

TODAY'S SQUADS

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Match commissioner: P Hewitt

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HUNSLET HAWKS



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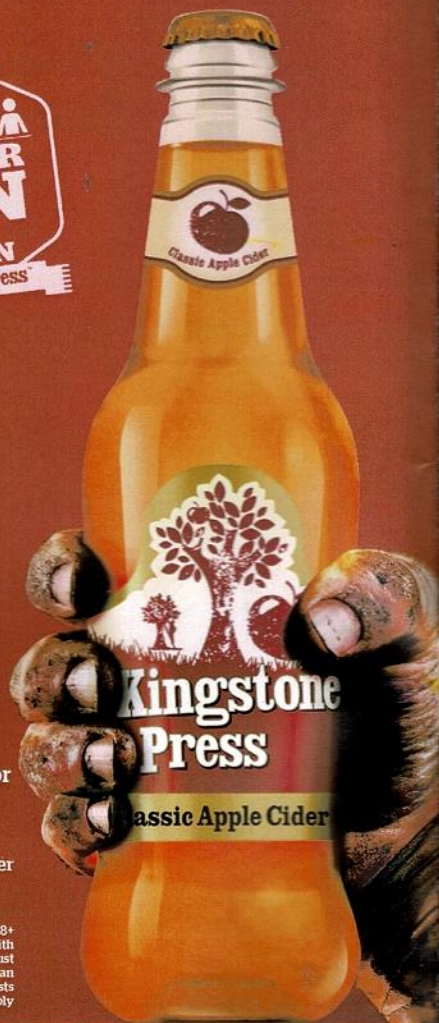
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X --- O X O
NOBBY'S NOTES
O X --- O X

HELLO everyone, and welcome to today's game against Hunslet Hawks at the Whitebank Stadium.

Our opponents today are a top-class team in our division with great players and a quality coach, so we obviously expect this match to be an extremely difficult one from which to come away with a victory.

I think sometimes this season it's been forgotten that the two teams we are competing with for top spot were relegated from the Championship at the end of last season and both kept there squads intact for this year in the hope of getting back up as quickly as possible.

Having said that, we see ourselves as a team that can challenge these clubs when the play-offs start in September and hopefully get the promotion this club craves and, in my opinion, deserves.

Our game last week against York was a huge wake-up call to the squad.

If every player doesn't turn up with the right mental and physical attitude then we won't get the victory, that applies to every game, including today's, never mind getting to the Grand Final and possibly a chance of winning promotion to the Kingstone

Press Championship.

Last week's game gave me my darkest day as a coach, and since then it's been a long week, personally for me and also for the players.

It's hard to see fans travel and spend money to support us at away games when we perform the way we did at York.

We won't win every game, but last week's performance was unacceptable.

Sometimes things happen in rugby that you can't explain or understand, but one thing you can't do is hide or hope that everything will simply come right and be okay.

As a team, we have to put it right ourselves. We have to stand up and be counted and we have to be the best we can possibly be, and then let's see what happens.

Losing is part of rugby, unfortunately, but it's the manner in which you lose that you CAN control.

Give everything for the club and for the fans and then no one can ask for more or criticise you. That's my rant over.

I hope you enjoy today's game. Thank you for your support.

Nobby



COVENTRY IN - OFFICIAL

COVENTRY Bears will enter the Kingstone Press Championship One competition in 2015.

Formed in 1998, Coventry have grown to become one of the sport's most successful community clubs and they will play home games at the 4,000-capacity Butts Park Arena.

RFL Chief Operating Officer Ralph Rimmer said: "Coventry's entry follows a great deal of hard work by a committed and passionate group of individuals who have set realistic and realisable ambitions for a club which has grown in stature over recent years.

"The arrival of Coventry Bears adds another refreshing dimension to the Championships at a time when the sport is approaching an exciting new era with the introduction of a new league structure in 2015.

"Following the success of Oxford, Hemel Stags and the University and Gloucestershire All Golds in introducing Rugby League to a new audience of players and spectators, Coventry Bears will enhance the competition and the sport.

"Their entry is the latest result of our long-term commitment to introduce new clubs into Championship One from new geographical areas and I am sure Coventry Bears will receive a warm welcome from everyone in the game."

Coventry managing director Alan Robinson said: "The club has worked hard to establish good working relationships in Coventry and across the Midlands and we have partners in place who can help us realise our ambitions.

"Making the transition from being a community club to the professional ranks has been, and remains, an exciting and fulfilling journey.

"Our geographical location allows us to 'bridge the gap' between clubs in the South and North and creates rich potential for us to succeed."



SMALL comfort, in terms of the bigger picture, but Dale Bloomfield's last-minute try in our heavy defeat at York last week took our try tally in cup and league this year to exactly 100 in 17 outings - an average of six tries per game.

