

ROUGHYED REVIEW

2019 PROGRAMME No.2
Sunday, 24th February
KICK-OFF 3PM
£3.00



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OLDHAM VS WHITEHAVEN

☎ 07904 898177
(Monday, Wednesday, Friday ONLY | 10am to 3pm)

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LEAGUE 1



PASSIONATE ABOUT RUGBY LEAGUE

NEWS

How the chairman sees it with **CHRIS HAMILTON**

I hate rugby league!!

Those were my words to Michael Carter, chairman of Wakefield Trinity, on Monday after our defeat against Workington. As I said in my notes ahead of that game it's the start of a new season, everybody is full of optimism and then, despite having a good pre season, we put in a disappointing display.

As I have said on many occasions before, however, that is the very nature of sport. But it's still something that I, in particular, find hard to come to terms with.

One of the good things though is that you soon get a chance to put things right on the field and so today we go into battle against another of the Cumbrian teams, Whitehaven, who started off with a good win against Keighley last week.

This time around we need to meet the physical challenge that we will inevitably face and then impose ourselves on the game. I know the lads will be keen to put things right.

Our visitors seem to be getting things back on an even keel after having major financial problems last year and we wish them well in that regard. Chairman Tommy Todd was one of the people who took the time to write to me following my operation to wish me well. Its not often these days that you get a letter from anybody, never mind a fellow chairman but it was sealed with wax which i was very impressed with.

I am trying to make a conscious effort not to be too much of a doom and gloom merchant this year but almost right on cue, following my words last week of how hard it is to keep a club going in these challenging times, we learned this week of Widnes Vikings being unable to pay wages.

Widnes, of course, were in Super League until last season and their fan base is still reasonably large compared to a lot of others, but their situation merely demonstrates the problems clubs, and more importantly, the game has.

In my opinion the last 12 months have been the worst i have known it in my 22 years of official involvement in terms of clubs' financial problems and I feel we, as a game, need to look at the issues swiftly.

We were buoyed by the attendance at last week's match and 765 was was an encouraging start. Whitehaven had 897 which was a great effort and lets hope those sort of figures continue.

Part of our plan to raise attendances is to encourage rugby teams and community groups to be our flag bearers for the day. Last week St Anne's under 10s and minnions were our first ever and loved it. There have been a number of developments over the course of the last few months and in particular during pre season to lift the profile of the club, both locally and further afield.

...Continued on page 17.



Chris Hamilton

NEWS

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

Hello everyone and welcome to today's game against Whitehaven at the Vestacare Stadium .

This game is more important than normal as a result of our disappointing performance last week against 'Haven's derby rivals Workington Town.

Winning your home games in Betfred League 1 is far more important than ever this year because there are fewer games than we've had in the last couple of years which means there is little margin for error in a programme of only 20 matches.

There were a lot of negatives about last week's game and a lot of things that we will be looking to improve upon today.

We are a far better team than we showed last week with far better players who can produce better individual performances than they did on the opening day of the league campaign.

In my opinion this is the best squad of players I've had at the club in all my time here, in terms of both quality and strength-in-depth within the squad.

That being said, there is absolutely no reason why we shouldn't be pushing for promotion come September or October; no excuses either.

The big positive about last week's performance was that we lost by only four points against arguably a top-three team, yet most of our game was at a low level.

If we improve in all areas by five to ten per cent we'll give every team in this division a game and end up winning more times than not.

Our opponents today, Whitehaven, come to us in confident mood on the back of a victory against Keighley Cougars.

Playing Whitehaven, home or away, is never a game you can take for granted. It never has been and probably never will be.

Against such quality opposition we will be desperate to perform at our highest level and to prove to the club and our fans what we are capable of and what they can look forward to for the rest of the season.

The support last week was amazing and it's a pity we could not give those fans the win they had hoped for.

I'm certain though that, starting today, we can play a brand of rugby our fans can be proud of and one they will want to come and watch.

