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PROGRAMME No. 12  
Sunday, 23rd July, 2017  
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VS **ROCHDALE HORNETS**

# ROUGHYEDS



**Michael Ward...**  
joint top try scorer  
(see page 9)



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

.....

**WELCOME again to Bower Fold for the last match of the regular season.**

The last few weeks for us have all been affected by the injury situation and sadly this week is no different.

We don't seem able, at present, to get through a match without picking up more injuries and while we are not so naive as to think we are the only club affected,

we are certainly in the middle of a period in which it is hard to remember having as many players out as we have at present.

In terms of league position we are obviously not where we wanted to be. We want to go into the Shield fixtures outside of the bottom two if at all possible.

That said, there is still a long way to go and past experiences tell us there will be lots more twists and turns to come.

Rochdale arrive today wanting the win just as much as ourselves and their record against us this season will, no doubt, put them in confident mood.

Local derbies though are local derbies and the motivation for everybody is heightened. As has been said on many occasions the form book goes out of the window.

Hopefully, by today, we will have been successful in bringing in some

more players, both on loan or permanently, to bolster the squad for the run-in. We have already brought in Luke Hooley from Wakefield until the end of the season and we are active on several other fronts.

After today we have a week off until the Shield fixtures start on the first weekend of August, by which time all the clubs in the Championship will know their remaining opponents and we will also know the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup finalists as people ready themselves for the annual pilgrimage to Wembley.

The support last week at Sheffield was again excellent, both in terms of numbers and the noise and support for the lads. Keep it up today as we attempt to get another important two points on the board.

Enjoy the game,

**Christopher Hamilton**  
Chairman  
Oldham Rugby League  
Football Club

# TOUCHLINE TOPICS

## by Scott Naylor

**HELLO everyone and welcome to today's game against Rochdale Hornets at Bower Fold.**

It would be an understatement to describe today's clash as important and a must-win game for both teams.

Very rarely have two points on the league table been so valuable and desirable. It's an Oldham-Rochdale derby so bragging rights are up for grabs and there is a need also to make the respective fans happy. These are also factors.

It's also the last league game before the play-offs and the further we are away from the bottom two makes a massive difference going into August and September.

Our previous two encounters against the Hornets have been extremely frustrating to say the least, given that we were in front in both games but unable to get the wins which would have made the league

table look a lot different and would have almost guaranteed us safety for next season.

What those games have given us, however, is confidence, knowing that we can do the right things and cause Rochdale problems when we have the ball.

If we can be more solid and hungry in defence and stop a dangerous Hornets team from scoring, we will have every chance of winning our last league game and we'll go into the play-offs in confident mood and looking forward to the challenges ahead.

On a separate note I would like to congratulate Sam Gee on his 100th game for Roughyeds today. He has been a great lad to have around the club and an ever-present in the team for five years; indeed A MODEL PROFESSIONAL.

Enjoy the game,  
**Scott**



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# Vice-captain Sammy hits the 100 Club

**HEARTIEST congratulations to Sammy Gee, who will be making his 100th appearance for Roughyeds when he next plays.**

A great servant to this club over the past five seasons, Sammy was one of Scott Naylor's early signings when Scott arrived at the club in the autumn of 2012. He was soon appointed vice-captain and he has retained those responsibilities ever since.

His season-on-season appearance stats are as follows: 2013, 21; 2014, 17; 2015, 22; 2016, 22; 2017 (to date) 17; Total, 99.

A Wiganer, and proud of it, Sammy made his Roughyeds debut in Scott's very first game in charge, a 48-12 defeat at North Wales Crusaders in the Northern Rail Cup on March 3, 2013.

Team: Niall Evalds; Mo Agoro, Danny Samuel, Jon Ford, Richard Lepori; Lewis Palfrey, Jamie Dallimore; Jason Boults, Sammy Gee, Liam Gilchrist, Josh Crowley, Danny Langtree, Mark Hobson.  
Subs: Adam Files, Will Hope, Michael Ward,

Jordan Walne.

