

ROUGHYED REVIEW

2019 PROGRAMME No.1
Sunday, 17th February
KICK-OFF 3PM
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ON THE INSIDE

Law Changes
for 2019
page 7

Meet the squad
pages 10/11

Law Cup win
in pictures
pages 12/13

OLDHAM VS WORKINGTON TOWN

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LEAGUE 1



PASSIONATE ABOUT RUGBY LEAGUE

NEWS

How the chairman sees it with CHRIS HAMILTON

Welcome to today's opening fixture in the 2019 season proper.

It seems like a lifetime since the end of last season and I know that everybody here is raring to go. The lads have trained hard during the winter and the quality of the players we've put together has demonstrated itself in our pre season performances against teams from a higher division.

If we start with the cliches though, all of that counts for nothing today when we go up against one of last season's top performers in League One in Workington Town who, effectively, missed out twice on promotion at the end of last year and will be hoping to rectify that this time around.

They have a host of experience in their squad and we couldn't have wished for a tougher test in our first match.

For us, though, today presents the first of many opportunities this season and we know our squad is capable of making its mark. With only 20 league matches, however, there isn't much margin for error.

That applies to all of the promotion contenders and it will be interesting to see how each of them copes with that pressure.

As far as our new recruits go I can't ever remember us having as many Yorkshire lads in the squad so it's a real opportunity for them to taste life on the right side of the hill!

Seriously though, the players brought in have already shown their quality and all of them are enjoying life at the club, so long may that continue.

With such a long off season it is inevitable that plenty will have been happening and most of you will be aware of the changes to the playing structure which come into play for this season.

For us that means three fewer home matches this year which is nearly 25 per cent down on previous years and you don't need to be a rocket scientist to work out the financial impact that will have on the club.

We have tried desperately hard to offset that impact by launching a series of initiatives, again which most of you by now will have experienced or be aware of.

With the financial model of every club outside of Super League now being inextricably linked to return on investment it is a seismic shift in the way that clubs run and operate.

The 2019 season is the first season with those changes and 'Return on Investment' will become more important as it will play an increasingly bigger part of a club's central funding each season from now onwards.

...Continued on page 17.



Chris Hamilton

NEWS

Direct from the Dug-Out with **SCOTT NAYLOR**

Hello everyone and welcome to the first league game of the 2019 season here at the Vestacare Stadium against Workington Town.

I don't need to tell anyone that, as first games go, this is as tough as it gets.

Workington were 80 minutes away from promotion last season which shows what a fantastic job Leon Pryce did in his first year of coaching.

Everyone expects them to be even stronger this season and challenging again for one of the two promotion spots that will be available in September or October, just like us which gives this first game more importance than it would usually have.

Our pre-season friendlies went well with the performances of some of the new players the most pleasing.

It's not easy to join a different club and to work with new players and coaches but I thought all the lads looked comfortable and they slotted easily into our systems and made us look like a team with more confidence and experience than last season.



Scott Naylor

We lacked in certain areas last year and we are very happy with the business we have done to improve the squad and make us a stronger unit all over the pitch with more quality to choose from and far more strength in depth.

It's a pity the Newcastle Thunder game was cancelled but pre-season training has been great since the middle of November with our conditioner Adam Neal enjoying really hammering the lads in his pursuit of total fitness.

The lads still think of him as one of them who's now crossed to the dark side (staff).

The lads have trained as hard as I've ever seen them train and they can't wait for the season to start so let's hope today is a good day for the club and that we all enjoy the game.

Many thanks for your continued support for this season. The lads will give their best as always so let's make this season a successful one.



Scott and the Law Cup flanked by Paul Crook (left) and Peter Carey.

Derwent Park, 1957. Frank Pitchford and Jack Keith bring down Norman Herbert.

HERITAGE

Staying in Touch with Our Heritage with **MICHAEL TURNER**

This year is an important one for the Heritage Trust so we'll tell you all about our organisation and update you on developments, especially the 'Pass it On' project, as the season goes on.

The Trust was formed by a group of supporters, who met in 1995 to discuss players who were to be inducted into the club's Hall of Fame.

We knew there were people who owned representative caps, medals and other memorabilia won by Oldham players and officials down the years, some of whom wished to donate them to the Hall of Fame.

