

# TODAY'S SQUADS

Officials: Ref: D Sharpe TJ: T Owen TJ: D McNeice Res: K Murphy  
 Match commissioner: G Kershaw  
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## OLDHAM

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4  | NIELD, Steven        | Oldham Self Storage<br>0161 665 2723     |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | MASON, Nathan        | Danielle Burns                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | OWEN, Gareth         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | CLAY, Adam           |  |

## HEMEL STAGS

- |                         |    |                          |
|-------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| James Cameron           | 1  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| James Hill              | 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Michael Brown           | 3  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Aaron Small             | 4  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kieran Dixon            | 5  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jy-Mel Coleman          | 6  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ben Young               | 7  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dominic Maloney         | 8  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evan Simons             | 9  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dan Ljazouli            | 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BJ Swindells            | 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stephen Bannister       | 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alex Ingarfield         | 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ryan Chester            | 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joel Thomas             | 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eddie M'Baraga          | 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jermaine Coleman        | 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jimmy Morgan            | 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Matt Cook               | 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| James Howitt            | 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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X ---O X O  
NOBBY'S NOTES  
↳O X ---O→ X

HELLO everybody and welcome to today's game at the Whitebank Stadium against Hemel Stags.

Our visitors today will come to us high on confidence because they are the only team in the division that we have failed to beat this season either at home or away.

Both our previous encounters have been completely different types of games, ending in a draw (20-20 here) and a loss (44-32 at their place) so today's clash is extremely important for us if we are to get the right result and also put some demons to bed.

We need to take that into the last two games of the regular season and then on to the play-offs.

Hemel are a very well-coached team with quality players across the field and on their day they can trouble any team in this league so we have to function at 100 per cent to ensure we put in the right performance to get the win we want.

Our last four games in the league were as tough as you can get, and now that we have had time to relax and think about them the conclusion is that we did exceptionally well to get three wins.

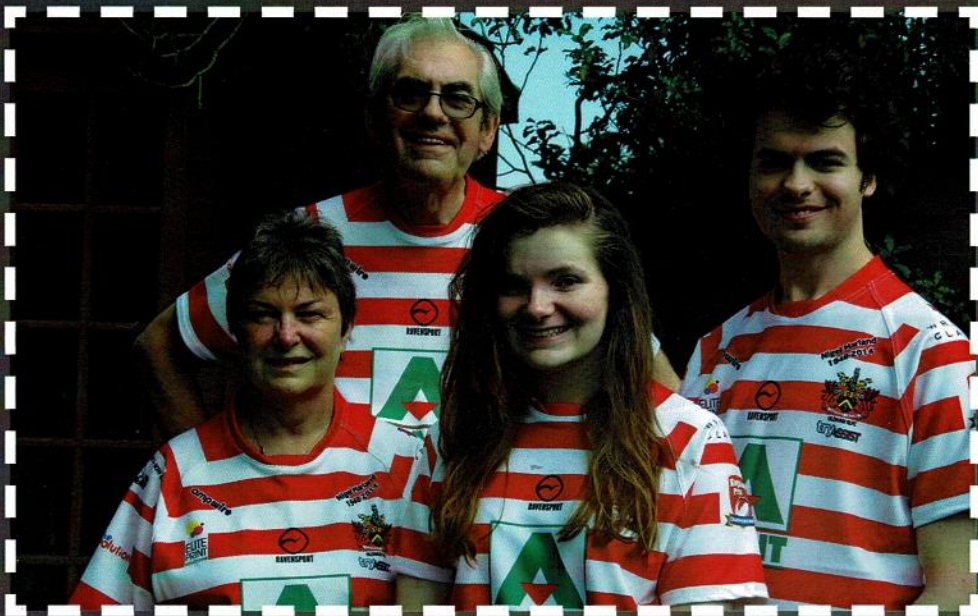
The York and Hunslet games were hugely intense affairs which took a lot out of the lads physically and mentally, so the trip to London was the last thing we needed for our next game.