The breakdown looks like this:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Dale Bloomfield 18 | David Cookson 5 | Lewis Palfrey 4 | Sam Gee 1 |
| Mo Agoro 15 | Kenny Hughes 5 | Jason Boults 2 | Phil Joy 1 |
| Josh Crowley 9 | Steven Nield 5 | Adam Files 2 | Nathan Mason 1 |
| Jon Ford 7 | Michael Ward 5 | George Tyson 2 | Edwin Okanga-Ajwang 1 |
| Danny Langtree 7 | Ben Wood 5 | Danny Whitmore 2 | Brett Robinson 1 |
| | | Alex Davidson 1 | Steve Roper 1 |

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CHRIS' COMMENTS

WELL, after last Sunday at York we are certainly hoping for a big response from the players today.

It is hard to put into words just how disappointing that display was in a match of high importance and one in which the eyes of the wider game were upon us.

A first v second clash should have tension, drama, apprehension, toughness and probably any other stirring words you can think of.

Instead, it was just the opposite and we got what we deserved as a team. There have been comments from both myself and Scott in the Press and we have moved on. The players are a good bunch and, hopefully, they will have learned a painful lesson from that match.

For you, the fans, we hope we can go some way to putting it right today in what is another toughie. Hunslet were at the match last week so we have to make sure we forget what happened and get back to winning ways.

Before last Sunday, we were anticipating our biggest crowd of the season today, but performances like that have a knock-on effect and that is one of the pressures I have to deal with.

Let's hope it hasn't dampened too much the enthusiasm of you, the fans. Indeed, our loyal band of supporters were still loud and proud throughout the match and the vocal support you



Bring it on!

Christopher Hamilton
Chairman

gave to the players both during the game and when it was over was not deserved. They know they are lucky to have you.

In more ways than one it will have been a hard week for the players - no doubt about that - but digging in when things aren't going right shows what you are made of and I expect nothing less than a fully

committed performance this afternoon at the very least.

Scott Naylor and Lee Spencer put an awful lot of hard work into this group of players and Scott was very down last week, and understandably so. The lads owe him and you.

One thing is important to note here. We haven't gone over the top in our reaction to the game - after all, it was one of only three defeats all season.

What hurt was the manner of the defeat in the context of a big game. You know me well enough to know that I have nothing but admiration and total support for the coaches and the players but sometimes - and only very occasionally - there is perhaps a need to voice my displeasure.

I don't go home and forget about it and neither do the coaches. It means too much. The players need that same mentality.

The season is far from over. We have an opportunity today to put down a marker and I'm sure we will take it against what will be very tough opposition in a Hunslet side which has beaten us already this season.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEW BOY

Scott finally gets his man!

OUR search for another outside back came up trumps with the capture of winger Adam Clay, who made his debut at York last Sunday.

When the programme went to press, it wasn't known whether he would be making his home debut today, but he would certainly be in the mix.

Barrow's top try scorer in the Championship last year, 23-year-old Clay has joined us initially on a short-term contract to the end of this season.

He figured in 27 of Barrow's 29 games in 2013, scoring 12 tries although playing in a struggling side that only narrowly avoided relegation.

Suitably impressed, newly-promoted North Wales Crusaders signed him for a second time, but he was recently released, whereupon Scott Naylor pounced to finally get his man after 18 months of trying.

"I first came across Adam when he was a kid at Leigh Miners," said the Oldham boss.

"I signed him on pro forms for Salford, and I've rated him ever since. I think he's a fine player.

"We are light on outside backs and although he's predominantly a winger, he could operate equally well at centre or full-back.

"The days have gone when players were only ever asked to play in one position. Adam can play across the back line and he's a perfect fit for what we've been looking for.

"He's a Championship player, no doubt about that.

"We tried to sign him at the end of last season when we were hoping to win promotion, but he opted to stay in the higher division and go back to Crusaders and we fully understood his reasons for doing so.

"I never lost my interest, though, and when he became available we snapped him up."

Leigh-born Clay represented Great Britain Community Lions in Australia at under-18s level and shortly afterwards signed for Salford, where he spent two and a half years, much of it in the reserves working under 'Spanner' (Lee Spencer).

In 2011 he made two Super League appearances for Salford as a 19-year-old.

The following year he had a brief spell at Leigh (three tries in five appearances) and then Crusaders on loan (six tries in ten outings).

It was during that season, before Scott's arrival as coach, that Crusaders did the double over Oldham, with Adam scoring a try both times.



HOW THE SKIPPER PLAYED HIS PART

CLUB captain Lewis Palfrey played a leading role in Adam Clay's arrival at Whitebank, revealed Adam when speaking exclusively to the club's media department.

"Lewis and I go back a long way," said the Leigh-born former Salford, Leigh, Barrow and North Wales Crusaders winger.

"We were mates at Salford and we've remained good mates since. I'm a big friend of his. Before I signed Lewis told me all about the club and how good it was.

"I liked what he had to say and that had a big bearing on my decision, although I also know Scott and 'Spanner' very well and also members of the backroom team and some of the players."

