

TODAY'S SQUADS



OLDHAM RUGBY



1	NIELD Steven	Oldham Self Storage 0161 665 2723
2	CLAY Adam	Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991
4	HOLMES, Jack	Oasis Academy Oldham
5	WARD, Jarrod	Beauchamp Properties
6	PALFREY, Lewis	Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991
7	ROPER, Steve	Les and Eileen Davison
8	JOY, Phil	Pam Taylor and TTX
9	GEE, Sam	John and Lynda McAndrew
10	NEAL, Adam	ORSA
11	CROWLEY, Josh	John and Lynda McAndrew
12	LANGTREE, Danny	Charlotte Gothard and Daniel Haigh
13	THOMPSON, Liam	ORSA
14	FILES, Adam	Rita Walton
15	OWEN, Gareth	Bev, Kelly and Paul Hulbert
16	HUGHES, Kenny	Rita Walton
17	TYSON, George	Mick Harrop
18	JOY, Richard	Frankie and Benny's, Oldham 0161 624 7745
19	WARD, Michael	Sylvia, David and Margaret
20	DEMPSEY, Tom	WILSCAFF 07855 265071
22	MASON, Nathan	ORLFC Players' Association

Troy Brophy
Liam Scott
Stephen Coleman
Edward Medforth
Andy Winfield
Dan Poulton
Cameron Boulter
James Geuryjens
Alex Brown
Matt Cooper
Liam Thompson
Chris Barratt
Simon Phillips
Dylan Bale
David O'Connor
John Aldred
Ben Tyers
Martyn Rothwell
Rob Easthorpe
Ben Parry
Conor Kelly

Officials: Ref: D Merrick TJ: S Daniel TJ: N Woodward Res: J Steane
 Match commissioner: G Kershaw
 Sponsored By H Mullaney and Son Ltd, Skip Hire and Recycling

OLDHAM V **COVENTRY BEARS**

SUNDAY 1st
 MARCH 2015
 KICK-OFF 3pm

ISSUE #1/ £2.00
 OFFICIAL
 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ROUGHYEDS



SEASON 2015

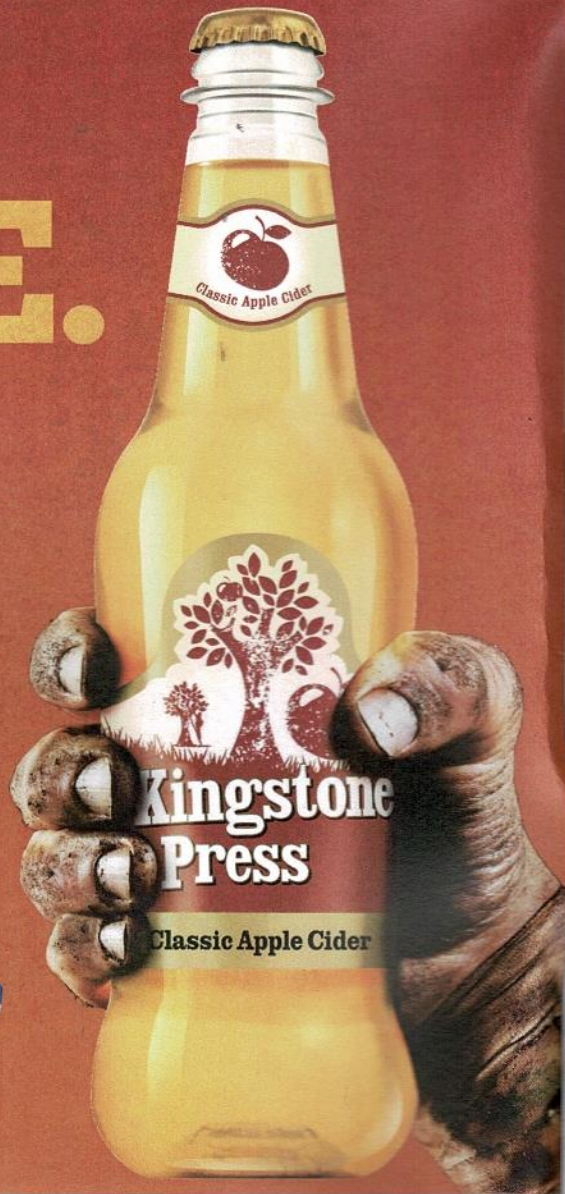
LEAGUE ONE CUP - FIRST ROUND



the regenda group



RUGBY TO THE CORE.