Once again, the players handled it with complete professionalism in order to get the win and leave us with nine points from a possible 12 from that block of games. To be honest, I would have taken that before the month of July.

The week off after the London game came at the perfect time for us so we should be fresh and ready for today's big test. Let's hope it's a good day for you, the fans. And thank you once again for your terrific support.

Nobby





THE late Nigel Marland will never be forgotten in Oldham Rugby circles, and we are delighted to publish this picture of the Sparshott family from Somerset, and ex of Oldham, who are proudly wearing replica jerseys in memory of a man who touched their lives in many different ways.

Writes Bari W Sparshott:

"Nigel and I go back to 1974, when he arrived to teach history at Greenhill School, where I was Head of Art. In fact, I painted the mural in The Lyceum that features Nigel and Mike Russell. When Greenhill closed as a secondary school in 1977 we both moved to Hathershaw where we spent the rest of our careers, until Nigel retired with heart trouble, and I retired to move down here to Somerset, with my wife Lois, and our children, Rory and Madeleine ( both Oldham born).

"Nigel featured hugely in all our lives. He was godfather to both our children, he was the Best Man at our wedding, and he was the compere/heckler to the Gruntenfahrtenchukchuk Band, a "Bavarian" offshoot from Dobcross Band, of which I was the drummer. He also compered Dobcross Band itself on our trips abroad, to Holland and Denmark.

"Nigel and I often ran school trips together, to France and Germany. He also introduced me to the delights of Oldham RLFC. All four of us are proud to wear the shirt, and the fact that it has our mate's name on it, gives us much pleasure.

So, the photograph shows all of us in the shirt, in the garden. My wife Lois, ( known as Lois Elsdon to ex-Hathershaw pupils), our son Rory, who once played for Saddleworth Rangers with George Ford, the England RU 10, our daughter Madeleine, who also played RL with Rangers, and myself, who an ex-pupil once described as "a so-and-so Hathershaw legend!"

I wish you all the best of luck in this and future seasons.

Bari W Sparshott

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# CHRIS' COMMENTS

GOOD afternoon and welcome back to Whitebank for our penultimate home match of the regular season.

We are now into the loop phase of the season which means we are playing today's opponents, Hemel Stags, for the third time this year and for the second time at home.

I think it is fair to say we have something of a point to prove today, having allowed the Stags to take five points out of a possible six off us in the two games we have played against them so far.

In fact, had we taken maximum points off them in the two previous matches, giving us another three points, we would be sitting second in the league now with the opportunity of going joint top if we win the game in hand over York.

Hemel have acquitted themselves very well since coming into the professional ranks at the start of last season and this year they have proved that it was no fluke when they reached the play-offs in their first season.

We need to maintain our push to finish as high as possible and to get into the best possible form ahead of the play-

off games.

Today provides the next opportunity to do that and to also put right --- to some extent --- the poor performance we served up at Pennine Way.

The players know what is needed at this stage of the season and we are focusing on trying to get consistency into each performance and each match.

We had good support again in Enfield for our last match against London Skolars and we hope to give you plenty to shout about today after having a weekend off.

The short break will have done the players no harm but rest assured they have been worked hard this week in preparation for today.

There is also another blank next weekend for the Tetley's Challenge Cup Final but after that it is full-on until the end of the season.

The support all season from those of you who have watched us home and away has been great and very encouraging for the team - please keep it up today as we try to bag another three points.

Enjoy the game

**Christopher Hamilton**  
Chairman



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# NEW-BOY OWEN HAILS HIS 'MASSIVE' MOVE

GARETH Owen might have 36 Super League appearances on his CV, but he is still thrilled to bits to be playing in Championship One for his home-town team.

"As a kid I used to dream of playing for Oldham one day, and now I've made it," said the latest Salford Red Devils player to join Roughyeds on loan.

He is at Whitebank for the rest of the season, having made an impressive debut at hooker in the stunning 24-23 win against Hunslet Hawks in our last home game, followed by his second appearance in our 38-28 win at London Skolars.

