work had not delivered the galvanised support for the club from the local rugby league community we had hoped for. In fairness that was most likely because of the results on the field, but the set up was not sustainable." Faced with dwindling crowds on the back of a run of 64 consecutive defeats, the quest was on to either find a new investment to regenerate Thunder or for the club to pass quietly into the night.

After a long period of careful discussions and investigations, the deal to become part of Newcastle Rugby Ltd. was signed off at the end of May and has given added impetus to Thunder's 2014 campaign, which has set them up for a tilt at reaching the end of season promotion play offs.

Christie explained: "The immediate, direct influence has been on the players and coaches. The guys at Newcastle Rugby Ltd are as serious about making Thunder a success as we always have been, but having people who have a track record of success from outside Thunder show interest, invest and ascribe a value to the club has I think, given the players and coaches a real lift."



While the focus of the here and now is on the play-offs, Thunder also have the chance to build for 2015 with resources that will make the club serious players.

"The investment will allow Stan to identify players from a wider talent pool than before to ensure we have the very best players we can playing in the shirt and representing the club."

"We have a long way to go until we are in a position to make a push for Super League and we will only do it when the club is ready, by which I mean we have stabilised ourselves within the Rugby League ladder, increased our fan base to a level where the costs of running a Super League outfit are sustainable and put a value back to the club in how it is perceived by the outside world."

"It is something that really hurts when people make throw away comments about Thunder losing again. I want that put to bed and people to talk about Gateshead Thunder because we are a club and a team that the town and the wider region is proud of. That is now something we can task ourselves to do."



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## Jason Payne Interview

Jason Payne is having his best ever season in a Thunder shirt in 2014 and for a man who has been a club stalwart since joining in 2008 that sees the Scarborough born prop going some.

Currently top of the Kingstone Press Championship One try scoring charts with 12 four pointers in 11 games, Payne has featured in the mythical team of the week on four occasions so far this season and has also been named player of the week once.

With his current form leading head coach Stanley Gene to suggest Payne is showing the attributes necessary to perform in Super League; Payne is taking the plaudits in his stride.

*"It's always nice to hear positive comments like that, because I definitely feel I am playing well, but it's a team game and what I've done this season is very much based on excellent team performances"*

*"I am playing in a team with a great bunch of lads around me who work well together and it means I can just concentrate on getting into position and on getting those points. Matty [Beharrell] has been superb so far and has been delivering me some neat passes and that just makes the job of finishing them that little bit easier."*

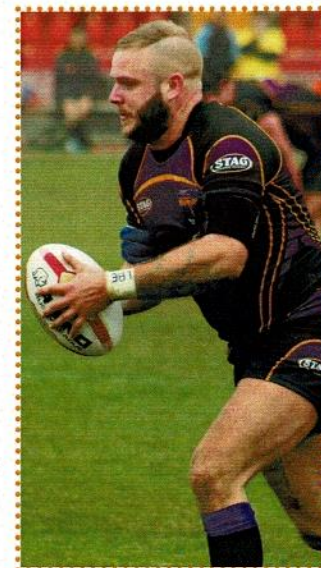
Payne, who began playing Rugby for his local club Scarborough Pirates, aged 13, embarked on his professional career straight from school after joining the academy system at Castleford Tigers.

He remained at Cas until joining Thunder on loan in 2007, representing the Tigers in the Challenge Cup and Super League and he has fond memories of his time there.

*"I started at Cas virtually the day after I left school and was determined to make a career out of rugby. I worked hard, trained and eventually broke into the first team and made my Super League debut against St Helens in 2006."*

*"They were World Club champions at the time and we had a few injuries, so the game was a bit one sided but the atmosphere playing in-front of so many people was a really great experience. I had a couple more appearances including my second where I was sent off for a high tackle on Stan!"* Making himself part of the fabric of the club since joining, Payne has been through the highs and lows during his time on Tyneside and is particularly enthused about recent developments at the club. With Thunder now part of Newcastle Rugby Ltd, he says a new wave of optimism is spreading through the club.

*"I've been through the whole range of emotions since being here and right now, it is the best atmosphere we've had in a long time. I was here when we won promotion to the Championship and*



experienced all the positivity there was around then and that is what the club is like right now."