The Trust was formed to protect the ownership of this collection and to make sure it would be available for future generations of Oldhamers.

Thanks to the Trust's endeavours, Oldham people can be assured that one of the finest collections of rugby club memorabilia and historical information in the world is safe and secure here in our town.

Via the 'Pass it On' project it is also being prepared to become available for access by Oldham people and rugby league fans everywhere.

Since its formation, the Trust has been involved in many varied activities - publishing books, organising exhibitions, commissioning paintings, helping to arrange the installation of blue plaques and having a role to play in the naming of Watersheddings streets in honour of former players and officials.

Finally, a warm welcome today to Workington Town. Rivalry goes back to 15-a-side days with the first encounter at Watersheddings in 1898 when Oldham won 11-0 thanks to a try hat-trick by Jack Hurst.

The first official fixture was at Watersheddings in 1945, resulting in a 6-3 win for Oldham with tries by Vince Kenny and Frank Herd before a crowd of 4,000.



Michael Turner

STATISTICS

BETFRED LEAGUE 1 FINAL TABLE 2018

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PD
York City Knights	26	24	2	0	1130	308	822	48
Bradford Bulls	26	23	3	0	1197	282	915	46
Doncaster RLFC	26	19	7	0	956	495	461	38
Workington Town	26	17	9	0	833	517	316	34
Oldham RLFC	26	16	10	0	902	345	557	32
Whitehaven RLFC	26	16	10	0	702	529	173	32
Hunslet RLFC	26	15	11	0	735	596	139	30
Newcastle Thunder	26	14	12	0	841	520	321	28
Keighley Cougars	26	13	13	0	839	657	182	26
North Wales Crusaders	26	9	16	1	589	660	-71	19
Coventry Bears	26	7	19	0	406	1058	-652	14
London Skolars	26	6	19	1	626	887	-261	13
Hemel Stags	26	2	24	0	314	1286	-972	4
West Wales Raiders	26	0	26	0	176	2106	-1930	0

OLDHAM RLFC PLAYER STATS 2018

Squad No.	Player	Total App.	Sub	Tries	Goals	DGs	Points	Squad No.	Player	Total App.	Sub	Tries	Goals	DGs	Points
1	Kyran Johnson	16	0	5	4	0	28	22	Danny Rasool	10	8	2	0	0	8
2	Dave Eccleston	20	0	5	0	0	20	23	Luke Nelmes	27	27	5	0	0	20
3	Matt Reid	22	0	11	0	0	44	24	Liam Bent	25	2	3	0	0	12
4	Jack Holmes	17	0	6	0	0	24	25	Danny Bridge	20	0	10	0	0	40
5	Steven Nield	3	0	0	0	0	0	27	Joe Martin	2	0	2	0	0	8
6	Paul Crook	28	0	5	124	0	268	29	Zack McComb	18	1	11	0	0	44
7	Dave Hewitt	28	0	13	14	1	81	30	Ben West	14	0	9	0	0	36
8	Phil Joy	27	0	8	0	0	32	DR	Ryan Lannon	2	0	0	0	0	0
9	Gareth Owen	24	2	1	0	0	4	DR	Levy Nzoungou	2	0	0	0	0	0
10	Adam Neal	15	3	0	0	0	0	LO	Luke Hooley	15	0	9	7	0	50
11	Craig Briscoe	24	11	8	0	0	32	LO	Kieran Gill	3	0	2	0	0	8
12	Danny Langtree	26	0	21	0	0	84	DR	Daniel Murray	1	0	0	0	0	0
13	Jack Spencer	26	7	2	0	0	8	LO	Lee Kershaw	20	0	11	0	0	44
18	Ben Davies	12	10	1	0	0	4	DR	Gavin Bennion	2	0	1	0	0	4
19	Adam Jones	16	16	0	0	0	0	DR	Jonah Cunningham	3	3	5	0	0	20
20	Matty Wilkinson	25	19	9	0	0	36	DR	Jordan Dezaria	1	1	1	0	0	4
21	Kenny Hughes	15	9	2	0	0	8	DR	Nick Gregson	1	1	0	0	0	0



NEWS



LAW CHANGES FOR 2019

Although most of the discussion about this season's law changes has revolved around Super League, many of them will apply in the Championship and some will also be relevant to all levels of the game, such as the abolition of Free Play and a reduction in the number of interchanges.