Just 22, he signed for Salford from Waterhead when he was 16 and made his Super League debut against Hull KR at The Willows in August, 2010 as an 18-year-old.

His latest, and 36th appearance at the highest level of the domestic game, was in Salford's final game of last season against Widnes Vikings when he was in the starting line-up and picked up a man-of-the-match award.

This season, he has played eight games for Sheffield Eagles, on loan, in the Championship.

But when the opportunity arose to join the large contingent of Salford or ex-Salford personnel at Oldham, the club he supported as a boy, he jumped at it.

"I'll tell you, this is a massive move for me," he said. "I've always been an Oldham fan."

"I used to watch them play regularly when I was a boy --- Lucas Onyango was my favourite player --- and I was chuffed to wear the jersey for the first time against Hunslet.

"I just hope I can add something to the team."

Living in Moorside, he is contracted to

Salford for one more year after this one, but he is eagerly looking forward to Oldham's remaining three league games, followed by the all-important top-five play-offs.

Only the winners of the play-off final get promoted.

He added: "I've never played in a play-off game before so if I get picked that in itself will be something special for me.

"I just hope I can be a part of all the big games that are looming large for us.

"I know how much it would mean to the club to go all the way so we have a lot to look forward to in the next few weeks."

He didn't know he was coming to Whitebank until the Friday before the Hunslet game, so he had only one training session with the squad on the Saturday before making his debut the next day.

Like Jon Ford, George Tyson and Edwin Okanga-Ajwang, he is at Whitebank on a temporary arrangement from the Red Devils.

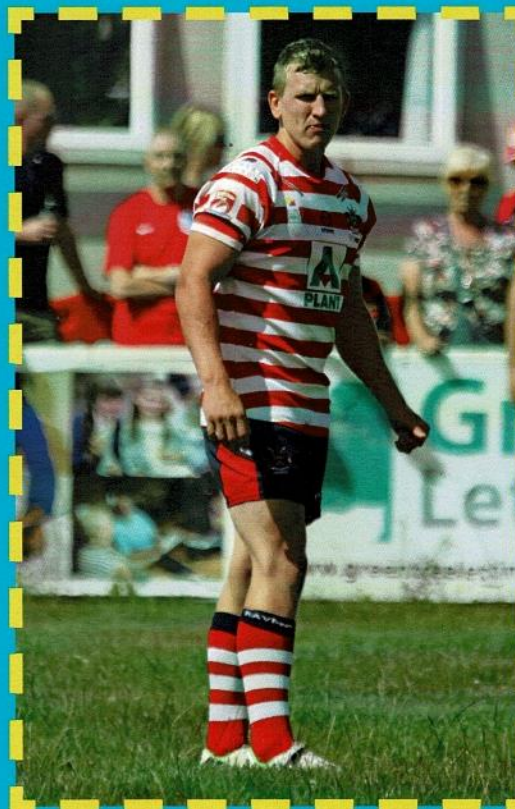
Former Salford players Lewis Palfrey, Adam Clay, Danny Whitmore and Ben Wood were also at the Super League club with him before leaving to go their separate ways.

His first four years at The Willows were spent under the watchful eye of Lee Spencer, who was then Salford's academy coach, and whenever he was called on to train with the under-21s he was under the command of Scott Naylor.

Said Owen: "It was a huge help to walk into the club and know so many people.

"And I loved that first game. It was a fantastic game to play in on debut and the way it finished couldn't have been scripted.

"It was my first game for a month, but I felt fit and strong and completely at home in the surroundings."



## WELCOME 'HOME' TO WHITEBANK

Said club chairman Chris Hamilton: "We are delighted to have secured Gareth's services -- another Oldham lad 'coming home', albeit on a temporary basis at the moment.

"He's a quality player who will help us with our hooking problem (caused by injury to both Adam Files and Kenny Hughes) and provide us with a great addition to the squad as we approach the business end of the season."

Added coach Scott Naylor (after Owen's debut): "He played very well, especially in his first game for a month and after only one training session with us.

