

# ROUGHYED REVIEW

**2019 PROGRAMME No.9**  
**Sunday, 2nd June**  
**KICK-OFF 3PM**  
**£3.00**

DAVID HEWITT ...  
second in League  
1 points chart

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

Hello everyone and welcome to today's 1895 Cup game against Doncaster at the Vestacare Stadium.

They come to us on the back of a mixed start to the Betfred League 1 season.

A lack of consistency seems to have been a problem for them since early February and they've had both wins and losses you wouldn't have expected.

They are an experienced, quality outfit coached by Richard Horne, who wants to play a free-flowing brand of rugby, attacking from all parts of the field on any play at any time.

Richard was a class player with amazing flare and talent and you can see that he has left his imprint in his team. We have to be ready for anything to happen today on any play in any set of rugby, otherwise Doncaster will punish us.

We've been playing much better lately ourselves, reaching a level of maturity and consistency that we were missing in some games early in the season.

Recent performances against Whitehaven, Coventry and Keighley have been pleasing.

It's been good to see the lads reproducing the stuff we work on in training in both defence and offence. This has enabled us to put pressure on teams and take advantage of field position to score points.

When we've got in front we've kicked on to win and we haven't really looked in trouble. which is a huge improvement for us as a team going forward for the rest of the season.

The lads are desperate to succeed this year and to make the fans proud of them. Week by week their attitude to training and playing is amazing and never wavers at all.

If confidence keeps growing and performances keep growing then we will be in a good place come the end of September.

Many thanks,  
Scott



Scott Naylor



# How the chairman sees it

Welcome back to the Vestacare Stadium for this afternoon's 1895 Cup second-round tie against Doncaster.

We come into the game on the back of four consecutive wins and some good performances and will obviously be hoping to continue that today as we bid to reach Wembley!

Our opponents are one of those teams which has regularly posed problems for us and it is no coincidence that we haven't always had the best record against them.

It's a funny one today as we play them at home today and then away in the league next week so it will have a strange feel about it.

Last Saturday at Keighley we took a monkey off our back in that we hadn't won at Cougar Park in our previous seven matches so it was good not only to get the win, but also to play in a manner which was very convincing against a

team which had previously been going well.

We had some good performances all over the pitch and it is good to see competition for places as we grow into the season.

Doncaster recently signed Rangi Chase, and, although he can't play until he finishes a two-year ban, he is a massive signing at this level of the game.

Once his ban finishes in July I have no doubt he will be a big influence on how this Doncaster team finishes the season. We have seen at Super League level how he can win matches, almost single handedly, so he will be a threat. We are glad he's not playing for the next two weeks !

Last weekend saw the first Magic Weekend held at Anfield, Liverpool and I have heard mixed reviews of what people thought of it.



We were delighted to welcome one of our main sponsors, The Property Buying Company, headed by David Slater and Chris Hemingway, to the Coventry game. The four youngest members of their party were thrilled to meet Titus Gwaze and Danny Langtree. Left to right: Sam Slater, Harry Slater, James Leah, Frazer Hemingway.

From a players' and coaches' point of view they loved the opportunity to play at such an iconic venue and the atmosphere generated by the fans was probably better than previous years due to the lay out of the stadium.

I have also heard that fans preferred Newcastle where the stadium is right in the heart of the city and easy for coming out of the pub and into the ground.

One thing is for sure, rugby league has never been frightened to take chances to expand the game into new areas, either by a one-off event like Magic or by introducing new clubs, so it will be interesting to see what the plans are moving forward.

Last week also saw an update on the proposed entry into the leagues of New York and Ottawa with New York being advised to look at 2021 rather than next year and Ottawa being given a provisional green light for next year although there is still some work to be done. Watch this space as we see what unfolds.

Back to Oldham matters and let's hope today sees a removal of the "wingers' curse" we have suffered in the last few weeks. Its amazing how things pan out and how, sometimes you get a few injuries in one single position as we have on the wing.

Aaron Jones-Bishop suffered a season- ending knee injury against Hunslet and then on Saturday we lost Harry Maders to an unknown allergic reaction prior to the Keighley game. Then during that match Kyran Johnson suffered a broken jaw, which, although it doesn't need an operation, means he has to avoid contact for six to eight weeks. You couldn't make it up !

