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# OXFORD RUGBY LEAGUE



**SUNDAY 29TH JUNE 2014**

**Kick Off 3PM**

Programme £2.50

**RUGBY LEAGUE INSPIRES**

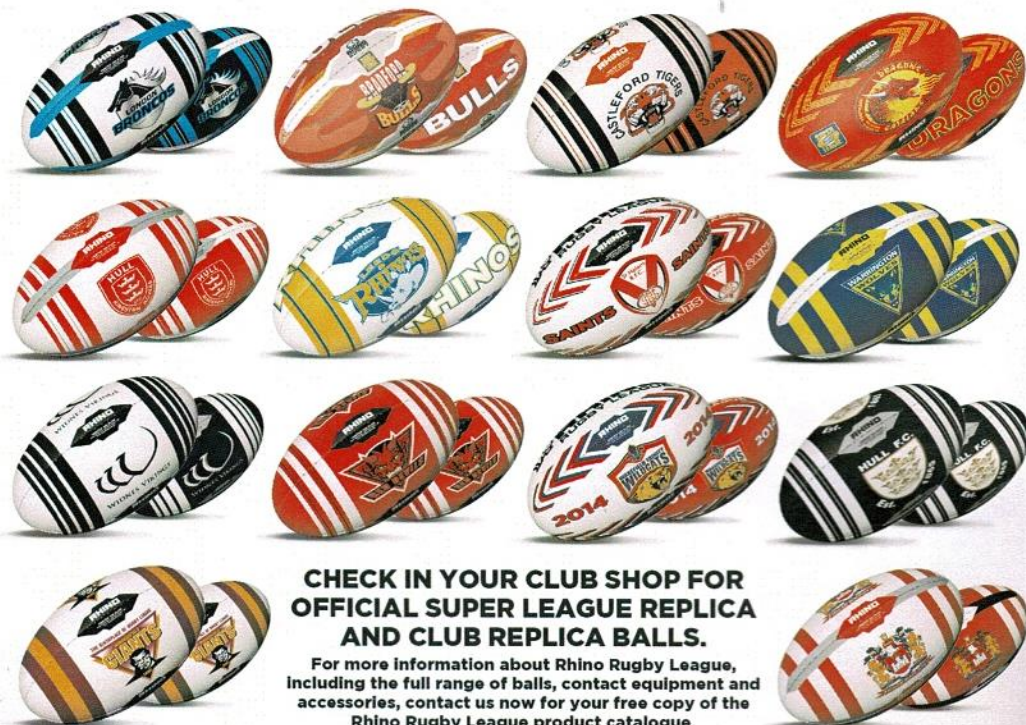


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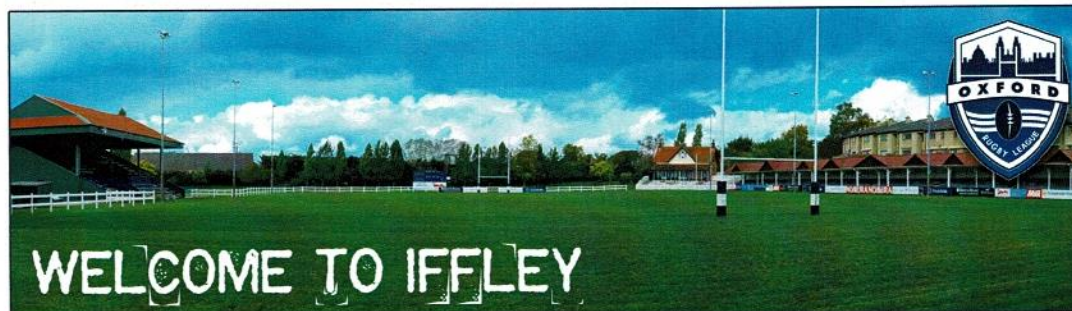


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Hello and welcome to all the players, directors and supporters from Oldham RL. I trust you had a safe journey down from the North West. Today we are trying to make the game day a bit special in our own small way, by making it a Services Day to the RAF and Thames Valley Police services. A special offer to the people and their families who look after us very day. A warm welcome to all and I hope you enjoy a great afternoon at Iffley Road.

To my mind the team have put in some very creditable performances of late but had very little to show for their efforts. Three games on the trot they have put themselves in commanding positions, only to fade away which I know they have felt hard. This disappointment is testament to their desire as a group to improve and do well for the club and its supporters. We must jog our minds and remember we are a developing team and we are doing it tough against teams that have spent big. We have no dual registered players, no loan signings, only our commitment to one another to be the best we can be. I'm not a fan of the dual registration system, it can distort the competition and give a false picture of where a club is standing. So putting that into perspective and seeing how competitive the boys are in games, I totally understand their disappointment as the complete performances seem within their reach.