"He slotted in well. He looked like his old self and he's going to get even better as he settles in with us. 'Spanner' and I know him well from our time together at Salford.

"His fitness has never been in doubt, as shown when he did 55 minutes in his first game after not having played for so long."



## Behind Closed Doors with... **STEVE ROPER**

Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

**My grandad - and the rest of the Smithy Manor Bus gang.**

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

**I'm okay at pool, ask Langers or Josh.**

What is the highlight of your career so far?

**Playing for England**

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

**My missus and little boy. Failing that, Michelle Keegan and Mila Kunis.**

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

**My family.**

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

**After seeing the goldfish video I've got to say Woody.**

Which TV programme would you never miss?

**Prison Break.**

What was the last book you read?

**Don't read.**

What's your favourite type of music?

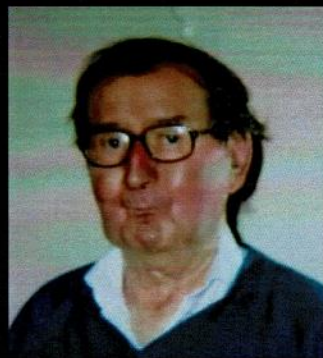
**House Music.**

How do you relax after a match?

**Get on the train.**

Finally ..... tell me a secret!

**Jasper Carrott is Hobbo's dad.**



## Eric Bradley, RIP

IT is with deep regret that we record the passing of one of our 'truly dedicated' supporters, Eric Bradley.

Eric died, aged 85, at his home in Farnborough Avenue, Salem after battling with chest, lung and breathing problems for nearly two years.

An Oldham Rugby supporter all his life, and a season-ticket holder for many years, he never missed a match home or away until ill health took its toll and made it impossible for him to get to Whitebank and further afield.

He was a regular at matches until the end of last season, not just at first-team games, but at under-20s games, home and away, and at any function or event in which he could actively support the club he remained passionate about until the day he died.

He leaves his wife Olive and son Andrew, having survived his daughter Tracy, who died 18 months ago after a long and brave battle against cancer.

Our club chairman Chris Hamilton, who was one of the last people to visit Eric before he died, said: "Eric was a truly dedicated Oldham RL fan.

"The club meant a lot to him and to his whole family. Shortly before she died, Tracy was presented with a special club award for her unstinting efforts to support the

club at a time when she was also having to cope with her own health problems.

"She had inherited her great passion for the club from her dad. The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Olive and Andrew."

Our club chaplain, the Rev Tony Ford, led a celebration of Eric's life in music, memories and prayers at Oldham Crematorium.

Andrew, his cousin Stephen, Chris (Hamilton) and Roger Halstead carried the coffin, which was draped with an Oldham jersey and had a floral tribute from the family in the shape of a rugby ball and in the club's traditional colours of red and white.

Eulogies were given by Chris and Roger, a family friend who, through a mutual interest in the club, had been close to Eric for around 30 years.

Alan Davies was his all-time favourite player, but Roger said Eric refused to live in the past and would much prefer to talk about what was going on at the club today rather than reflect on times gone by at the former club, which went into voluntary liquidation in 1997.

Said Roger: "His depth of feeling for the present club grew deeper year on year because he came to recognise the full extent of what was required to keep the flag flying."

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# WIN A TRIP TO WATCH THE FOUR NATIONS IN AUSTRALIA.



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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](http://www.kingstonepress.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/kingstonepresscider](http://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.

# ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR THE PLAY-OFFS!

IT may have been long considered a formality, but we are now assured mathematically of a place in the Kingstone Press Championship One top-five play-off.

Our win at London Skolars and same-day defeats for Hemel and Gloucester means we won't finish any lower than third.

It will be our seventh Championship One play-off series in the last eight years, going back to when we first played in the sport's third tier in 2007.

The only time we failed to qualify was in 2011 when we finished seventh.

Over the same period we reached the final five times, losing them all to Featherstone (2007), Doncaster (2008), Keighley (2009), York (2010) and Rochdale (2013).

From 2007 to 2013, we finished, respectively, fourth, third, fourth, second, seventh, sixth and second.