Anyway those are part and parcel of the game and we are used to adapting and moving on with the cards we are dealt. Sometimes it can work in your favour as it brings the squad even closer together and lets hope that is the case now.

The lads have worked hard over the last few weeks to get rid of the inconsistencies in their game and I think the results of that

work is there for all to see in the recent performances.

It is good to see the confidence and belief grow, game on game. We have seen, every week, how League One has improved with teams that traditionally have struggled, causing upsets against the so- called bigger teams and the result of that is that 2019 has produced probably the most open and competitive division we have seen for a long time.

The consistency we have shown in the last four matches is exactly what we needed and although this afternoon is a cup game we intend to do our utmost to continue in the same mood.

Please do your part, as ever, and get behind the lads and hopefully cheers us on to another win.

Enjoy the game.

Christopher Hamilton  
Chairman  
Oldham Rugby League Football Club



Christopher Hamilton

# STATISTICS

## BETFRED LEAGUE 1 TABLE 2019

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PTS
Whitehaven RLFC	9	7	1	1	217	138	79	15
London Skolars	10	6	3	1	215	260	-45	13
<b>Oldham RLFC</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>12</b>
Hunslet RLFC	9	6	3	0	254	160	94	12
Newcastle Thunder	9	4	4	1	286	192	94	9
Doncaster RLFC	9	4	5	0	210	160	50	8
Workington Town	9	4	5	0	240	240	0	8
North Wales Crusaders	9	3	6	0	214	193	21	6
Coventry Bears	9	3	6	0	201	288	-87	6
West Wales Raiders	9	0	9	0	76	452	-376	0
Keighley Cougars	9	5	3	1	236	224	12	-1

## 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	9	0	5	0	0	20	15	Adam Brook	4	0	1	12	0	28
2	Aaron Jones-Bishop	6	0	3	0	0	12	16	Danny Langtree	5	0	5	0	0	20
3	Zack McComb	12	0	13	0	0	52	18	Ben Davies	7	7	0	0	0	0
4	Jack Holmes	10	0	5	0	0	20	19	Jamie Greenwood	6	6	0	0	0	0
5	Richie Hawkyard	10	0	8	0	0	32	20	Matty Wilkinson	8	7	6	0	0	24
6	Paul Crook	5	0	3	29	0	70	21	Lee Kershaw	5	0	4	0	0	16
7	Dave Hewitt	11	0	4	29	0	74	22	Danny Grimshaw	2	0	0	0	0	0
8	Phil Joy	9	0	3	0	0	12	23	Luke Nelmes	1	1	0	0	0	0
9	Gareth Owen	11	0	2	0	0	8	24	Liam Bent	11	2	3	0	0	12
10	Scott Law	12	3	1	0	0	4	25	Danny Bridge	4	0	2	0	0	8
11	Ben Calland	7	1	0	0	0	0	26	Anthony Bowman	6	0	3	0	0	12
12	Emmerson Whittle	12	4	3	0	0	12	27	Harry Maders	5	0	5	0	0	20
13	Jack Spencer	12	4	1	0	0	4	29	Titus Gwaze	12	11	1	0	0	4
								30	Frazer Morris	2	2	0	0	0	0



Oldham Foodbank wishes to thank all our fans who made food donations at the Coventry game and we have been asked to pass on their gratitude to "a great bunch of supporters" for how well you received them and responded to them on the day. A massive thank-you also from the club. We KNEW we could rely on you!

## Why we chose to go down the dual-reg route

Kyran Johnson's broken jaw at Keighley underlined reasons behind the decision to take up the Leigh Centurions approach to set up a dual-reg agreement.

It was an innocuous-looking incident that caused us to lose Kyran for several weeks and it means that, when these notes were penned, we were down to 21 available players.

We're in a contact sport and accidents can and do happen. Whatever the pros and cons of the dual-reg system it can be seen as an insurance policy for clubs like ours which don't have the biggest of squads or budgets.

We accepted Leigh's approach before Kyran's setback, but we had already lost two wingers in on-loan Lee Kershaw (recalled by Wakefield) and former Donny man Aaron Jones- Bishop, who now needs a full knee reconstruction.