Adam (23) damaged an ankle last March when playing for North Wales Crusaders in a Challenge Cup tie against Pilkington Recs and although it doesn't stop him

training and playing he was due to have a scan on it yesterday.

Despite our defeat at York, Adam is optimistic about his new club's prospects of making an impact in the remainder of the season.

"It's all down to the play-offs and anything can happen in those," he said.

"Had Oldham got promoted last year I would have signed for them then, so I was at the final when they were beaten by Rochdale and I was disappointed like everybody else.

"I'd had a good year at Barrow and I wanted to stay in the Championship, so I signed for Crusaders, where I had been on loan from Leigh in 2012.

"As things turned out, I wish I had signed for Oldham in the first place, but I'm here now and I'm looking forward to my first home game and getting my career back on track with my new club."

Behind Closed Doors with... **MARK HOBSON**

Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

My mother and father

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

Superb at golf... just ask Sam Geel!

What is the highlight of your career so far?

Playing first team at Salford

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

Muhammad Ali and 'Bloomers' (Dale Bloomfield)

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

My framed photo of Dale Bloomfield!

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

Woody and Whitty, they're like Laurel and Hardy

Which TV programme would you never miss?

Storage Hunters - Money

What was the last book you read?

Conspiracy Theories 101

What's your favourite type of music?

Classic Rock and House

How do you relax after a match?

Few beers and then a sleep

Finally tell me a secret!

I'm from Widnes really





Behind Closed Doors
with...

LYNDSEY WATKINS

(Head physiotherapist)

Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

My grandad and Victoria Beckham

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

David Beckham and Keith Lemon

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

My dog Poppy and my handbag collection.

What's your funniest moment at the club so far?

Wardy going down injured during training and squealing like a pig (sorry Wardy!) - there was no-one near him at the time and he was fine by the next session. Luckily, he's toughened up a bit now!

Which TV programme would you never miss?

Celebrity Juice

What was the last book you read?

Ronnie O'Sullivan's autobiography

What's your favourite type of music?

I'll listen to anything

Who's the biggest pain on training nights?

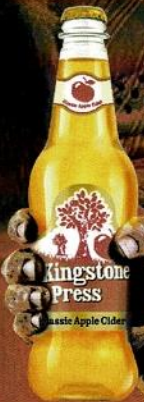
Dale Bloomfield - always has something to moan about.

... And finally, tell us a secret

I've got too many to tell!

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DOES OLDHAM RLFC HAVE THE UK'S BIGGEST RUGBY LEAGUE FAN?

One devoted fan will be crowned 'Proper Fan of the Season' and win a trip to the Four Nations in Australia

Oldham RLFC has teamed up with Rugby League sponsor, Kingstone Press to find the country's biggest Rugby League fan.

The search to find one dedicated supporter to be crowned as Proper Fan of the Season has started, so Kingstone Press and Oldham RLFC are calling for nominations from local fans to tell them why they love the sport and deserve to not only be crowned as Proper Fan of the Season, but to also fly off to Australia to watch the England team compete in the Four Nations.

Do you loyally stand by Oldham RLFC; never miss a game, volunteer at matches, would do anything for the team or are you simply just a die-hard Rugby League fan? Then we want to hear from you! To be in with a chance of winning this honoured title and amazing prize, simply nominate yourself via

the entry forms at the club or online at www.kingstonepress.co.uk or www.facebook.com/kingstonepresscider. And if you are feeling generous you can also nominate a mate who you think deserves the title!

The deadline for nominations is midnight on 29th August. After which a judging panel, made up of representatives from the RFL, Kingstone Press and industry officials, will select ten finalists who will be given VIP tickets to Championships Finals Day. During Finals Day the ten candidates will have the opportunity to tell the judges why they think they are the country's biggest Rugby League supporter. One devoted individual will then be revealed as Kingstone Press's Proper Fan of the Season, and will win the chance of a lifetime to see England play Australia during the Four Nations, in Melbourne.



Last-gasp winner set 'Nielyd' on his way

LOYALTY and perseverance have paid off for Steven Nield who, in his fourth season at Whitebank, has finally got the job he always wanted.

He has played consistently well since getting his hands on the full-back jersey in time to play a key role in the 48-28 home win against Oxford at the beginning of May. He has kept his spot ever since, and done a fine job, too.

In was in the next game that he scored the sensational, last-gasp try that gave Roughyeds a 31-30 win against York and his confidence and self-belief have grown steadily ever since.

Life at Whitebank is sweet right now for the former Saddleworth Rangers junior, whose fans include scores of children to whom he teaches sport in local schools as part of his full-time day job.

It wasn't always like that.

Last season, his first as a member of the senior squad, he couldn't get his hands on his favourite full-back's shirt, which was then worn by Italian international Richard Lepori.

Elsewhere, in a back line dominated by Mo Agoro, David Cookson, Jon Ford and Dale Bloomfield there were few opportunities for him to show his versatility at centre or wing.