Last year, Scott Naylor's first in charge, we finished in second spot, two points behind champions North Wales Crusaders, who

were promoted.

We got to the play-off final, only to lose to Rochdale, who had finished third, nine points behind the Roughyeds.

This time, only the play-off winners go up, and our boys are presently in third place behind the two who came down from the Championship last year --- York and Hunslet.

Final positions are worth fighting over because, theoretically, the higher you finish the easier is your route to the final.

Said Scott: "We've three games left and all I'm concerned about is that we do everything possible to give ourselves the best chance of picking up maximum points. That's my job.

"We can't control what York and Hunslet do, but we will be striving to play to our full potential for 80 minutes in each game and then see where it takes us."

The other play-off spots will go to any two of Gateshead, Hemel and Gloucester.

## WHO THEY PLAY

**YORK (1st, 48 pts):** Hunslet (a), London Skolars (h).

**HUNSLET (2nd, 42 pts):** York (h), London Skolars (a), South Wales (a).

**OLDHAM (3rd, 42 pts):** Hemel (h), Gateshead (a), Gloucester (h).

**GATESHEAD (4th, 30 pts):** South Wales (h), Oldham (h).

**GLOUCESTER (5th, 29 pts):** London Skolars (h), Hemel (a), Oldham (a).

**HEMEL STAGS (6th, 28 pts):** Oldham (a), Gloucester (h), Oxford (a).



**Kingstone Press  
Player of the Week  
Mo Agoro (Oldham)**

**Kingstone Press  
Try of the Week  
Mo Agoro (Oldham)**

Winger Mo Agoro earned praise from Oldham coach Scott Naylor after scoring a hat-trick in our 38-28 victory over London Skolars in Enfield.

Mo (21), formerly of Leeds Rhinos and a student at Huddersfield University, has played in 15 of our 17 league games this season and has rattled up 17 tries.

Said Scott: "He had an excellent game, both in attack and defence.

"He missed the York game with a knee problem, but he's getting his confidence back and looking like his old self.

"One of his best qualities is dealing with kicks under pressure, and he was good again in that area against the Skolars."

Muscular Mo's third try in Enfield was a gem from long range which not only secured our win, but earned him the try-of-the-week gong.

Enthusied Scott: "It was a cracker. He beat about six people on his way to the line.

"We were only four points ahead with less than five minutes to go, but we got the ball out wide to Mo, who beat his opposite man and then stepped past four or five other defenders on a 60- or 70-metre dash.

"It was a fantastic finish to a fine individual performance."

### TOP SIX TRIES (League Only)

Bloomfield (OLDHAM)	18
Agoro (OLDHAM)	17
Dent (York)	17
Lee (York)	17
Morris (Oxford)	17
Payne (Gateshead)	17

### TOP SIX GOALS (League Only)

Reynolds (York)	59
Palfrey (OLDHAM)	53
Bradley (Gloucester)	51
Hardcastle (York)	48
Swindells (Hemel)	42
Ballard (Hunslet)	41

### TOP SIX POINTS (League Only)

Reynolds (York)	138
Palfrey (OLDHAM)	122
Swindells (Hemel)	120
Ballard (Hunslet)	116
Hardcastle (York)	112
Bradley (Gloucester)	107

**OLDHAM TRIYS (All Competitions):** Agoro 18; Bloomfield 18; Crowley 11; Langtree 9; Ford 8; Nield 6; Cookson 5; Hughes 5; Ward 5; Wood 5; Palfrey 4; Boult 2; Clay 2; Files 2; Robinson 2; Tyson 2; Whitmore 2; Davidson 1; Gee 1; Joy 1; Mason 1; Okanga-Ajwang 1; Roper 1.



## Rugby League's popularity riding high Wood

**THE popularity of Rugby League is at an all-time high, RFL chief executive Nigel Wood (pictured) told the sport's annual general meeting.**

Wood reported a huge increase in the number of people who watched the sport in 2013; healthy growth in participation numbers; more commercial partners; and new structures for 2015 that will make every minute matter for every club.