The best thing about losing is what you learn about the team, the individuals in it, and about yourself – and you get the chance seven days later to show that it matters.

Thanks very much for your continued support.



Scott Naylor

Frank Pitchford turns in to score behind the posts in our 29-19 win against 'Haven at Watersheddings on April 18, 1959. Ike Southward (2), Pitchford (2) and Dick Cracknell scored tries and Bernard Ganley kicked seven goals.

HERITAGE

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

As you may have seen in the Press, the Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust is in the process of handing over its impressive collection of memorabilia to Oldham Council.

Part of this exercise will be the need to scan our extensive collection of documents which consist of programmes, Year Books, testimonial brochures etc.

The digitising of these documents will allow them to be available for all to see on our revamped website, a project that is due to be completed by the end of 2019.

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US TO COMPLETE THE TASK.

To be honest this is going to be a laborious undertaking but if, over the next eight months or so, you think you can spare the Trust a few hours we would be pleased to hear from you.

If you are interested please send an email to: oldhamrl1895@gmail.com

We extend a warm welcome to today's visitors, the players, officials and supporters of Whitehaven.

Like Workington last week, the rivalry between our clubs goes back to the 15-a-side days, to 1887 in fact.

Oldham did the double over the Cumbrians back then and also won the first encounter at Watersheddings on February 18, 1950.

When Whitehaven played at home, however, it was a different story and it would take Roughyeds a further eight visits to chalk up a victory at the Recreation Ground.



Michael Turner

STATISTICS

BETFRED LEAGUE 1 TABLE 2019

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PD
Coventry Bears	1	1	0	0	28	4	24	2
Whitehaven RLFC	1	1	0	0	28	16	12	2
Doncaster RLFC	1	1	0	0	32	26	6	2
Workington Town	1	1	0	0	32	28	4	2
Hunslet RLFC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London Skolars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales Crusaders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oldham RLFC	1	0	1	0	28	32	-4	0
Newcastle Thunder	1	0	1	0	26	32	-6	0
Keighley Cougars	1	0	1	0	16	28	-12	0
West Wales Raiders	1	0	1	0	4	28	-24	0

OLDHAM RLFC PLAYER STATS 2019

Squad No.	Player	Total App.	Sub	Tries	Goals	DGs	Points	Squad No.2	Player	Total App.	Sub	Tries	Goals	DGs	Points
1	Kyran Johnson	0	0	0	8	0	0	15	Adam Brook	1	1	0	0	0	0
2	Aaron Jones-Bishop	1	1	2	0	0	8	18	Ben Davies	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Zack McComb	1	1	0	0	0	0	19	Jamie Greenwood	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Jack Holmes	1	1	0	0	0	0	20	Matty Wilkinson	1	0	0	0	0	0
5	Richie Hawkyard	1	1	1	0	0	4	21	Lee Kershaw	1	1	0	0	0	0
6	Paul Crook	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	Danny Grimshaw	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Dave Hewitt	1	1	0	6	0	12	23	Luke Nelmes	1	0	0	0	0	0
8	Phil Joy	1	1	1	0	0	4	24	Liam Bent	1	0	0	0	0	0
9	Gareth Owen	1	1	0	0	0	0	25	Danny Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Scott Law	1	1	0	0	0	0	26	Anthony Bowman	1	0	0	0	0	0
11	Ben Calland	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	Harry Maders	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Emmerson Whittel	1	1	0	0	0	0	29	Titus Gwaze	1	0	1	0	0	0
13	Jack Spencer	1	1	0	0	0	0								

NEWS

ROARY'S PRIDE IS COMING TO LIFE AND WE ARE SO EXCITED!

Oldham RLFC are delighted to announce that we will be launching our very own Junior Members Club for all under-16s.

"Roary's Pride" will leap to life and be formally launched at our home game on March 24 when members will receive a fabulous, unique members pack.

Roary is without doubt the best mascot in Rugby League – well, that's our opinion – and the friendly lion is welcomed wherever he goes.

