

ROUGHYED REVIEW

2019 PROGRAMME No.10
SUNDAY, 16TH JUNE
KICK-OFF 3PM
£3.00



Adam Brook . . .
on the ball.

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OLDHAM VS KEIGHLEY COUGARS **BETFRED LEAGUE 1**

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Keith and Shirley Mullaney of H Mullaney and Son Ltd are proud to sponsor Scott Naylor and his assistant Peter Carey.

Direct from the Dug-Out with SCOTT NAYLOR

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

It's only three weeks since we played Keighley in the league at their place which sometimes happens like that because of the way fixtures fall.

The last time we played Cougars the result was hugely positive for us and the performance was good, especially in the second half when we played our type of rugby at our speed.

Keighley were good at slowing us down in the ruck and putting pressure on us with their defence in yardage to restrict us to only a few chances near their line.

It was their first game since the departure of their coach and maybe the uncertainty of that affected their performance slightly in the second half when we scored heavily to win the game comfortably.

Now they have a new head coach and some stability we are expecting a tougher game for the 80 minutes and a completely different type of challenge.

Last week at Doncaster we let down ourselves and our fans with the way we played from the first whistle.

I can promise the fans it wasn't intentional and it was absolutely unacceptable as far as players and staff were concerned.

Sometimes everything goes wrong and the harder you try the worse things get. Last week was a disaster of a performance in skill and quality but not in attitude and desire.

The players know what is expected of them from me as head coach, but they set themselves higher standards than that and constantly try to achieve this.

Sometimes you walk off a field and have no explanation for how you've played as a team. Sunday was that day. Today is a chance to start again and put things right.

Many thanks,
Scott



Scott Naylor

How the chairman sees it

Well, that wasn't what we expected was it?

I refer, of course, to what would at best be referred to as "an underpar display" at Doncaster, but the reality is that it was far worse than that and nobody is shying away from that fact.

I, for one, couldn't believe what I was seeing and it was one of those games in which the harder we tried the worse it got. Too many handling errors, forcing passes, missing tackles - you name it we did it, or didn't as the case may be.

Without wanting to dismiss that performance though we have to turn it around very quickly and that starts today against a Keighley side who are themselves smarting from some recent heavy defeats.

For our part the key is recognising where we went wrong last week, and there was certainly plenty of that, and making sure we eradicate that from our game moving forward.

We need to display the belief and composure that make us one of the promotion favourites - and those are not my words but the words of other club chairmen when talking to me, even after the Keepmoat defeat.

Sometimes you have to accept that things can go horribly wrong in a game from start to finish and it is really important that we make sure we do not take a hangover from that game into other matches or it will eat away at us.

It is vital that we get back to winning ways, starting today, and that we look forward, not back.

This is one of those times where, as a club chairman, you have to lead and be positive, keep up spirits and others then feed off that.

It was a very quiet coach coming back from Doncaster and the lads really do care about what happens on the pitch and I have no doubt we will see a response today.

There has been a lot of hard work on the training field this week and we hope you will enjoy the fruits of that labour this afternoon.

Today will be a busy day with several things going on around the game including the visit of children from Belarus, who are our flag bearers today.

This is as a direct result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. As a direct result of that, a charity was set up to help children from that area who are affected by radiation and since that time children have come over to Oldham and different parts of the country for a holiday and to help them to recover.

I am really looking forward to seeing them and their hosts and hope you will give them a fantastic reception. They will be holding a bucket collection before the game so please give generously, if you are able.

We also have guests in the sponsors lounge from the Past Players Association and it will be their first visit since Bernard Halford passed away and again we are looking forward to hosting them at today's match.

On a broader note wasn't it great to see the London Broncos inflict Saints' second defeat of the season last Sunday? It isn't that I don't like Saints, but it's purely from the underdog perspective. I always like to see the underdog win and the Broncos are defying all the pundits with some unexpected wins this year to give themselves a real chance of staying up. Keep it going!

Back to all things Roughyeds and today we have a special offer available to everybody

attending today's game. Non season-ticket holders can pick up a voucher at the turnstiles which entitles them to half price general admission to our next home league match against West Wales on June 30 and season ticket holders have an exclusive discount on shop items with 20% off on production of voucher a from their book.