Aaron would have loved to play today and next weekend at the Keepmoat Stadium but

a player's career and a club's status go on the line every time a team gets stripped to go out for battle. A lot of luck is involved and that's where dual-reg comes in as a buffer against the cruel hand of misfortune.

Head coach Scott Naylor said of the agreement: "John Duffy (Leigh head coach) is a good mate of mine and we both know what dual-reg is all about. After giving it full consideration we felt it was a good idea which would benefit both clubs.

"Both clubs, of course, have to get out of it what they want to get out of it and I'm sure we will.

"We don't have the biggest squad and John wants some of his lads to get more game time which will help us in the event of injuries and maybe allow me, when appropriate, to rest some players or do some squad rotation.

"This will put us in a stronger situation than we're in

presently, from now to the end of the season, and enable us to be better equipped for the back end of the year than in previous seasons when we've had a small squad that's been hit by injury."

Duffy added: "Scott and myself have known each other for years and we get on well. Both our clubs have 'dualled' with Super League clubs so we both know what works and what doesn't.

"Scott has been at Oldham a while now and he always does a good job. He's a very good coach and a very good bloke so this will make it a very worthwhile partnership for all parties.

"Scott's lads will always come first but if he can give some of our players valuable game-time at an important stage of the season that will be great."



EMANUEL BONSER . . .  
our Lancashire county  
forward in 1895

JACK HURST . . . our  
star winger from the  
Victorian era.

HARRY VARLEY . . . first  
captain for Oldham in the  
Northern Union.

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

It's 1895 and Queen Victoria is still on the throne.

Wilhelm Rontgen has discovered x-rays and rugby clubs in the north of England are fed-up with having little control over their affairs and the witch-hunts surrounding the Rugby Football Union's insistence on strict amateurism.

It didn't stop the RFU turning a blind eye in the Edwardian era though when, fearful of further defections, they ignored blatant transgressions by clubs in the Midlands and South Wales. That's another story.

So it was that, at 6.30 pm on Thursday, August 29, 1895 representatives of 21 Lancashire and Yorkshire clubs, meeting at the George Hotel in Huddersfield, (chosen for its central location between the extremities of Widnes and Hull and its close proximity to the town's railway station), passed the following resolution:

“**That the clubs here represented decide to form a Northern Rugby Football Union and pledge themselves to push forward without delay its establishment on the principle of payment for broken time only.**”

Broken-time payments were to cover for the loss of a player's wages if he was able to take time off work to play rugby for his club, usually on a Saturday at a time when the working week included Saturday morning.

Oldham's Joseph Platt, who was elected to the post of secretary of the new organisation, took 20 letters of resignation (Dewsbury abstained) for onward transmission to the RFU and the Northern Union, predecessor to the Rugby Football League, was born.

The 20 clubs included many familiar names still with us today but also five clubs no longer in the professional game, namely Brighouse Rangers, Broughton Rangers, Liversedge, Manningham and Tyldesley.

What of Oldham? They had to wait until week two for their first game - a 16-8 defeat away at Hunslet. Winger Charley Bradbury scored the club's first try, supplemented by a try and a goal from centre Sam Lees.

It was to be their third game before the first win was registered - a 16-5 victory at Huddersfield. Scores were often low - there were two games which ended nil-nil - and Oldham's highest score was a 23-4 home win against Leigh.

Both Oldham and the Northern Union enjoyed a successful season. By 1896 there were around 50 clubs in the Oldham area affiliated to the Northern Union and the Oldham club made a first-year profit of £1,148, greater than any other league club and a considerable sum in those days.

They finished fourth in a 22-team league (Stockport and Runcorn having joined the original 20 clubs) with a playing record of 27 wins, two draws and 13 defeats.

Above Oldham were Manningham, Halifax and Runcorn. In the Lancashire Senior Competition, which comprised of nine Lancashire and two Cheshire clubs.

Based on the games played against those teams only, Oldham finished second behind Runcorn on points difference. The two clubs played off for the Lancashire Championship at Broughton with Runcorn, known as the Linnets, winning 6-5.