A pleasing aspect this season and one the club are proud of is the number of southern based players that have played for the team. Again, I remind ourselves that this is one of the strategic goals as a club to provide pathways and discover players, so they will form a solid foundation to build Oxford RL and spread the game of rugby league.

As I have previously mentioned there is plenty of debate around the proposed new structure for Championship 1 in 2015 and this should all be confirmed in the very near future. Following the Championship meeting next week I look forward to keeping you posted on announcements either here in the program or on the news page of the website.

The Oxford RL 100 Club scheme is going well and many thanks to all members who have joined to date, your support is much appreciated and helps us greatly. Please spread the word to anyone who you think may be interested, more members are welcome to help keep the momentum going and good luck to everyone in next month's draw!

Finally I would like to say hello and thank you to our match day sponsor Jill Thompson from JT Consulting. You are all most welcome to Iffley and I'm sure you and your colleagues will enjoy the game. Today will be another tough encounter and as always, Oxford fans be loud and proud and make yourselves heard! You can make the difference.

C'mon you Blues!

Enjoy the game

**Adrian Smith, MD**

**Our mission "To bring rugby league to Oxford and the surrounding areas"**



# COACH'S CORNER

**TONY BENSON, HEAD COACH**

To say we are disappointed with how the last couple of weeks have gone would be an understatement, but quite simply you cannot win without the ball and that is what has happened during the past couple of games against the London Skolars and the All Golds. There is no lack of trying from the players, but at the moment we are losing the ball too easily and are spending too much time defending. That said having spent so much time defending and to be still in with a chance of winning the last two games shows what a good team we have here and if we can turn that defence into attack then we will be back to winning ways before we know it.

Missing Chris Clarke with a long term injury and Matty Hadden returning home due to personal issues have been two big losses for us but we wish them all the best and hope to see them back in training in the near future.

I also want to say congratulations to Dave Ellison who got married last weekend and wish him all the best in his new married life.

A warm welcome to the players, staff, directors and fans of Oldham for this afternoon's match in what promises to be a hotly contested tie if the last couple of contests against them are anything to go by. They will be coming into this tie full of confidence and currently sit joint top of the league having lost only two games this season. That said, anyone can beat anyone in this league with the results we have seen so far and it goes to show that this league can be very entertaining with teams trying to play attacking rugby. I am sure that today will not be any different. I really believe that if we play anywhere near to what we are capable of today then we can dent Oldham's promotion charge whilst getting our play-off push back on track as the last couple of play-off places are still well and truly up for grabs.

## Enjoy the game

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# CAPTAIN'S RUN

We have been disappointed and frustrated with our performances over the last few weeks as we know we can play much better than we have shown over the last two outings. I know players say that old cliché "We have not had the bounce of the ball or the rub of the green" but I really believe that to be true at the moment. I suppose when you are on a winning run those little things fall for you so we need to ensure when we do get into those positions that we take our chances. We have had a lot of injuries and illness within the camp over the past month and we can't seem to get a consistent 17 man squad out at the moment. It is up to us now as a group of players to keep working hard in training to turn things around and getting into the play-offs is not beyond us but we need to start games better, keep hold of the ball, cut our error count and not panic in the final third.

Today's opponents Oldham are on an excellent run of form and currently sit joint top of the league with York. They have a side packed with experienced and talented players like Mo Agoro who is on a brilliant scoring run and is one we certainly need to watch this afternoon. Lewis Palfrey is also another one of their danger men who can kick a team to death if he is not put under any pressure. It is my old club and still have some good friends their but there will be no love lost when they come to Iffley Road today and I will be doing everything in my power to ensure that we get back to winning ways.

Once again I wanted to thank all the supporters for their continued support both home and away you really are that 18th Man for us when we step out on the field and we can proudly say that we have one of the loudest group of supporters in this league.

Enjoy the game

## OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS DANGER MEN

### Lewis Palfrey

Palfrey joined the Roughyeds for the 2013 season and was appointed captain in his first season at the club, he can play either stand-off or full back and is a talented individual who can kick a team to death if given time on the ball, he is currently top of the goal scoring charts with 35 to his name already and just sits in front of York's Benn Hardcastle. His previous clubs include Eccles, Wigan St Pat's, then spent five years at Salford, two as full time pro, Captained City Reds at academy and reserve team levels. Since then he played for Whitehaven and Batley Bulldogs.