The changes en bloc are aimed at increasing entertainment value and dismissing any suspicion of time wasting.

Super League will have visible clocks to deal with time-related changes, but at Championship level they will be monitored by the time-keepers and in Betfred League 1 the referee will adjudicate.

SUMMARY

1. When a scrum has to be formed both teams must be bound and packed within 35 seconds. If it doesn't happen, the offending team will be penalised.

2. A goal-line or 20-metre drop out must be performed within 30 seconds. Again, an offending team will be penalised.

3. Referees will call 'time off' one minute and 20 seconds after a try has been scored and after a penalty has been awarded and the side opts to go for goal. Teams will NOT be penalised for failing to comply, but times will be monitored and regular transgressors will be warned or fined.

4. In the last five minutes the clock will be stopped after conversions (successful or not); after successful penalties or drop goals; and after failed penalties or drop goals if the ball goes dead. It will also be stopped 80 seconds after a try has been scored.

IN BETFRED LEAGUE 1 THESE TIMINGS WILL BE MONITORED AND ENFORCED BY THE REFEREE.

5. Each team can make eight interchanges from the four replacements named on the official team sheet.

6. Free Plays will be removed and we will revert to regular advantage. The referee will be sole judge of what constitutes advantage, tactically or territorially.

7. Golden point will apply to Championship and League 1 only in play-offs, Challenge Cup and 1895 Cup. Extra time will be played in five-minute sessions, but the first point or points will win the game. In Championship and League 1, matches that are level at full time will be drawn with each team receiving one competition point.



Oh, what a night ! The Oldham team celebrate their famous win.
Pictures courtesy of the Oldham RL Heritage Trust.

By George Cowburn... **THOSE WERE THE DAYS!**

At the end of the 1997 season the Oldham club was on its uppers.

Relegated from Super League after defeat by a Paris St Germain side coached by Andy Goodway, the club faced a dire financial situation.

The directors put the club up for sale but, unsurprisingly, no one was interested, so they placed it into voluntary liquidation. With a deficit of just shy of £1.2m winding up the club was inevitable, but from this disaster a new club was formed.

Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd had four directors initially – Chris Hamilton (chairman), Melvyn Lord (vice-chairman) plus Sean Whitehead and Stewart Hardacre.

Oldham were granted re-admission, to continue an unbroken link back to 1895, and joined an eight-team second division.

They received no central funding, putting them in an invidious position compared to the other clubs.

Boundary Park was to be the club's home in the new season but before that was the small matter of the club's first match, a New Year's Day encounter against neighbours Rochdale Hornets.

The new board had just over two months to get a coaching team and players together - and coach Paddy Kirwan and his assistant Mick Coates had a minimal amount of training time in which to prepare a squad to face what most people thought would be inevitable defeat.

Fans were just happy to see an Oldham team taking the field in their traditional red and white hoops. Many local people wouldn't have missed that match for anything and in a Spotland crowd of 3,097, I reckon 2,500 were from Oldham.

When the team ran out, the roar from Oldham fans has lived long in the memory.

The team represented Oldham with pride and purpose:

Aidie Mead, Chris Eckersley, Steve Wilde, Sean Cooper Joe McNicholas; Craig Barker, Neil Flanagan; Danny Guest, John Hough, Martin Maders, Brian Quinlan, Mike Prescott, Emerson Jackman.

Subs: Darren Robinson, Paul Round, Afi Leulia, Craig Diggle, Ian Sinfield. Hooker John Hough, the first player to sign, went on to amass 228 games for the club.

He was followed by Darren Robinson and others came quickly, many of them locals. Chris Eckersley was a speedster on the right wing and Joe McNicholas, who scored the last try at Watersheddings, was on the left.

Their centres were locals Steve Wilde and Sean Cooper with the solid Aidie Mead at full back. Two more Oldhamers formed the halves - Craig Barker and skipper Neil Flanagan.

Giant forward Danny Guest's fellow prop was Martin Maders, son of former Roughyeds player Dennis and father of our new signing Harry.