These are the latest initiatives we have introduced to boost numbers and the club's profile and there will be more as the season progresses. Watch this space!

Finally, I ask, as ever, for you to please keep up your support of the team. As I have said on many occasions it does make a difference and, keep it up today as we look to cage the Cougars!

Enjoy the game.

Christopher Hamilton
Chairman
Oldham Rugby League Football Club



Take that! Jack Spencer, Titus Gwaze, Jamie Greenwood and Jack Holmes pile into a Doncaster attacker. Action from our 1895 Cup tie at the Vestacare Stadium.



Christopher Hamilton

STATISTICS

BETFRED LEAGUE 1 TABLE 2019

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PTS
Whitehaven RLFC	10	8	1	1	249	156	93	17
Hunslet RLFC	10	7	3	0	288	160	128	14
London Skolars	10	6	3	1	215	260	-45	13
Oldham RLFC	10	6	4	0	322	195	127	12
Newcastle Thunder	10	5	4	1	334	204	130	11
Doncaster RLFC	10	5	5	0	241	160	81	10
Workington Town	10	5	5	0	298	252	46	10
North Wales Crusaders	10	3	7	0	226	241	-15	6
Coventry Bears	10	3	7	0	219	320	-101	6
West Wales Raiders	10	0	10	0	88	510	-422	0
Keighley Cougars	10	5	4	1	236	258	-22	-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	5	0	2	12	0	32
2	Aaron Jones-Bishop	6	0	3	0	0	12	16	Danny Langtree	6	0	5	0	0	20
3	Zack McComb	13	0	13	0	0	52	18	Ben Davies	9	9	0	0	0	0
4	Jack Holmes	12	0	5	0	0	20	19	Jamie Greenwood	7	7	0	0	0	0
5	Richie Hawkyard	12	0	8	0	0	32	20	Matty Wilkinson	10	9	6	0	0	24
6	Paul Crook	6	0	3	31	0	74	21	Lee Kershaw	5	0	4	0	0	16
7	Dave Hewitt	12	0	4	29	0	74	22	Danny Grimshaw	2	0	0	0	0	0
8	Phil Joy	10	0	3	0	0	12	23	Luke Nelmes	1	1	0	0	0	0
9	Gareth Owen	13	0	2	0	0	8	24	Liam Bent	13	2	3	0	0	12
10	Scott Law	14	4	1	0	0	4	25	Danny Bridge	5	0	2	0	0	8
11	Ben Calland	8	1	0	0	0	0	26	Anthony Bowman	8	0	3	0	0	12
12	Emmerson Whittel	13	5	3	0	0	12	27	Harry Maders	7	0	6	0	0	24
13	Jack Spencer	14	5	1	0	0	4	29	Titus Gwaze	14	11	1	0	0	4
								30	Frazer Morris	2	2	0	0	0	0

Staying in Touch with Our Heritage with MICHAEL TURNER



Left: John Etty releases a pass to Dick Cracknell at a packed Watersheddings in 1955.

Below: Jon Ford scores for Oldham in the 2015 Promotion decider.

Today we welcome Keighley's players, officials and supporters,

They joined the Northern Union in 1900-01, their first game against Oldham taking place at Lawkholme Lane on November 21, 1903. Roughyeds won 10 – 2 and made it a 'double' with a 15-3 win at Watersheddings the following April.

Fixtures between the two were few in the early days. It was 1921 before the sides met again and 1930 before they had their third game.

On April 11, 1955 more than 13,500 spectators attended a game at Watersheddings to see Oldham win 23–3. This remains the largest attendance for an Oldham v Keighley match.

More recently, there have been many meetings, the most important being the Championship One Grand Final at Warrington on October 4, 2009, which Keighley won 28–26. The referee went to the video five times and the decision went against the Roughyeds each time.

Six years later Oldham won 31–20 in the League One promotion final at Whitebank to book their place in the higher tier for 2016.



Michael Turner

By George Cowburn... THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

In the early days of the Northern Union (the original title of the Rugby Football League) Oldham's kicking duties were shared around although local player Sam Lees was the main man with 151 goals to his credit.