### Mo Agoro

Agoro is a pacey and elusive winger and is one of the Kingstone Press Championship One form players at the moment, The 21 year old student who was once of the Leeds Rhinos, currently has 11 tries to his name already and has scored tries in the last 7 successive matches including his first hat-trick for the Roughyeds in their match against the South Wales Scorpions a couple of weeks ago.



Tommo

## TODAY'S OPPONENTS

### Oldham Roughyeds History

In 1876 **Oldham Football Club** was founded in a meeting at the Prince Albert Hotel, Union Street West attended by Chairman of the Watch Committee, William Chadwick, Chief Constable Charles Hodgkinson, mill owner Fred Wild, eminent local Quaker and Lord to be Alfred Emmott and three brothers of the Fletcher family.

A playing field was organised at Sugar Meadow, Gartside Street adjacent to Glodwick Spinning Mill and changing facilities were provided by the nearby Shakespeare Inn. The club's headquarters were at the Black Swan Hotel, Bottom O'th Moor, Mumps. Their first match at Sugar Meadow was held on 21 October 1876 against Stalybridge. After two seasons they joined Oldham Cricket Club at the new Clarksfield ground before finding a more permanent home in 1889 at Watersheddings.

Oldham were one of the twenty-one clubs that left the Rugby Football Union to form the Northern Union in 1895. Oldham were fourth in the first title race of 1895-96 and second a year later. They were the second club to win the Challenge Cup after beating Hunslet 19-9 in 1899.

Oldham finally won their first Championship title in 1904-05. The club's last Challenge Cup final was in 1927 when they beat Swinton 26-7 at Central Park, Wigan, their fourth consecutive final and revenge for their 9-3 defeat when the same teams met in the previous year's match.

At the end of a disastrous 1969-70 season, when Oldham finished 29th out of 30 clubs in a single division, the committee was voted out of office en bloc and replaced by nine new officials and a new chairman in Arthur Walker.

Oldham plead with the local council for a financial bail-out in April 1987. Oldham decided to float as a public limited company and sold their training ground to the council in May 1987. Oldham won the 1988 Division Two title and the Division Two Premiership but lost £135,000. They would win the Premiership again in 1989-90.

To many loyal fans' dismay, the club sold the dilapidated Watersheddings in June 1994 for £1.25m to pay-off debts and moved to Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park stadium.

When a Rupert Murdoch funded Super League competition was proposed, part of the deal was that some traditional clubs would merge. Oldham were supposed to merge with Salford to form a club to be known as Manchester which would compete in Super League. When Salford visited Oldham for a match on Good Friday, 14 April, supporters of both clubs demonstrated against the idea by invading the pitch during the interval. This merger was resisted and instead they adopted the name Oldham Bears and were founder members of the new league.

Relegation came in the second year of the new summer season, 1997, when they finished below Paris Saint-Germain. Later that year, under Chairman Jim Quinn, they went bankrupt with debts of over £2m. A new team Oldham Roughyeds was then formed in December to play at a lower level. The new club was created by Chris Hamilton and a band of three directors. The Roughyeds tag had been a long accepted nickname for the old club.

After a successful 2001 season, they narrowly missed out on promotion to the Super League, losing to Widnes 12-24 in the Northern Ford Premiership Grand Final.

In 2002 Oldham finished high enough to gain entry into National League 1 when the Northern Ford Premiership was split into two. In the first season of National League 1, 2003, Oldham reached the last four of the play-offs.

The 2006 season saw the club win only one league game and were relegated to National League 2.

In 2007, a few games into the new season, the excavation and demolition firm, the William Quinn Group, acquired a 52% stake in the club. That stake was later increased to 75%. Bill Quinn became the club's new chairman, with previous owners Chris Hamilton and Sean Whitehead remaining as directors.

Oldham Roughyeds finished their most successful season in recent years in 4th place on the National League 2 table and reached the National League 2 grand final, but they went down to Featherstone Rovers.

In 2009 saw the club finish fourth in the Co-operative Championship One table with a record of 10-1-7. The club would make it to the Grand Final once again, But Oldham were beaten in the Grand Final for a third straight year, losing 28-26 to Keighley.

Roughyeds were told they would no longer be able to use Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park in November 2009. The club went to Oldham Council for help. Oldham Council bought Whitebank Stadium from Oldham Boro FC and then entered into a lease agreement with Oldham Roughyeds RLFC.

Roughyeds' first game at Whitebank took place on 9 May 2010 with the opposition being York. The first time Oldham had played on their own ground in Oldham borough since 1997. The club finished in second place in the standings that year and lost in the grand final to York 25-4.