Brian Quinlan, another local, was partnered in the second row by Mike Prescott, while former Saddleworth Rangers stalwart Emerson Jackman packed down at loose-forward.

Veteran forward Paul Round was a star for Oldham previously, along with Tongan international Afi Leulia, while Ian Sinfield was signed from Salford only the day before the match.

Mead had the honour of scoring first and his try was converted by Quinlan, who kicked immaculately to land six from six.

Further tries by McNicholas and Prescott gave Oldham a small half-time lead, but they dominated the second half, scoring three unanswered tries - a second by McNicholas and others by Maders and Sinfield.

The final score was 36-16 and the team that was assembled at short notice on a shoestring had pulled off an unforgettable victory.

Oldham finished the season in fifth place and were beaten 28-12 at Batley in the final of the Trans Pennine Cup but nothing could match the magic of that famous Law Cup win at Spotland on New Year's Day, 1998.



Captain Neil Flanagan lifts the Law Cup high, having received it from club chairman Chris Hamilton.



George Cowburn - lifelong fan with statistics at his fingertips

MEET THE THE GUYS WHO'LL BE SWEATING

Liam Bent: A young forward who has an astonishing engine which enables him to regularly top the tackle count. Fans voted him player of the year in 2018 - a fitting accolade for a former Salford workaholic.

Anthony Bowman: One of nine new signings, Bowman has previously been at Wigan, Halifax and Keighley. A talented handler, he can play in several positions.

Danny Bridge: Local lad who shot to prominence with Rochdale before going to Australia to play in the Queensland Cup. A classy second-rower, he returned home to sign for Oldham in 2018. Currently suspended.

Adam Brook: Another ex-Keighley half-back, Brook has joined us on season-long loan from Halifax to provide Scott Naylor with more options. Made his debut at Swinton and did well.

Dave Hewitt: A cheeky half, this ex-St Helens man is quick off a standing start. In Crook's absence, he is kicking goals.

Jack Holmes: Was key in the 2015 promotion season, but later moved to Rochdale. Won promotion with Hornets, but was soon back at Oldham where he plans to make a centre spot his own in 2019.

Kyran Johnson: Quick and elusive, he is at the peak of his career and, unusually, has signed a new two-year deal. A full-back, he can swallow up the metres on kick returns.

Ben Calland: Having played abroad and at Newcastle, Ben scored Oldham's first try of the season when he crossed in a 24-10 win at Barrow. Another new boy, he is the younger brother of former Bradford and Rochdale centre Matt Calland.

Paul Crook: An elder statesman, 'Crookie' joined Oldham last season from Rochdale, where he was a stalwart for six years. A goalkicking half-back, he has joined Scott and Peter Carey on the coaching panel.

Ben Davies: A much-travelled prop who has been at several Super League clubs. Came to Oldham from Whitehaven two seasons ago and is currently playing 'catch-up' in training after injury.

Jamie Greenwood: Looks likely to have a great first season here. Only 20, this former Huddersfield scholar is a lively hooker, who scored the match-clinching try in a Law Cup win over Rochdale.

Danny Grimshaw: Another player who has been round the block. Left Oldham in 2017 to go to Hunslet, but after two seasons away, he is back to give Scott and Peter selection options.

Richie Hawkyard: Nephew of former Watersheddings forward Colin Hawkyard, this 33-year-old full-back has already won the hearts and minds of fans. Signed this year from Keighley, having been at Swinton nine seasons. Won MOM in the Law Cup.



Jack Holmes scoring against Rochdale

THE SQUAD

BRINGING BLOOD FOR YOU THIS YEAR

Aaron Jones-Bishop: A Jamaican international winger, this 29-year-old is the younger brother of Wakefield's Ben Jones-Bishop. Both played twice for Jamaica last year in wins against Canada and the USA to gain automatic qualification to the 2021 World Cup.

Phil Joy: The big prop is in his seventh season with his hometown club and never gives less than 100 per cent. Played at Waterhead as a boy, but then had a couple of seasons in Oldham reserves before breaking into the senior side in 2012.

Lee Kershaw: Still only 20, Lee is a strong-running winger from Wakefield, who is on loan for the year. He knows where the line is and how to defend.