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X --- O X O
NATTER WITH NOBBY
O X --- O X

WELCOME to today's game at the Whitebank Stadium against Coventry Bears.

It feels like ages since we were playing last season's Grand Final against Hunslet Hawks at Headingley.

The pain of that game will never go away, but it will make us stronger as a team and as a club as, with hard work and tough minds, we strive to get into the league above and put the club where it should be.

The Oldham players couldn't have given any more in that game and I was proud to be their coach and proud to have been associated with them all last season.

The good thing about sport is that you get another chance to put things right and, starting in April, we will be doing everything in our power to do that in the newly-structured and extended Kingstone Press League One.

Today's

opponents in the new League One Cup are a complete unknown at this level and that can be a dangerous thing.

Oxford were in a similar situation a couple of seasons ago and they came to Whitebank and won, so we will have to be at our best today, and also next week, if we are to make progress in the two cup competitions.

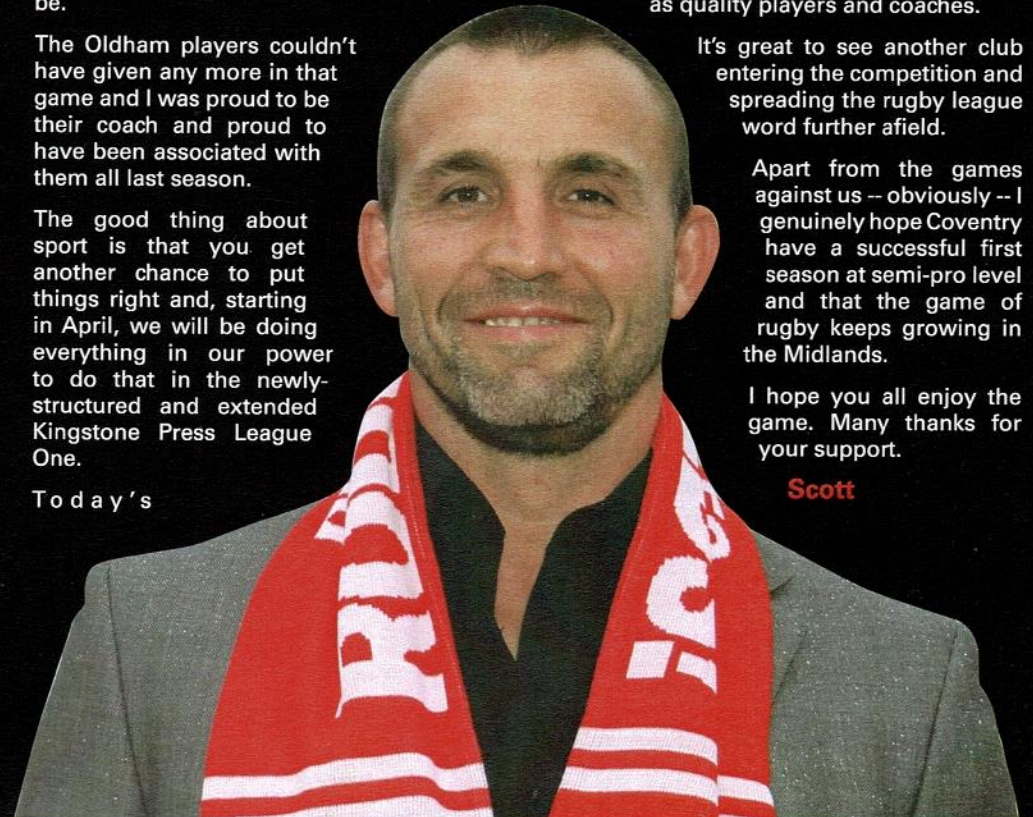
Enthusiasm and desire are excellent qualities to have in rugby league, and I'm sure Coventry will have plenty of both, as well as quality players and coaches.