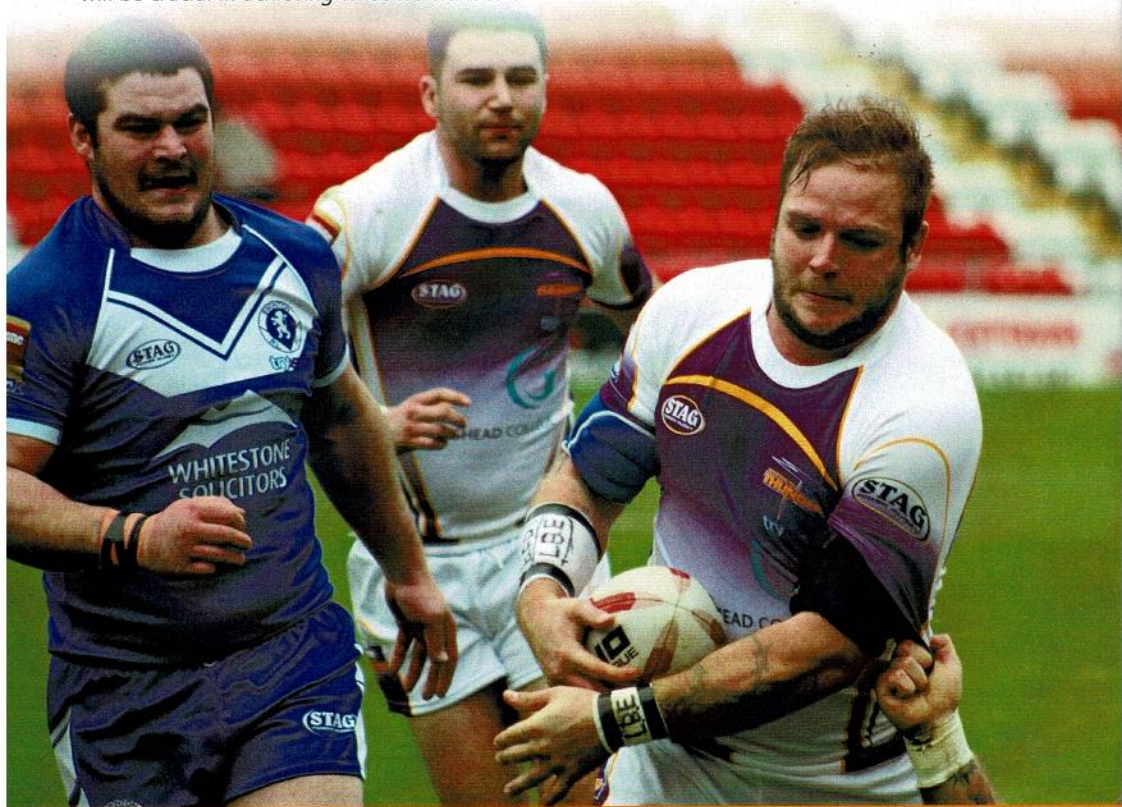
"In the past, the club maybe hasn't been in a position to capitalise on its progress into the championship, but now with the additional support, we should be able to keep upward momentum going."

With a stated goal of reaching the Super League, but with no fixed timescale, the first step for Payne and his teammates is to secure promotion back to the Kingston Press Championship and the Captain is confident that an assault can be made on that aim immediately.

"We're just outside the playoff spots at the moment, but they are very much in reach, so we as a team need to make sure we are doing what we know we are capable of and sticking to our game plan."

"We have taken some big defeats from the top clubs, but our performances have been improving as the season has gone on and ultimately, we don't need to beat them in the league, we just need to do it in those key games and I'd back us to do that on a big stage."

"To get top 5, we need to beat the teams that are around us, and then just push like crazy against the top teams. We might get wins, but if we give our all, then we will at least get bonus points, and they will be crucial in achieving what we want to this season."



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## MATCH REPORT



**Gateshead Thunder's fine, recent away form was in short supply on Sunday afternoon, after a second half capitulation gave York City Knights a resounding Kingstone Press Championship 1 win.**

The Knights scored 24 unanswered points in the second half as Thunder's challenge faded following the enforced withdrawal of Hooker Paul Stamp through injury.

After pushing the Knights all the way in a narrow defeat at the International Stadium in April and after recording two, consecutive hard fought away wins against Hemel and Oxford, Stanley Gene's charges travelled with high hopes of continuing their push towards the league summit.

Things got off to the best possible start after only six minutes, with a try for Jacob Blades following early inroads made into York territory.