Working with children is his speciality and in addition to our amazing members pack and our fun launch we will be running regular competitions, creating some 'meet the players' experiences as well as hosting a number of events throughout the season.

We want all under-16s to be proud of their connection to the club and each members pack will come complete with a Roary's Pride cap and badge.

We will also be working with local schools to 'extend our pride' and encourage new youngsters to get involved.

We are already working with pupils from Co-op Academy Failsworth who have been busy designing potential new logos for "Roary's Pride".

The winning design will be available soon.



Co-op Academy
Failsworth



By George Cowburn... THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

Incredibly, on 136 separate occasions between September 6, 1968 and April 22, 1979 Oldham's team line-up started like this: 1, Murphy; 2, Elliott; 3, Larder.

It was testament to the talent and loyalty of three players who collectively clocked up 1,236 appearances, each of them reaching individual milestones and creating records.

MARTIN MURPHY

Martin Murphy was a slightly built young full-back when first seen playing in Oldham's 'A' team and bringing down bulky forwards and speedy backs alike with his copybook tackles.

He didn't stay in the reserves for long though, moving aside quality full-backs such as Brian Curry and Derek Whitehead on his way to 462 appearances for Oldham - a record for the post Second World War period and just one behind Jack Read who was in second place in the all-time appearances list.

Martin made his debut against his home-town team of Leigh in a 14-0 victory at Watersheddings on December 17, 1966.

His last appearance was on the subs' bench in a 41-0 away victory at Huyton on April 18, 1982.

As coach Frank Myler was picking Alan Taylor ahead of "Murph" in the full back spot, Martin moved to Rochdale for a short spell before calling it a day.

In his time at Oldham he played in every back position, highlighting his versatility, and notched up 52 tries in the process.

Capped by Lancashire, his other representative honour was an appearance for England in an 11-9 victory over France in Perpignan when he scored the match winning try in the late stages of the game.

MIKE ELLIOT

Mike Elliot came north at the age of 17 from Blaina in South Wales where he was playing at the Cwmclynn club. (Blaina was the same place dual code international David Watkins hailed from).

It took a while for Mike to become a first-team regular but once established he never looked back.

He made 446 appearances, making him fourth in the all-time list, and he scored 153 tries, many from openings created by his long-time centre partner Phil Larder but also some spectacular long-distance tries.

For a winger his pace was deceptive. I remember a game in the late 60s/early 70s against Hunslet when Mike intercepted a pass deep in Oldham's 25.

Hunslet's winger gave up the chase by half way as the long striding Welshman sprinted effortlessly to the line.

Mike made his debut on October 27, 1962 against Wakefield Trinity and signed off on May 7, 1979 at left centre when he was made captain for the day in a 10-5 defeat at home to Hull.

For a record six times (twice shared) he was Oldham's leading try scorer in a season and he was also third in the all-time list behind 50s legend Alan Davies and centre/wing Sid Rix from the 20s.

PHIL LARDER

Phil Larder supported his home-town team as a boy in the 50s. Star player Alan Davies was his hero (and many others), playing in the centre where Phil would also make his name for Oldham.

His first taste of serious rugby league was with a Werneth under-16s side which also included future Oldham players in Kevin Taylor and Dennis Maders.

A switch to rugby union then followed at the Oldham club, then he moved on to Broughton Park, Manchester and Sale via the Loughborough Colleges side where he was studying.

An offer to sign for Salford was turned down as they wanted him to move from Loughborough and Phil eventually signed for Oldham, making his debut on August 10, 1968 in a pre season friendly against Blackpool Borough. He marked the occasion with a 60-yard sprint for a try. Phil played 328 times for the club, scoring 111 tries and kicking 475 goals.

Four times he was the club's leading goal-kicker in a season and three times the leading try scorer. He finished his Oldham career with a try in his last game, a 23-19 victory at Bramley in the last game of the 1979-80 season.

Retirement followed after a short spell at Whitehaven, but it wasn't the end of Phil's involvement in rugby.

