

ROUGHYED REVIEW

2019 PROGRAMME No.13
SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST
KICK-OFF 3PM
£3.00

GARETH OWEN . . .
aye aye skipper

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AWESOME AUGUST Part one

OLDHAM VS NEWCASTLE THUNDER BETFRED LEAGUE ONE

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

Hello everyone and welcome to today's league game against Newcastle Thunder at the Vestacare Stadium.

In my opinion Newcastle were favourites for promotion before the season started and a ball was passed, purely down to the money they were spending and the ambition the club was showing in pre-season.

The players they were signing and the coaching staff they were putting together, in addition to taking Denis Betts to the club, showed Newcastle's intentions from day one.

Their back line alone boasts absolute quality with a great mix of experience and youth as well as speed and size.

They have a great blend across the field which makes them very dangerous anywhere on the pitch in yardage and good-ball so we will have to be at our best from the first whistle.

Field position and possession is vital today to win the game and whichever team has that definitely has the better chance of winning.

Newcastle can punish any team with the players they have so we have to make sure our defence is at its best for the 80 minutes.

After all that I've said about Newcastle we are more than capable of winning and I know the lads are looking forward to the game.

It's an important clash relative to positions in the table and the upcoming play-offs.

We know what's expected of us. It's now up to us.

Many thanks ,
Scott



Scott Naylor

PASSIONATE ABOUT RUGBY LEAGUE

How the chairman sees it

Welcome back to the Vestacare Stadium after what seems like a very long time.

With no game for nearly three weeks it has almost been like starting again but we certainly came back with a bang down in the capital last Saturday.

No matter how much preparation goes into a match there are always some things that are beyond our control and we experienced one of them last weekend when the coach broke down.

The only other time I can ever remember that happening in the last 22 years was when we had a reserve team fixture at Hunslet and the coach broke down on the M62 on the way over.

The delay in getting a replacement vehicle meant that we didn't arrive at the New River Stadium until 2.30pm - a good hour later than we normally would and that, in turn, led to a delayed kick-off but nevertheless it meant the lads didn't get to do all of their usual pre-match warm-up and so we kicked off not really knowing how the lads would react.

We soon got our answer though as we made a strong start and went 12-0 up in just over 15 minutes.

Although the final score was close, the lads put in a fantastic effort throughout the game and showed lots of character.

Even though the score was close in the end it was only because Skolars scored virtually right on the hooter.

With the disruption on the journey down I would have taken a 15-14 win before the game. All 17 were tremendous, each in their own different way.

I was particularly pleased for our two debutants Ed Smith and Jimmy Beckett, who both made big contributions.

Ed, coming back from two anterior cruciate ligament (knee) reconstructions showed he had suffered no lasting mental effects from such big injuries.

Today we have a totally different challenge against Newcastle Thunder, who are fast becoming everybody's tip for the second promotion place. We lost a game we should have won up at Kingston Park earlier in the season and so today we will be very much looking to get the right result.

We know it will be a massive challenge given the form they are in and the players they have recruited all year but, make no mistake, they will also know they have been in a game at the end of 80 minutes.

We are billing this month as "Awesome August" to recognise the importance of the two home games in particular but after last Saturday at London, it appears to have started already!

There is no doubt that the games this month will go a long way to shaping our finishing position and while we remain hopeful of any kind of a setback up in Cumbria -- injury crisis, player bans, acts of God etc -- we know we have to work extremely hard to put ourselves in the best position we possibly can come the end of the season.

If we do end up in the play-offs then clearly there are advantages from finishing as high up the table as possible.

We had fantastic support at Skolars last Saturday and it was great to see so many Oldham fans down there. We are obviously hoping that today's attendance is going to be our highest of the season so far and it goes without saying that you can make a difference.

I have said it many times before but your vocal backing CAN get to the opposition and lift our lads and I, for one, hope that today each of

us does our little bit to help the team in what should be a humdinger of a game.

A quick word about next week also when we play Doncaster in another big clash. You will all, hopefully, be aware, that it is our Mayoral and 999 Day so we want you all to come down early to the ground to get involved in all the stalls and activities that will be going on from 1pm as we help to raise money for the Mayor's charities.

The club has worked very hard all year to put on a wide range of community activities and this one will hopefully be the biggest yet so please come and get involved.