Receiving the ball awkwardly from half back Matty Beharell, Blades juggled superbly before stabbing the ball through behind the York defence, winning the foot race and getting Thunder onto scoreboard.

After a successful conversion from Beharell, matters tightened up with both sides striving to find a way through and after repelling a number of threatening York attacks, the Thunder defence was breached on 15 minutes.

Following a penalty for a high tackle, York kicked to touch and began a new set of six from half way. Three tackles in, the Knights players spun the ball out wide with precision and pace through the hands to put Austin Bell in for a try by the corner flag.

All square at six all following the conversion, Thunder's response to the Knights equalizer was almost instantaneous.

Giving a good chase of the kick off, the Tynesider's forced a knock on from the Knights receiver 10m from the line. From the resultant scrum, three phases of route one rugby created a big enough gap for Sonny Esslemont to ghost through.

Two tries in ten minutes from Colton Roche and Jack Lee, both converted by former Thunder player Benn Hardcastle saw Thunder fall behind for the first time in 194 minutes of rugby before captain Jason Payne scored on the stroke of half time.

Providing superb support in attack, the skipper's 12th try of the season provided Beharell with the chance to tie the game going into the break, which was only narrowly, not taken.

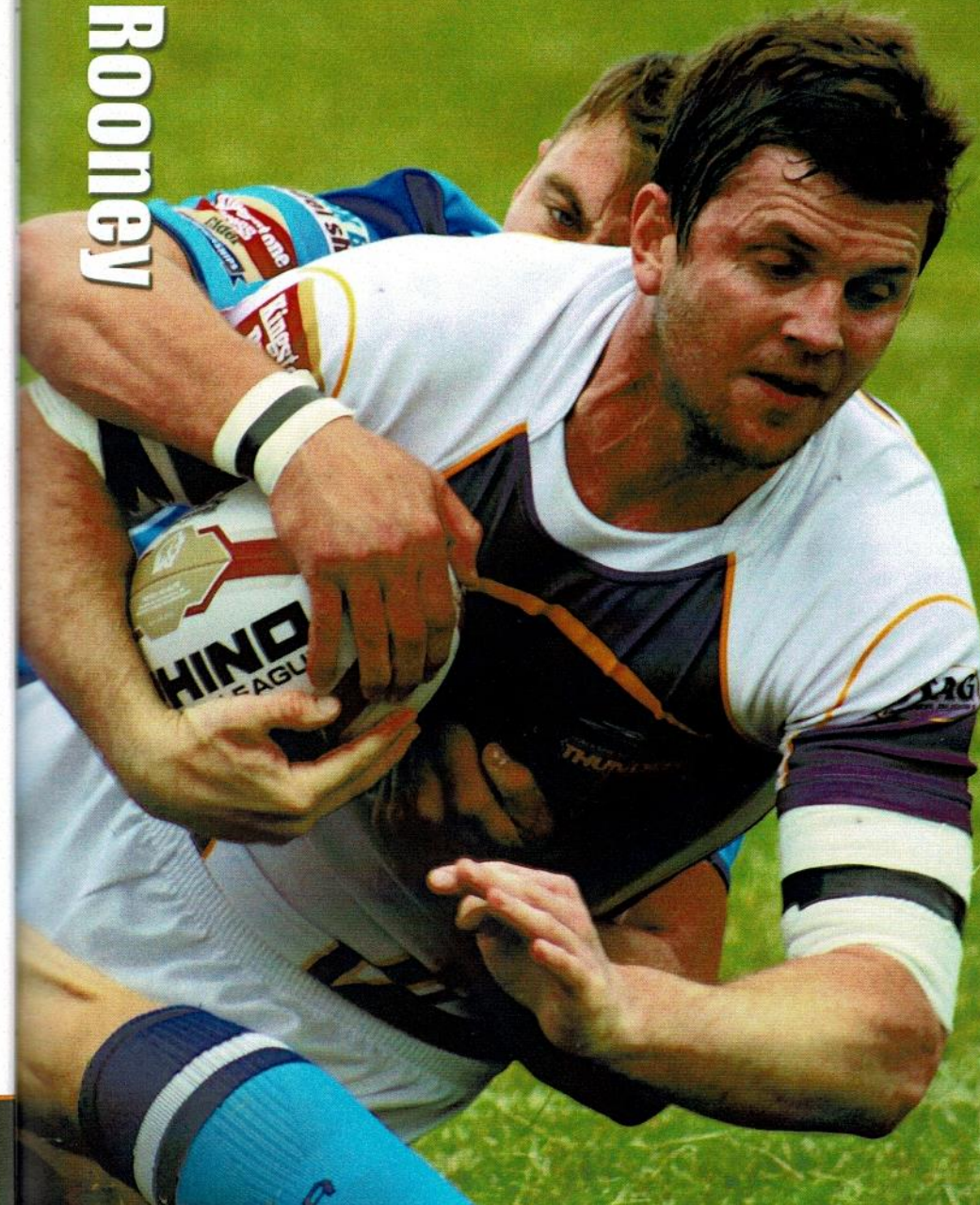
With a similar scenario to that of the Good Friday home game, the prospect of a victory looked within reach with Thunder's second half performances being at the heart of their five wins to date.