Having studied at Loughborough Sports College and later enjoying a "day job" as a PE teacher at Saddleworth School, a career in coaching followed naturally.

A successful spell in the Oldham Schools' RL set-up led to a coaching job at Keighley when "Cougarmania" was at its height.

He then moved to Sheffield Eagles before becoming Great Britain coach for a spell.

Crossing the sport's divide, he became defence coach for the England Rugby Union team and he was a key member of the coaching team when England won the RU World Cup in 2003.

Pictures courtesy of the Oldham RL Heritage Trust.



MARTIN MURPHY



PHIL LARDER



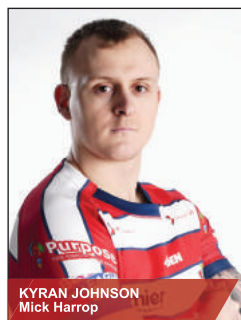
MIKE ELLIOT



George Cowburn - lifelong fan with statistics at his fingertips

MEET THE

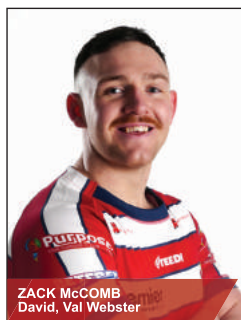
THE GUYS WHO'LL BE SWEATING



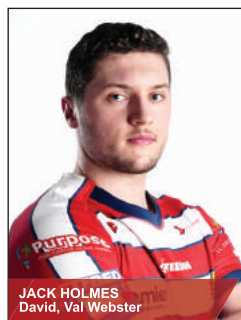
KYRAN JOHNSON
Mick Harrop



AARON JONES-BISHOP
Les, Eileen Davison



ZACK McCOMB
David, Val Webster



JACK HOLMES
David, Val Webster



RITCHIE HAWKYARD
Rita Walton



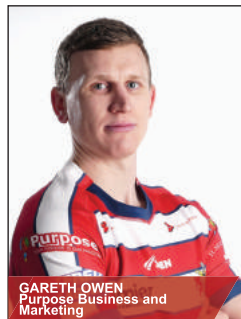
PAUL CROOK
Rita Walton



DAVE HEWITT
Chris Noble MBE



PHIL JOY
Past Players



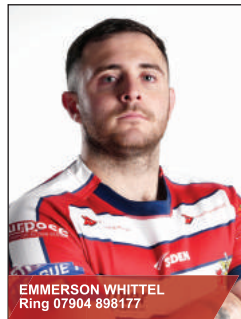
GARETH OWEN
Purpose Business and Marketing