That situation carried on into the 20th century but by virtue of their longevity Joe Ferguson, with 540 goals, and Alf Wood, with 342, were the most prominent.

Ferguson, in fact, was the league's leading kicker in 1904/5 and was joint leader with Hunslet's Albert Goldthorpe the season afterwards.

Into the 1920s and centre-wing Abe Johnson plus versatile back-row man Albert Brough came to the fore.

Johnson held the record for most goals and points in a



MICK PARRISH . . . first player ever to score in every match of a season for two different clubs.

match with 12 goals and two tries (30 points under the scoring system at the time) in a resounding 60-5 victory over Widnes in 1928.

Brough, who was fast enough to play on the wing if needed, was four times Oldham's leading kicker in a season as well as scoring 68 tries for the club in his 170 matches.

The first regular marksman was "Guardisman" Tommy Rees, a holder of four Welsh Rugby Union caps when he joined Oldham from London Welsh for the start of the 1928-9 season.

Taking over the goalkicking duties from Abe Johnson late in the season, he recorded his best haul of nine goals against Broughton Rangers in a 48-2 win on April 6.

In all, Tommy played a mammoth 417 times for Oldham, including 26



TOMMY REES . . . 659 goals.

games during the War when he returned to the club, having been transferred to Broughton Rangers in 1938.

The touchjudges' flags were raised for Tommy 659 times with a modest eight tries to add to his overall figures.

Full-backs were not viewed as attacking players until after the Second World War. For instance, in all his 244 matches for Oldham Alf Wood never scored a try.

Durability was a by-word for Tommy who, excluding friendlies and Law Cup matches (games against Rochdale are never "friendlies"), played in 116 games consecutively in the 30s and was also the club's record kicker in a season with 92 in official games in 1933-4.

More than one Great Britain cap would surely have come his way but for the presence of the mighty Jim Sullivan at the time.



BERNARD GANLEY . . . best goalkicker of all time?

What can one say about Bernard Ganley, who was Oldham's and arguably Rugby League's finest-ever goalkicker.?

From his first-team debut on March 3, 1951 until his last game ten years later on March 11, 1961, Bernard amassed 1,358 goals for Oldham in 341 appearances.

Not the strongest defensively, but his immaculate goalkicking won many a match for the club in those fabulous ten years.

He was the first Oldham player to kick a century of goals in a season: 106 in 1951-2.

He was also the first to top 200 goals in a season in Rugby League history. His 219 in 1957-8 was a record until it was surpassed by Salford's David Watkins with 221.

Bernard topped the league's list again the season afterwards with 190. Capped three times for Great Britain, his ten goals in a 44-10 win over France was a record against that country.

The unenviable task of following Ganley went to Geoff Sims, who kicked 211 goals for Oldham.

Player-coach Frank Dyson then kicked 206 goals over two seasons.

Phil Larder, Keighley's new director of coaching, was given the job in an emergency but looked such a natural that he kept it permanently and went on to kick 475 goals for his home-town club in the early to mid-70s.

I have already covered Phil's contribution to the Oldham story in a previous article when I was spotlighting the 'Murphy, Elliott, Larder' triumvirate, but suffice to say here that while he will be remembered more for his general centre play he was undoubtedly a goalkicker of some repute.

Moving on to Mick Parrish, he was signed from Hunslet for £18,500 in time to make his debut against Hull at the Boulevard on September 21, 1980.

A centre like Larder, Parrish was the first player in Rugby League history to play and score in every match in a season with two different clubs – Hunslet in 1979-80 and Oldham in 1981-2.

The only game in which he failed to kick a goal for Oldham in that season was the John Player semi-final defeat by Hull when he crashed over for a try after a determined run for the line.

Mick's best points haul was a three-try, nine-goal effort in a 66-7 thrashing of Blackpool Borough. Three times he topped 100 goals in a season in his 191 appearances.

In 1981-2, his best in an Oldham career which netted him 563 goals, three drop goals and 37 tries, he rattled up 164 goals plus 17 tries.

The only other goalkicker to make much of an impression from then to the "old club's" demise was Duncan Platt, brother of fearsome Test forward Andy, with 275 goals in 94 games between 1988 and 1992.