It was however, all one-way traffic after the restart, beginning almost immediately from the whistle with centre Tyler Craig the first to go over Loose Forward Jack Aldous added another after good work from James Haynes before Ed Smith made it 36-16.

Joe Picketts completed the scoring in stoppage time to leave Thunder disappointed with the result and a clear seven point gap between the top three and the remaining play off positions.

Jamie Rooney

GATESHEAD  
THUNDER



## MATCH REPORT



Thunder closed the gap between themselves and the Kingstone Press Championship One play-off spots two weeks ago against Oxford, after being made to work for a full eighty minutes by their hosts to record their fifth win of the season.

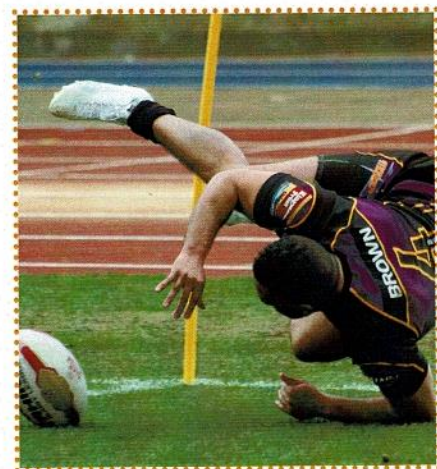
Tries from Louis Sherriff, Jacob Blades, Joe Brown, Jamie Rooney, Paul Stamp and Lee Mapals and a 100% conversion rate from Matty Beharrell ensured that Thunder are now two wins from two games versus Oxford this season.

The victory was one built upon solid defence and Thunder were on the front foot as a result of this following a tenth minute score from on loan fullback Sheffiff jinked his way through the Oxford lines to bundle over.

With a 0-6 lead from Beharrell's successful kick at goal, the missed conversion from a quick fire reply for Oxford allowed Thunder an intact cushion with which to probe the home defence and duely added two tries in a six minute purple patch.

First on 23 minutes, Blades crossed for his third try of the season after being set into space by Rooney, before Brown took the scores to 4-16 following brilliant play on the right wing by recent signing Mapals.

With the conversion added, a 4-18 half time lead saw Thunder in control of the match, however a bright start to the second half saw Oxford reduce the deficit to eight points through a Callum Mulkeen try and Tommy Connick conversion.



Hopes harboured by the majority of the 310 in attendance of a fight-back took a knock on 51 minutes after Rooney finished a great Thunder break and despite a further score for the hosts, were finished off following tries from Stamp and Mapals.

A consolation score on 75 minutes gave Oxford hope of securing a bonus point from the match, but the Thunder defence held firm to ensure the hosts took no points from the game.