It's great to see another club entering the competition and spreading the rugby league word further afield.

Apart from the games against us -- obviously -- I genuinely hope Coventry have a successful first season at semi-pro level and that the game of rugby keeps growing in the Midlands.

I hope you all enjoy the game. Many thanks for your support.

Scott





Behind Closed Doors with... **GARETH OWEN**

Who are your heroes or people you look up to ?

My dad and Lee Spencer

Do you play any other sports and if so do you excel in them ?

Golf. Play off 7 so I'm not too bad.

What is the highlight of your career so far ?

Making Super League debut and then playing at Magic Weekend.

If you could invite two people for dinner, dead or alive, who would they be ?

Russell Brand and Tiger Woods.

If your house was hit by an earthquake what would you save first ?

Dog in one hand and golf clubs in the other.

Who's the funniest of your team mates and why ?

Phil joy is always playing jokes and ripping into people, he's my favourite.

Which TV programme would you never miss ?

Corrie.

What was the last book you read ?

Malcom Alker's life story.

What's your favourite type of music ?

Reggae.

How do you relax after a match ?

Watch NFL for about 15 hours.

Finally . . . tell me a secret.

Ben Wood is my fifth best friend.

A CHAT WITH CHRIS



WELCOME back to Whitebank for the start of another season.

As the new campaign gets under way, it doesn't seem long since we were suffering another Grand Final heartbreak. On a personal note at that time, the thought that I would rekindle the desire and determination to go again for another year seemed light years away.

You would think by now we might have developed some kind of resistance to that despair, but each time it has happened it has seemed to get harder to take.

Despite that, the old adage of time being a great healer is true and we are now at the starting gate again, having seen a lot of hard work go in from from a lot of people to get us to this point.

From my perspective, the new long-term contracts signed by Scott and Spanner have laid a platform which will enable the club to continue to move forward.

It wasn't easy to keep the players we wanted from last year's squad because other clubs were trying to cherry pick a high proportion of them.

But once again we achieved our objective with a lot of determination and we also added some new players who we feel will increase the quality Scott has at his disposal for the season ahead.

By linking up with Huddersfield Giants, we have

also gone in a different direction regarding dual registration partnership. Giants have already been pro-active with us as they are keen to assist us in trying to gain that elusive promotion.

The arrival of Kane Daniels as our conditioner has also been a key appointment in the close season.

We already prided ourselves on our fitness, but Kane has introduced a very different type of conditioning this off season and the fitness levels of the players is higher than it has ever been, which will be important as we go through the season.

We are a part of some history today as we entertain Coventry Bears in their first ever professional match in the newly-introduced League One Cup.

With new silverware on offer and a chance to be part of the Summer Bash at Blackpool in May, we will be striving to capitalise on home advantage in a bid to progress to the last eight.

May I take this opportunity to wish Alan Robinson and his colleagues from Coventry the best of luck in their new adventure . . . but only after they have finished playing us !

To our loyal band of fans, a big thank-you for your ongoing support. You can rest assured we will be giving our all to bring you success this time around.

Enjoy the game

Chris

OLD PALS' ACT LANDS A GIANT STEP FORWARD!

HAVING been in partnership with Salford Red Devils for the past two seasons, we have changed direction to link up with Huddersfield Giants, as most of you will already know.

With opportunities for the dual-registration of players, we have seized a chance to work with one of the top clubs in Super League — a move that was too good to refuse.