In the Crusaders team were three players who might be playing for Hornets today - Rob Massam, Gary Middlehurst, Jono Smith - as well as Toby Adamson, younger brother of our very own Luke.

Sammy's first league game was a month later in a derby clash at Whitebank against Hornets, who won 28-18.

Oldham: Lepori; Agoro, Cookson, Nield, Bloomfield; Palfrey, Dallimore; Boults, Gee, Joy, Crowley, Langtree, Hobson. Subs: Files, Tyrer, Hughes, Marriott.

Hornets: English; Langley, Davies, Hull, Sutton; Crook, Roper; Bate, McClurg, Cookson, Baines, Trumper, Thompson. Subs: Stewart, Frodsham, Hough, Goodman.







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# STATISTICS

## Kingstone Press Championship Table

		P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PTS
1	Hull Kingston Rovers	22	19	2	1	844	357	487	39
2	London Broncos	22	17	5	0	774	406	368	34
3	Featherstone Rovers	22	15	6	1	661	389	272	31
4	Halifax RLFC	22	15	7	0	539	351	188	30
5	Toulouse Olympique	22	14	8	0	688	440	248	28
6	Batley Bulldogs	22	11	11	0	545	605	-60	22
7	Sheffield Eagles	22	10	12	0	550	757	-207	20
8	Dewsbury Rams	22	7	15	0	360	718	-358	14
9	Rochdale Hornets	22	6	15	1	423	656	-233	13
10	Oldham RLFC	22	5	16	1	386	701	-315	11
11	Swinton Lions	22	5	17	0	461	642	-181	10
12	Bradford Bulls	22	6	16	0	494	703	-209	0

## Oldham RLFC Player Statistics (after 24 games)

	A	I	T	G	D	Pts		A	I	T	G	D	Pts
11 Scott Turner	14	0	4	0	0	16	22 Danny Grimshaw	13	0	3	0	0	12
2 Adam Clay	23	0	7	0	0	28	23 Craig Briscoe	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 George Tyson	16	0	7	0	0	28	24 Michael Ward	2	20	8	0	0	32
4 Nathan Chappell	0	0	0	0	0	0	25 Kieran Gill	9	0	5	0	0	20
5 Jamel Chisholm	4	0	1	0	0	4	27 Steven Nield	4	0	1	0	0	4
6 Scott Leatherbarrow	22	0	0	61	0	122	28 Matty Wilkinson	0	3	1	0	0	4
7 David Hewitt	21	0	3	10	0	32	29 Tuoyo Egodo	10	0	2	0	0	8
8 Phil Joy	4	0	0	0	0	0	DR Michael Wood	9	0	0	0	0	0
9 Sam Gee	4	13	1	0	0	4	DR Tyler Dickinson	0	4	0	0	0	0
10 Adam Neal	22	0	3	0	0	12	DR Nathan Mason	4	1	0	0	0	0
11 Jack Spencer	15	1	0	0	0	0	DR Sam Wood	8	0	3	0	0	12
12 Danny Langtree	22	1	4	0	0	16	DR Darnell McIntosh	1	0	1	0	0	4
13 Liam Thompson	12	3	1	0	0	4	DR Gene Ormsby	1	0	0	0	0	0
14 Luke Adamson	8	0	1	0	0	4	DR Daniel Smith	2	0	0	0	0	0
17 Richard Lepori	13	0	8	0	0	32	LO Jordan Walne	1	0	1	0	0	4
18 Ben Davies	4	11	0	0	0	0	LO Liam Bent	4	8	0	0	0	0
19 Joe Burke	10	8	5	0	0	20	LO Brad Hill	0	2	0	0	0	0
20 Gareth Owen	11	7	0	0	0	0	LO Kameron Pierce-Paul	3	0	0	0	0	0
21 Kenny Hughes	14	10	0	0	0	0	LO Sadiq Adebiyi	0	4	1	0	0	4
							LO Connor Williams	2	0	1	0	0	4

\* DR (Dual Registered Player) LO (Player on Loan)



# Prop 'Wardie' knows the way to the line

**IF Michael Ward continues his try-scoring feats in the forthcoming Shield games he will have a chance of finishing TOP of our club try-scoring list, and that would be some achievement for a prop whose main job is to make the hard yards.**



*Michael Ward . . . our joint top try scorer*

He's been scoring tries since he first arrived at the club as a 16-year-old, playing wing or centre in the Reserves. And he once said: "I love getting over the line. That's the idea, isn't it?"