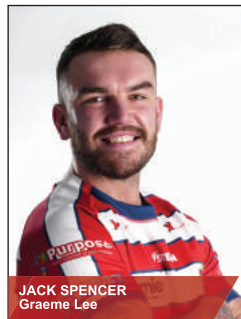
SCOTT LAW
Les, Eileen Davison



BEN CALLAND
Luke, Abbie, Jessica Davies



EMMERSTON WHITTEL
Ring 07904 898177



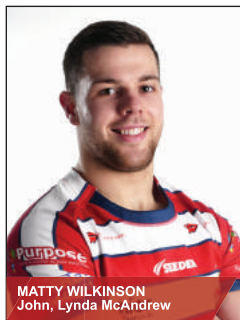
JACK SPENCER
Graeme Lee



BEN DAVIES
Ring 07904 898177

THE SQUAD

BLOOD FOR YOU THIS YEAR



MATTY WILKINSON
John, Lynda McAndrew



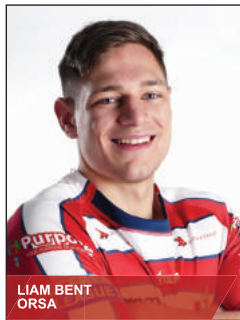
LEE KERSHAW
Rugby Oldham



DANNY GRIMSHAW
Neil Gibbison



LUKE NELMES
John, Lynda McAndrew



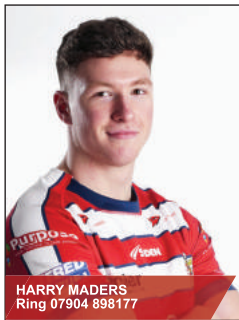
LIAM BENT
ORSA



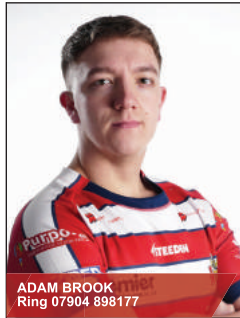
DANNY BRIDGE
Pam Taylor, LTS



ANTHONY BOWMAN
Graeme Lee



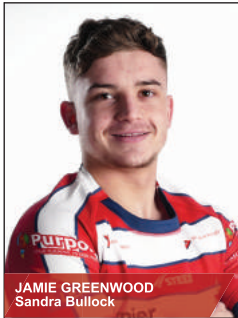
HARRY MADERS
Ring 07904 898177



ADAM BROOK
Ring 07904 898177



TITUS GWAZE
Anne Kearns



JAMIE GREENWOOD
Sandra Bullock

Players and their sponsors

OUR CLASS OF 2019 -



BACK ROW: Rebecca O'Loughlin (team physiotherapist), Adam Brook, Aaron Greenwood, Jamie Greenwood, Kyran Johnson, Danny Grimshaw, Matty Wilkinson, Luke

MIDDLE ROW: Amelia Woodhouse (team doctor), Liam Bent, Ben Davies, Harry Bridge, Danny Bridge, Jack Spencer, Phil Joy, Ben Calland, Scott Law, Lee Kershaw, (in charge of kit etc).

FRONT ROW: Jack Holmes, Dave Hewitt, Anthony Bowman, Paul Crook, Peter Carey (asst coach), Scott Naylor (head coach), Gareth Owen (captain), Zack McComb, Ritchie Hawkyard, Emmerson Whittel.

UP THE ROUGHYEDS!



h Jones-Bishop,
e Nelmes, Titus Gwaze.

arry Maders,
Nigel Costello



OLDHAM RLFC

WHITEHAVEN RLFC



Kyran JOHNSON	01	Mick Harrop
Aaron JONES-BISHOP	02	Les and Eileen Davison
Zack MCCOMB	03	David and Val Webster
Jack HOLMES	04	David and Val Webster
Richie HAWKYARD	05	Rita Walton
Paul CROOK	06	Rita Walton
Dave HEWITT	07	Chris Noble MBE
Phil JOY	08	Past Players' Association
Gareth OWEN	09	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd
Scott LAW	10	Les and Eileen Davison
Ben CALLAND	11	Luke, Abbie and Jessica Davies
Emmerson WHITTEL	12	Sponsorship Available
Jack SPENCER	13	Graeme Lee
Adam BROOK	15	Sponsorship Available
Ben DAVIES	18	Sandra Bullock
Jamie GREENWOOD	19	John and Lynda McAndrew
Matty WILKINSON	20	Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust
Lee KERSHAW	21	Neil Gibbison
Danny GRIMSHAW	22	John and Lynda McAndrew
Luke NELMES	23	ORSA
Liam BENT	24	Pam Taylor and LTS
Danny BRIDGE	25	Graeme Lee
Anthony BOWMAN	26	Sponsorship Available
Harry MADERS	27	Sponsorship Available
Titus GWAZE	29	Anne Kearns
Scott Naylor Head Coach		Sponsorship Available
Peter Carey Assistant Coach		Sponsorship Available
Adam Neal Conditioner		Sponsorship Available