He made only six senior appearances, all of

them at centre and all of them in the early part of the campaign.

For the remainder of the year he was on the outside looking in, back in the under-20s and playing variously at full-back, centre and wing.

"It was tough at the time. Everybody was playing well and I couldn't get an opening. I just had to bide my time," he said.

"It was hard to get into the team, but I could see how well the other lads were playing so I had to accept it. It was just one of those things."

'Lippy's' departure at the end of last season created an opening, but Steve then found himself in competition with another local lad, Tom Whitehead, who lost his place after a bad defeat at Hunslet on Good Friday.

Steve added: "I've had to be patient, but I'm getting a good run now and I'm loving every minute.

"Everyone is starting to click. We are playing well as a team and hopefully we are coming good at the right time.

"We've got some massive games coming up, but if we play to the best of our ability we should be okay."

Roper's OUR lad now - Scott New talks with Rochdale end fears of a recall

OLDHAM have negotiated Steve Roper's release from Rochdale Hornets and tied him up on contract to the end of the season.

"He's our lad now," said a delighted Scott Naylor, of the half-back who has become a key member of the Oldham side since arriving from Spotland on loan in early May.

He came initially for a month. The loan agreement was then extended to the end of the season, but it carried with it a recall clause which would have enabled Hornets to drag him back at any time.

At Whitebank there was a fear it might have happened at the business end of the season and with the top-five play-offs not far away.

Explained chairman Chris Hamilton: "We needed to be in charge of our own destiny, so we have been working on trying to get Steve's release for quite a while.

"It was completed on the Friday night before the Gloucester game so that been been was his first as a fully-fledged Oldham player.

"That removes our concerns as we look ahead to the big games that are coming up."

Roper, 27, has been a Roughyeds regular for the past couple of months, taking up a pivotal role with responsibilities for ensuring the attack runs smoothly on the left-hand side of the field.

Added Naylor: "It was important we secured his

services. On and off the field he has done a great job since he came to us in May, knowing he had to prove himself.

"Because of the key role he was going to fill, I needed to have a good look at him and spend time working him into our systems, so he trained with us for the best part of a month before his first game.

"He grabbed his opportunity and he has brought a lot to the team in terms of experience, a higher skill level, composure and a good kicking game. He's very calm and composed in everything he does.

"There was a worry that Rochdale might have wanted him back, but that's gone now so we can look ahead with confidence."

Roper said: "I didn't want to go back to Rochdale anyway. I'm enjoying my rugby at Oldham and it's good to know everything is sorted out.

"It's good for me and for the club. It's a much more settled situation.

"We've got some tough games coming up, but at this stage of the season that's not a bad thing because they will prepare us for the play-offs.

"So long as we play to our full potential -- that's the key --- it will take a good side to beat us."



Your chance to say 'thanks' to a Roughyeds' record-breaker

NEIL Roden, who has given outstanding service to our club over the past 12 years (and is still doing so) will be staging his testimonial dinner here at Whitebank on Saturday, August 9 (7pm for 7.30pm).

It will be a mixed dinner for both men and women and tickets are on sale at £25 per head, which will include a three-course meal.

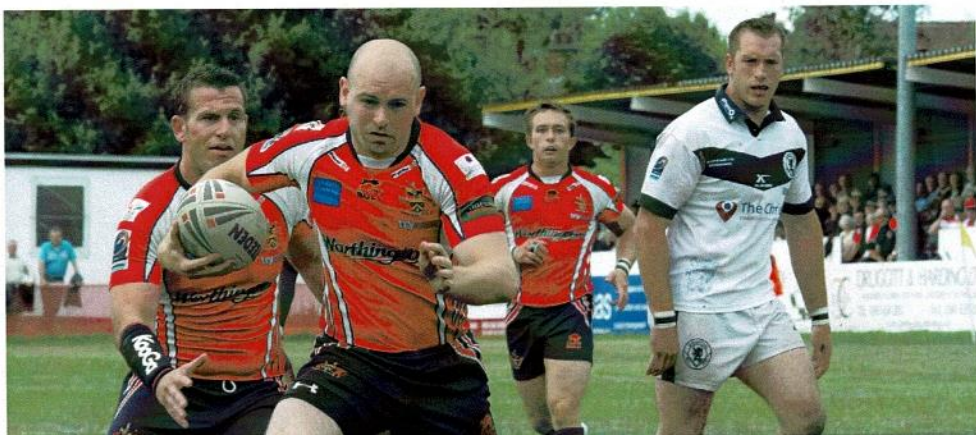
Andy Gregory, the former Wigan and Great Britain star, will be guest speaker and the MC will be Ian Smith, the local man who rose through the refereeing ranks to become a Super League official and who is now a full-time

coach to match officials as well as being one of the best known of the video referees.

There will also be a raffle and an auction of rugby league memorabilia.

Tickets are available in the Whitebank social club from 1pm today until kick-off time and then after the game as well.