A key element was the friendship of Giants coach Paul Anderson and Oldham boss Scott Naylor, who played together in the all-conquering Bradford Bulls side between 1997 and 2004.

The Giants boss is also known to our chairman Chris Hamilton, who once managed an England team in which Anderson played.

Said Chris: "Paul has shown his qualities by winning the League Leaders Trophy in 2013.

"He and Scott are good friends and from the outset, our discussions have been very positive.

"They know how close we have been to getting out of Championship One,

or League One as it is now known, and they want to help us to achieve that goal.

"They are also aware, that we have a very good set-up at the Oldham club.

"They have mentioned certain players who will be available to us and that sealed a decision we felt we had to make."

Said Giants managing director Richard Thewlis: "We are sure this will be a mutually beneficial working relationship.

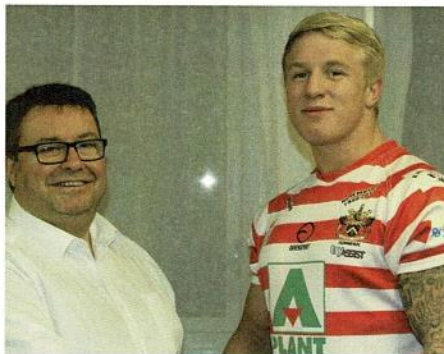
"Oldham have a very professional set-up and that will enable our young players to go there and make progress.

"We have a good relationship with Oldham already and we are determined to make this work well for both clubs, happy in the knowledge that our players will be looked after by Oldham in the right environment.

"We are well aware of the Grand Final disappointments Oldham have suffered in recent seasons and we hope this partnership will help Roughyeds to achieve their aim of returning to the Championship."

NEW PLAYERS FOR THE NEW SEASON.

1 GEORGE TYSON



SCOTT was delighted to acquire the signature of a young forward whom many fans have likened to a young Andy Goodway.

Aged 21, and a fans' favourite after his tearaway displays while on loan last season from Salford Red Devils, Tyson put pen to paper on a one-year contract.

"He's our player now and that means we can do a lot more with him and spend a lot more time with him," said Scott.

"I'M NOT FUSSED WHERE I PLAY - FORWARDS OR BACKS - JUST AS LONG AS I'M ON THE FIELD TO GET STUCK IN AND GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT AT ALL TIMES."

Once a Manchester United junior, Tyson didn't pick up a rugby ball until he was 16 when his pals took him to Leigh Miners.

Within weeks, he was scouted by Salford where he became a full-time pro when he was 18 and ultimately joined the first-team squad, although he played only once at that level in a runaway Challenge Cup win at Gloucester All Golds in 2013.

2 ADAM NEAL



ADAM Neal, a prop with 45 Super League games for Salford on his CV, became our second new signing.

Whitehaven and Swinton were among our rivals for Adam (24), who left Salford after the 2013 season to take a year out.

He played his junior rugby for Salford Juniors and then Crosfields before becoming a Warrington Wolves scholar when he was 14.

He made his senior Warrington debut, aged 17, in a Challenge Cup win at Leigh and in the same year he played twice for England Academy against the Australian Institute of Sport, taking the man-of-the-match award in an England win at the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

He moved to Salford in 2010 and made his Super League debut, aged 20, as a starting prop in a 30-26 win at Bradford Bulls.

In his four seasons at Salford he twice won the club's Young Player of the Year award.

By the time he temporarily turned his back on the sport, he had played 48 times for Salford's first team, all but three of those appearances in Super League.

NEW PLAYERS FOR THE NEW SEASON.

3 JACK HOLMES



ONCE full time at Salford, 20-year-old Jack Holmes has followed his pal George Tyson to Whitebank, having been convinced that Oldham is the club to nurture his ambition.

A utility back, he spent three years at Salford, followed by short spells with Halifax and then his hometown club, Leigh.