01	Sam FORRESTER
02	Jordan BURNS
03	Chris TAYLOR
04	Jessy JOE
05	Dave THOMPSON
06	Dion AIYE
07	Callum PHILLIPS
08	Marc SHACKLEY
09	James NEWTON
10	Kris COWARD
11	Brett PHILLIPS
12	Jake MOORE
13	Tom WILKINSON
14	Sam DOWSETT
15	Connor HOLLIDAY
16	Lewis BROWN
17	Matthew WHILE
18	Jordan THOMSON
19	Andrew BULMAN
20	Scott MCAVOY
21	Jake BRADLEY
22	Ruairi MCGOFF
23	Jason MOSSOP
Gary Charlton Head Coach	
Jonty Gorley Assistant Coach	
Scott McAvoy Assistant Coach	

Referee: C. Worsley

Touch Judge 1: E. McCarthy

Touch Judge 2: T. Arnold

Reserve Ref: J. Barr



By Ian Wilson... A RUGBY LEAGUE MISCELLANY ON MEN AND MATTERS...

In the absence of an Oldham match the other weekend I persuaded a mate to come with me to Salford to watch their Super League contest with London.

With both sides having been surprise first-round winners the week before I was hopeful of seeing a decent-quality game and, indeed, I wasn't disappointed in that respect.

Although London were nilled, they played some good rugby and battled very hard throughout, having conceded only twice until they tired a little in the final ten minutes.

What I was disappointed by, though, was the price – £45 for two seniors tickets. And this was booked online and in advance, advertised as the cheapest way to pay.

What really gets my goat are the extras that get charged automatically on top of the advertised price of a ticket, not just at Salford, I know, but annoying nonetheless.

The other disappointing aspect was the atmosphere. In a modern stadium, on a lovely Sunday afternoon, the 3,246 who were there did their best to make it lively but with two sides of the ground kept unopened there was no chance to generate the sort of vibrancy that is what new Super League chief executive Robert Elstone is charged with achieving throughout the competition as his tenure in his new role progresses.

The Super League total, after two full rounds, is about 108,000. When one thinks back to the pre-Super League era the total attendances at weekly RL matches tended to average about 56,000.

That shows he has a great deal to do if he is to justify the decision to appoint him as head of a new Super League

administration, apparently operating side by side with the already existing RFL, at least if attendances are to be taken as one of the critical judgement criteria.

Enough of the game in general for now. What of our performance against Workington last week? Let's not carp too much about the referee. He made honest mistakes that penalised both sides at different times, as they are all likely to do.

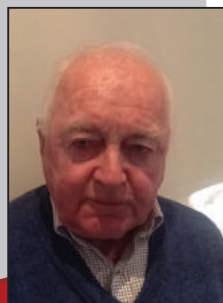
Let's instead accept that we were our own worst enemies — too slow out of the blocks; too many times we fell off tackles; too many silly errors.

On the other hand we proved a much greater threat with ball in hand than we did on most occasions last season.

At 28-20 approaching the final ten minutes we had the game won against a side that I am certain will be up there come September.

We will be too, just so long as our inability to win the tight ones doesn't persist any longer. The Newcastle v Doncaster game suggested there might be a few more surprises to come.

With a very encouraging first crowd of 765, I think we will all agree that a win today is imperative.



Ian Wilson - our man
with something to say

Which shield and logo do YOU want?

Our own identity, proud of our heritage and our town. Keeping our identity clear and consistent is very important as we begin to develop new ideas. We want to ensure that our identity is unmistakable and our name is loud and proud.

We're asking our supporters to vote for two shield designs:

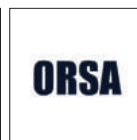
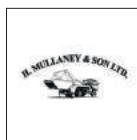
1. Our full main shield proudly featuring the Oldham town crest.
2. Our simple logo for use on new merchandise — which arrives very soon

Select one design from each group and cast your vote.

Voting is taking place at the Vestacare Stadium today, make your choices to ensure your vote counts.



**HUGE
thanks to
our backers!**



...Continued from page 3.

I have effectively set up what is a Management Board to oversee and run this process and we have been lucky that people have been willing to step up and take part in this.

The group consists of myself, Anne Kearns, Roger Halstead, Dave Naylor, Dave Murgatroyd, John Davies, Ben Whisker and Julie Collins. Some of those names will be well known to you and others will become so as we develop things over the next few months.