Post 1997, Lewis Palfrey was the top marksman with 350 goals, three drop goals and 22 tries in the four seasons from 2013.

A haul of 11 goals and three tries (34 points) in the 70-6 away victory at Hemel Stags in August, 2015 equalled a club record points-in-a-match total with Andy Ballard and Chris Baines.



George Cowburn - lifelong fan with statistics at his fingertips

Pictures courtesy of Oldham RL Heritage Trust

PUTTING A KICK INTO OUR HALF-TIME CHALLENGE

Calling all young rugby league fans, boys and girls, who like to show off their kicking skills in front of a crowd.

Our recently-introduced half-time challenge, in which young fans are invited to join John Davies in the centre of the pitch for a kicking competition, is growing in popularity with every home game.

At every remaining home game this season John will be inviting young fans out of the crowd to take part in the competition, the aim of which is to kick the ball from the 20-metre line and hit the crossbar.

It hasn't been done yet . . . but that's the challenge: there's always a first time !

Our message to young fans is this: wear your red Roary's Pride hat or (if you're not yet a Pride member) make sure you wear your Roughyeds replica or your amateur club's rugby shirt and any of those will give you a good chance of being invited by John to have a go at the competition.

Said John, who works hard for the club and is a member of the new management board: "We are actively working with local businesses to find a prize sponsor because we feel the half-time challenge will get bigger and bigger as more people become aware of it.

"But in any event it's a bit of fun at half-time; the youngsters like it; they get support and backing from the crowd; a big thank-you from

the club; and the boost to their self confidence and esteem that comes from taking part in a public event.

"It also add to their game-day experience at the Vestacare Stadium and what a magic moment it will be when somebody finally hits the crossbar.

"It might get a roar to equal a Roughyeds try!"

Anyone who can assist commercially in supporting this junior initiative is asked to contact the club or John Davies directly.

John is our match-day announcer and can always be seen around the ground on match day, usually with microphone in hand.

SHIRE SELF STORAGE JOIN OUR SPONSORSHIP PORTFOLIO

We are pleased to announce that Oldham RLFC has agreed a sponsorship partnership with Shire Self Storage, a new business that has opened in the Ram Mill, Gordon Street, Chadderton.

Shire Self Storage will sponsor the Roughyeds' match-day support staff in an agreement that will start immediately and run to the end of next season.

The Shire Self Storage logo will appear on the front and back of match-day tops worn by the club doctor, physiotherapist, head trainer and water carriers.

The business will have an advertisement in the match-day programme and its logo will be on the club website.

An opening offer for Oldham RLFC fans will provide half-price storage for up to 16 weeks. Shire Self Storage is a purpose-built facility that uses the latest technology combined with 24-hour on-site security to ensure your belongings are safe and available when you need them -- all at a great price.

Housed in the historic and refurbished Ram Mill in Chadderton, the facility provides 23 different sizes of rooms so that you only need to rent the space you need.

Contact details: phone 0161 470 6999; email: enquiries@shireselfstorage.co.uk; website: shireselfstorage.co.uk

Said Oldham RLFC chairman Chris Hamilton: "We are excited to announce this new partnership.

"Having met the owner of Shire Self Storage, Javed Akbar, and had a tour of the facilities I can personally recommend it as absolutely top-notch.

"We are delighted to welcome Shire Self Storage on board and look forward to working with them for a long time to come.

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"There's a special opening offer available for our fans and we hope they will take advantage of it."

Javed, the owner of Shire Self Storage, said: "We regard ourselves as very much a community business which is here to serve the community.

"Oldham RLFC is very much part of that community and I'm sure that we can work together for mutual benefit, each helping the other to raise awareness and profile.

"We have standards and values, as do Oldham RLFC, and Shire Self Storage is looking forward to working with our local rugby league club."



John Davies interviewing Kyran Johnson, who tried the half-time challenge at our last home game.