The 2013 World Cup was acclaimed as the best in the tournament's history with almost half a million tickets sold; a record crowd for the final at Old Trafford; eight sell-outs and a 76 per cent occupancy rate in the stadiums, both in the sport's heartlands and around Europe.

The England team that was 20 seconds away from booking its final place in the tournament has built a solid platform of young and talented world-class players.

And Wood told the AGM in St Helens that the RFL was working with other partners to produce an improved calendar for international competition that will benefit the national team.

Commercial interest stimulated by the World Cup is converting into actual investment in the sport with the attraction of First Utility as sponsors together with the retention of Specsavers, Alcatel, who are joined by Kingstone Press, Isuzu, Brut, Tetley, Irn Bru, Foxy Bingo, Elonex, ISC and Rhino.

Nearly 39m people watched Rugby League live, either at the grounds or on television in the year – more than 40 per cent up on the previous year and participant levels increased across all categories.

In the 16-19 age group participant levels rose by 16 per cent; at adult level there was a 52 per cent increase and university participation increased by 20 per cent.

Wood reported a profit for the governing body for the 12th successive financial year. In the financial year 2013, the governing body reported a profit of £120,000 – almost double the previous year – from a record turnover of £34m. Every year since 2001, positive financial figures have been returned.

Wood said one of the more pleasing developments over the past 12 months was the considerable reduction of insolvencies or near insolvencies.

The RFL's Policy Review, completed in 2013, had produced a strategy to deliver positive change in the sport across a number of key areas including:



- Competition structures and reform
- Club sustainability and the appropriate level of RFL support for clubs
- Re-engineering Academy, youth and other player production systems
- A 'whole game' philosophy with core principles.

"Rugby League has an opportunity in 2015 to embrace an exciting new league format in which every professional club can see a clear pathway to make progress and in which resources are shared proportionately around the sport," said Wood

"In addition youth and Academy Rugby League now has a clear direction of travel. It is in the game's interests to engage more youngsters in playing the sport and keep more of these youngsters within the sport in the appropriately organised competition frameworks to ensure that each and every child has the best possible chance to develop their potential to the full.

"At the top end of the game, we are convinced that the new formats across the three leading divisions will provide an environment in which every minute in every competition will matter for all clubs, fans and other stakeholders.

"The game has made brave decisions to create an environment for our clubs to prosper and the sport is now in a strong position and looking forwards with confidence and optimism."

## NEW STRUCTURE AND HOW IT WORKS

THE RFL has outlined full details of the exciting new league structure that will come into operation in 2015 for the sport's professional and semi-professional competitions.

From next season the First Utility Super League and Kingstone Press Championship will both feature 12 clubs, while Kingstone Press Championship One will be renamed as Kingstone Press League 1 and will comprise 14 clubs.

RFL chief executive Nigel Wood said: "The changes will ensure that every minute matters in every match in every competition. And they are being implemented following the most comprehensive consultation process in the sport's history.

"The return of promotion and relegation in a format that is financially sustainable for all clubs should ensure fans are entertained from February to October, with an exciting season punctuated by a series of world-class events, commencing with the World Club Challenge and finishing at Old Trafford with the Super League Grand Final."

Super League and Championship clubs will each play 23 matches in the regular season – home and away against the other clubs in their respective competitions plus Magic Weekend or Summer Bash.

At the end of the regular season, Super League and the Championship will split into the Super 8s, three groups of eight clubs based on league positions called Super League, The Qualifiers and Championship Shield.

Super League features the top eight Super League clubs; The Qualifiers comprises Super League clubs nine to 12 plus the top four Championship clubs; and the Championship Shield features Championship clubs five to 12.

The Super 8s will be played on a seven match mini-league basis, and will largely determine the make-up of Super League and the Championship the following season.

In Super League, all eight clubs are guaranteed top flight status for the following year whilst the top

four will contest a play-off series – 1 v 4 and 2 v 3, with the winner going through to the title-deciding Grand Final.