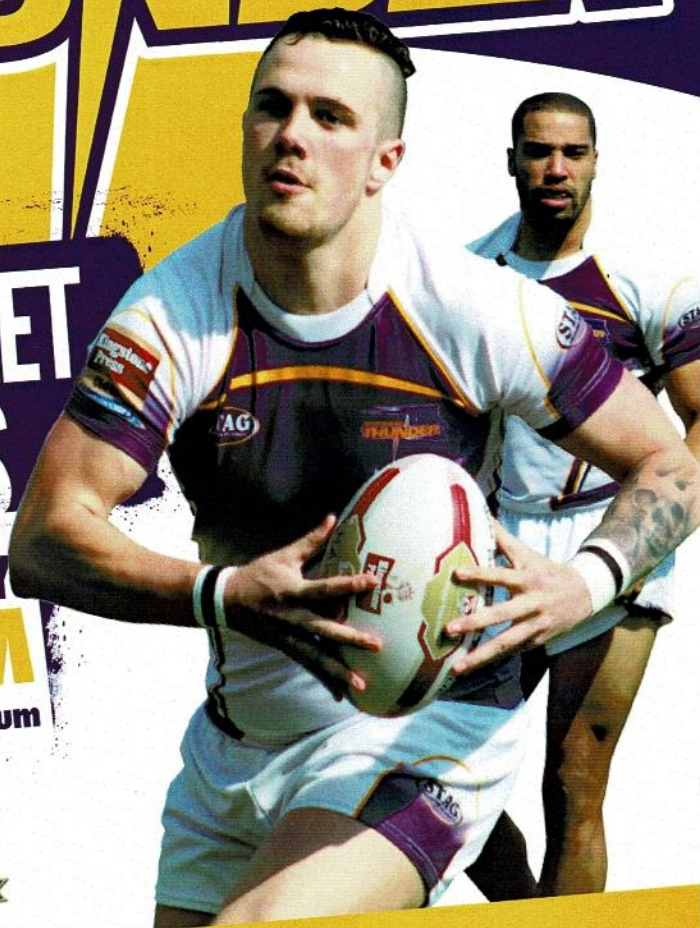
# GATESHEAD THUNDER

## VS HUNSLET HAWKS

FRI 4TH JULY  
KO 8PM  
At Gateshead Stadium



GATESHEAD COLLEGE



# ADULTS £12 CONSESSIONS £7

SAVE £2 PER TICKET BY BOOKING IN ADVANCE

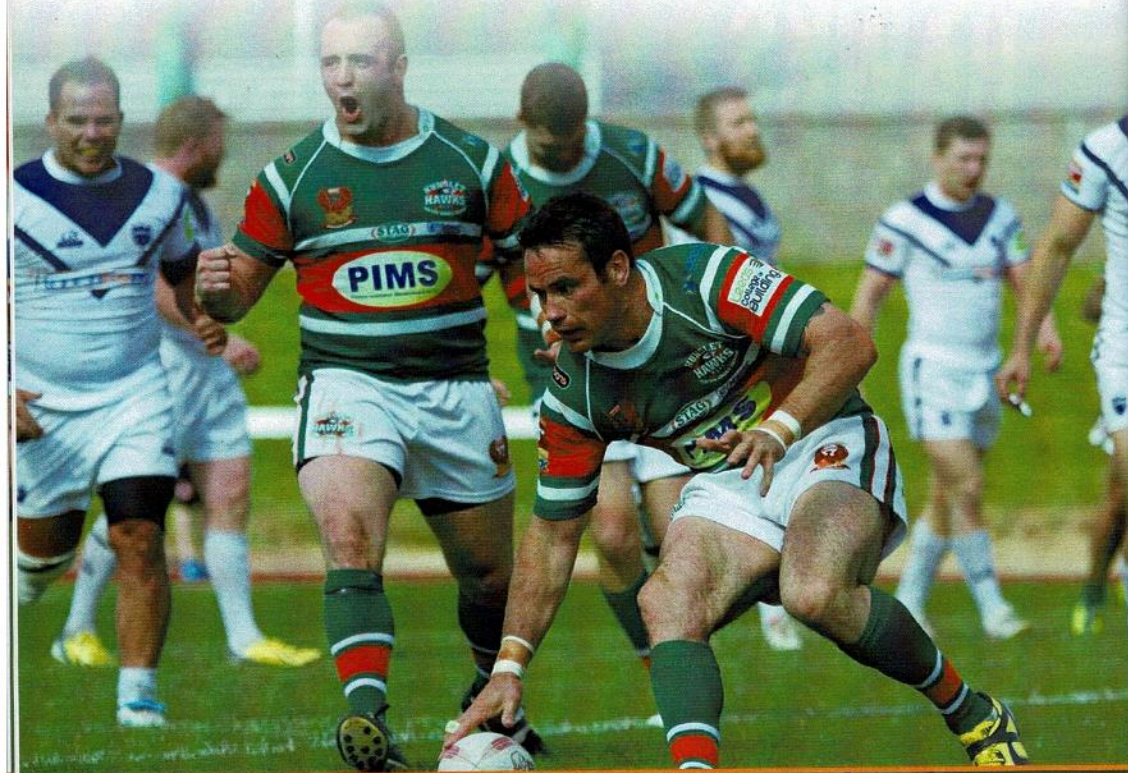
Ticket Hotline 0191 214 5588 or Visit [www.thunderrugby.com](http://www.thunderrugby.com)

## NEXT HOME MATCH

High flying Hunslet Hawks are the next team on Tyneside to face Thunder, when they travel to the International Stadium in just under a fortnight. Taking place under the Friday night lights, the match is the first of our focus games with the club making big efforts to attract our biggest crowd of the season to date.