Alternatively, you can ring the club Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm on (0161) 624 9630 Ext 70552 to make arrangements OR you can ring the ORSA chairman John McAndrew on 07980129541.



WHAT THEY SAID

THE 12-month testimonial, granted by the RFL, runs from January 1, 2014 and gives the 33-year-old former club captain a calendar year in which to celebrate his 12 seasons at Oldham with a series of fund-raising events.

Said ...

Club chairman CHRIS HAMILTON: "Neil has made a massive contribution over the years, not only to the Oldham club, but to rugby league in general.

"He was a model professional, never a minute's trouble and a fantastic player.

"He's doing an excellent job now as under-20s coach and he deserves a great testimonial year for all his loyal and dedicated service to this club."

Head coach SCOTT NAYLOR: "Neil deserves all the credit he gets. Much of his final season was spent as a valued member of the backroom team and he handled the transition brilliantly.

"He was as professional about it as anyone could ever be and we were delighted when he took on the job of under-20s coach."

ORSA chairman JOHN McANDREW: "On and off the field Neil has done Roughyeds proud for many years. Fans now have the chance to show their appreciation and I know they will."

Club media manager ROGER HALSTEAD: "It seems like only yesterday that two fresh-faced young kids from Wigan turned up one night for training at Castleton. Little did I know then that 14 years, 296 games and 113 tries later I would

still be ringing 'Rats' for quotes and news about his under-20s.

"To me, though, he'll always be remembered for his sublime skills with ball in hand. He was a good 'un, a real good 'un, a pleasure to watch. Well done pal ... and thanks for the memories."

For the man himself, actions spoke louder than words, but we did manage to get this out of him:

"My stats don't look too bad (massive understatement - editor); I've got great memories; I've made friends for life; and I enjoyed every minute of my playing career, most of it proudly wearing Oldham colours.

"We've had some disappointments -- don't mention Grand Finals --- but we've had some great times too and I would like to thank everyone with whom I've shared those ups

and downs over the years, team mates, club officials and fans, who have always supported me through thick and thin.

"I'll never forget my first try for the club. It was at Batley in my third game, but the first time I was in the starting line-up.

"The following season we had that amazing run to the play-off final. We were one game off Super League, but Widnes beat us at Spotland.

"It's difficult to pick out outstanding players because there have been so many but Phil Farrell, my pal, was a fantastic captain; Mark Sibson was a freak finisher, who scored some of the best tries I've ever seen; Paul O'Connor was brilliantly consistent; and there were naturally gifted players like Shane McMenemy and Bryan Henare."

FACT FILE

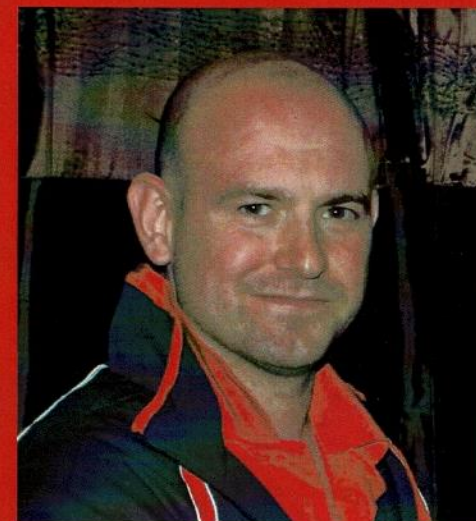
NEIL holds two club records - most appearances and most tries. His retirement from playing at the end of last season marked the end of an era for Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd.

In his two spells at Oldham - 2000 to 2004 inclusive and 2007 to 2013 inclusive - he amassed a club record 296 cup and league appearances, scoring 113 tries, another club best that is unlikely ever to be surpassed.

Such is his affinity with the club he first joined as a 19-year-old from Wigan Warriors that he was delighted to accept an invitation to become coach of the under-20s, a position he has filled with the sort of cool, calm professionalism that was the hallmark of his distinguished playing career.

The son of Wigan's chief scout, Jack Roden, Neil - then a 19-year-old with hair! - and his pal Phil Farrell arrived at Oldham from the Warriors in the Spring of 2000 when Mike Ford was player-coach.

Neil made his debut off the bench in a 61-26 defeat at Featherstone to launch a fantastic Roughyeds career in which he played in four play-off finals; was twice named in divisional team-of-the-year sides (2007 and 2010); played in every game of the 2001 and 2007 seasons; top-scored with 20 tries in 2002; and played alongside 23 different half-backs.



He played mainly at scrum-half in his early days but in his second spell, after two seasons at Batley and Leigh, he was an automatic choice at stand-off.

Of the many half-backs he partnered, he made most appearances alongside James Coyle (49 times), David Gibbons (30) and Gareth Barber (26).

He played in four Grand Finals, partnered by David Gibbons in 2001, James Coyle in 2007, Thomas Coyle in 2009 and Greg McNally in 2010.