Picture parade from our last home game in the 1895 Cup



Harry Maders



Paul Crook



Anthony Bowman



Adam Brook



Jack Spencer



Richie Hawkyard



Ben Calland



Scott Law



Jamie Greenwood



Danny Langtree

Kyran Johnson

Zack McComb



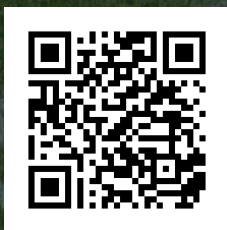
Matty Wilkinson

**OLDHAM 12
DONCASTER 24**



Kyran JOHNSON 01	Mick Harrop	01 Alfie SEELEY
Aaron JONES-BISHOP 02	Les and Eileen Davison	02 Darren FORDE
Zack MCCOMB 03	David and Val Webster	03 Alex WILLIAMS
Jack HOLMES 04	David and Val Webster	04 Will COOKE
Richie HAWKYARD 05	Rita Walton	05 Davey DIXON
Paul CROOK 06	Rita Walton	07 Benn HARDCASTLE
Dave HEWITT 07	Chris Noble MBE	08 Jack COVENTRY
Phil JOY 08	Past Players' Association	09 James FEATHER
Gareth OWEN 09	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd	10 Jamie THACKRAY
Scott LAW 10	Les and Eileen Davison	11 Josh LYNAM
Ben CALLAND 11	Luke, Abbie and Jessica Davies	12 Aaron LEVY
Emmerson WHITTEL 12	John and Lynda McAndrew	13 Jason MURANKA
Jack SPENCER 13	Graeme Lee	14 Luke MILLION
Adam BROOK 15	John Davies	15 Jack MILLER
Danny LANGTREE 16	Keith and Shirley Mullaney and Grant and Sheila Somerville	16 Kieran MORAN
Ben DAVIES 18	Neil Gibbison	17 Billy GAYLOR
Jamie GREENWOOD 19	Sandra Bullock	18 Chris CULLIMORE
Matty WILKINSON 20	John and Lynda McAndrew	19 Matthew BAILEY
Lee KERSHAW 21	Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust	20 Jordan PARRY
Danny GRIMSHAW 22	Neil Gibbison	21 Matt WELHAM
Luke NELMES 23	John and Lynda McAndrew	22 Dan PARKER
Liam BENT 24	ORSA	23 Macauley HALLETT
Danny BRIDGE 25	Pam Taylor and LTS	24 Mark BARLOW
Anthony BOWMAN 26	Graeme Lee	25 Jack ARNOLD
Harry MADERS 27	Pam Taylor	26 Reece WILLIAMS
Titus GWAZE 29	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd	27 Lewis WRAY
Scott Naylor Head Coach	Keith and Shirley Mullaney	28 Jordan CELLA
Peter Carey Assistant Coach	Keith and Shirley Mullaney	29 Jimmy BECKETT
Adam Neal Conditioner	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd	31 Taylor PRELL
		32 Matt NICHOLSON
		Head Coach: Rhys Lovegrove
		Assistant Coach: Paul Royston

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 Touch Judge 1: S. Daniel
 Touch Judge 2: G. Melling
 Reserve Referee: N. Woodward



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

I am writing this piece after watching the first of this year's Aussie State of Origin matches. The home side, Queensland, won 18-14, and there were a number of points of interest that arose out of the game.

The first was definitely that we should not think that, now that the likes of Lockyer, Slater, Inglis, Thurston, Cronk and Cameron Smith are out of the picture, it will be a cakewalk for England to win the next World Cup.

The latest generation of Australian players has several real super-stars among them, who will be no less of a handful than has been the case over the past almost 50 years since our last victories in 1970 [Ashes] and 1972 [World Cup].

Cameron Munster, Kalyn Ponga, Latrell Mitchell, James Tedesco and Josh Addo-Carr all have a touch of magic about them in the backs; Damien Cook is as quick a hooker out of dummy-half as I have ever seen; and they have the usual collection of fast, athletic, powerful forwards to choose from as well.

We will do very well to compete, as has become the familiar story.

It is never a good idea to wish one's life away, of course, but I must admit that I can hardly wait for what promises to be an absolutely cracking competition, over here, in the autumn of 2021.