He and full-back Richard Lepori currently share the lead with eight apiece, followed on seven by our right-wing pairing of Adam Clay and George Tyson.

'Lippy's' season is now over because of injury, while 'Wardie' will be out to beat the 10 he scored in the promotion season of 2015 when he went in for a brace at London Skolars and at Hemel and then against Barrow at Whitebank.

In total he's scored 39 - ten fewer than Danny Langtree, who needs only one more to reach the milestone of his half-century. His best seasons



*Danny Langtree . . . one more try for his 50*

were 2014 (14) and 2015 (13).

Leading try scorers in 2017:

Ward (8), Lepori (8), Clay (7), Tyson (7), Burke (5), Gill (5), Langtree (4), Turner (4), Grimshaw (3), Hewitt (3), Neal (3), Sam Wood (3).



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The final of Rugby League's most prestigious knock-out tournament is one of the biggest events in the UK sporting calendar.



*Richard Lepori... needs an operation and out for the season*

## LEPORI AND TURNER OUT FOR THE SEASON

.....

**YOU can read elsewhere in this programme the steps we have taken to fill the gaps left by the loss of Richard Lepori and Scott Turner, but it is a major setback nevertheless to face the Shield games without players of such stature.**

Neither of them will play again this season and Scott's rugby league career may be over at the age of 23.

The former North Wales Crusaders wing or full-back has been concussed on three separate occasions this year and has now asked us for time away from the game while he considers his future.

'Lippy', meanwhile, has been told there is only one cure for his ankle injury - an operation.

Said coach Scott Naylor: "Scott has decided he doesn't want to risk getting a fourth concussion. While he's away from the game he'll be thinking things over.

"As far as next year is concerned that's up to him and whatever decision he arrives at.

"We've been told 'Lippy' must have surgery so that rules him out as well.

"We keep getting bad news with injuries and they're not your run-of-the-mill injuries either; they're long-term, season-ending injuries. It's relentless.

"We've just got to take it on the chin and get on with it. But as I've said before I've never known anything like it in all my career."









res from the  
d Sheffield games

# Hooley here on loan to boost our back three

**A BIG Roughyeds welcome awaits Wakefield Trinity's young full-back Luke Hooley, who has joined us on loan to the end of the season.**

The 19-year-old Dewsbury lad is currently having treatment for a slight knee strain, nothing serious, so he will join us the week after next following the short break between the end of the regular season today and the start of the Shield games in a fortnight.

As this programme went to press we were also pursuing other signing channels as well as talking to London Broncos and Salford Red Devils in the hope of extending the loan agreements covering Kameron Pearce-Paul and Sadiq Adebiyi (London) and Liam Bent and Connor Williams (Salford).

It was the signing deadline on Friday so the week just ended has been a hectic few days for most clubs and we were no exception.

Fortunately, we had already secured the Hooley signing before the deadline dash.

Scott Naylor said: "We needed cover for the back three after losing Scott Turner and Richard Lepori for the season. It was a big help to get Steve Nield back from Gloucester and to bring in Kameron Pearce-Paul and Connor Williams, but we are even stronger in the full-back/wing areas now.

"Luke is well thought of at Trinity and his time at Dewsbury Rams will have given invaluable experience of Championship rugby."