How about the players? Oldham had an all-star back line which was guided round the field by two accomplished half-backs in future captain Arthur Lees - the first Oldham player to lift the Challenge Cup after a 19-9 win over Hunslet in 1899 - and former England Rugby Union international Harry Varley, signed from Liversedge. He became Oldham's trainer upon retirement as a player after two Northern Union seasons.

Veteran Welsh centre Billy McCutcheon, a former Welsh Rugby Union captain, was still around and Cumbrian-born Tom Martin was a formidable force on the wing.

Centre Sam Lees (no relation to Arthur) was third in the goal-scoring charts with 28 goals.

Star of the show was winger Jack Hurst who topped the league's try scoring list with 28 tries, eight more than his nearest rival. They included four in a 17-0 win over Wakefield Trinity.

The forwards - eight at that time as Rugby Union rules were initially adopted - were less well known but still highly effective, and included Emanuel Bonser, signed from Greenacres FC, who played in the first 36 games consecutively (38 in total). Others were Bob Edwards, from County Durham, and the versatile Joe Lees (again no relation) who signed from the Failsworth club.

Edwards and Bonser, along with backs Arthur and Sam Lees, Jack Hurst and Harry Varley all played for Lancashire, who won the three-team County Championship that year. (Players played for the county of their club rather than the county of their birth).

That first season laid the foundations for a golden period in Oldham's history up to the First World War. Five times league leaders, Oldham also appeared in five consecutive Championship Finals, five Lancashire Cup Finals and three Challenge Cup Finals during that 20-year period.

1895 was indeed a momentous season!



George Cowburn - lifelong fan  
with statistics at his fingertips



# ROARY'S FIRST 'PRIDE' MEETING HAILED A 'ROAR--RRRING' SUCCESS



David 'Murgy', front man for Roary's Pride, had a tear in his eye when he said of the new group's first meeting:

**“ I couldn't have wished for a better start. ”**

Sophie Nixon, mascot Roary and 'Murgy' himself hosted the inaugural get-together which was attended by about 18 children with parents or guardians.

Boys and girls coloured in pictures of Roary and were then joined by three local players – club captain Gareth Owen, forward Danny Bridge and young winger Harry Maders, who popped in after training.

Photographs and autographs were signed before the players talked to the children about their early days in rugby, all three of them starting off at Waterhead.

The players then took part in a new competition, which will run for every Roary's Pride meeting and will be open to all the different players who will come to future meetings.

At the end of the year there will be a prize for the overall winner.

Murgy asked each player a series of questions, the objective being to avoid, in reply, the words 'yes', 'no' or 'don't know' for as long as possible.



Owen (33 seconds) finished the session in the lead from Maders (23 secs) but we'll not say anything about Danny Bridge's three second s! He fell for it hook, line and sinker.

Blue Watch from Hollins Fire Station then arrived. Lee, the Watch commander, gave the young lion cubs a safety talk about the dangers of fires and gave expert advice about what to do if a fire was to happen at home.

One of the proud 'Pride' mums was then asked to step forward to dress up in a firefighter's uniform.

Blue Watch showed our members around a fire engine and told us what all the equipment was used for.

But the best was kept for last when the fire crew unrolled one of the hoses and let the children and Roary spray water over the car park. The children had a great time and so did parents.

Linda Mills from Rugby Oldham, who sponsor Roary's Pride, reminded parents that membership of 'Pride' gives them

membership to Rugby Oldham and explained a little of what Rugby Oldham, the Supporters' Trust, is all about.

A massive thanks to Sophie; to Lee and Blue Watch, who were absolutely fantastic; to the three players; to Linda from our sponsors; to Roary; and to the parents for bringing their children along.

The whole idea of Roary's Pride was to give children a little bit of knowledge and plenty of fun and also to give them pride in themselves, their family, their town and their favourite rugby league club.

Even after one meeting Murgy is thrilled to see it's already happening.