SPOTLIGHT ON OLDHAM RLFC CLASS OF 2014



Mo AGORO
D.O.B: 29/1/93

2 Winger, formerly with Leeds Rhinos. In his second year at Whitebank, having played in 22 of our 24 games last season, scoring nine tries. Played for Drighlington and Hunslet Warriors before joining Leeds. A student, currently studying in Huddersfield. Sponsored by Wilscaff 07855 265 071.



Ben WOOD
D.O.B: 10/6/89

3 Centre or second-row. Another product of the Salford 'system', originally from Saddleworth Rangers. In his second spell at Oldham, having spent last year in Australia where he won State rep honours for Western Australia and went on tour to Samoa. At 6ft 4in and 17st 1lb, he is one of the biggest players in the squad. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ex 70552)



Steven NIELD
D.O.B: 20/11/90

4 Full-back or wing. Oldham-born, signed for St Helens aged 15 from Saddleworth and had four years at Knowsley Road. Earned senior contract here after two big seasons in the reserves in which he played in every game and was top try and points scorer in 2012. Now in his second year as a 'senior'. Sponsored by Oldham Self Storage 0161 665 2723.



Dale BLOOMFIELD
D.O.B: 24/10/87

5 Winger. Widnes Vikings, St Helens, then three years at Rochdale where he scored a total of 30 tries in 2011 and 2012. In the mythical Championship One team of the year in 2011. In his second year at Whitebank, having scored 11 tries in 23 games last season, missing only one. Sponsored by Mick Harrop.



Lewis PALFREY
D.O.B: 25/2/90

6 Stand-off and club captain. Eccles, Wigan St Pat's, then five years at Salford, two as a full-time pro. Captained them at academy and reserve-team levels and came under the influence there of 'Spanner' (Lee Spencer) and our head coach Scott Naylor. Played for Whitehaven and Batley Bulldogs before joining Roughyeds at the start of the 2013 season. Sponsored by Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991.



Brett ROBINSON
D.O.B: 11/9/89

7 Half-back. Newly signed by Roughyeds this year, having been a key member of Tony Benson's Oxford squad in that club's first season in Kingstone Press Championship One. Played for us at reserves level three years ago when John Hough was in charge, having been reared on the youth circuit in his native Wigan. Also played overseas. Sponsored by ORSA.



Phil JOY
D.O.B: 4/9/91

8 Prop-forward. Local lad, ex-Waterhead. A product of our development system. Gained two reserve team player awards in 2012, won his first senior contract for 2013 and carried off the coach's player-of-the-year award in his first season at that level. Got a BSc joint honours degree in maths and economics at Leeds and now studying for a masters. Sponsored by Pam Taylor and TTX.



Sam GEE
D.O.B: 28/2/87

9 Vice-captain and 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. Previously with Warrington, Wigan, London Skolars and Whitehaven. In his second season here, having played in 21 of our 24 games last year. Sponsored by John and Lynda McAndrew.



Jason BOULTS
D.O.B: 7/9/83

10 Prop-forward. 'Mr Consistency' if ever there was one. Now in his eighth season at Oldham. He began this 2014 campaign with 173 appearances on his impressive Roughyeds CV. Started at Bradford Bulls, then Halifax before coming to Oldham for the start of the 2007 season. The squad's senior citizen at the age of 30, but going as strongly as ever. Sponsored by ORSA.



Josh CROWLEY
D.O.B: 24/9/91

11 Second-row forward. Formerly with hometown Warrington, then three years at Widnes before becoming Scott Naylor's first signing for Oldham ahead of the 2013 season. Strong-running forward who was an ever-present in his first season with a maximum 24 appearances. Has won more man-of-the-match awards than any other Oldham player. Sponsored by John and Lynda McAndrew.



Danny LANGTREE
D.O.B: 18/2/91

12 Second-row forward. Ex-St Helens academy. Two seasons in our reserve team and grabbed first-team chance with both hands at back end of 2012 season. Mainstay of reserves' pack that reached two successive grand finals in 2011 and 2012. Scored ten tries in 23 first-team games in 2013. Sponsored by Charlotte Gothard and Neil Haigh



Mark HOBSON
D.O.B: 14/1/87

13 Back-row forward. Signed for Salford at 16, then briefly at Workington Town before spending four seasons at Rochdale where hard work and consistency were his trademarks. In his second season at Oldham, having played in every game bar one last year. Sponsored by Colin Appleyard Ltd 0161 330 5148.



Adam Files
D.O.B: 7/1/93

14 Hooker. Made a big impact here last year when he was on season-long loan from Salford. Scored 15 tries in a maximum 24 appearances. Especially lively from dummy half. Reared at Woolston and signed for Salford aged 15. Now in his first season as a fully-fledged Oldham player. D-O-B 7/1/93. Sponsored by Rita Walton.