From the noises coming from the organisers, too, it looks as though the marketing effort - including ticket prices - will be much more spot-on than it has been sometimes in the past, so that there should be a real World Cup atmosphere generated through the whole tournament.

No one will be keener than me to see a culmination of us defeating the Aussies in a sell-out final in November, 2021 - but let us not think it will be anything but a mammoth task.

My second point from the Origin match relates to refereeing. And it is nothing to do with the one-or-two refs 'debate', if such it can be called.

I know which side I would come down for on that, between Robert Elstone, who seems to think that everything originating Down Under is the ultimate perfection, and those who argue that there is an awful lot better we can do with the money than have two refs per game over here.

No, it is the ridiculous differences between how different games are adjudicated. And that is before we ask the question: How can any international sport worth the name have different sets of rules when played in different parts of the world?

The Origin game had very few penalties, with the refs allowing 'play on' for tackles that those same officials would have blown the pees out of their whistles to penalise in regular season games.

And the outcome? An incredibly fast, open game, fantastic entertainment for the fans, and players who were allowed to show their real skills in both attack and defence for the full 80 minutes.

Even at our level, we often find ourselves saying at Oldham matches: 'that would have been a penalty in Super League.'

Consistency is all we ask - though I am not sure how we might get it.



Ian Wilson - our man with something to say

Helping our friends from Belarus

Six Chernobyl children, who are living in Oldham with host families for a month, are our flag bearers at today's game.

Aged between nine and 11, the three boys and three girls arrived in Oldham on May 26 and will leave for home on June 22.

We are happy to invite them and their hosts to today's game in our support for the work done by the Oldham Link of the national charity Chernobyl Children's Lifeline.

For more than 30 years this charity has carried out a recuperation programme, bringing children from Belarus and North Ukraine to stay with British families.

The Oldham Link is the local support group for helping children who suffer the effects of low level radiation from the nuclear accident at Chernobyl in 1986.

Belarus and North Ukraine received a large proportion of the radioactive fall-out which, more

than 30 years later, continues to cause serious health problems. The Oldham Link brings children to our borough every year so they can benefit from things we take for granted -- uncontaminated food, fresh air, sunshine, trips out, exercise and love and friendship.

Formed 30 years ago by Theresa Novotny, still active as local leader, the Oldham Link provides host families; raises funds for air fares, visas, clothing, trips, transport; and is mindful that there are lots of children over there still waiting to come.

One of the local host families, Mark and Mrs Albiston of Lees, say the children are in great need and are grateful and deeply appreciative of everything that's done for them.

Said Mark: "Going to a rugby league match, indeed going to any sporting event, will be a new experience and they'll love it.

"A big thank-you to Oldham RLFC for thinking about us."

The Oldham Link will hold a bucket collection and we know our fans will be as generous as they can be.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHERNOBYL CHARITY . . .

May we say a big hello on behalf of the six children from Belarus who are staying with Oldham families to bolster their immune systems against radiation.

A month in the UK has proven to be very effective for the health and morale of the children and their families.

They have never been to a rugby match before, but we're sure they'll appreciate this unique experience. Thanks for inviting them to the game and supporting our work in Oldham.

**To directly support the Oldham Link go to:
www.justgiving.com/chernobylchildren-lifeline**

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

We welcome Keighley Cougars to the Vestacare Stadium today as the 2019 Betfred League 1 enters its second half. Each club in the league has played ten games and the promotion places on offer will be decided over the course of the next three months.

Keighley find themselves rooted to the bottom of the table due to starting the season on minus twelve points. The sanction was imposed on the club following a period of special measures in late 2018 due to financial concerns.

The Cougars' 2019 season began with a tough trip up to Whitehaven where they lost 28-16. They then went on an unbeaten run of six games, earning wins against Doncaster, Workington, both Welsh sides and Coventry Bears. A draw against a strong London Skolars side was the only point dropped until May.

Cougars were able to proudly proclaim that, but for their points deduction, they would have been League 1 leaders over the first third of the season.

A dip in form for the team began in a tough looking May fixture list. Defeats to promotion chasing sides Newcastle Thunder, Hunslet and Oldham has meant that Keighley still find themselves with a negative points tally of -1.