Scott Law: Player of the year at Keighley in 2018, the 'Law Man' cuts a formidable figure with his red hair and ginger beard. He's a tough prop who had nearly a decade at Cougar Park.

Harry Maders: Local-lad who, like dad Martin and grandad Dennis has signed for his hometown club. A utility back, he played three trials as a winger before accepting Oldham terms to fulfil a boyhood ambition. Aged 19.

Zack McComb: After signing from Siddal (Halifax) a year ago, centre McComb enjoyed a good first season. He has continued the good work with four tries in three pre-season games against Championship opposition.

Luke Nelmes: Another hard man of the front-row. A native of Huddersfield, he played amateur rugby in the town before signing for Halifax and ultimately moving to Oldham.

Gareth Owen: Club captain and hooker, Gareth is Oldham born and lives at Moorside. Reared at Waterhead, he moved to Salford as a boy and played 30-odd Super League games before joining the club his family had always supported.

Jack Spencer: Son of the club's former assistant coach, Lee 'Spanner' Spencer, Jack can play prop, second-row or loose. Has played at Salford, Barrow, Halifax, in France and in Australia.

Emerson Whittle: Yet another signed this year from Keighley, he is a second-row man of repute at this level. He runs strongly, tackles hard and has a good pair of hands.

Matty Wilkinson: With three hookers here, there's going to be a battle for game time and 'Wilky' will be right up there challenging. First joined Oldham on loan from Halifax, but soon signed permanently, having shown that his speed from the ruck can be lethal.



Roger Halstead takes a look at the 2019 Oldham squad

Laying down the LAW in our CUP win against



Dave Hewitt



Dave Hewitt



Jamie Greenwood



Harry Maders



Richie Hawkyard



st Hornets



Scott Law



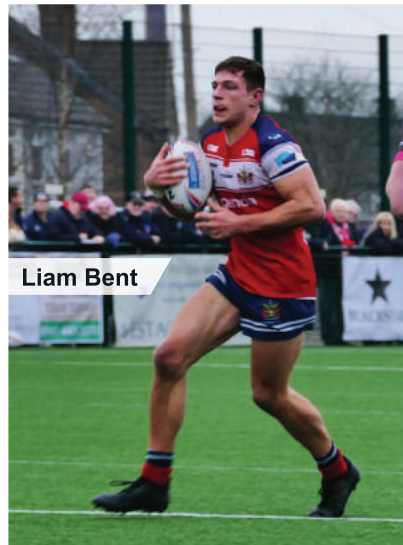
Richie Hawkyard



Gareth Owen



Aaron Jones-Bishop



Liam Bent



Jack Spencer



OLDHAM RLFC

WORKINGTON TOWN



Kyran JOHNSON 01	Mick Harrop	01	Ryan FIELDHOUSE
Aaron JONES-BISHOP 02	Les and Eileen Davison	02	Tyllar MELLOR
Zack MCCOMB 03	David and Val Webster	03	Elliott MILLER
Jack HOLMES 04	David and Val Webster	04	Perry SINGLETON
Richie HAWKYARD 05	Rita Walton	06	Jamie DORAN
Paul CROOK 06	Rita Walton	07	Carl FORBER
Dave HEWITT 07	Chris Noble MBE	08	Oliver WILKES
Phil JOY 08	Past Players' Association	09	Sean PENKYWICZ
Gareth OWEN 09	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd	10	Stevie SCHOLEY
Scott LAW 10	Les and Eileen Davison	11	Danny TICKLE
Ben CALLAND 11	Sponsorship Available	12	Gordon MAUDLING
Emmerson WHITTEL 12	Sponsorship Available	13	Karl OLSTRUM
Jack SPENCER 13	Graeme Lee	14	Andrew DAWSON
Ben DAVIES 18	Sponsorship Available	15	Tom CURWEN
Jamie GREENWOOD 19	Sandra Bullock	16	Scott ROOKE
Matty WILKINSON 20	John and Lynda McAndrew	17	Andy LITHERLAND
Lee KERSHAW 21	Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust	18	Kurt MAUDLING
Danny GRIMSHAW 22	Neil Gibbison	19	Caine BARNES
Luke NELMES 23	John and Lynda McAndrew	20	Jonathan WALSH
Liam BENT 24	ORSA	25	FuiFui MOIMOI
Danny BRIDGE 25	Pam Taylor and LTS	Clayton SUTTON	
Anthony BOWMAN 26	Graeme Lee	Sam HOPKINS	
Harry MADERS 27	Sponsorship Available		
Adam BROOK	Sponsorship Available		
Scott Naylor Head Coach	Sponsorship Available	Leon Pryce Head Coach	
Peter Carey Assistant Coach	Sponsorship Available	Neil Frazer Assistant Coach	
Adam Neal Conditioner	Sponsorship Available	Craig McDowell Assistant Coach	