# Nine tries -- and our first win at Keighley in eight visits



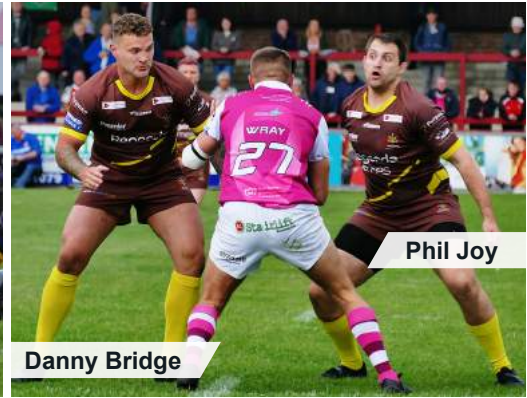
Ritchie Hawkyard



Emmerson Whittel



Gareth Owen



Phil Joy

Danny Bridge



Liam Bent



Scott Law



Paul Crook



Danny Langtree



Matty Wilkinson



Dave Hewitt



Scott Law

**KEIGHLEY COUGARS 12  
OLDHAM RLFC 52**



Kyran <b>JOHNSON</b> 01	Mick Harrop	02	Richard <b>OWEN</b>
Aaron <b>JONES-BISHOP</b> 02	Les and Eileen Davison	03	Connor <b>BOWER</b>
Zack <b>MCCOMB</b> 03	David and Val Webster	04	Jason <b>TALI</b>
Jack <b>HOLMES</b> 04	David and Val Webster	05	Sam <b>DOHERTY</b>
Richie <b>HAWKYARD</b> 05	Rita Walton	06	Jordan <b>HOWDEN</b>
Paul <b>CROOK</b> 06	Rita Walton	07	Matty <b>BEHARRELL</b>
Dave <b>HEWITT</b> 07	Chris Noble MBE	08	Ross <b>SPIERS</b>
Phil <b>JOY</b> 08	Past Players' Association	09	Kyle <b>KESIK</b>
Gareth <b>OWEN</b> 09	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd	10	Ryan <b>BOYLE</b>
Scott <b>LAW</b> 10	Les and Eileen Davison	11	Brad <b>ENGLAND</b>
Ben <b>CALLAND</b> 11	Luke, Abbie and Jessica Davies	12	Frankie <b>MARIANO</b>
Emmerson <b>WHITTEL</b> 12	John and Lynda McAndrew	13	Jordie <b>HEDGES</b>
Jack <b>SPENCER</b> 13	Graeme Lee	14	Connor <b>SCOTT</b>
Adam <b>BROOK</b> 15	John Davies	15	Kieran <b>CROSS</b>
Danny <b>LANGTREE</b> 16	Keith and Shirley Mullaney and Grant and Sheila Somerville	16	Brandan <b>WILKINSON</b>
Ben <b>DAVIES</b> 18	Neil Gibbison	17	Brandon <b>DOUGLAS</b>
Jamie <b>GREENWOOD</b> 19	Sandra Bullock	18	Liam <b>WELHAM</b>
Matty <b>WILKINSON</b> 20	John and Lynda McAndrew	19	Matty <b>CHRIMES</b>
Lee <b>KERSHAW</b> 21	Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust	21	Ryan <b>DIXON</b>
Danny <b>GRIMSHAW</b> 22	Neil Gibbison	22	Brad <b>FOSTER</b>
Luke <b>NELMES</b> 23	John and Lynda McAndrew		
Liam <b>BENT</b> 24	ORSA		
Danny <b>BRIDGE</b> 25	Pam Taylor and LTS		
Anthony <b>BOWMAN</b> 26	Graeme Lee		
Harry <b>MADERS</b> 27	Pam Taylor		
Titus <b>GWAZE</b> 29	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd		
Scott Naylor   Head Coach	Keith and Shirley Mullaney		Head Coach: Richard Horne
Peter Carey   Assistant Coach	Keith and Shirley Mullaney		Assistant Coach: Pete Green
Adam Neal   Conditioner	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd		

Referee: M. Rossleigh
Touch Judge 1: D. Sharpe
Touch Judge 2: J. McMullen
Reserve Referee: N. Lawrenson
Match Comm: F. Hawley
Time Keeper: P. Taberner



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

There has been discussion recently about the relative merits of expanding the game via traditional clubs in traditional areas, or via new areas, at home or overseas. In this context, Doncaster is an interesting case study.

It was 1981 when the infamous 'Another Bloody Sunday' documentary put Doncaster's rugby league club on the national sporting map.