Holmes signed for Salford from Leigh Miners Rangers when he was 16 and a year later he put pen to paper on a full-time, two-year contract.

"I HAD ALREADY HAD A TEXT FROM GEORGE (TYSON) ASKING ME WHAT I WAS DOING. I WAS STILL PONDERING LEIGH'S OFFER WHEN SCOTT RANG ME AND SAID HE WANTED TO SIGN ME."

After that, he signed a first-team contract at Halifax, but he didn't get the opportunities he craved, so midway through last season he got his release and signed a reserve-team agreement at Leigh.

He hoped he would be offered a first-team contract for 2015, but he was only offered reserve-team rugby again.

4 JARROD WARD



WE beat off competition from several rivals to sign utility back Jarrod Ward.

Local lad Ward (20) has been reared by Super League and Championship clubs since he was 13, having been at Salford, Bradford Bulls and Halifax.

Last season he played for Gloucester All Golds, while on loan from Halifax, and attracted offers from several clubs for his services in 2015.

Ward, who can play wing, centre or full-back, first played the game as a 13-year-old at Saddleworth Rangers and within six months he was scouted by Salford.

He played for Oldham's town team at under-13s, under-14s and under-15s and was selected to go on regional and national development camps.

A spell at Oldham St Anne's followed before he had three years in the Bradford Bulls academy and then joined Halifax.

5 GARETH OWEN



THOUGH Gareth (22) played eight games for us at the end of last season, he was on loan from Salford, so he wasn't technically 'our' player until he got his release from the Red Devils and signed a one-year contract with his hometown club.

We moved smartly for Moorside-based Owen when Salford released him, just as we did for his Red Devils colleague George Tyson.

"I DIDN'T EVEN LOOK OR THINK ABOUT GOING ANYWHERE ELSE ONCE I KNEW THAT SCOTT (NAYLOR) WANTED TO SIGN ME."

The hooker will be one of the youngest members of Scott's new squad but, having played in 36 Super League games, he has loads of experience of playing at the highest level of the domestic game.

In the new squad only new-boy Adam Neal, with 45, has played more Super League games than Owen.

DREAM TEAM: SCOTT, 'SPANNER' IN HARNESS FOR THE LONG HAUL

.....
OF all the close-season activities on planet Roughyeds nothing could compare with the announcement that Scott Naylor had signed a new contract, followed later by Lee Spencer's new agreement ... both of them for THREE years.

Head coach Scott's new deal covers the 2015, 2016 and 2017 seasons and is the longest ever offered to a coach since the 'new' Oldham club was formed more than 17 years ago.

Contract talks, involving Scott, his agent Ian Blease of Signature Sports Management and club chairman Chris Hamilton, had been ongoing for several weeks.

But Scott made it clear afterwards that the conclusion was never in doubt and that he was never going anywhere else.

And Chris said: "We always knew where we were going and that was a clear indication of the strength of our working relationship."

Scott (42), who played 128 Super League games for Bradford Bulls in their glory years, took on his first head coach's job when he joined us two seasons ago.

Across the 2013 and 2014 seasons he guided Roughyeds to second and third-place finishes in Kingstone Press Championship One, in each case taking a young side to the play-off final in which they were beaten respectively by Rochdale and Hunslet.

His overall Roughyeds record in cup and league is played 49, won 34, drawn 2, lost 13.

Added Chris: "His new contract reflects the job he has done in his two seasons here. Nobody could have done more to get the best out of his players.

"Each season ended in Grand Final disappointment, but looking at the bigger picture it was a huge achievement to reach those finals.

"Scott is dedicated, committed and knowledgeable and he commands the respect of all his players.

"He is, without doubt, the right man to take us forward and to continue to improve things on the coaching and playing side. I have total confidence in him.



"Unlike the situation at some clubs, he has a free hand to get on with the job as he thinks fit, without any interference.

"There are big challenges ahead. The restructured League One is going to be even tougher than last season's competition.