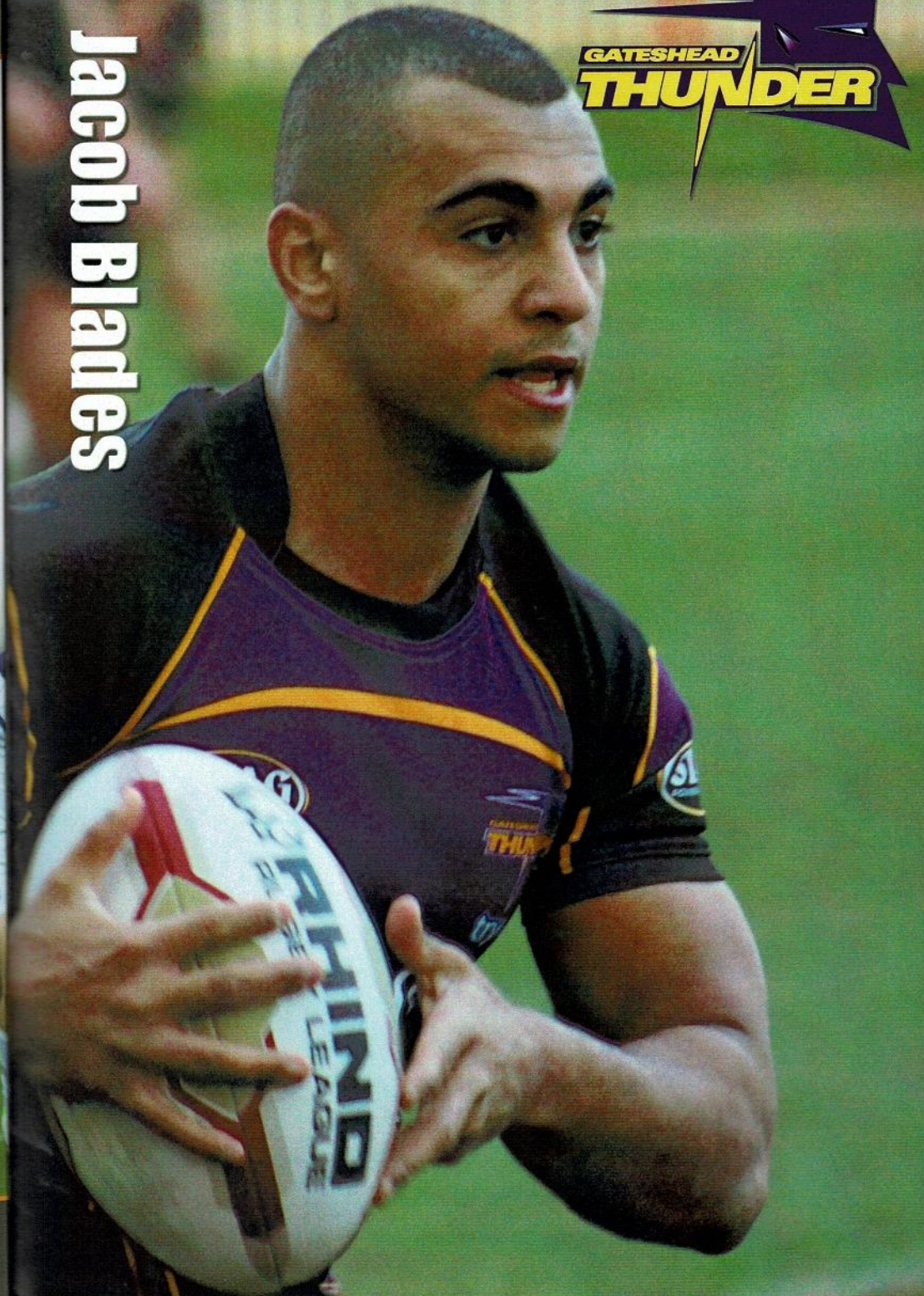
Hunslet currently sit top of the league and will provide a stern test for Stan and the boys, but with good recent form, and improved performances, the opportunity to record a big win is there.