Julie, in particular, has been at the forefront of this with her marketing expertise and drive. We have had several brain storming sessions to come up with ideas and projects for this season and beyond and I think we have the foundations in place to really move things forward.

As I said last week, you the fans, are even more important to the club than ever and we need each and every one of you to be an ambassador for us, not only to come to matches but to encourage others to embrace what we are attempting to do and to get behind as many of the initiatives that have already been made public and those that will be as the season develops. We can have the best laid plans but none of them will work unless we can get you to become part of it.

We have developed a plan that will see a full and diverse range of things - both old and new - that will unfold over the course of the year, not just the playing season, the overriding aim being to make you feel a very important part of this club and everything that it stands for.

We spoke briefly about Return on Investment last week and I will go into more detail about this over time but there are a number of things that every one of you can do to help the club without it costing you a penny.

Our website is a great source of information for all things Oldham RL and simply by looking at it on a regular basis increases the ranking of it in relation to other clubs. Our Facebook and Twitter feeds are an instant and popular way of seeing whats happening at the club.

We will be increasing the amount of video content you can access via these sources significantly, starting from now and the rationale behind it all is very simple - clubs are measured by how many website visits they get, by how many Facebook and Twitter followers we have, so by using these various platforms you help us to help you! Get your friends to log in or follow us. Its that simple - we need to increase numbers!

Another no-brainer is to sign up to the OURLEAGUE app. This is the official rugby league app which has lots and lots of interesting pieces about all things rugby league, including Oldham. When signing up you state that you are an Oldham fan and then this increases the number of members attributed to Oldham which again is another gauge used by the RFL for Return on Investment.

it costs nothing and if you are a technophobe come into the office and we will be glad to help you register. Encourage your friends, family and work colleagues to do it too. They don't have to be coming to games to help the club.

Those people on the Management Board are putting a not inconsiderable amount of time into moving the club forward because we all want the club to progress and be successful so please, please spread the word and get behind what is happening. After all - its YOUR club.

Finally enjoy today's game and get behind the lads as we look for the first win of the season.

Chris Hamilton,
chairman,
OLDHAM RLFC

VISITORS

WHITEHAVEN RLFC

Whitehaven arrive in Oldham today looking to build on their Round 1 victory over Keighley Cougars. Half-time scores were level at the Recreation Ground and Keighley took an early second-half lead but Haven hit back with three tries and two goals to claim the two points on offer.

The result will be encouraging for new coach Gary Charlton, a Whitehaven man brought in to replace the departing Carl Forster.

Midway through last season, financial difficulty impacted on the Cumbrian club to the extent that it was put into special measures by the Rugby Football League. Investment from directors together with newly implemented operating structures meant that the club's affairs were healthier by November.

Coach Charlton was then able to begin assembling a competitive squad for the 2019 campaign featuring a high percentage of players with local connections.

Half-back or hooker Callum Phillips, a Scottish International, has signed a new one-year contract and is joined by his brother Brett, a second-rower who has come out of retirement. Pacy winger Andrew Bulman has returned from Hull FC and is joined by Canadian international prop Ruairi McGoff.

Captain Marc Shackley, or Shacks to his mates, forms part of a pack featuring the evergreen Kris Coward, prop Matty While and back-rower Scott McAvoy. A formidable force that should be able to set up a platform for the likes of Papua New Guinea backs Jess-Joe Parker and Dion Aye.

Last season Oldham defeated Whitehaven home and away, winning 14-0 in Cumbria on the opening Sunday followed by a 20-0 win at the Vestacare Stadium.

The difference between the two sides was probably better described by their ultimate league finishing positions.

Oldham narrowly pipped Haven on points difference to take the last available play-off place.

Gary Charlton's target this season must be to go one better and help Haven elbow their way into the top five. To achieve that aim his side must take points off their rival clubs and today's game presents such an opportunity.