It painted an eye-opening picture of a club in the lowest reaches of a 'quaint' minority sport, battling along in the face of adversity on and off the field.

It must have been a boon to the programme's producers when there was an uplifting conclusion, the team managing its one and only win - against Huyton - near the end of the season.

The documentary is still available, and I strongly recommend it.

Since then, of course, Donny have enjoyed rather more success, and indeed earned a season in the game's premier division in 1993-94, even though they are now down in the lowest tier of the pro game, competing at our level for promotion at the end of 2019.

They were relegated and forced into liquidation in 1995, with their famous old ground, 'Tattersfield', sold for housing. Sound familiar?

The general level of crowds at clubs such as Doncaster averages much the same as ours - though it should be said they twice attracted 5,000 fans in the early days after their move to the Keepmoat Stadium in 2006.

Whether this is an indication of the long-term potential of a club in that area is a moot point, and one that's integral to the debate.

What would be the long-term benefits of sinking resources into trying to bolster clubs in South Yorkshire, the Heavy Woollen district, Manchester, Cumbria or Merseyside?

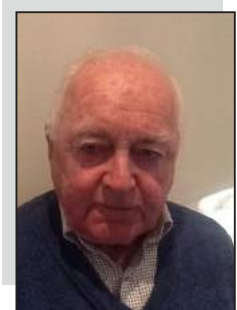
Or should we try to further invest in the relative successes, early days though they are, in the Newcastle/North East and Coventry/Midlands regions?

I recall, with sadness, failed efforts to establish Belle Vue Rangers, Blackpool Borough, Liverpool City/Huyton/Runcorn/Prescot, Scarborough, Trafford Borough, Chorley, Carlisle, Mansfield Marksmen, Kent/Southend Invicta and Nottingham City.

More recently, we've had equally brave failed attempts in Hemel, Cheltenham and Oxford whose devoted volunteers lost both money and heart.

Further back there were failed clubs in London - Acton and Willesden, Streatham and Mitcham - and in South Wales, Cardiff, Treherbert, etc.

Not that 'M62 corridor' clubs have been immune from failure. Liversedge, Heckmondwike and Brighouse all featured in the early days.. So a question for a future programme is this; what are the pros and cons of overseas expansion as an alternative, or could they be complementary ?



Ian Wilson - our man with something to say

## Staying in Touch with Our Heritage with MICHAEL TURNER

Today we extend a warm welcome to Doncaster's players, officials and supporters for a second-round tie in the new 1895 Cup.

Donny entered the Rugby League as a professional club in 1951, but it wasn't until the 1963-64 season that the paths of the two clubs crossed in league action.

The first meeting was on October 12, 1963 at Watersheddings with Roughyeds triumphant 45 - 13. The return at Tattersfield three weeks later was much closer with Oldham winning 12 - 6.



PAT RICH . . . six goals in an extra-time thriller at Belle Vue.

Those games were in a short-lived two-division format which saw Oldham crowned champions of the second tier before the system reverted to one league the following season.

It would be another decade before the clubs met in a cup competition - a first-round Challenge Cup tie on February 26, 1978 when Oldham went through with a 21-7 victory. Roughyeds then won a John Player Cup match on October 18, 1981 by the same score, both matches played at Watersheddings.

The next meeting was in a Challenge Cup fifth-round tie at Tattersfield on February 13, 1994 when Donny recorded an emphatic 20-0 success. Next up was the NFP minor semi-final on July 16, 2000 when the 'Rugby League Raw' cameras were there to see Oldham pinch it 24-17 in extra time at a sunny Belle Vue Stadium. Six goals from Pat Rich were decisive.

Then in 2008 Doncaster, under the guidance of Ellery Hanley, won 18-0 in the National League 2 play-off final at Warrington.

The keen rivalry will no doubt be maintained today as both clubs cherish the thought of finding themselves only two games from Wembley.



Michael Turner

# DONCASTER RLFC

Today's 1895 Cup encounter with Doncaster is the first of two back-to-back games against the Keepmoat Stadium side. Today's cup action gives way to a vital Betfred League 1 game next Sunday in South Yorkshire.