The fixture against the Roughyeds took place three weeks ago at Cougar Park. Former Keighley players now in Oldham colours returned to their former stomping

ground and the likes of Ritchie Hawkyard, Scott Law and Emmerson Whittel helped Oldham to a 52-12 win.

A new management team is in place at Cougar Park in the shape of former directors Mick O'Neill, Mike Smith and Tim Wood, joined by O'Neill's son, Ryan, and his husband, Kaue Garcia, a Brazilian. The returning directors were at the helm of the club in the razzmatazz days of Cougarmania when the West Yorkshire side were controversially denied a place in the newly formed Super League.

Coach Craig Lingard departed Keighley in recent weeks leaving the club to be jointly coached by his former assistant Rhys Lovegrove and head of strength and conditioning Paul Royston. In another appointment, Phil Larder, a man no stranger to Roughyeds fans, has returned to Cougar Park.

Larder, who was defence coach when England won the 2003 rugby union World Cup, was in charge of Keighley at the heart of their successful period from 1994-96 and is returning to the League 1 club as part-time director of coaching.

Keighley Chairman Mick O'Neill says he chose to invite Larder back to the club after watching a video of the Cougars' success in the mid-Nineties and describes him as the Sir Alex Ferguson of rugby league.

Speaking to the Keighley News, O'Neill said: "Phil is very excited

to come back. He is a top coach. He is the Fergie of rugby league. He was my No 1 choice.

"I was watching a video of Keighley playing in the Championship at Old Trafford from 1995 and saw Phil on it. I thought let's give him a try. Let's go back in time."

"What coaches are there around? Nobody stands out to me. If it doesn't work out, then I have made a blunder, but I don't expect that.

"He is still fit. It will help our coaching staff, they are excited. They are all getting to work together."

The Cougars will have good reason to put up a good performance this afternoon. They will be desperate to get the monkey of a negative points off their back whilst at the same time avenging the big home defeat against Oldham.

Oldham, soundly beaten at Doncaster seven days ago, will have their own reasons to get back on the winning trail. It should all lead to a fascinating afternoon's entertainment.

Writes Dave Naylor.



SQUAD

THREE TO WATCH

Davey Dixon

Leeds lad Dixon is a 22yr old winger who signed for Keighley Cougars in 2016.

Started his professional career at Featherstone Rovers as a 16-year old but moved to Warrington Wolves to play at academy level and then Castleford Tigers where he was a member of the under-19 squad. Whilst at The Jungle he was named "best improved player".

Gained junior international honours with Scotland, playing for the Scottish under-19 and under-23 sides. Made his full appearance in October 2018 in the Rugby League European Championship. Scored a try in his second game when he opened the scoring in the 12-50 loss to Wales.



Josh Lynam

A loyal Keighley player who came up through the Cougars youth system and but for a brief adventure down-under, has been at Cougar Park all of his playing career.

Lynam has been granted a 12 month testimonial by the RFL for ten years of service to the West Yorkshire club.

Has played over 100 games for Keighley and was named vice-captain for the 2019 season by former coach Craig Lingard.



Macauley Hallett

A Hull-born wing or centre, 23yr old Hallett began his rugby league career with community clubs West Hull ARLFC and Norland Sharks ARLFC.

Signed professional forms with Hull Kingston Rovers in 2014, making a handful of appearances for the East Hull side. Enjoyed a period on loan at Newcastle Thunder before moving on to Swinton Lions in 2016 where he scored 17 tries in 25 appearances.

Spent the 2017 and 2018 seasons playing for both Heavy Woollen clubs of Batley Bulldogs and Dewsbury Rams before signing with Cougars in 2019.



MAYOR AND HER CONSORT WILL BE AT OUR NEXT 'PRIDE' MEETING

Oldham Rugby League Football Club is delighted to announce that The Worshipful The Mayor and Mayor's Consort of Oldham Metropolitan Borough, Councillor Ginny Alexander and Adrian Alexander, her husband, will be guests of honour at a meeting of 'Roary's Pride' on Saturday, June 22.

It will start at 9am in the social club at the Vestacare Stadium, Whitebank Road, Limehurst Village, Oldham OL8 3JH.