"But we will have a squad that will be capable of challenging at the top end and, hopefully, of earning the success that everyone at Whitebank craves."

Scott echoed that upbeat message and said it was gratifying to know that the club and its chairman had faith in him.

He went on: "To be given the freedom I have to get on with my job without any interference whatsoever is a rare thing in our sport. I am lucky to have that.

"I'm also fortunate to have the backing of a great backroom staff, a No 2 like 'Spanner' (assistant boss Lee Spencer) and players who have always given me 100 per cent.

"All those people have made a massive contribution – it's not just down to me.

"By the time everything is in place the new squad will be better and stronger than last year's and I'm looking forward to working with the boys again.

"Our win ratio over the last two seasons was up towards the 75 per cent bracket and we'll be working hard to improve on that and to do everything we can to take this club up to the next division.

"I'm lucky to be working with the people I have around me. I don't call it a job because I enjoy it so much, far more than I enjoyed playing. It's a big commitment, nevertheless."

... AND THIS IS HOW THE CLUB BROKE THE NEWS THAT THE COACHING DOUBLE- ACT WAS TO REMAIN INTACT:

.....
OLDHAM RL Club have secured the long-term future of their senior coaching team by resigning highly-rated assistant boss Lee Spencer on a new three-year contract.

He will continue to work alongside head coach Scott Naylor, his immediate boss at Whitebank for the past two years, until the end of the 2017 season, at least.

Naylor signed a new three-year deal several weeks ago and then made it clear he wanted 'Spanner' to remain by his side.

"We don't always see eye to eye," said Naylor, of the man whom he cherry-picked for his No 2 when he landed his first head coach's job at Oldham ahead of the 2013 season in Kingstone Press Championship One.

"We often agree to disagree because we both have very strong opinions. That's healthy. It makes for good debate and good decision-making.

"Anything we have achieved for the club so far has been achieved together. It was important he stayed with me. Any head coach is only as good as his No 2 and his other staff and in 'Spanner' I have a right-hand man who brings a lot to the club and the squad.

"He's good at his job; he's a huge help to me; and he has the total respect and backing of the players.

"He and I have a lot of work ahead of us, but we've got three years in which to make some real progress and to have that amount of stability has got to be beneficial to the club."

Chairman Chris Hamilton echoed that view and added: "A three-year deal for 'Spanner' sees him on the same time-scale as Scott and that's how it should be.

"He was very patient in waiting for us to sort things out, but he's very loyal to Scott and his importance to him can't be over-estimated."

Spencer, who previously worked with Naylor on the Salford coaching staff, said he had no desire to break



up their double-act.

He added: "Scott wanted me to stay and that meant a lot to me.

"There are some very positive things going on at the club, like the new links with Huddersfield Giants, and we are delighted at the way in which new boys Jarrod Ward, Adam Neal and Jack Holmes, a tremendous athlete, are settling in.

"It's also going to make a big difference to have George Tyson and Gareth Owen signed as fully-fledged Oldham players as opposed to having them on loan as we did last year.

"I'll be working very closely with the club's new conditioner and I'll be the link between him and Scott.

"Team and players are the club's shop window and I'm dedicated to the lads because, as part-time professionals with full-time jobs outside rugby, they have to be totally focused and committed to their rugby and to their club.

"The coming season should be a cracker. We've got the return of the derby games and I can't wait for the clashes with Swinton and Rochdale."



FAREWELL NEIL... AND THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

Memories are made of this . . . left to right: Gareth Barber, Jason Boults, Martin Roden, Neil Roden, Chris Clarke, Michael Fogerty, Gavin Dodd, Jason Clegg, Lee Doran. In front: Rachael Johnson (former club physio).

ROUGHYEDS fans and his former colleagues gave Neil Roden a resounding send-off when he staged his testimonial game at Whitebank last Saturday.

Despite dreadful weather, nearly 200 fans turned out in sleet and snow showers to support Neil in his final testimonial event, writes ROGER HALSTEAD.