Referee: T. Crashley

Touch Judge 1: D. Arnold

Touch Judge 2: T. Jones

Reserve Ref: I. Arnold



By Ian Wilson...

A Rugby League miscellany on men and matters...

It's good to be back!

That applies to me personally - it is some years since I last had the privilege of a regular match programme column - but even more so to the season 2019 proper.

The pre-season games are fine, and our performances were very encouraging, I am delighted to be able to say, but there is nothing like the real thing. With in this case a home game first up, and against one of the other favourites to be challenging for promotion at the end of the season.

Let's hope that today's attendance demonstrates that the RL-loving public of Oldham agrees with me!

Of course, we are lucky to have the Law Cup game as one of our pre-season ones, since it is always competitive and generates passion both on and off the field.

It was interesting how the pre-season Yorkshire Cup games also seemed to do similar for the seven semi-pro clubs involved this year. I wonder if there might be a similar effort on this side of the Pennines in 2020.

As always, the close season has seen controversies and significant change in the game as a whole. For me, the less said about the decisions to demand a financial 'bond' from Catalans, Toronto and Toulouse if they are to be permitted to play in the Challenge Cup, and to introduce golden point into some RL competitions, the better.

On the other hand, I can only applaud the concept of the 1895 Cup, and also welcome the use of the five team play-off system to decide the prizes in each of the three divisions of the professional game.

I always thought it was the best and fairest, and if that is agreed, surely it makes no sense to have different systems in different league competitions.

On a similar logic, if one-up-one-down is good enough for the top two divisions, why is it not also appropriate for the movement between League One and the Championship?

That might be to our disadvantage while we are in League One, of course - but we need to be positive, it won't be when we are in the Championship!

On the subject of new laws, it might be worthwhile to outline which apply to us this season. In essence, we revert to old-fashioned advantage rule instead of the so-called 'free play', which will probably not upset anyone.

We do have the new substitutions law; and we do not play golden point, or indeed have a shot clock, except from the Challenge Cup Round 4 and the 1895 Cup Round 2.

So we need not worry about having to make any adaptations, at least for the time being - except, of course, that Scott will have to work on just eight rather than ten substitutions.

I have no doubt he has his plans in place appropriately.



Ian Wilson - our man with something to say

SPONSORSHIP WITH A PURPOSE

May we take this opportunity to thank all our 2019 sponsors and backers, whose logos are displayed at the foot of this page.

Eight of them have been with us previously -- Bamford Print, Hanlon and Wright, H Mullaney and Son, Oldham Times, ORSA, Regenda Homes, Spindles Town Square Shopping and the University of Salford -- but we also have four new ones this year.

Welcome on board (and again many thanks) to the Property Buying Company, Purpose Business and Marketing, Swans Travel and Premier-Car which has replaced Premier-SsangYong.

The Property Buying Company claims to be the leading house buyer in the UK and also sponsors Coventry Bears and the Manchester Giants, in basketball.

Swans Travel, based on Broadway Business Park (0800 799 7423) are your friendly local coach firm that has carried our team all over the country for several years.

Mad-keen Roughyeds fan Julie Collins is the managing director of Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd which has clients nationwide.

She is a leading member of our volunteer managerial panel and is giving her time, money and professional expertise to drive our club forward.

She recently led a public meeting for Roughyeds fans in which she delivered a presentation about the challenges the club faces in rugby league's changing landscape.

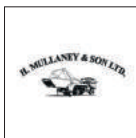
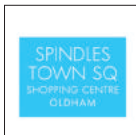


Have boots will travel. . . with Swans



Julie Collins . . . marketing with a purpose

**HUGE
thanks to
our backers!**



NEWS

...Continued from page 3.