Back to today and please do your best to go home with a sore throat as you roar the team on to a vital win.

Enjoy the game.

Christopher Hamilton
Chairman
Oldham Rugby League Football Club



Christopher Hamilton

State of Mind has written to thank us for taking part in awareness activities at the North Wales Crusaders game.

Dr Phil Cooper wrote:

"We were extremely grateful to speak to supporters; have the Oldham players warm-up in our tee shirts; and be treated so well by the club staff."

"Please pass on our thanks to Chris (club chairman Chris Hamilton) for his unstinting support of rugby league in Oldham and for the opportunity he gave us."

“ He should be really proud of the set-up at the club. Please pass on our best wishes for the rest of the season. ”



STATISTICS

BETFRED LEAGUE 1 TABLE 2019

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PTS
Whitehaven RLFC	17	12	3	2	388	258	130	26
Newcastle Thunder	16	11	4	1	555	286	269	23
Oldham RLFC	16	11	5	0	503	281	222	22
Hunslet RLFC	16	10	6	0	494	275	219	20
Doncaster RLFC	16	9	7	0	449	231	218	18
Workington Town	17	8	8	1	492	410	82	17
London Skolars	17	7	9	1	370	449	-79	15
North Wales Crusaders	16	6	10	0	342	405	-63	12
Coventry Bears	16	4	12	0	337	586	-249	8
Keighley Cougars	16	8	7	1	384	416	-32	5
West Wales Raiders	17	1	16	0	178	895	-717	2

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	18	Ben Davies	11	11	0	0	0	0
2	Aaron Jones-Bishop	6	0	3	0	0	12	19	Jamie Greenwood	10	10	1	0	0	4
3	Zack McComb	18	0	15	0	0	60	20	Matty Wilkinson	14	12	9	0	0	36
4	Jack Holmes	14	0	5	0	0	20	21	Lee Kershaw	6	0	5	0	0	20
5	Richie Hawkyard	16	0	11	0	0	44	22	Danny Grimshaw	2	0	0	0	0	0
6	Paul Crook	7	0	3	35	0	82	23	Luke Nelmes	1	1	0	0	0	0
7	Dave Hewitt	17	0	6	52	1	129	24	Liam Bent	17	2	3	0	0	12
8	Phil Joy	14	0	4	0	0	16	25	Danny Bridge	10	0	3	0	0	12
9	Gareth Owen	18	1	3	0	0	12	26	Anthony Bowman	9	0	5	0	0	20
10	Scott Law	19	5	2	0	0	8	27	Harry Maders	10	0	7	0	0	28
11	Ben Calland	8	1	0	0	0	0	28	Harry Aaronson	7	4	0	0	0	16
12	Emmerson Whittel	17	9	3	0	0	12	29	Cameron Leeming	4	0	3	0	0	12
13	Jack Spencer	18	7	1	0	0	4	30	Titus Gwaze	14	11	1	0	0	4
15	Adam Brook	9	0	2	12	0	32	31	Frazer Morris	2	2	0	0	0	0
16	Danny Langtre	11	0	11	0	0	44	32	Nick Gregson	2	1	0	0	0	0
17	Jimmy Beckett	1	1	0	0	0	0		Ed Smith	1	1	0	0	0	0

Staying in Touch with Our Heritage with MICHAEL TURNER

Pictures courtesy of Oldham RL Heritage Trust



(LEFT)
Adam Clay . . .
scoring one of his
three tries in 2015.

(RIGHT)
Tom Martin . . .
an Oldham signing
from the North-East.

We warmly welcome today Newcastle Thunder's players, officials and supporters.

Oldham matches against clubs from the NE go back to the 1890s when Roughyeds lost at Hartlepool Rovers in late 1892 but won the return at Watersheddings in February, 1893.

On April 15, 1895 Oldham won a home game against Tudoe from County Durham, but there was no return fixture. Maybe that would have been organised for the following season in the NE, but the breakaway from the RFU ended that possibility.

Oldham, however, snapped up Tudoe winger Tom Martin, who made a try-scoring debut against Brighouse Rangers on New Year's Day, 1896.

In the 1901-02 season Oldham played South Shields home and away in friendly fixtures. A 43 – 0 victory at Watersheddings on October 26, 1901 preceded a 13 – 2 away win on April 19, 1902.