With the added spice of new signing Lee Mapals going up against his old club, fireworks are expected for the Fourth of July spectacular. Tickets will be on sale on the doors, priced £12 for adults and £7 for concessions but supporters can book in advance and save £2 on each ticket. To purchase match tickets, call the Thunder ticket line on 0191 214 5588 between 10am and 5pm Monday to Friday or call into the box office at Kingston Park Stadium during the same hours. Don't forget, we are also running hospitality for this match, which includes a pre match meal and can be booked by calling **Keith Christie on 07764 933308**

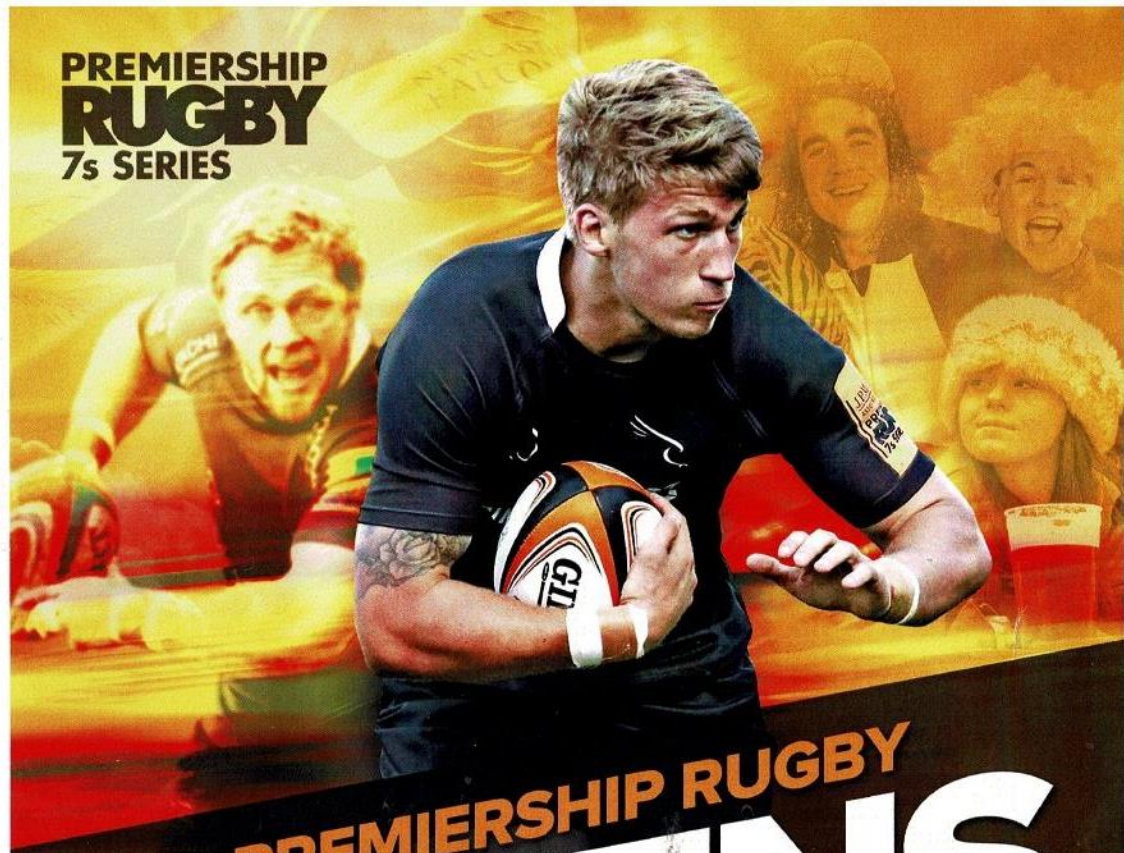


Jacob Blades

GATESHEAD  
THUNDER



PREMIERSHIP  
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7s SERIES



PREMIERSHIP RUGBY  
**SEVENS**

SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST | KINGSTON PARK  
GATES OPEN 4PM 6 GAMES OF RUGBY FROM 7.15PM

  
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