The aim is for us to become more resilient, more focused, more diverse and lots more as we aim to respond positively to this changing world.

As for my own situation you will be aware of the major heart surgery I had at the end of May last year. It would be fair to say it was more major than anticipated and I am very aware just how fortunate I am.

I, and the club, have been extremely fortunate that Anne Kearns was willing and able, to step into my shoes as far as the day-to-day running of things was concerned and I will be forever grateful to her, and everybody else for what they did in my absence.

Although advised differently, it was hard not to be involved and there were always things that required my input. Not always visible, I was always active, even when I slept more than a baby!

There is no doubt that my outlook on life has changed, and so it should after an event like that, but, again I will talk more about that in the coming weeks.

Now more than ever, you, the fans, have a vital role to play in ensuring we have a club to follow and one which can hopefully prosper.

As seems to be always the case with rugby league, the off season has seen clubs have financial troubles. We nearly lost Keighley Cougars so this is not merely words --- its real.

It is an ongoing battle to stay afloat and I mean for every club, not just ours but I think its fair to say we are in a good spot to move forward and everybody has a part to play in that.

The main thing though as we head into the first match of the season, is the optimism that we all have. We will be unbeaten in the league, win the Coral Challenge Cup, play two matches that day as we will also be in the 1895 cup final and get five players in the England team!

We are hoping for a decent turn out today and Town will have brought their share of fans so, as always, be loud and proud and really get behind the lads.

See you next week.

Chris Hamilton.



St Anne's under-10s...
our first flag bearers

VISITORS

WORKINGTON TOWN

We begin the 2019 season with a bang by welcoming Workington Town to the Vestacare Stadium for Round 1 of this year's Betfred League 1.

Last season, league points were shared between our two clubs. Oldham won 32-10 up at Derwent Park before Town turned the tables and claimed a narrow victory in the return fixture, winning 16-14 in early July under a baking Oldham sun. Not a phrase often used in these parts.

Following the win in Oldham, Coach Leon Pryce was able to lead his side to a fourth place finish, one above Oldham, and an eventual spot in the League 1 play-off final.

The achievement of progressing to the play-off final handed Town an enviable opportunity. A late-season proposed league restructure meant the number of teams in the Championship would be increased by two. The loser of the League 1 play-off final would play a game against the Championship wooden-spoon winners, Swinton Lions. Thus Town had two bites at the promotion cherry.

Workington had done the season double over Bradford Bulls and were hopeful of achieving an unprecedented treble. Alas it wasn't to be, losing 27-8 at Odsal on what should have been the last game of the Betfred League 1 season. John Kear and his Bulls team were promoted along with Championship champions York and now everything rested on the do-or-die trip to Heywood Road and a nervous Lions side.

Unfortunately for Town, star man FuiFui Moimoi was banned for an alleged high tackle against Bradford and the Workington injury count in the same game further reduced Leon Pryce's selection options.

The Workington team that made the trip to Swinton played valiantly but, with a depleted squad, were unable to overcome Swinton and went down by 33-20 and consigned Town to another League 1 season.

Leon Pryce will now be enjoying a second season as head coach at Derwent Park and he has put together a squad capable of pushing for one of the top spots in our league.

Super League evergreen Danny Tickle has arrived to join forwards Oliver Wilkes, FuiFui Moimoi, Sean Penkywicz and the recently signed ex Toronto Wolfpack man and Welsh international, Sam Hopkins. This formidable and experienced pack should be capable of giving half-backs Jamie Doran and Carl Forber the room to unleash pacey three-quarters in the shape of former Huddersfield Giants man Tyllar Mellor, Perry Singleton and full-back Ryan Fieldhouse.

Workington have been quoted at 5/1 to win the league by the sponsors Betfred, fourth favourite following Oldham (2/1), Newcastle (3/1) and Doncaster (9/2). It's likely that the odds on all four will fluctuate as the season unfolds in a twenty-game race to win the title.

There will be little margin for error this year, a team that falls behind won't have too many games to catch up. Town and Oldham will desperately want to get the new season off to a flyer and what better than to grab early points off a promotion rival. It should be an explosive season opener, hold on to your hats.