The Dons reached this stage of the competition after a 70-6 thumping of West Wales Raiders in Round 1. The visitors had taken an early lead with a try in the ninth minute but Doncaster soon regained control, scoring twelve tries including a quintet from winger Tom Halliday. Former Roughyed loanee Levi Nzoungou played at loose-forward chipping in with a try of his own, as did Menzie Yere, on loan from Sheffield Eagles.

The 2019 season started well for the Dons. A televised win at Newcastle Thunder caused shock waves on Tyneside as the much-hyped home side were overhauled by a second-half Doncaster revival. Trailing 22-4 at the interval, the visitors were able to turn on the style and run-out 32-26 winners. Our own Danny Langtree played in the game, on loan from Hull FC.

Subsequent wins against Hunslet and Workington Town followed, putting Doncaster atop the League 1 table and making them the season's early pace setters. It's of interest that in those opening three fixtures, Doncaster took six league points off the three teams that have defeated Oldham this year.

A dip in form saw Whitehaven, Keighley, North Wales and London Skolars all defeat the Dons to adversely affect their league standing. Last week saw the Dons

return to winning ways when they again faced West Wales Raiders at home, comfortably defeating the Welsh side 54-0.

Amidst the league action, Doncaster enjoyed a Coral Challenge Cup run this year. Wins over Coventry, amateurs Featherstone Lions and then Championship side Batley Bulldogs were rewarded with a plumb trip away to holders Catalans Dragons in Perpignan. The Super League side paid the Dons the compliment of fielding a strong side which was ultimately too powerful for the visitors but Doncaster put on a good performance in the 62-6 defeat and were still on level terms on the half hour.

Oldham and Doncaster each recorded home victories against the other in 2018. A 32-12 Oldham win at the Vestacare Stadium in June was followed by a 26-22 Doncaster victory at the Keepmoat Stadium in July. Both teams would go on to earn a League 1 play-off semi-final spot but each fell at the penultimate hurdle, Doncaster succumbing to Workington Town and Oldham lost out to Bradford Bulls.

The news spotlight shone on the Doncaster club earlier this month. Ex England international Rangi Chase signed for the club on a deal until the end of the 2019 campaign. The 2011 Super League Man of Steel is currently banned until July 14 but his signing represents a significant capture for the Dons. Oldham fans could see Chase in action at the Vestacare Stadium when Doncaster return in August.

Doncaster chief executive Carl Hall had this to say regarding his new signing:

"We're delighted to be able to bring a player of Rangi's quality to the club, he is someone I have known for a number of years and I have always stayed in contact with him.

"We're giving him an opportunity to show what he's capable of in a Dons shirt, and without putting any pressure on him - I believe he's the biggest signing this club has made since Tony Kemp.

"I hope everyone is excited as I am to see him play."

Doncaster have their eyes on promotion in this neck and neck 2019 season and the signing of Chase could give them a key edge. Today's cup-tie allows two promotion rivals to face off against each other in a different context. The winner will progress to the quarter-final stage of the 1895 Cup leaving them just two games away from a Wembley appearance.

The league and promotion must surely be each club's main focus, but walking out on the famous Wembley turf is a tempting proposition for all players involved.

We should be in for a good game of rugby league this afternoon.

**Writes Dave Naylor.**



# SQUAD

## THREE TO WATCH

### Connor Scott

Forward Connor Scott was recruited from Championship side Sheffield Eagles where he'd starred for the under 19s and reserves. Scott turned down a full-time deal at his former club to sign for the Dons.

Last season he played in 29 games for the Keepmoat Stadium side, scoring 6 tries. This year, coach Richard Horne has used him as an impact player coming off the bench in 10 of his 12 appearances so far.



### Jason Tali

Papua New Guinea international centre Jason Tali joined Doncaster from League 1 outfit Newcastle Thunder ahead of the 2016 campaign. Had an impressive year on Tyneside scoring more than a try a game, with 14 tries in 13 outings in the North East, including a hat-trick on his league debut against Barrow Raiders.

Gained international honours with his country in the 2013 Rugby League World Cup, coming up against the likes of New Zealand and Samoa.

In 27 appearances for his club in 2018 Tali scored an impressive 23 tries, picking up four man-of-the-match awards in the process.