Dewsbury-born Hooley is a highly-rated goalkicking full-back. He played at community club Dewsbury Moor until he was 16 when he joined Bradford Bulls on scholarship. When Bulls liquidated early this year Wakefield quickly snapped him up as a free agent and he starred in their under-19s.

In March, the then 18-year-old signed a two-and-a-half year full-time contract with Trinity with the option of a further year.

He has since played six games on loan to Dewsbury Rams, including wins against Batley, Bradford, Oldham at Bower Fold recently, and Toulouse.

When he signed his full-time contract with Trinity





*Luke Hooley... will link up with us for the Shield games.*

*Pictures by GARRY BEEVERS.*

he said on social media: "It's a dream come true, something I've wanted since since I was six years old.

"I was asked to train with the first team for a week after talking with John Kear and Chris Chester. It was tough, a lot more physical and intense than I was used to, but that's how you get better and hopefully improve."

At the time he was described by head coach Chester as "an exceptional

young talent" who had played several good games in the under-19s.

While out on loan at Dewsbury, he played at full-back in the Rams' 20-16 win here at Bower Fold on June 21.

He also played for his home-town club in Championship victories against Batley Bulldogs, Bradford Bulls and Toulouse Olympique and in defeats by London Broncos and by Hull KR.



## *Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust*

**Right:** Alex Givvons  
kicks between two  
Hornets defenders at the  
Athletic Grounds.

**24.08.1935.**

**Below:** Tommy Ayres  
meets a Rochdale  
opponent head on  
while a team-mate  
completes the tackle.

**01.01.1947.**



Dave Parker dives  
over for a try in a  
two man tackle as  
John Noon and  
Geoff Robinson  
look on.

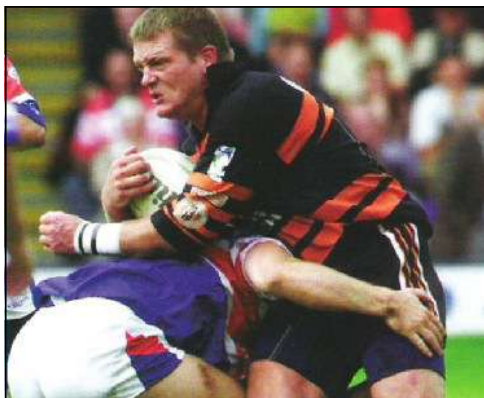
**17.08.1963.**



PICTURES COURTESY OF OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE



## Through the Years... *Oldham v Rochdale H.*



**ABOVE - Left:** Joe McNicholas takes on the Rochdale defence in the first match for the "New" Roughyeds **01.01.1998.**

**Right:** Leo Casey "drives it in" in the play off semi-final at Spotland. **22.07.2001.**



**Nick Johnson dives for the line**  
**15.08.2005.**



**Above:** Adam Clay brings down Gareth Langley.  
**03.04.2015.**



**Left:** Josh Crowley grabs the shirt of Dave Hewitt in the drawn match at Spotland earlier this season. **12.03.2017.**



# Our Visitors

## Rochdale Hornets



**Today sees the third competitive encounter between Oldham and Rochdale this year.**

Of course that doesn't include Hornets' first visit to Bower Fold back on January 22 when they defeated Oldham in the season-opening Law Cup encounter. Three unanswered tries in 15 second-half minutes and a final scoreline of 24-12 ensured that the old trophy went back to Rochdale for the first time since 2011.

Hornets were promoted out of League One in the 2016 season. Finishing second to high-flying Toulouse Olympique, a promotion play-off final was their reward. The only trouble was that they had play away in Toulouse and were therefore unfancied by many pundits.

In a thrilling game, Rochdale took a late lead through a try by former Roughyed Jack Holmes before a Chris Riley

four-pointer provided a cushion for a famous Hornets victory.

Coach Alan Kilshaw set about making preparations for life back in the Championship and he wasted no time in recruiting the services of Lewis Palfrey and Gary Middlehurst from the Roughyeds to join previously on loan Holmes. More signings followed and players with the calibre of Miles Greenwood, Gavin Bennion, Rob Massam and Ryan Maneely bolstered the Spotland squad.