Writes Dave Naylor.



WORKINGTON TOWN

SQUAD

THREE TO WATCH

Danny Tickle

A vastly experienced and versatile forward, this Golborne born player began his professional career with Halifax in 2000. Enjoyed prolonged spells at both Wigan and Hull FC, picking up end-of-season awards at both clubs.

Played 26 games for Hull KR in 2018 but stepped out of Super League for 2019 and signed for Workington.

Gained representative honours with both England and England knights



Sean Penkywicz

A hooker or scrum-half, Penkywicz is another player who began his career at Halifax and enjoyed two spells at the club. Moved on to Huddersfield and then Leigh Centurions before becoming a member of the Toronto Wolfpack during their inaugural season in 2017.

Signed for Workington in 2018 scoring 13 tries in 24 appearances.

Has represented Wales at international level.

Tyllar Mellor

A pacy youngster who plays at either full-back or on the wing. Spent five years at the Huddersfield Giants academy but struggled with injury during the latter part of his spell. Arrived at Derwent Park on loan in the latter part of the 2018 season and impressed coach Leon Pryce who signed him on a permanent deal for 2019.



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ORSA

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The Oldham Roughyeds Supporters Association (ORSA) is the official, but independently run supporters' club of Oldham RLFC and is fully accountable to its members. It supports the playing and coaching staff in various ways and is very much appreciated by Scott Naylor and the squad.

Ahead of the 2019 season, ORSA is looking to increase their fundraising and enable further support for the requirements of the coaching and playing staff. In doing so, they have now signed up to the 'easyfundraising' organisation.

This enables fans and friends of the club to donate to ORSA, without any cost to themselves, simply by signing up to the ORSA cause, before doing their online shopping.

There are over 3500 retailers/organisations who will donate automatically from purchases made online. To get involved, all that supporters need to do, is visit the following link, sign up and then shop as normal.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orsa/>

As online shopping is increasingly popular, this 'easyfundraising' scheme, offers fans an opportunity to raise much needed funds at a time when already limited club budgets are under further threat from RFL changes. ORSA representatives are keen to engage as many fans as possible in this enterprise and hope that once encouraged to take part, will make it a habit to do so.



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FIXTURES

Date	Time	Opponents	Venue	Score	Results	Attn.
February						
Sunday 17	3:00pm	Workington Town	Home			
Sunday 24	3:00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	Home			
March						
Sunday 3	3:00pm	North Wales Crusaders	Away			
Sunday 10	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 3 - Haydock	Home			
Sunday 24	3:00pm	London Skolars	Home			
Sunday 31	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 4				
April						
Sunday 7	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	Away			
Sunday 14	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 5				
Friday 19	3:00pm	Hunslet RLFC	Home			
Saturday 27	3:00pm	West Wales Raiders	Away			
May						
Sunday 5	3:00pm	1895 Cup 1				
Sunday 12	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 6				
Sunday 19	3:00pm	Coventry Bears	Home			
Sunday 26	3:00pm	Keighley Cougars	Away			
June						
Sunday 2	3:00pm	Challenge Cup QF				
Wednesday 5	7:30 pm	1895 Cup 2				
Sunday 9	3:00pm	Doncaster RLFC	Away			
Sunday 16	3:00pm	Keighley Cougars	Home			
Sunday 23	3:00pm	Workington Town	Away			
Wednesday 26	7:30pm	1895 Cup QF				
Sunday 30	3:00pm	West Wales Raiders	Home			
July						
Sunday 7	3:00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	Away			
Sunday 14	3:00pm	North Wales Crusaders	Home			
Sunday 28	3:00pm	1895 Cup SF				
August						
Saturday 3	3:00pm	London Skolars	Away			
Sunday 11	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	Home			
Sunday 18	3:00pm	Doncaster RLFC	Home			
Saturday 24	4:00pm	Challenge Cup/1895 Cup Final				
September						
Sunday 1	3:00pm	Coventry Bears	Away			
Sunday 8	3:00pm	Hunslet RLFC	Away			
Sunday 15	3:00pm	Play-offs				
Sunday 22	3:00pm	Play-offs				
Sunday 29	3:00pm	Play-offs				
October						
Sunday 6	3:00pm	Promotional Final				

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