In The Qualifiers, the top three clubs after seven matches will play in Super League the following season with the final place determined by the Million Pound Game, a play-off between the clubs finishing 4 and 5.

The loser of the match will join the three remaining clubs from The Qualifiers and six Championship Shield clubs in the Championship the following season.

In the Championship Shield, the top four clubs will contest a play-off series with the winners contesting the Championship Shield final. The bottom two teams in the Championship Shield will be relegated to League 1.

At the end of this season, one team will be promoted from what is now Championship One, five teams from the Championship will come down and new-club Coventry will come in, making 14 teams next season in the newly-named League 1.

The 14 League 1 clubs will each play 22 games – 11 home and 11 away, playing each other once and nine teams twice with fixtures scheduled on a geographical basis.

At the end of the regular season 1 will play 2 with the winner promoted to the Championship as champions. The loser of that match will join the teams that finished 3, 4 and 5 in a play-off to determine the second promotion spot.

The 14 League 1 clubs will also be joined by the 2014 National Conference League Grand Final winners and the 2014 RFL Conference Challenge Cup winners in a new knockout competition played at the start of the season.

To allow for the changes to the league structure, the top eight Super League clubs will join the Challenge Cup at the sixth round stage, with League 1 clubs entering at Round 3, Championship clubs at Round 4 and the bottom four Super League clubs at Round 5.

Full details of the new league structure and what it means for all clubs can be found on the RFL, First Utility Super League and Kingstone Press Championship websites by following the links below:

[www.superleague.co.uk/2015\\_a\\_new\\_era](http://www.superleague.co.uk/2015_a_new_era)

[www.therfl.co.uk/2015\\_a\\_new\\_era](http://www.therfl.co.uk/2015_a_new_era)

[www.rugbyleaguechampionships.co.uk/2015\\_a\\_new\\_era](http://www.rugbyleaguechampionships.co.uk/2015_a_new_era)



# 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. 1/11/92

**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 795 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.



**Gareth OWEN**  
D.O.B 3/7/92

Hooker. Another Oldham-born player, who was raised in rugby at Waterhead. Spent most of his years in the Peach Road 'nursery' as a half-back, but switched to hooker at 15 and then signed pro forms with Salford when he was 16. Played a total of 36 Super League games with the Red Devils. Had a spell on loan to Sheffield before joining his hometown club on loan in late July for the remainder of the season. 624 9630, ext 70552.



**Adam CLAY**  
D.O.B 7/10/90

Winger. Another late-season capture, Adam made his debut at York in mid-July. Turned pro for Salford from Leigh Miners and later had two spells with North Wales Crusaders, either side of a highly successful season at Barrow Raiders in the Championship in 2013. He played in 27 of Barrow's 29 games that season and was the club's top try scorer with 12, including a hat-trick against York.

**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	L 74 - 0
AUGUST			
Saturday 9th	Keighley	H	W 40 - 22
Thursday 14th	Halifax	A	7:30pm

**NEIL'S NOTES**

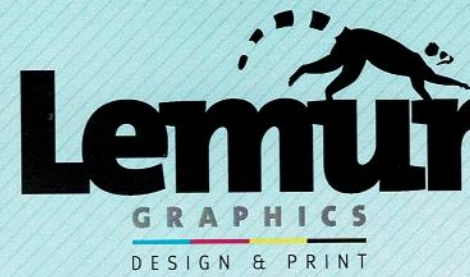
ON the back of a big defeat at Leigh by a side which included Championship and Super League players, our lads responded well against Keighley to gain a fully deserved 40-22 victory in our last home game.

The first half was as good as we've played all year, producing tries for Sammy Gee (3), Paddy Mooney, Sam Singleton and Connor Partington, who added another late on.

We were due to play at Halifax last Thursday night and we go to Featherstone next Wednesday, August 20 (745 kick off).

Thanks for your support all season --- the lads have really appreciated it,

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	W 24 - 23
August				
KPC1	Sunday 3rd	LONDON	A	W 38 - 28
	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		