A return to the form of only two seasons ago would be most welcome for the men from the Recreation Ground. Finishing third behind the Toronto Wolfpack and Barrow in the regular season handed them a home semi-final play-off tie against York City Knights.

The game lasted for over 100 minutes and in a thrilling encounter, former Roughyed Steve Roper sealed the game with a drop-goal and set up a promotion final against Barrow.

Haven travelled to Craven Park hoping to reclaim a place in the Championship but were beaten 10-6 by the hosts.

In this 20 game season, margins will be tighter than ever and any away win will be worth its weight in gold. Whitehaven will be eager to exploit any weakness in Oldham's defence and we should be in for another tense afternoon's action.

Writes Dave Naylor.



SQUAD

THREE TO WATCH

Chris Taylor

A Haven fans' favourite, this strong-running centre has been at the Recreation Ground since 2014 broken only by a brief spell with Halifax in 2015.

Made 23 appearances in 2018 scoring 8 tries before injury concluded his season late in the year.

Signed a new one-year deal for 2019, his fifth at the club.



Kris Coward

A 37yr old veteran forward enjoying his 13th season as a professional.

A Whitehaven man, Coward spent 11 seasons with Workington Town, clocking up more than 180 appearances before switching to The Recreation Ground last season.

The former Hensingham amateur made 27 appearances in the 2018 season, scoring two tries.



Jason Mossop

Another Whitehaven man who plied his trade with neighbours Workington Town.

Surpassed 200 games in eleven years at Derwent Park before making the short distance south in 2017, signing for his home-town club.

Signed for Castleford as a 17yr old and had stints at both Doncaster and Batley before returning to Cumbria.



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Haydock cup-tie is a **throwback to 2017**



Our Coral Challenge Cup third-round tie against the amateurs of Haydock on the weekend of March 9/10 is a repeat of the 2017 fourth-round tie which we won 40-12 at Bower Fold after going 0-8 down early on.

We scored tries by Lepori (2), Ward, Tyson, Grimshaw, Burke, Gill and Clay with Leatherbarrow kicking four goals.

The big difference this time is that the tie will be played here at the Vestacare Stadium, but Scott knows that wherever the game is played the amateurs will pose a serious challenge.

He said: "They'll give us a tough game. It's their big chance of doing something very special. It would be massive for them if they were to turn over a League 1 club and they will see their performance, win or lose, as a way of promoting their club.

"From our point of view a pro-am cup-tie is always one to take very seriously indeed, if only because we don't want to be the League 1 team that comes unstuck in a tie like this.

"We will show Haydock every possible respect and approach the game in exactly the same way, very professionally, as we did when we played Workington and Whitehaven in our first two league games."

Watch our website, social media platforms and the local press for confirmation of date and kick-off time.

Titus here initially **for one month**

Titus Gwaze, a young prop of whom Wakefield Trinity expect big things has joined us on loan, initially for one month. He made his debut as a sub against Workington.

Born in Zimbabwe, but raised in Johannesburg, South Africa, the 19-year-old came to England when he was ten to link up with his Mum who was living in Huddersfield.

Rugby Union was his first love but that all changed when he reached the senior years at Honley High School in Huddersfield and was introduced to the 13-a-side game.

He played Union until about three years ago and since switching to League he has made a meteoric rise through the ranks to the point where he is now a full-time contracted pro at Wakefield and a member of their first-team squad.

He comes from the same Trinity nursery as Luke Hooley and Lee Kershaw.

Coach Scott Naylor said: "He's been on the radar of a few clubs. He's young, fit, strong and very keen.

"He's in that stage of his career where he isn't quite ready for Trinity's first team but he's too good for the Academy. "

Having discovered rugby league it wasn't long before Titus was playing first at Underbank, then at Brighouse Rangers and then in the Halifax Elite RL Academy and it was there that he was spotted by a Trinity scout and taken to Belle Vue.



FIXTURES

Date	Time	Opponents	Venue	Score	Results	Attn.
February						
Sunday 17	3:00pm	Workington Town	Home	28-32	Lost	765
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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