"Players and fans could have been sitting at home watching the TV. You can't praise them enough for turning out in weather like this," said Scotland coach Steve McCormack, who was in charge of the Oldham Select X111.

"It's a measure of Neil's popularity and all he has done for the club,"

Martin Crompton, coach of Roden's Roughyeds' Legends side, spoke in similar fashion and added: "It's always a pleasure to come to Oldham.

"My Watersheddings days were the best of my career."

Neil, the man of the moment, was delighted at the way the day went and the amount of support he received despite the atrocious weather.

He said: "I would like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout the year, and especially those who turned up today. It was certainly a throwback to winter rugby.

"My thanks go also to the Oldham club and to all my old mates who played as well as the younger blokes

who played in the Select side and who were with me last year when I coached the under-20s.

"Thanks too for all the hard work put in by my committee, notably my wife Tanya, Martin Roden, Martin McLoughlin, Matthew Threlfall and my dad, Jack.

"I've had a lot of great years at Oldham and I'll certainly be keeping in touch with all the many friends I've made and taking a keen interest in how the team and club is doing."

For the record, the Select side won 8-4 with tries by Chris Clarke and Gavin Dodd, against a try for the Legends by Andy Isherwood following excellent approach play by Lee Doran, Ian Hodson, Lucas Onyango and then the old half-back firm of Roden

and Keith Brennan.

LEGENDS: Sam Singleton; Lucas Onyango, Anthony Gibbons, Lee Doran, Michael Fogerty; Neil Roden, Keith Brennan; Ricky Bibey, Martin Roden, Jason Clegg, Ian Sinfield, Jason Boults, Ian Hodson. **Subs:** Leo Casey, David Gibbons, Martin McLoughlin, Andy Isherwood.

SELECT: Chris Dootson; Gavin Dodd, Mark Brocklehurst, Mark Cahill, Alan Campbell; Gareth Barber, Alan Holland; Aaron Hall, Andy Ball, Rhys Wareing, Connor Partington, Jay Yarwood, Chris Clarke. **Subs:** Ryan Staziker, Lee Sanderson, Brad Roden, Graham Hibbert.

Referee: Ian Smith (Oldham)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING FOR RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE MIDLANDS

AS Coventry Bears prepare for their gigantic step into Kingstone Press League One, **ROGER HALSTEAD** talks to **Alan Robinson**, the Bears' owner and managing director, and also to head coach **Tom Tsang**.

First... Alan.

1. How big a challenge has it been to prepare for your big adventure into the semi-professional arm of the sport?

The challenge has been a big one but I feel we have taken it in our stride. We have been running the club as a successful business with a strong fan base for a number of years now and the RFL has had faith in us through what we have proven not just on the field but off it.

2. Is the city ready for rugby league at third-tier level?

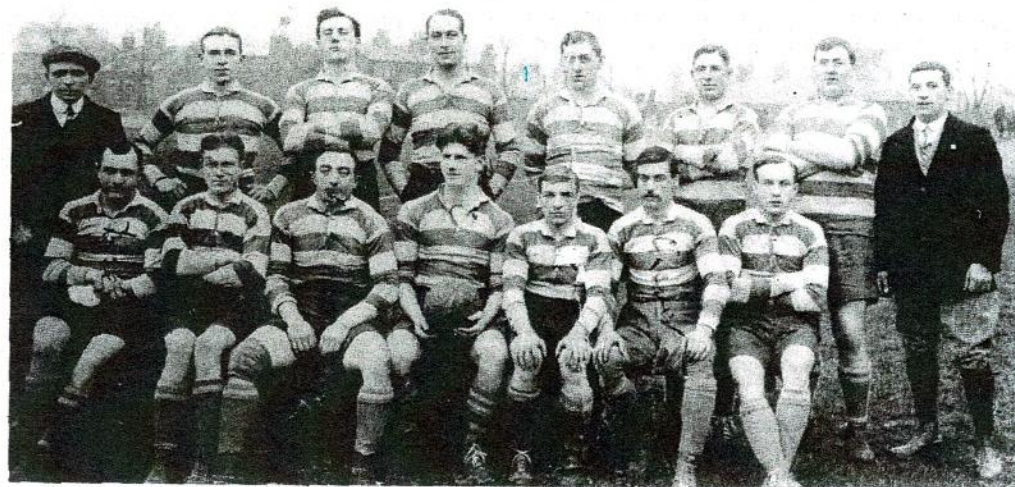
Of course, the city has a massive tradition in rugby union and rugby league which was played in Coventry over 100 years ago as a Northern Union side. We are a little different to some of the other new sides in that Coventry has had a good standard of rugby league being played there for a number of years now and we want to retain our fans and build towards a good future at this level.