In the modern era, the first meetings with a NE connection saw Oldham complete the double over Gateshead in 2001. The first victory for Thunder was on June 4, 2008 when Oldham went down 32 – 18 on Tyneside.

The first match against a Newcastle team by name was on May 17, 2015 when Oldham won 45 – 20 at Whitebank, Adam Clay scoring a hat-trick.



Michael Turner

By George Cowburn... THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

The sight of a winger scorching down the touchline gets the pulses racing and Oldham have been lucky to have had many great wingers over the years.

Arguably, the Northern Union's first superstar was Oldham's Sam Williams, signed from Northampton for the start of the 1897/8 season.

Sam was top try scorer in the League for three consecutive seasons, starting in 1898/9. His 47 tries in 1900/01 was 19 more than his nearest rival in the League - an incredible record at the time.

Capped by Lancashire, Sam scored two vital tries in Oldham's 1899 Challenge Cup

Final victory against Hunslet. He bowed out in November, 1904 by which time he had scored 119 tries in 132 games for the club.

George Tyson and George W. Smith were to terrorise defences together in the late Edwardian era but had completely different backgrounds.

Tyson was Oldham born and served the club well from 1902 to 1911. His 246 club appearances brought him 111 tries as well as County and Country honours. He played in all three Tests against the 1908 Australians, scoring a try in each match including the decisive try in the Ashes winning third Test.

Tyson was offered a place on the 1910 Lions tour Down Under but had to decline for family and business reasons.

George W. Smith was already a sporting superstar when he signed for Oldham after the 1907 New Zealand "All Golds" tour of this country. In his native land he was a champion jockey, sprinter and holder of the world record for the 440 yards hurdles.

Inducted into the New Zealand Sporting Hall of Fame, he appeared on a New Zealand stamp issued in 1995 and the George W. Smith Medal is awarded to the Man of the Series in GB/NZ Tests.

After 173 games and 100 tries for Oldham he retired in 1914 but came back to help out in wartime friendly games as well as being the club trainer from 1912 to 1918.

Joe Corsi and Sid Rix were similarly able to cause havoc for Oldham in the 1920s, Oldham's Challenge Cup Finals decade.

Corsi was a Welshman with Italian origins who was signed from Rochdale Hornets for the start of the 1923/4 season. Four times the club's leading try scorer in a single season, 1923 to 1926 consecutively, his 150 club appearances netted him 107 tries.

Capped by Wales while at Oldham, Joe played in three Challenge Cup finals, scoring in the 1925 and 1926 games, before retiring in 1928.

Sid Rix was a "pin up boy" for Oldham in a long career lasting from 1919 to 1932 with 330 games and 155 tries - second in the club's all time try list.

Capped by Lancashire, England and nine times for Great Britain, Sid went on the 1924 Lions tour Down Under, playing in 17 matches and scoring 17 tries. He played in all six Tests plus three against New Zealand in 1926 and took part in the 1928 tour trial matches but didn't make the cut.

Sid was one of four players to appear in all four of Oldham's Challenge Cup finals,

curiously playing centre three times which he was very capable of doing.

Reg Farrar also starred in the 1920s but injuries were to blight his 11-year career at Oldham - at one time missing two full seasons. A useful goalkicker, his Oldham record was 147 games, 144 tries - a terrific try scoring ratio - and 47 goals.

His "Annus Mirabilis" was the 1921/2 season when he scored 49 tries - still a club record nearly a hundred years later - and 21 more than anyone else in the League that season. The star of the 1925 Challenge Cup win against Hull KR, Reg kicked two goals, scored a try and had two try assists.

Three wingers were also to shine for the club in the 1950s, firstly Terry O'Grady, then more often than not together, Dick Cracknell and John Etty.

O'Grady made his senior debut in 1951, signed from the local St Mary's club. His career was also plagued by injury and he left Oldham for Wigan in 1957 after 140 games and 105 tries.

A teenage sensation he played for Lancashire against New Zealand at the age of 17 and was Oldham's only player on the 1954 Lions tour on which he played in five of the six Tests and scored five tries in the game against Wide Bay.

Dick Cracknell was signed from Huddersfield for £4,500 in 1953, having played twice for Great Britain previously.

A useful reserve goalkicker to the great Bernard Ganley, Cracknell's Oldham record was 213 games 119 tries and 28 goals. Twice Oldham's top try scorer in a season, Dick was also capped by Yorkshire and England.

John Etty signed for Oldham the season after Cracknell, scoring 90 club tries in 150 games. John won every club honour available (some with Wakefield Trinity) and enjoyed a wonderful 1956/7 season, scoring 43 tries a post 2nd World War club record.

Two of those tries came in the Championship Final at Odsal when Hull were defeated 15-14 in a thrilling match.

The "top ten" is made up by Welshman Mike Elliott but his career has featured in a previous article so we will just remind you he scored 153 tries in 446 games for Oldham between 1962 and 1979.

Pictures courtesy of Oldham RL Heritage Trust



MIKE ELLIOT



SAM WILLIAMS



REG FARRAR



George Cowburn - lifelong fan with statistics at his fingertips

JUNIOR TAKE-OVER WAS A DAY TO REMEMBER - JUST ASK THE CHILDREN

Our Junior Take-over Day was a huge success -- and the children who took part were not the only ones to say so.

Club staff received many words of thanks and praise for laying on this venture in which youngsters took on various match-day duties under the watchful eye of their "real" operators.

The club's thanks go to those who took part and to their parents.

Interestingly, Crusaders were so impressed that chairman Ian Edwards hinted afterwards that they might do something similar, adding: "We'd be hard pressed to match your event, though. You've set the bar really high."

In charge of their various positions on the day were:

- **Orlaith MacCafferty (9), St Anne's RC Primary, chairperson.**
- **Jessica Davies (9) and Lucy Highfield (11), both of Tameside, public address announcers.**
- **Evie Wood (7), Higher Failsworth Primary and Bailey Howell (14), Co-op Academy, Failsworth, club photographers.**
- **Stanley Simpson (10), Friezland Primary, Harvey Hall (8), Oasis Academy, Limeside and Roxxy Warrington (8) of St Wilfred's CE Primary, Newton Heath, kit managers.**
- **Amelie Betts (11), Friezland Primary and Theo Black (9) of Widnes, ground safety officers.**
- **Jasmine Tierney (7), St Margaret;s CE Primary, programme seller.**

Each 'boss of the day' received a certificate and had a picture taken with Ritchie Hawkyard and Lee Kershaw.

Club chairman Chris Hamilton said: "All the children did well and I can't thank them enough. I hope they'll remember this day for a long time, as we will."



Grit and guts carry us home at London Skolars



Adam Brook



Danny Bridge



Ed Smith



Danny Langtree



Dave Hewitt



Dave Hewitt



Gareth Owen



Scott Law



Lee Kershaw



Zack McComb



Liam Bent

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Awesome August continues next Sunday, August 18, when we have our Mayoral and 999 Day built around another key battle in Betfred League 1 against play-off hopefuls Doncaster.

To add relevance to an Open Day which forms part of our massive programme of community projects this year we will be honoured to have with us, among other dignitaries, The Worshipful the Mayor of Oldham Metropolitan Borough, Councillor Ginny Alexander and her Consort husband Adrian, whom our older supporters will remember as a ball-handling prop-forward for Oldham RLFC in the early 1980s.

Gates open at 1pm next Sunday and there will be lots of stalls and activities for children and adults alike as we do our best to aid the Mayor's charities in the two hours before kick-off and for another hour after the match has finished.

So please turn up early. It will be fun, very enjoyable and a great afternoon out for all, topped off by a tough game which will go a long way to deciding in which position Roughyeds will finish.

We also hope to have Fire, Police and Ambulance services in attendance with vehicles, and there will be stalls, a pop-up bar by Donkeystone Brewery of Greenfield, an ice cream van, other stalls, loads of give-aways and players in stocks as wet-sponge targets for eager fans.

Face painting for children, tombola and other entertaining events are also on the agenda.



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ED SMITH . . . FIGHTING BACK AFTER TWO YEARS OUT



Focus on the new boys as we head for the final run-in

JIMMY BECKETT

Our new signings Ed Smith and Jimmy Beckett, both of whom made their debuts in last week's 15-14 win at London Skolars, will hopefully have big roles to play as we head into the crucial matches of the next few weeks.

Smith (pictured on the facing page) signed for York City Knights, his home-town club, as a teenager and made around 130 appearances over several years, rising to club captain and arousing considerable interest from other clubs, including some in Super League.

At the height of his career, aged 24, he suffered a serious knee injury. He had major surgery, but the knee collapsed a second time, requiring a second operation and long months of rehabilitation. He is 26 now.

He has been having that rehab here at Oldham since last January, but he has now been cleared to play and has signed for us initially to the end of the season with a view to another deal in 2020.

Jimmy Beckett (20) is a young prop from Featherstone Rovers, who has joined us on loan to the end of the season.

He's in the first year of a two-year contract at Rovers, who signed him from the Castleford Tigers academy.

He's made two Challenge Cup appearances in the Rovers first team, but he's here to gain experience and he did his prospects a world of good with an eye-catching performance down in London.

With one terrific drive in the second half, Beckett carried two or three Skolars forwards with him over



several metres and went low for the line only to be held up in the in-goal area.

It would have been a good try for any prop, let alone a 20-year-old who's just finding his feet in the game.

"Both Ed and Jimmy did exceptionally well in their different ways," said head coach Scott Naylor.

NEWCASTLE THUNDER

Newcastle Thunder arrive at the Vestacare Stadium this afternoon seeking a win to maintain their promotion push. The men from Kingston Park have won their last seven fixtures to climb to second place in Betfred League 1 but today's game against Scott Naylor's Oldham is seen on Tyneside as their biggest test of the season.

The Newcastle club was formerly known as Gateshead Thunder and played their home games at the Gateshead International Stadium. They have enjoyed one season of Championship rugby after finishing the 2008 season as League 1 Champions. A seventh place finish was achieved in 2009 under then coach Steve McCormack but the club were denied two consecutive seasons in rugby league's second-tier competition after an internal club dispute led to Thunder being wound up. A new company was formed to continue the club, however they had to restart as a Championship 1 side, effectively being relegated for the 2010 season.

In 2015 Thunder were taken over by the owners of rugby union side Newcastle Falcons. The club rebranded as Newcastle Thunder and relocated to Kingston Park in Newcastle.

Last season in 2018, Newcastle finished in eighth place on 28 points, only four points behind fifth placed Oldham who achieved a spot in the end of season play-offs. The two sides shared points when playing each other, both achieving a home win. Oldham were 28-12 victors in May at the Vestacare Stadium

through tries by Kieran Gill, Danny Bridge, Dave Eccleston, Phil Joy and Craig Briscoe. Newcastle dented Oldham's promotion challenge in August at Kingston Park. Trailing deep into the second-half, a home defeat was looming for Thunder but tries from former Oldham player Mo Agoro, Tee Ritson and half-back Remy Marginet were enough to overhaul the visitors and claim a 24-18 Thunder victory in front of their rapturous fans.

At the beginning of the current 2019 season Newcastle set their stall out to achieve promotion. The club made a substantial investment in the playing squad and brought in players such as former Wakefield Wildcats half-back Liam Finn, three-quarter Misi Talaupapa from Featherstone Rovers and Kieran Gill on a one-year loan from Castleford Tigers.

Early season losses to Doncaster — featuring our own Danny Langtree, then on loan from Hull FC — and Coventry Bears saw coach Jason Payne relieved of his duties. His replacement was Simon Finnigan, a vastly experienced former Super League player who was assistant coach at Toronto Wolfpack.

Finnigan's arrival revived Thunder and in one of his early games in charge he faced a visiting Oldham side. For the second season in succession against the Roughyeds, Thunder were behind in the second-half only to rally and win the game in the dying stages, the final scoreline was Thunder 28 Oldham 22.

At this business end of the season Newcastle find themselves in second place on the back of that seven-game winning streak. The squad has been bolstered by the arrival of Quentin Lалу-Togagae from Halifax and it's likely he'll feature in the halves for Thunder today.

High flying Whitehaven are in charge at the top of the league and barring a hiccup, they are most likely to go on and secure top-spot and automatic promotion. Newcastle and Oldham are therefore hoping to finish as runners-up and achieve an advantageous play-off fixture. Both will be aware that if Haven do drop points in their final handful of games, the door will open to overhauling the Cumbrians and pipping them on the line.

Today's game has an awful lot riding on it. Neither of the two sides battling out the 80 minutes can do anything about Whitehaven above them, that's in the lap of the Gods, but the two points on offer are like gold dust with only four games to go.

This game will not be for the faint-hearted.

Writes Dave Naylor.



SQUAD

THREE TO WATCH

Liam McAvoy

Enjoying his third season on Tyneside, Liam or Beans as he is known in the dressing room, joined Thunder at the start of 2017. Moved to Kingston Park from West Cumbrian rivals Workington Town after three seasons.

He adds plenty of experience to Thunder with 98 Championship and Challenge Cup appearances to his name and a nomination for Kingstone Press Championship young player of the year in 2014.

A former junior at Bradford Bull and Leeds Rhinos, McAvoy is a highly regarded young player and represented the England Academy side on their 2012 tour of Australia.



Misi Talaupapa

A Samoan international, Talaupapa played 33 times in the NRL with Cronulla Sharks and made over 230 appearances in the Betfred Championship with Sheffield Eagles and Featherstone Rovers. Adept across the backline, he primarily operates at centre or on the wing and operates as a strong on-field general for Thunder.

After starting out in rugby union, Talaupapa switched codes in 2004 representing Marist Richmond Brothers in the Bartercard Cup before being picked up by the New Zealand Warriors for 2006.

After three seasons with the Sharks, he moved to the UK and was originally set to be a Gateshead Thunder player, before the deal ultimately fell through during a difficult time for the club. He instead enjoyed five seasons at Sheffield before moving to Featherstone in 2016.



Quentin Lалу-Togaga'e

Joined Newcastle Thunder in July 2019 from Halifax RLFC.

QLT, as he is affectionately known, brings a wealth of experience to Thunder in a career spanning 300 games.

First began to attract attention whilst at Sheffield Eagles, with whom he secured back-to-back titles in 2012 and 2013, before moving to North America to join the Toronto Wolfpack in 2017.

Shining for the Trans-Atlantic outfit throughout his 18-months with the club, he switched back to UK shores with Halifax before making his Super League debut with Castleford Tigers.



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

It seems a long time since the previous home game, July 14, and there has been no let-up in the action or talking points in the game over the period. Let's begin on the field.

We have reinforced our promotion campaign with the narrow win at London Skolars, though more will be clear after today's vital encounter.

Obviously, we would prefer to go up in first place, without having to go through the nail-biting play-off process, but that prospect does not now only lie in our own hands.

Whitehaven's win at Hunslet hasn't done our prospects much good either, even though Workington did do us a favour last week. We can now realistically only have a chance of automatic promotion if Keighley defeat 'Haven at Cougar Park ; one never knows!

But the advantages in the play-offs are so much greater for the club that finishes in second place compared to positions three to six that we have a massive incentive ahead of us anyway to win every one of the remaining games even if automatic promotion proves now to be out of reach.

Outside League One issues, the cup semi-final action was also of great interest. In the Challenge Cup, I went to watch the triple header at Bolton, and came away from what was an excellent afternoon's rugby league with three main impressions.

The women's game - the first I have ever seen live - was far more intense and skilful than I had expected ; I would now be very happy to recommend a visit to a top level women's game to anyone.

Secondly, Hull played more attractive rugby than Warrington, but were less adept defensively, and less clinical in attack. And finally, what

a fantastic level of commitment Halifax displayed ; they were much closer to the Saints' current well-oiled machine than many Super League sides have been in 2019, and represented the part-time game unbelievably well.

And what of the 1895 Cup? Although the RFL might have envisaged two slightly more attractive finalists in crowd-attraction terms if they had been given a free hand, the 21-years-since-their-Wembley-win for Sheffield, and the risen-from-the-ashes for Widnes, surely give two story lines that can be built upon effectively to generate considerable interest in the August 24 secondary final.

There are clearly lessons for the future from this year's experience - primarily, proper scheduling, to cut out midweek games, and of the final itself - but this first year has certainly been promising enough for the competition to become a fixture in the game's calendar for the next few years at least.

And finally, RL Backchat recently had as one of its guests Martin Vickers, the England-based CEO of Toronto Wolfpack. There isn't space here to do his comments full justice, but he did make out a convincing case as to the long-term value that the club could bring to the game as a whole, provided that the other clubs are prepared to give it a fair crack.



Ian Wilson - our man with something to say

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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	28-4	Won	591
Sunday 23	3:00pm	Workington Town	Away	26-16	Won	1,013
Wednesday 26	7:30pm	1895 Cup QF				
Sunday 30	3:00pm	West Wales Raiders	Home	56-6	Won	552
July						
Sunday 7	3:00pm	Whitehaven RLFC	Away	10-16	Lost	1,102
Sunday 14	3:00pm	North Wales Crusaders	Home	46-30	Won	616
Sunday 28	3:00pm	1895 Cup SF				
August						
Saturday 3	3:00pm	London Skolars	Away	15-14	Won	355
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				



AWESOME AUGUST!



OLDHAM VS DONCASTER RLFC
18TH AUGUST | KICK OFF 3:00PM



A massive attraction here at the Vestacare Stadium next Sunday, August 18, will be the appearance in the Doncaster side of one Moutoa Lance 'Rangi' Chase, one of the best and most controversial players of either code to come out of New Zealand.

Doncaster hit the headlines when they signed Rangi, who had played previously for Wests Tigers and St George Illawarra in Australia and for Castleford Tigers, Salford Red Devils, Leigh Centurions and Widnes Vikings in England.

He had also represented New Zealand Maoris and England, winning Super League's Man of Steel award in 2011 and also picking up the Albert Goldthorpe medal.

His arrival at the Keepmoat Stadium was no doubt due to the Kiwi connection. The club's chief executive Carl Hall is a New Zealander who came to play for Doncaster as a very young man, settled here and has served the club ever since in one capacity or another.

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OLDHAM RLFC

NEWCASTLE THUNDER



Kyran JOHNSON 01	Mick Harrop	Mo AGORO
Aaron JONES-BISHOP 02	Les and Eileen Davison	Harry ALDOUS
Zack MCCOMB 03	David and Val Webster	Jack ALDOUS
Jack HOLMES 04	David and Val Webster	Jared BLAKE
Richie HAWKYARD 05	Rita Walton	Joe BROWN
Paul CROOK 06	Rita Walton	Keal CARLISLE
Dave HEWITT 07	Chris Noble MBE	Jed CHARLTON
Phil JOY 08	Past Players' Association	Rhys CLARKE
Gareth OWEN 09	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd	Alex CLEGG
Scott LAW 10	Les and Eileen Davison	Dan COATES
Ben CALLAND 11	Luke, Abbie and Jessica Davies	Tyler CRAIG
Emmerson WHITTEL 12	John and Lynda McAndrew	Carne DOYLE MANGA
Jack SPENCER 13	Graeme Lee	Joel EDWARDS
Adam BROOK 15	John Davies	Conor FITZSIMMONS
Danny LANGTREE 16	Keith and Shirley Mullaney and Grant and Sheila Somerville	Kieran GILL
Jimmy BECKETT 17	CDX Security, 01925 737 504	Kieran HUDSON
Ben DAVIES 18	Neil Gibbison	Quentin LAULU-TOGAGA'E
Jamie GREENWOOD 19	Sandra Bullock	Remy MARGINET
Matty WILKINSON 20	John and Lynda McAndrew	Liam MCAVOY
Lee KERSHAW 21	Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust	Nick NEWMAN
Danny GRIMSHAW 22	Neil Gibbison	Aaron OLLETT
Liam BENT 24	ORSA	Alex ROWE
Danny BRIDGE 25	Pam Taylor and LTS	Niall SIDNEY
Anthony BOWMAN 26	Graeme Lee	Evan SIMONS
Harry MADERS 27	Pam Taylor	Misi TAULAPAPA
Harry AARONSON 28	Rugby Oldham Supporters' Trust	David WEETMAN
Cameron LEEMING 29	Les and Eileen Davison	Lewis YOUNG
Ed SMITH -	CDX Security, 01925 737 504	Head Coach Simon Finnigan
Scott Naylor Head Coach	Keith and Shirley Mullaney	
Peter Carey Assistant Coach	Keith and Shirley Mullaney	
Adam Neal Conditioner	Purpose Business and Marketing Ltd	

Referee: M. Rossleigh

Touchjudge 1: D. Arnold

Touchjudge 2: G. Meling

Res Ref: J. Butcher