Paddy MOONEY
D.O.B: 28/3/94

15 Prop-forward. Londoner. Reared in the much under-rated London amateur game, then joined Broncos where he captained the under-19s side in 2013. Moved north to study at Manchester University and joined Oldham as a young front-rower with loads of potential. Sponsored by Graeme Lee.



Kenny HUGHES
D.O.B: 30/3/90

16 Hooker/half-back. Born in St Helens, won BARLA GB honours at under-19s. Signed for Saints, then came to Oldham to play in the reserves before winning first-team contract at the start of the 2013 campaign. Scored seven tries in 19 appearances last year, proving his value to the squad by appearing at both hooker and half-back. Sponsored by Rita Walton.



Danny WHITMORE
D.O.B: 22/12/88

17 Hooker/half-back. In his second spell here. Oldham-born, he played at Waterhead before joining Salford's youth development system. Brought up there under Lee Spencer's wing and signed for Roughyeds for the first time in 2010, serving three years here before going to Batley Bulldogs last term. Had a couple of games here on loan last season and now a fully-fledged Roughyed - again. Sponsored by Frankie and Benny's.



Alex DAVIDSON
D.O.B: 1/1/92

18 Bolton-born, raised in Westhoughton. Early rugby for Westhoughton Lions, Wigan St Pat's and Blackbrook Royals (St Helens). He then signed for Salford from which club he is now at Oldham on season-long loan. Well known to our coaches Scott Naylor and Lee Spencer from his time with the Red Devils. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ext 70552).



Michael WARD
D.O.B: 10/2/91

19 Prop-forward. Local lad who came up through our reserves. First played on the wing as a 16-year-old. Starred in 2011 reserve team that won a grand final against Widnes and graduated to first team in 2012. Played early rugby at centre or second-row but now regarded chiefly as a front-rower. At 17st4lbs second heaviest member of the pack after Phil Joy. Sponsored by Sylvia, David and Margaret.



George TYSON
D.O.B: 1/10/93

20 Back-row forward. Another youngster from Salford Red Devils who is here on a season-long loan. Early rugby at Leigh Miners, then signed for Salford aged 16. Tall and rangy, he is a very mobile forward, who impressed in the under-20s in his first few games here, both on attack and in defence. Sponsored by Amari Plastics PLC. 0161 785 3560



David COOKSON
D.O.B: 1/10/88

21 Centre. Joined Roughyeds' reserves from Oldham St Anne's in 2011, made senior spot his own in 2012. Capped at amateur level by England Students and BARLA GB under-23s. Five tries in 18 appearances last season, but missed several early games in 2014 due to injury. Sponsored by ORLFC Players' Association.



Liam THOMPSON
D.O.B: 3/1/92

22 Loose-forward. Signed for Wigan aged 16. England schoolboy honours. Moved from Wigan to Widnes before joining Roughyeds as one of Scott Naylor's new boys in 2013. Shoulder operation delayed his debut, but he made a big impact later in the season as we progressed to the Grand Final. Started well again this year, but then suffered a serious facial injury which again set him back. Sponsored by Spencer Hayes Insurance 01204 505 586.



Edwin OKANGA-AJWANG
D.O.B: 29/11/94

24 Centre. Highly-rated youngster from Salford Red Devils, here on season-long dual registration. Born in Poland of a Polish mum and a Kenyan dad. Family moved to Halifax when he was ten. His primary school introduced him to rugby league and he joined amateurs Siddall, from which club he signed for Salford when he was 16. Already had a couple of Super League games. Sponsorship available (0161 624 9630, ext 70552)



Jon FORD
D.O.B: 1/11/93

25 Centre. Currently on dual registration from Salford Red Devils. Jon was with us for most of the 2013 season on long-term loan. He played in 15 of our 24 matches that season, scoring 21 tries to become one of the leading try-scorers in Kingstone Press Championship One. Spent the early part of this season with Sheffield Eagles on loan from Salford, but returned to Whitebank in mid-May. Sponsored by Danielle Burns.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

...SPOTLIGHT ON OLDHAM RLFC CLASS OF 2014 CONTINUED



Steve ROPER
D.O.B: 10/11/86

26

Half-back. A relative newcomer to Whitebank, Steve arrived in early May this year on loan from Rochdale Hornets. Made his Roughyeds debut in the 30-22 win at Gloucester. Can play in either half-back spot or hooker. Goalkeeper as well. Vastly experienced player, having spent six seasons at Rochdale. Sponsorship available, ring Janet at the club on 0161 624 9630, ext 70552



Nathan MASON
D.O.B: 8/9/93

28

Prop-forward. Oldham born, first club Waterhead. Signed for Huddersfield Giants and came through their development system. Had a spell on loan with us in the 2013 season, playing four games before the Giants recalled him. Came back to Whitebank in early May this year and quickly made an impact. Sponsorship available, ring Janet at the club on 0161 624 9630, ext 70552.