### Jordan Howden

Jordan joined the Dons from Super League side Castleford Tigers ahead of the 2016 season. Spent a period of time on loan at York City Knights where he thrived at stand-off. Playing in the 2015 League 1 play-off semi-final, Howden kicked a late drop-goal to give his team a late lead, only for Swinton to snatch an equaliser and extra time victory.

Injury dogged his 2016 and 2017 seasons due to a long standing hip problem for which he underwent surgery. The player returned in 2018 to put in 21 appearances scoring seven tries. Has started this season where he left off last and is always a danger.





# ***CURRENT FORM*** ***JUST RIGHT FOR*** ***THE QUIET MAN***

**By Roger Halstead**

Who do you think has benefited most from the Roughyeds' rich run of form that has provided four wins in a row against West Wales Raiders, Whitehaven, Coventry Bears and Keighley Cougars.

No, it isn't Zack McComb, Ritchie Hawkyard or Matty Wilkinson, our three leading try scorers, but a player generally known more for his stability, reliability and defensive qualities in the three-quarters than for his try-scoring feats.

Jack Holmes is the dressing room's archetypal Quiet Man. He never has a lot to say, preferring instead to let his work on the field do the talking for him.

And right now it's doing a lot of talking on his behalf because, across this run of four wins on the spin, he's scored five tries which is more than anyone else apart from Danny Langtree.

It shouts out even more as a statistic of real note and merit because the Quiet Man (pictured right) hadn't crossed the line once in six games before discovering he was scoring more than anybody else.

In the early part of the season right-centre McComb was catching all the try-scoring headlines, but now more opportunities seem to be cropping up on the left.

'Langers', McComb and 'Crookey' are doing very well on the right thank-you, but don't write off Danny Bridge, Holmes and 'Chewy' (Hewitt) on the left. They're coming good, too.

TOP TRIES OVERALL: McComb 13, Hawkyard 8, Wilkinson 6, Holmes 5, Johnson 5, Langtree 5, Maders 5, Hewitt 4, Kershaw 4, Bent 3, Bowman 3, Crook 3, Jones-Bishop 3, Joy 3, Whittel 3.

LAST FOUR GAMES: Holmes 5, Langtree 5, Hawkyard 4, Bent 3, Crook 3, McComb (3), Wilkinson 3.

By way of comparison in totals, we scored 44 tries in the opening eight games and 37 in the last four -- a hugely significant difference.

Our winning streak coincides with the return of Langtree and Bridge but also with the reappearance of evergreen Paul Crook at outside-half.



# FIXTURES

Date	Time	Opponents	Venue	Score	Results	Attn.
<b>February</b>						
Sunday 17	3:00pm	Workington Town	Home	28 - 32	Lost	765
Sunday 24	3:00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	Home	36 - 12	Won	546
<b>March</b>						
Sunday 3	2:30pm	North Wales Crusaders	Away	16 - 14	Won	426
Sunday 10	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 3 - Haydock	Home	80 - 10	Won	508
Sunday 24	3:00pm	London Skolars	Home	34 - 4	Won	709
Sunday 31	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 4 - Widnes Vikings	Bower Fold	14 - 54	Lost	1,247
<b>April</b>						
Sunday 7	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	Away	22 - 28	Lost	889
Sunday 14	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 5				
Friday 19	3:00pm	Hunslet RLFC	Home	28 - 36	Lost	652
Saturday 27	3:00pm	West Wales Raiders	Away	72 - 8	Won	197
<b>May</b>						
Sunday 5	3:00pm	1895 Cup 1 - Whitehaven	Home	48-12	Won	369
Sunday 12	3:00pm	Challenge Cup 6				
Sunday 19	3:00pm	Coventry Bears	Home	34-18	Won	451
Saturday 25	6:30pm	Keighley Cougars	Away	52-12	Won	836
<b>June</b>						
Sunday 2	3:00pm	1895 Cup 2 - Doncaster	Home			
Sunday 9	5:30pm	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			
<b>July</b>						
Sunday 7	3:00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	Away			
Sunday 14	3:00pm	North Wales Crusaders	Home			
Sunday 28	3:00pm	1895 Cup SF				
<b>August</b>						
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				
<b>September</b>						
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				
<b>October</b>						
Sunday 6	3:00pm	Promotional Final				

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