In 2011 saw the club finish outside the playoffs with a record of 11 wins and 9 losses. In last season's Championship One campaign Oldham finished in 6th place with a record of 7 wins, 1 draw and 10 losses. In 2013 Oldham went all the way to the play off final but ended up losing to the Rochdale Hornets.

# 2014 SQUAD



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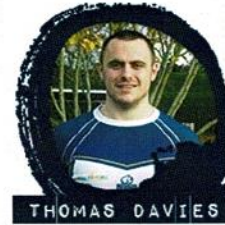
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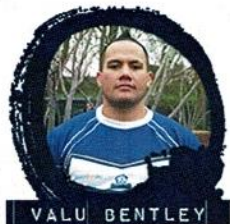
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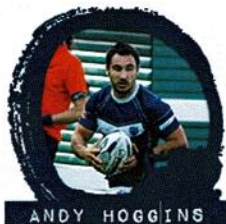
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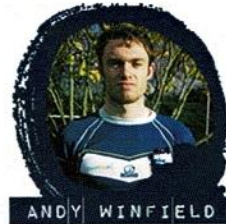
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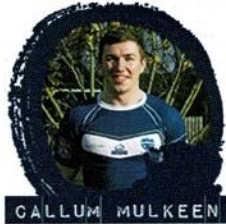
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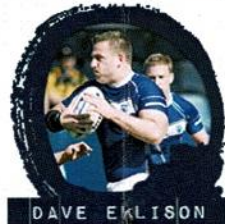
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## TODAY'S TEAMS

### Oxford RL

- 1) S. Morris
- 2) Crabtree
- 3) Brooker
- 5) Mulkeen
- 6) Connick
- 7) Rowland
- 8) Clarke
- 9) Thompson
- 10) Hadden
- 11) Baird
- 12) Hoggins
- 13) Bentley
- 14) Ellison
- 15) Osborn
- 16) Blaney
- 17) Sharratt
- 18) Rice

### Oldham

- 1) Tom Whitehead
- 2) Mo Agoro
- 3) Ben Wood
- 4) Steven Nield
- 5) Dale Bloomfield
- 6) Lewis Palfrey
- 7) Brett Robinson
- 8) Phil Joy
- 9) Sam Gee
- 10) Jason Boults
- 11) Josh Crowley
- 12) Danny Langtree
- 13) Mark Hobson
- 14) Adam Files
- 15) Paddy Mooney
- 16) Kenny Hughes
- 17) Danny Whitmore

- 18) Alex Davidson
- 19) Michael Ward
- 20) George Tyson
- 21) David Cookson
- 22) Liam Thompson

## KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ONE STATS

### TOP TRY SCORERS

Sean Morris

**13**

S. MORRIS	13
J. PAYNE	13
M. AGORO	12
B. DENT	11
J. LEE	11

### TOP GOAL SCORERS

Lewis Palfrey

**39**

L. PALFREY	39
B. HARDCASTLE	34
B. SWINDELLS	28
P. EMANUELLI	27
J. ROWLAND	25

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ROUND	DATE	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	KO TIME
1	2/3/14	OXFORD	LONDON SKOLARS	3.00PM
3	23/3/14	OXFORD	HUNSLET HAWKS	3.00PM
6	18/4/14	OXFORD	UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE ALL GOLDS	3.00PM
9	18/5/14	OXFORD	SOUTH WALES SCORPIONS	3.00PM
12	8/6/14	OXFORD	GATESHEAD THUNDER	3.00PM
13	15/6/14	OXFORD	LONDON SKOLARS	3.00PM
15	29/6/14	OXFORD	OLDHAM	3.00PM
17	13/7/14	OXFORD	YORK CITY KNIGHTS	3.00PM
23	31/8/14	OXFORD	SOUTH WALES SCORPIONS	3.00PM
24	7/9/14	OXFORD	HEMEL STAGS	3.00PM

### KINGSTONE PRESS CHAMPIONSHIP ONE



TEAM	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST	BONUS PTS	POINTS
YORK	12	9	0	3	416	203	3	30
OLDHAM	12	9	1	2	397	250	1	30
HUNSLET	11	9	0	2	372	138	1	28
GLOUCESTERSHIRE ALL GOLDS	11	6	0	5	275	298	3	21
HEMEL STAGS	11	5	1	5	252	265	3	20
GATESHEAD	12	5	0	7	305	377	2	17
LONDON SKOLARS	11	3	0	8	267	349	4	13
OXFORD	12	4	0	8	303	403	1	13
SOUTH WALES	12	1	0	11	191	495	2	5

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