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB U20s FIXTURES & RESULTS

| MARCH | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Saturday 8th | Leigh Centurions | H | L 42 - 10 |
| Saturday 22nd | Sheffield Eagles | A | L 38 - 18 |
| Saturday 29th | Featherstone Rovers | H | L 36 - 20 |
| APRIL | | | |
| Saturday 5th | York City Knights (friendly) | H | L 44 - 28 |
| Saturday 12th | Halifax | H | L 27-24 |
| Saturday 26th | Sheffield Eagles | A | L 18-12 |
| MAY | | | |
| Saturday 3rd | N E Academy | H | W 48 - 6 |
| Saturday 10th | Midlands Academy | A | L 32 - 30 |
| Saturday 24th | Cumbria Academy | A | W 40 - 26 |
| Saturday 31st | Sheffield Eagles | H | L 42-31 |
| JUNE | | | |
| Saturday 7th | Royal Air Force | H | W 24 - 12 |
| Thursday 12th | Keighley | A | Postponed |
| Saturday 21st | Featherstone Rovers | A | Postponed |
| JULY | | | |
| Saturday 5th | Halifax | H | W 23 - 22 |
| Saturday 12th | Gloucester | H | W 58 - 4 |
| Wednesday 30th | Leigh Centurions | A | 7:30pm |
| AUGUST | | | |
| Saturday 9th | Keighley | H | 2:30pm |
| Thursday 14th | Halifax | A | 7:30pm |

NEIL'S NOTES

AFTER two wins in a row against Halifax (23-22) and Gloucester (58-4) it was frustrating to be handed a break of two and a half weeks until our next game at Leigh on Wednesday (July 30, 730pm Kick off).

The lads were building some momentum, but breaks like that don't help. Suffice to say, we are looking forward immensely to taking on a very good Leigh side, who beat us convincingly here at Whitebank in the first game of the season.

The lads are keen to get back on the field and have a go at them and it will be a good opportunity to see how far we have come since that first game back in early March.

For the record we scored 11 tries against Gloucester, coming from Luke Kavanagh (2), Andrew Ball (2), Aaron Hall (2), Richard Joy, Paddy Mooney, Paddy Fitzsimmons, Rhys Wareing and Connor Casey (Leo's lad). Tom Dempsey kicked seven goals.

The team lined up like this: Dempsey, Dootson, Casey, Campbell, Kavanagh, Flanagan, Hughes, Roden, Ball, R Joy, Turner, Hall, Mooney. Subs: Wareing, Fitzsimmons, Gilks, Barratt.

The next game here at Whitebank is against Keighley Cougars on Saturday, August 9, followed that evening by my testimonial dinner in the clubhouse. It would be fantastic to see you at both.

Thanks for your support,

Neil



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OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES & RESULTS

March

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| KPC1 | Sunday 2nd | SOUTH WALES | A | W 18 - 4 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 9th | HEMEL | H | D 20 - 20 |
| | Sunday 16th | EGREMONT (Tetleys Challenge Cup) | A | W 42 - 24 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 23rd | LONDON | A | W 18 - 16 |

April

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| | Sunday 6th | BRADFORD (Tetleys Challenge Cup) | A | L 60 - 6 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 13th | GATESHEAD | H | W 52 - 16 |
| KPC1 | Friday 18th | HUNSLET | A | L 38 - 12 |
| | Sunday 27th | TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP ROUND 5 | | |

May

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|------------|---|-----------|
| KPC1 | Sunday 4th | OXFORD | H | W 48 - 28 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 18th | YORK | H | W 31 - 30 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 25th | GLOUCESTER | A | W 30 - 22 |

June

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| KPC1 | Sunday 1st | LONDON | H | W 46 - 16 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 8th | HEMEL | A | L 44 - 32 |
| | Sunday 8th | TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINAL | | |
| KPC1 | Sunday 15th | SOUTH WALES | H | W 58 - 2 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 22nd | GATESHEAD | A | W 32 - 14 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 29th | OXFORD | A | W 38 - 22 |

July

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|------------|---|-----------|
| KPC1 | Sunday 13th | GLOUCESTER | H | W 46 - 6 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 20th | YORK | A | L 54 - 12 |
| KPC1 | Sunday 27th | HUNSLET | H | 3:00pm |

August

| | | | | |
|------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------|
| KPC1 | Sunday 3rd | LONDON | A | 3:00pm |
| | Sunday 10th | TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL | | |
| KPC1 | Sunday 17th | HEMEL | H | 3:00pm |
| | Saturday 23rd | TETLEY'S CHALLENGE CUP FINAL | | |
| KPC1 | Sunday 31st | GATESHEAD | A | 3:00pm |

September

| | | | | |
|------|------------|------------|---|--------|
| KPC1 | Sunday 7th | GLOUCESTER | H | 3:00pm |
|------|------------|------------|---|--------|

CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAY OFF GAMES SUNDAY 14th SUNDAY 21st & SUNDAY 28th

October

Sunday 5th CHAMPIONSHIPS GRAND FINALS
Saturday 11th SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL