

ROUGHYED REVIEW

2019 PROGRAMME No.16
SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER
KICK-OFF 3PM
£3.00



ON THE INSIDE

Farewell to Scott,
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HAPPY DAYS . . . PROMOTION
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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 Betfred League 1 Promotion Final against Newcastle Thunder at the Vestacare Stadium.

Our objective this year was promotion into the Championship so to be playing in this huge game today is a massive opportunity to take this great club back to where it belongs, in my opinion.

We've worked tirelessly as a group of people from the middle of November to this day, trying desperately to win games and have a successful season, of which the fans would be proud.

The players have been amazing from day one of pre-season and deserve every single bit of adulation they get from the fans during and after today's final, win or lose.

Their attitude towards working hard and playing to a certain system is phenomenal.

They are the best group we've had in my seven years as head coach.

To win today would be the icing on the cake. But, whatever the outcome, the pride I have for these players and for my staff is enormous.

I hope you enjoy the game. It's a great day for the club.

Many thanks for everything,
Scott



Scott Naylor

PASSIONATE ABOUT RUGBY LEAGUE





Picture (left to right): John Abrahams (former captain of Lancashire Cricket Club); the Youth Mayor of Oldham, Samah Khalil; the Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Ginny Alexander; Debbie Abrahams MP; Chris Hamilton; David Murgatroyd.

David Murgatroyd was 'proud and privileged' to be involved in the Oldham Sports Awards at the Queen Elizabeth Hal.

As club photographer, member of our management team, a leading light in our media team, founder of Roary's Pride

and a man who will turn his hand to anything, Murgy was nominated at the Awards Night in the Volunteer of the Year category.

Murgy and the other nominees were called on stage to receive their certificates from netball's Tracey Neville MBE.

The award went to Pam Hazelton, head coach of Oldham Netball Club, which holds three national titles at under-14s, under-16s and senior levels.

Oldham Netball Club was also named Club of the Year.

it is fair to say that he has had a big impact on the club since his arrival and for that we are very grateful.

At this moment in time he does not know what his next job within the game will be but, to use a cliché, he will always be welcome back at Oldham.

When his departure from the club was announced, a few days before the London Skolars away fixture, I had some concerns as to the effect it might have had on the players and their mentality at a very important time in the season.

Scott assured me that it wouldn't be a problem. He was right and, if anything, the team has stepped up and been even better since then.

In fact, had we known the response we would have told the team at the start of the season!

In all seriousness, Scott has been the same kind of coach as he was a player — tough, uncompromising, no nonsense. We have always had a squad that has been built in the same mould.

It would be a fitting way for Scott to end his tenure at the club should we be able to get a victory and I have no doubt whatsoever that every member of the team selected will be busting a gut to try and make that happen.

Regardless of the outcome today we wish Scott well in whatever he does next.

The final home game of the season is traditionally the time when I, on behalf of the club, thank everybody for all that they have done throughout the season.

This season is no different and, as I have said previously, our club relies heavily on those people who are willing and able to give up their time to help us in a variety of ways.

To each and every one of you, and there are far too many to mention, I want to say a massive thank you from the club and to say your contribution is invaluable and that, without you we would not be able to be the club we are. I hope to see you all again next season.

In addition, this year has seen the formation of our Management Board and, again, every member of that board has provided support, sometimes a challenge and certainly different and additional expertise to mine.

I hope that the things we have done this season, particularly around our match-day activities, have brought as much enjoyment to you as they have to us and those involved. We have plans to make next season even better and again I thank every member for all they have done and all they will continue to do.

Finally, to you, our loyal fans, your support this season has again been superb. I mentioned at the

beginning that there have been ups and downs as there are in most seasons, but whatever has happened you stuck with us and we hope to repay that faith today with one more win.

Lets try to replicate the atmosphere we had at the last game against Thunder and as ever you will make the difference.

Be loud and proud and get behind YOUR Roughyeds one last time this year.

Enjoy the game!

Christopher Hamilton,
Chairman,
Oldham RLFC



Christopher Hamilton

How the chairman sees it

Welcome back to the Vestacare Stadium for what now is the culmination of nearly 11 months of hard work.

Back in November, 2018 when the lads started pre-season training, the goal was to get promotion. Now we stand 80 minutes away from achieving that goal.

Our opponents today, Newcastle Thunder, are in the same position and, as we all know, something has to give!

The season has had its ups and its downs, the same as any other one, but we have put ourselves in a position in which we have home advantage by virtue of

finishing second over the course of the regular season and it is up to us to make that home advantage count.

Of course, we know we have very dangerous opponents. They have the same prize in their sights as us and we are only too aware of the quality within their squad, as we have seen in the two league games against them.

When we played Thunder at home on August 11 it was another must-win match and we managed to do it so lets hope we can repeat the feat today.

The home game didn't only produce a very good Oldham performance;

it also produced the best atmosphere of the season and another repeat of that today would be very welcome.

Our levels of performance and consistency have been building since that match and we are obviously hoping that we can take it to another level today as we strive to get back into the Betfred Championship for 2020.

It will be something of a strange situation today because we bid farewell to Scott Naylor, who ends his spell in charge of the club after seven years at the helm.

It goes without saying that we hope it ends on a successful note but, regardless of that,

STATISTICS

BETFRED LEAGUE 1 FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	D	PF	PA	PD	PTS
Whitehaven RLFC	20	15	3	2	582	283	299	32
Oldham RLFC	20	15	5	0	655	341	314	30
Newcastle Thunder	20	14	5	1	741	364	377	29
Doncaster RLFC	20	12	8	0	564	309	255	24
Hunslet RLFC	20	12	8	0	596	379	217	24
Workington Town	20	10	9	1	592	478	114	21
North Wales Crusaders	20	9	11	0	489	501	-12	18
London Skolars	20	7	12	1	440	542	-102	15
Coventry Bears	20	4	16	0	365	829	-464	8
* Keighley Cougars	20	8	11	1	447	576	-129	5
West Wales Raiders	20	1	19	0	222	1091	-869	2

*denotes 12-point deduction for transfer of club membership

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	14	7	7	0	0	28	18	Ben Davies	13	13	1	0	0	4
2	Aaron Jones-Bishop	6	0	3	0	0	12	19	Jamie Greenwood	11	11	1	0	0	4
3	Zack McComb	23	0	15	0	0	60	20	Matty Wilkinson	19	17	10	0	0	40
4	Jack Holmes	16	0	6	0	0	24	21	Lee Kershaw	7	0	5	0	0	20
5	Richie Hawkyard	21	0	12	0	0	48	22	Danny Grimshaw	2	0	0	0	0	0
6	Paul Crook	12	0	6	64	0	152	23	Luke Nelmes	1	1	0	0	0	0
7	Dave Hewitt	22	0	7	51	1	131	24	Liam Bent	23	2	5	0	0	20
8	Phil Joy	20	0	5	0	0	20	25	Danny Bridge	15	0	6	0	0	24
9	Gareth Owen	24	1	5	0	0	20	26	Anthony Bowman	9	0	5	0	0	20
10	Scott Law	25	6	2	0	0	8	27	Harry Maders	10	0	7	0	0	28
11	Ben Calland	9	2	0	0	0	0	29	Titus Gwaze	14	11	1	0	0	4
12	Emmerson Whittel	23	14	4	0	0	16	30	Frazer Morris	2	2	0	0	0	0
13	Jack Spencer	22	9	1	0	0	4	31	Harry Aaronson	9	0	4	0	0	16
14	Ed Smith	3	3	0	0	0	0	32	Nick Gregson	2	1	0	0	0	0
15	Adam Brook	11	0	3	12	0	36	33	Jimmy Beckett	5	5	0	0	0	0
16	Danny Langtree	17	0	17	0	0	68	34	Declan Kay	4	0	1	0	0	4
17	Cameron Leeming	9	0	5	0	0	20	36	Luke Hooley	1	0	0	0	0	0

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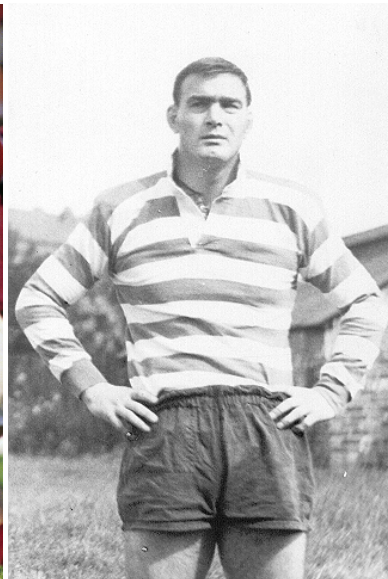
GEORGE COWBURN looks at the players who have made the most impact on him in each position within the team over the 50 years he has been watching Oldham.



MARTIN MURPHY



JOHN COGGER



KEN WILSON

Pictures courtesy of Oldham RL Heritage Trust

FULL-BACK: Martin Murphy, with 462 games (third in the club's all-time list) and 52 tries. Debut against Leigh on December 17, 1966. Superb in defence and quick enough to score long-distance tries, he won the BBC try-of-the-year prize in 1972. Capped by Lancashire and England, he was a fabulous servant to the club.

WINGERS: Mike Elliott, 446 games, was another tremendous servant. The Welshman signed for Oldham in 1962, aged 17, and signed off against Hull in May, 1979, amassing 153 tries (third in the all-time list).

Norman Hodgkinson: Tall and rangy, he made his debut in September, 1971 against Leeds, totalling 64 appearances. Capped by Lancashire, he scored 32 tries, many of which were spectacular long-range efforts out of nothing.

CENTRES: Anthony Gibbons, with his twin David, came from Bramley for the start of the 1999/2000 season. Never one to take a backward step, Anthony played 88 times, scoring 36 tries and a drop goal. He made the right centre position his own but was versatile enough to play wing, scrum half or loose-forward.

Mick Parrish: Made his debut at Hull in September, 1980 having signed from Hunslet for £18,500.

Tall and well built, this prodigious defender played and scored in every match in a season for two clubs, Oldham and Hunslet. His 191 appearances earned him 37 tries, 563 goals and three drop goals in his six years here.



MICK PARRISH

STAND-OFF: Dave Gibbons, well, I couldn't pick just the one twin! Dave played 95 times and scored 37 tries. Primarily a No 6, he also excelled at loose-forward or centre, once scoring four tries against Chorley. Tough, uncompromising and with good leadership qualities.

SCRUM-HALF: Paddy Kirwan - local lad, who made his debut in November, 1979 and played for eight years. Tough and courageous, he was like an extra forward. Will always be remembered for his last-minute try that knocked Wigan out of the Challenge Cup in 1987.

OPEN-SIDE PROP: Ken Wilson signed in 1963 for a reported £2,000 after playing RU for the RAF, Gloucester and England (once). A fine scrummager, he played 321 times a ten-year career.

HOOKER: John Hough was the first player to sign for the "new club" and played in the first game, the 1998 Law Cup match at Spotland, playing his last against Harlequins (now London Broncos) on May 13, 2007. He made 228 appearances and scored 52 tries.

BLIND-SIDE PROP: Frank Foster signed from Barrow in January, 1972 and made 47 appearances in two seasons. Prior to his signing, the club had lost 20 games out of 27. From his first game, three were lost out of 15 and they were by narrow margins to Warrington, St Helens and Wigan. Fiercely competitive, he made a lasting impression. Nobody messed with Frank!

SECOND-ROW: Bob Irving was 16 when he signed in January, 1965. By February he was in the first team. He played 296 games and scored 80 tries. A strong, powerful runner, he played for Yorkshire, GB under-24s and then got 11 GB caps before his transfer to Wigan in August, 1973. A 1970 Down Under tourist, he was also a World Cup winner in 1972.

Danny Langtree, who else? He came through the Oldham reserve side to make his debut in August, 2012. From then to the end of last season he played 148 times for Oldham, scoring 70 tries including a record-breaking 21 for a forward for the "new club" in 2018. After a period this season at Hull, his return to Oldham was universally welcomed. Prior to the play-offs, 16 games yielded 17 tries, including two hat tricks.

LOOSE-FORWARD: John Cogger, the Aussie with trademark blond locks, was an instant hit after signing from Runcorn in February, 1989. After 62 games and 31 tries (two hat-tricks), he returned to Australia, having appeared in a Lancashire Cup final and a Challenge Cup semi-final.



George Cowburn - lifelong fan with statistics at his fingertips

A MINUTE'S SILENCE FOR DEPARTED FRIENDS

We will have a minute's silence before today's game for all those with Oldham RLFC or local Rugby League community connections who have died in the past 12 months. As well as those named here we will remember those whom we name individually in the silence of our hearts.

October, 2018

Roger O'Mahoney, ex-Oldham hooker who died in Spain. In nine seasons he made 122 senior appearances and nearly as many in the 'A' team when he was back-up to the renowned Kevin Taylor. Roger transferred to Warrington for £5,000 in 1982 and in his first year at Wilderspool was named the Wires' player of the year.

Billy Patterson, former Oldham winger who died at his home in Bredbury. Billy played 72 senior games between 1960 and 1964, numbering Brian Lord, Alan Davies, John Noon, Vinnie Nestor and Keith Holden among his centres.

Oldham-born Billy will be remembered fondly by older supporters as a slightly-built winger with the heart of a lion.

November, 2018

Dave Parker, ex-Oldham loose-forward and captain. Died in Hertfordshire where he had lived for many years. Born in Barrow G D (George David) Parker played 198 games for Oldham during the seven years from 1960 to 1967.

He captained Oldham, gained county honours and represented Great Britain in two Tests against France in 1964.

Outside rugby he worked in the senior management team at Platt Brothers who in those days were one of the biggest employers in the town.

January, 2019

Alan Ogden, another former Oldham forward, died in Perth, Western Australia, where he had settled many years ago when his playing days were over.

A ball-handling prop, he died in his seventies after a long illness. After 63 games for hometown club he moved to Leigh for £5,000 which was a lot of money back then.

He was a member of the extended Murray family that will be forever etched in the annals of Oldham's rugby league community going back to the 1950s.

February, 2019

Lester Chattein died in a Derby nursing home, aged 72. An Oldhamer, Lester was a leading administrator in the amateur game, locally and nationally.

He received a long-service medal from the Oldham Amateur League in 2011. He also served on the board of BARLA (British Amateur Rugby League Association), representing North-West Counties Junior League.

March, 2019

Bernard Halford, secretary and a leading official for many years of the Oldham RLFC Past Players' Association. He was 77. He was Manchester City secretary for more than 40 years but in his younger days, growing up in Chadderton, he played for the Oldham 'A' team and developed a love of rugby league which was to last all his life alongside his love of football.

He was to the forefront of everything the Oldham RLFC Past Players did, using the experience he gained from a working lifetime in football administration at the top level to the benefit of the Past Players.

Of the many tributes that arrived from all over the sporting world there was a particular moving one from Oldham RLFC chairman Chris Hamilton, who said: "Bernard was one of my closest friends and was someone in whom I could always confide and trust.

"Because of his work in football, and particularly at Manchester City, he knew how hard it was to keep Oldham RLFC afloat. It was that affinity perhaps that brought us so close."

May, 2019

Hilda Winslade in South Wales, aged 85. Hilda was the widow of Charlie Winslade, the Welsh second-row star of the great Oldham side of the fifties.

Living in Bridgend, Hilda had suffered from dementia for ten years. In the early days of their marriage, when Charlie was starring for Oldham, they lived in Ryeburn Street, Greenacres. Hilda was an Oldham girl.

Charlie played 358 times for Oldham, forming a great second-row with Sid Little.

August, 2019

Joyce Pilkington, aged 82, one of the club's longest-serving and most loyal supporters. Joyce was a game-day volunteer for many years, mainly selling Golden Gamble tickets and never without her red and white scarf, for which she was well known.

Shortly after her death, her daughter Lynn went to the Challenge Cup final at Wembley and took the scarf with her so that "Mum would be with me".

Married for many years to the late Donald Pilkington, chairman of the Supporters Club, Joyce's whole life was spent helping out at Oldham Rugby in one capacity or another.

She is survived by Lynn, who will continue her Mum's work

on match days; two sons, Ian and Martin; daughter-in-law Tracy; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Jim Hallas, aged 89 and a fan for almost 80 years. He was just as loyal to the Roughyeds at the end as he was at the start, as a nine-year-old living on Ripponden Road, just outside Watersheddings.

Up until a few weeks before his death Jim was a home-and-away fan as a keen member of the group known as the Barmy Army.

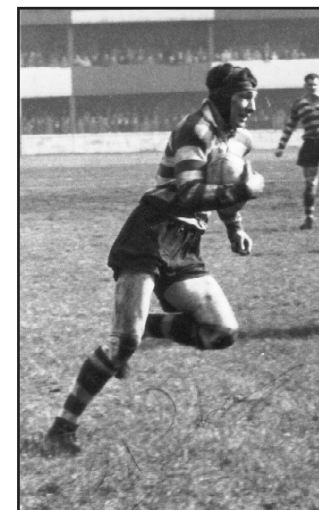
He was a much-loved character in his own right – trombone player, local Karaoke legend, ex-marathon runner (for charity) and Roughyeds fanatic. It was standing-room only at his funeral service at Oldham Crematorium.

September, 2019

Neil Gibbison, former dentist in Saddleworth and former Oldham RLFC dentist in Watersheddings days. Neil moved to Cumbria several years ago but still supported Roughyeds until he was taken seriously ill a few weeks ago.

He would drive regularly from his home in Millom, near Barrow to watch games at the Vestacare Stadium and he sponsored players, including Ben Davies and, more recently, Declan Kay.

THE CONDOLENCES OF ALL AT OLDHAM RLFC ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILIES OF ALL SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.



DAVE PARKER RIP, a classy loose-forward who captained Oldham and earned Lancashire and Great Britain honours. He played 198 games for Oldham between 1960 and 1967, during which time he was on the senior management team at Platt Brothers.

'Chewy' shines as we roar into the Play-Off Final



OLDHAM 22
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WEEKLY CASH PRIZE OF £2,000!



With our Club Cash lottery you can win a weekly prize of £2,000 in an overall prize purse worth £3,600 a week.

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and approximately 65 consolation prizes of £10.

Your club needs **YOU** in the Club Cash lottery

To coincide with a significantly increased prize pot we are launching a major initiative to increase membership of the Club Cash lottery.

The end of the season will soon be upon us. Crowds are up slightly on last year, thanks mainly to the club's community initiatives but they are still at a level which demands reliance on funding from other sources, such as Club Cash, to keep the club's head above water. That's a year-round thing, but particularly in the off-season.

These are difficult times and they're going to get harder. You'll have read of the problems at Bolton Wanderers and Bury FC and, in our own sport, the huge worries at Swinton Lions which arise directly from the club's desire to try something different in order to take the club forward.

Here at Roughyeds we now have our management committee which is helping Chris to drive our club forward, but we need more income and that's where you can help if you are not already a member of Club Cash.

Prize money has recently gone up by approx £1,275 per week, taking the amount of money to be won each week to £3,100 or thereabouts.

It is not a definitive figure because the number of £10 consolation prizes can vary but for the past few weeks there have been 65 such prizes each week — up by about 25 per week since the new prize structure came in.

The guaranteed weekly first prize has gone up from £1,000 to £2,000 — how's that for an increase — and also to be won are weekly prizes of £250, £100, £50 and two of £25 PLUS the consolations PLUS a jackpot which rises by £500 a week if it isn't won up to a maximum of £10,000, yes, £10,000!

For all that, membership costs £1 a week (you can, of course spend more and have more entries if you wish) and you can't buy a cup of coffee for that.

We can't stress too much how important it is for the future well being of Roughyeds for as many supporters as possible to get behind us on this for just £1 a week.

You can download a standing order form off the club website and instruct your bank to pay £4.35 monthly, £13 quarterly, £26 half-yearly or £52 annually. The form must then be sent to the club's lottery administrator John McAndrew, Oldham RLFC, Vestacare Stadium, Whitebank Road, Oldham OL8 3JH.

We also do a fortnightly collection service, taking £2 at your door, but it's easier and more efficient for all concerned to set up direct debit schemes.

For more details contact John at the club on 07904 898177 on Wednesday afternoons or on Fridays between 10am and 3pm. Alternatively, ring between those times on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and if John isn't available he'll get back to you.

Thanks for your help. Up the Roughyeds!

For more information visit roughyeds.co.uk or call us today on **07904 898 177**

Staying in Touch with Our Heritage with MICHAEL TURNER

As our "Pass It On" project is now entering its latter stages, I would like to express the appreciation of the trustees of Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust to all the people who volunteered to help in the massive task of scanning all our programmes, documents and photographs.

The task isn't completed yet but it is on schedule to be finished before our early-December deadline.

When everything is in place the collection will be available to be viewed by way of our revamped website and, hopefully, regular 'mini' exhibitions in the gallery.

Among items being transferred to Oldham Council is the Trust's impressive collection

of match shirts which boasts examples from the Victorian era right up to this decade.

On theme with today's play-off match, these include the jersey of the hero of the 1988 play-off final at Old Trafford when the Roughyeds were victorious against Featherstone in one of the most dramatic and exciting matches I have ever seen.

There looked to be no danger whatsoever when Oldham raced into a 22-0 lead after 32 minutes thanks to tries from Des Foy (2), Terry Flanagan and Peter Walsh, with three of them converted by Charlie McAlister.

However, just before the interval Rovers were given a lifeline when Graham Steadman touched down and Steve Quinn converted. The same pair obliged again ten minutes into the second half and on the back of five consecutive penalties awarded against them, Oldham started to look uneasy.

Sure enough, on the hour mark, Andy Bannister raced over with Quinn again converting and when David Sykes went in eight minutes later, with Quinn again on target, Oldham almost unbelievably were behind.

It got worse when, three minutes later, Quinn banged home a penalty to leave the score 26-22 in Rovers' favour.

The try that brought Oldham the victory was a cracker. Mike Ford, Foy and Gary Warnecke all handled superbly before Kevin Meadows took the final pass to scramble over under the posts.

Charlie added the conversion by a matter of inches but it was enough, we won 28-26 and the second division title came back to Watersheddings.



Supporters of both these clubs were well aware that Oldham v Featherstone encounters were not for faint hearts.

Indeed, Watersheddings and Post Office Road were settings for some grim battles between these arch Lans/Yorks rivals.

On this memorable occasion, however, the order of the day was a feast of fast, open rugby with the fans and no doubt the players and club officials put through the full gamut of emotions before the final whistle.

Oldham team that day:
Burke; Round, Foy, McAlister, Meadows; Walsh, Ford; Sharratt, Sanderson, Waddell, Hawkyard, Graham, Flanagan.
Subs: Irving and Warnecke (both used).

Referee: Robin Whitfield (Widnes); Att:35,252.

ABOVE: Kevin Meadows scores the match winner at Old Trafford on May 15, 1988.

RIGHT: Kevin's shirt from the match - part of the Heritage Trust collection.



Michael Turner

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NEWCASTLE THUNDER

We welcome Newcastle Thunder to the Vestacare Stadium this afternoon for this do-or-die Betfred League 1 Promotion Final.

The men from Kingston Park finished in third place at the conclusion of the regular league season. The structure of the end of season play-offs is designed to bring the 2nd and 3rd placed teams together in a promotion final and so it has proven. Oldham won the right to stage the game due to finishing in the higher position.

The two sides last met on August 11 when coach Simon Finnegan and his side travelled to Oldham for a vital end-of-season clash. One point separated the sides with Newcastle marginally in front on 23 points to Oldham's 22.

Newcastle took an early lead to gain a 12 point advantage within the first 15 minutes of the game. Quentin Laulu-Togagae and Conor Fitzsimmons both scored converted tries before Kyran Johnson pulled one back from the Roughyeds.

Thunder pushed on again with a classic Kieran Gill length of the field effort and then within ten minutes the visitors were in again through winger Alex Clegg.

Oldham found themselves down 20-6 as half-time approached but were able to keep track of Newcastle through a Danny Bridge try on 38 minutes. Paul Crook added the extras and the teams went in for the break with only 8 points separating them.

The mood in the Oldham camp was resolute despite the points deficit.

Captain Gareth Owen had this to say: "We were upbeat at half-time. An eight-point deficit didn't faze us in the slightest. We were revved-up and we felt that if we could score first in the second half we'd be on our way,"

When the teams emerged for the second half Oldham had the advantage of a strong wind in their favour. Game on.

The second half was all Oldham. Tries from Bridge, Leeming and Owen pushed Oldham past their visitors score with the added bonus of preventing any more opposition tries. Oldham ran-out 28-20 deserved winners.

The win pushed Oldham in front of their hosts in the league table and at that stage, any stumble from league leaders Whitehaven could have presented the Roughyeds with a chance of top spot and automatic promotion.

Thunder were not out of the title running themselves and it's a testament to the Geordies that they, just like Oldham, went on to win all their remaining games. An 88-6 thumping was handed out to Coventry Bears followed by a home win against North Wales Crusaders. A last day banana-skin game at Keighley almost came about after the Cougars put up a spirited performance but Thunder took the spoils in the end, winning 32-22.

A third placed finish for Thunder meant a home play-off round 1 game against fourth placed Doncaster, Rangī Chase et al.

The Dons (featuring our own Danny Langtree, on DR from Hull FC) had pulled-off a shock win in early season, streamed live on Our League. The visitors would therefore have nothing to fear, and so it proved.

Doncaster took the game by the scruff of the neck and produced an outstanding defensive performance to win 20-6. They kept Thunder at bay until late in the game when the home side crossed for a consolation try.

The Doncaster victory sent them to Oldham and a semi-final game while Newcastle would have to entertain Workington Town. The two home sides won, propelling Oldham into today's final and allowing Thunder to have a home re-match with Doncaster.

Newcastle made no mistake in their second play-off meeting with the Dons, winning convincingly by 34 - 4 which included a Kieran Gill hat-trick.

So here we are. Two sides gunning for promotion, both in red-hot form and no matter what, it all boils down to the last 80 minutes of the 2019 season, starting at 3.00pm. Bring it on.

Writes Dave Naylor.



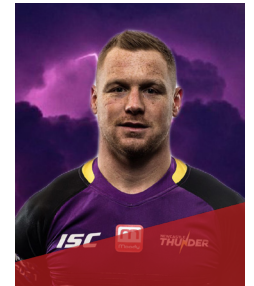
SQUAD

FOUR TO WATCH



Kieran Gill

Top League 1 try-scorer with 26 – seven more than second-placed Gareth Potts of Hunslet. Scored a hat-trick in last week's win over Doncaster. Well known to Oldham fans, having had two spells here on loan from Castleford Tigers.



Keal Carlile

Super League experience at Bradford, Huddersfield and Hull KR. In his first season at Thunder, signed from Featherstone. Key play-maker from dummy half. Oldham need to watch him like a hawk.



Lewis Young

One of the most exciting backs in League 1, with more than 20 man-of-the-match awards in his four seasons with Thunder. Reared at Castleford Panthers and Featherstone Lions, he linked up with Thunder when moving to the area to study at university.



Nick Newman

Aussie half-back signed in mid-season from Coventry Bears where he had made an explosive start to his new venture in the English game. Links well with fellow half-back Quentin Laulu-Togagae and has an excellent kicking game.

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

No matter what has happened so far in the Betfred League 1 play-offs, we shall be losing the services of Scott Naylor after this season is out.

This seems as good a time as any, therefore, to acknowledge just what he has achieved during his seven seasons here at Oldham. Perhaps the first thing to say is that Scott has had a major impact on the Roughyeds; otherwise he would not have lasted as long as he has !

And let no one be in any doubt that seven years as head coach at the same club is a very long time these days.

When what will undoubtedly go down in the annals as the 'Naylor Years' are looked back on, what will be the tone of the reminiscences?

Inevitably, life has not been all roses. There have been failures to record as well as successes. But what about the overall balance sheet? To me, and remembering that Scott was a rookie coach when he first came to us, the balance is definitely well into the surplus side.

Let us briefly review the club's performances since he began in 2013, remembering that our 'pre-history' had been four successive Grand Final losses between 2007 and 2010, followed by seventh and sixth place finishes in the game's third tier in 2011 and 2012.

This was the season-by-season review of what happened in those 'Naylor Years':

2013: Second in league, with 12 wins out of 16; lost in Grand Final to Rochdale, 18-32, at Leigh.

2014: Third in league, with 15 wins out of 20; lost in Grand Final to Hunslet, 16-17, at Leeds.



2015: First in league, with 19 wins out of 22; won promotion final v Keighley, 31-20. Also reached League 1 Cup semi-final, losing to North Wales.

2016: Survived in Championship, with 10 wins out of 30, finishing 10th in the league and then eighth in the end-of-season Shield. Also won away at Hull KR in the Challenge Cup.

2017: With six wins out of 30, finished 11th in the Championship, and then seventh in the Shield; relegated.

2018: Finished back in League 1, with 16 wins out of 26 ; lost 0-47 to Bradford away in play-off semi-final. Also won away at Halifax in the Challenge Cup.

2019 (to end of regular season): Second in league, with 15 wins out of 20.

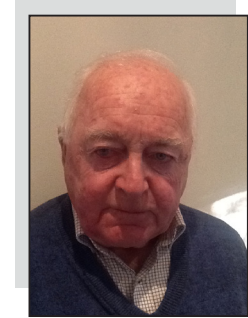
That makes a 57 per cent win ratio in ordinary league games, two seasons in the game's second tier out of seven, one successful and two unsuccessful promotion finals [hopefully with power to add !], and two Challenge Cup wins away to 'superior' opposition.

Given the club's limited resources, I would have thought that constitutes a successful overall record of achievement by any reasonable standards.

And that is without consideration of any non-results-based criteria. What about the fact that the large majority of our players during Scott's tenure have always seemed to be very happy to be at/stay at/return to the club, which is surely a good indicator of the

coach's ability to motivate and help to generate a good team spirit?

In conclusion, for me, it is very much thanks for all you have contributed, Scott, and good luck in your future ventures, whatever they may be.



Ian Wilson - our man with something to say

ROGER HALSTEAD BIDS FAREWELL TO THE MAN WHO ALWAYS WORE HIS HEART ON HIS SLEEVE.

You could look back on Scott Naylor's playing days and see a mirror image in the way he coached and the way he wanted his boys to play.

He wasn't the biggest name in that all-conquering Bradford Bulls side, nor was he the flashiest. But he was always among the first on the team sheet.

Few centres got the better of the lad from Leigh who could play a bit on the quiet but who was renowned the sport over for his wonderful attitude, never-say-die approach, tough defence and 100 per cent commitment in every game.

Those were the self-same qualities he demanded from his Roughyeds players (and will be looking for today in his final game in charge) throughout his seven seasons here as head coach, one of the longest-serving coaches in the game behind Sheffield's Mark Aston.

He played hard -- and called a spade a spade. More than once, after a particularly bad performance, he told me to . . . well I won't repeat word for word, but it amounted to "go away".

He was hurting, REALLY hurting, because things hadn't gone according to plan and it mattered to him so much that he just wanted to be left alone awhile with his thoughts and his reflections.

Scott Naylor's heart and soul was with his boys, his team, his club. He's a hard man, no mistake, but win or lose today it will be a touching moment for him when he shakes the hand of each of his boys and rides off into the sunset.

Thanks for the memory, mate, they were seven good years.

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	28-20	Won	702
Sunday 18	3:00pm	Doncaster RLFC	Home	40-14	Won	745
Saturday 24	4:00pm	Challenge Cup/1895 Cup Final				
September						
Sunday 1	3:00pm	Coventry Bears	Away	50-6	Won	280
Sunday 8	3:00pm	Hunslet RLFC	Away	34-20	Won	688
Sunday 15	3:00pm	Play-offs				
Sunday 22	2:00pm	Doncaster RLFC (Play-off)	Home	22-12	Won	529
Sunday 29	3:00pm	Play-offs				
October						
Sunday 6	3:00pm	Promotional Final				

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Source: Launch audience Sept 2017 v Weekly print readers and monthly online unique browsers as at JICREG Nov 2018



OLDHAM RLFC

NEWCASTLE THUNDER

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 RIP	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 RIP	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
Luke HOOLEY -	Graeme Lee	
Kiedan HARTLEY -	Sandra Bullock	
Declan KAY -	Neil Gibbison RIP	
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: Gareth Hewer

Tough judge 2: J Roberts

Touch judge 1: D Bowmer

Reserve referee: B Pearson