'Roary's Pride' is our new support group for children and takes its name from our lion mascot, Roary, who helps to run his 'Pride' with its leader and organiser David Murgatroyd and Sophie Nixon.

Said David: "We will be honoured and privileged to have The Worshipful The Mayor and her Consort with us on June 22.

"Councillor Alexander is known to be a keen rugby supporter and her Consort husband, of course, will need no introduction to the parents of our young members, given that he was a brilliant, ball-handling front-row forward for the Oldham club back in the day."

Greater Manchester Police will also be in attendance to talk to our 'Pride' youngsters about their work in the community and especially the roles they play in the communities of Limeside, Hollinwood and Failsworth.

Added David 'Murgy' Murgatroyd: "Our 'Pride' isn't merely thus named because of our links with our lion mascot.

"We want our young members to learn how to be proud . . . proud of themselves, their families, their team, their club and their town and borough.

"As far as the town and borough is concerned, who better to be our honoured guests than The Worshipful The Mayor and Mayor's Consort of Oldham Metropolitan Borough."



Roary with Liam Bent's grandad

Aged 48 and a member of the Failsworth and Limeside incommunity work as a neighbourhood beat officer who deals with anti-social behaviour and efforts to guide the youth of the area away from crime and towards sport and other worthwhile leisure pursuits.

Working in a similar role, PC Rob is also a neighbourhood beat officer in and around Limeside.

They will be at the Pride meeting on June 22 by 9.30am and they hope to have with them GMP's brand-new mobile police station.

Said PC Damieon: "It will be super to meet the Roary's Pride children and to give them an insight into what we do - and why."

Said Pride organiser Dave Murgatroyd: "It's going to be another smashing Pride meeting.

"The Fire Brigade did us proud last time and I know GMP will do the same. They do a fantastic job in the local community . . . the very community in which Oldham RLFC has its base.

"We like to think the club is very much community-based so its hugely appropriate that GMP

pays us a visit to look at what we are all about and to tell us all about their work in the Limeside, Hollinwood and Failsworth areas."

Phil Joy, Kyran Johnson and another Oldham player will be at the meeting which is for all Pride members and their parents.

Added Dave 'Murgy': "Like the Fire officers last time, GMP will capture the children's attention and it's going to be a great morning for members and their parents, who enjoyed the inaugural meeting just as much as the youngsters, if not more so!"

POLICE WILL BE THERE TOO!

The community arm of Greater Manchester Police will also be special guests at the second Roary's Pride meeting, to be held at the Vestacare Stadium on Saturday, June 22, starting at 9am.

Headed by Sergeant Paul Archer, the police team will

also include PC Damieon Hartley-Pickles and PC Rob Coggin, both of whom have special connections in the Limeside, Hollinwood and Failsworth areas.

PC Damieon, a former rugby league full-back or centre with Halifax, Huddersfield Giants,

Bramley (under Ray Ashton) and Swinton (under Tony Barrow), is a campus-based officer at Co-op Academy Failsworth.

He is also coach of the GMP rugby league side - a role he has filled for the past 15 years.



Adrian Alexander, the Mayor's Consort and husband, is best known locally as a former Oldham councillor and for his work in the Labour Party. But it wasn't always so. Between 1979 and 1983 he was an Oldham RLFC forward of some repute, playing 80 games for the Roughyeds after making a big name for himself in rugby union.

This former Thames Valley Grammar School boy was captain of Harlequins with England under-23s and Barbarians honours already on his CV when he turned pro for Oldham and signed only a few days after his fellow

Londoner and rugby union ace Bob Mordell.

A full England cap was imminent for "Alex" at the time he "came north" and his signing caught the national headlines and occupied many column inches, writes ROGER HALSTEAD.

He was an Oldham councillor from 2011 until earlier this year and in 2014 he persuaded his Oldham-born wife Ginny to become a councillor.

The rest, as they say, is history.

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	36 - 12	Won	546
March						
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
April						
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
May						
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
June						
Sunday 2	3:00pm	1895 Cup 2 - Doncaster	Home	12-24	Lost	283
Sunday 9	5:30pm	Doncaster RLFC	Away	0-31	Lost	678
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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