The opening Championship game of the season saw Hornets announce their presence with a 46-0 thumping of injury-stricken Dewsbury. They followed that victory up with a 22-14 win over Bradford Bulls at Odsal and the Hornets were flying high.

The season's first Roughyeds/Hornets derby came at Spotland in

March. Oldham had built up a commanding lead late into the game but Hornets had other ideas and two tries in the dying minutes earned the home side a draw.

Next came the Summer Bash weekend and a tantalising fixture in Blackpool. For the second time Oldham surrendered a match-winning lead to let Rochdale overtake them and go on to win 38-28.

An Oldham win today would see both clubs level on points going into the Championship Shield games. Hornets will be keen to bag the two points on offer to put a four point gap between themselves and their old rivals. In view of recent encounters, expect the unexpected and don't think about leaving until the final hooter sounds.

# Three to watch

## Rochdale Hornets



### Rob Massam

Powerful winger who scored 90 tries for North Wales Crusaders before moving to Spotland in 2017.

Has represented Wales having qualified through residency and played in the 2013 Rugby League World Cup.



### Gavin Bennion

Described as big, athletic and aggressive, this 23yr old prop or second-row signed for Hornets from Halifax this year.

Previous experience with Warrington Wolves, Featherstone Rovers and a time with Mackay Cutters in Australia.



### Danny Yates

Oldham born scrum-half and winner of the League One young player of the year award in 2016.

Learnt his trade with Gareth Owen at Waterhead and has had experience at St Helens and Halifax.



# How the Shield works: THREE games at Bower Fold for us

**THE Rugby Football League are expected to announce the full programme of Championship Shield fixtures --- venues and dates --- on Wednesday.**

The first of the seven rounds will be on Sunday, August 6, by which time we will hope to have some of our injured players back in action.

Over the course of the next two months we will play each of the other 'bottom eight' Championship sides just once, making seven games in total.

Either home or away, we will play Batley Bulldogs, Sheffield Eagles, Dewsbury Rams,

Rochdale Hornets, Swinton Lions, Bradford Bulls and EITHER Toulouse Olympique or Halifax, depending on which of those teams finishes in the top four as a result of their final games this weekend.

We can't finish higher than third bottom so that means that, like last year, we will have three games at home and four away.

Last year we beat Workington and Whitehaven at home and Swinton Lions away, losing to Bradford, Halifax and Dewsbury away and to Sheffield at Bower Fold.

It goes without saying that the

battle to avoid relegation will be just as tense and as tight as last year when we secured our survival with a narrow 20-18 win against Whitehaven at home on the penultimate Sunday of the season. Wow !

We would hope to have a bit more breathing space this time, but with two to go down and five clubs looking over their shoulders anything can happen.

***Please back the lads by coming to the Shield games and helping them to make Bower Fold a fortress. Home form could be crucial in the final analysis.***

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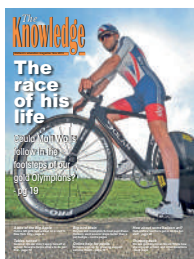
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<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Sunday 5	3.00pm	Sheffield Eagles	H	W 26:10	668
Sunday 12	3.00pm	Featherstone Rovers	A	L 6:8	1783
Sunday 19	3.00pm	London Broncos	H	L 18:20	558
Sunday 26	3.00pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	A	L 0:48	7268
<b>MARCH</b>					
Sunday 5	3.00pm	Dewsbury Rams	H	Postponed	tbc
Sunday 12	3.00pm	Rochdale Hornets	A	D 26:26	1087
Saturday 18	1.00pm	Challenge Cup Round 4 Haydock ARLFC	H	W 40:12	743
Sunday 26	3.00pm	Batley Bulldogs	A	L 10:50	781
<b>APRIL</b>					
Sunday 2	3.00pm	Bradford Bulls	H	W 26:22	1,691
Saturday 8	6pm CET	Toulouse Olympique	A	L 18:58	1,752
Friday 14	3.00pm	Swinton Lions	H	W 22:18	804
Monday 17	7.30pm	Halifax RLFC	A	L 14:16	1,364
Sunday 23	3.00pm	Challenge Cup Round 5 Featherstone Rovers	A	L 4:30	1,408
Sunday 30	3.00pm	Dewsbury Rams	A	W 28:24	691
<b>MAY</b>					
Sunday 7	3.00pm	London Broncos	A	L 12:74	500
Sunday 21	3.00pm	Batley Bulldogs	H	L 28:48	578
Saturday 27	2.30pm	Rochdale (Summer Bash)	Blackpool	L 28:38	----
<b>JUNE</b>					
Sunday 4	3.00pm	Swinton Lions	A	L 4:26	628
Sunday 11	3.00pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	H	L 24:32	1,066
Sunday 18	3.00pm	Halifax RLFC	H	L 12:30	809
Wed 21	8.00pm	Dewsbury Rams	H	L 16:20	575
Sunday 25	3.00pm	Bradford Bulls	A	L 12:47	3,708
<b>JULY</b>					
Sunday 2	3.00pm	Toulouse Olympique	H	W 14:12	519
Sunday 9	3.00pm	Featherstone Rovers	H	L 14:32	851
Sunday 16	3.00pm	Sheffield Eagles	A	L 28:42	329
Sunday 23	3.00pm	Rochdale Hornets	H		



# Some things are better together...



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# OLDHAM RLFC



1. Scott Turner

ORSA

2. Adam Clay

Integra Consulting Engineers Ltd

3. George Tyson

Mick Harrop

4. Nathan Chappell

Pam Taylor / TTX

5. Jamel Chisholm

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6. Scott Leatherbarrow

Grant & Sheila Somerville

7. David Hewitt

Hanlon & Wright

8. Phil Joy

Oldham Past Players Assoc.

9. Sam Gee

John & Lynda McAndrew

10. Adam Neal

Jenny, Mike & Viv Travis

11. Jack Spencer

Graeme Lee

12. Danny Langtree

Charlotte & Neil Hague

13. Liam Thompson

ORSA

14. Luke Adamson

Oldham Past Players Assoc.

15. Liam Bent

Dave & Val Webster

17. Richard Lepori

Rita Walton

18. Ben Davies

Kappa

19. Joe Burke

John & Lynda McAndrew

20. Gareth Owen

Bev, Kelly & Paul Hulbert

21. Kenny Hughes

Rita Walton

22. Danny Grimshaw

Les & Eileen Davison

23. Craig Briscoe

Nutrition X

24. Michael Ward

David & Sylvia Patterson

26. Kameron Pearce-Paul

Gourmet Burger Kitchen

28. Sadiq Adebisi

Dave and Val Webster

Steven Nield

Clarice Stevens

Matthew Wilkinson

Nutrition X

Connor Williams

ORSA

1. Miles Greenwood

2. Chris Riley

3. Jake Eccleston

4. Lewis Gailbraith

5. Rob Massam

6. Lewis Palfrey

7. Danny Yates

9. Ben Moores

10. Gavin Bennion

11. Jono Smith

12. Josh Crowley

13. Gary Middlehurst

14. Ryan Maneely

15. Jovili Taira

16. Matty Hadden

19. Jordan Case

20. Jack Francis

21. Jack Holmes

22. Jay Lobwein

23. Michael Ratu

24. Paddy Jones

25. Luke Fowden

Kevin Penny

Declan Kay

Lewis Hatton

Lee Mitchell

Coach: Alan Kilshaw

SCOTT NAYLOR - Head Coach

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PETER CAREY - Assistant Coach

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## MATCH OFFICIALS

Ref: G Hewer

Res ref: M Mannifield

TJ: G Jones

Commissioner: K Leyland

TJ: A Smith

Time-keeper: F Hawley