3. What are your aspirations for the club --- short term and long term?

Short term, we want to be competitive and prove ourselves at this level. We are under no illusions to the challenges that lie ahead of us but I have faith in our coaches, players and the environment we have built here in the city.

Long term, we have plans already in motion to be able to sustain the long term development of rugby league in Coventry. We have set up a community interest company (Bears in the community) which will assist us in achieving funding for a city-wide schools programme and a number of other community-based projects

These projects will also form the basis of our marketing strategy and allow us to promote the sport. We have a tremendous facility in the Butts Park Arena which is situated in the city centre, which also lends itself perfectly to this. It is all part of a long term plan which I feel will allow us to grow year on year.



Coventry Northern Union Football Club, 1911/12 at The Butts. Back: A. Elton, J. Parkinson, T. Oldham, C. Piggott, H. Davis, J. Tomes, W. Hutt, E. Hutt Front: D. Benyon, R. Dakin, L. Beaver, P. Oldham (capt.) J. Houghton, T. Burdett, C. Carter

4. How important was it to form a link with Bradford Bulls, and how do you see the benefits for the Bears?

It has been important for us on a number of levels. The Bulls have a great brand which I hope we can emulate from a business perspective, while on the field we can benefit from areas in which we feel we need some extra support. The Bulls also see the benefits of working with us and we feel there could be some great long-term gains for both clubs.

5. Do you also have links, and to what extent, with Coventry RU Club?

Yes, we have a close partnership with Coventry Rugby club. They have a great fan base and they are a historic club in their own right. We have been working on a number of areas together and they are fully behind us in our step up to this level.

6. What are your first-season goals for the club?

I spent time with the squad away in our pre-season camp and the coaches and players have set themselves some goals which, if we stay injury free and build upon each week, I have no doubt we can achieve. Our home ground is

somewhere we take pride in getting results and we have surprised some of the more established clubs in the NCL in recent years as an amateur club.

7. How do you and your colleagues feel about playing each of your first two competitive games at this level at Oldham?

Playing Oldham first up will be a big challenge for us and now having two games back to back makes it even more interesting. We will have two opportunities to get a result so I'm sure it will be both a physical and tactical battle over the two weeks. We are all massively excited and the players cannot wait to play in what will be a historic two weeks in the club's history.

8. You delayed your step-up in status for a year. Have you achieved in the past 12 months what you hoped to achieve in terms of launching the club's new era from a strong platform?

Yes, we delayed for good reasons but also it didn't make sense coming into a competition before the new era of the sport began. From our point of view we have been able to maximise things as the only new club this year and I am hoping we can gain momentum both on and off the field as the new era kicks in.

Next up, Roger went head to head with Tom Tsang, the man charged with plotting and planning what Bears do on the field.

1. As head coach of the League One new boys, how important is it to you and to the club to get off to a good start and to send out a message to the rest of the league and to the sport generally?

Very important. Like all teams, we want to start the season in good form and build some momentum early in the season. However, we don't focus on what the rest of the league or the sport generally thinks of us as a club because we are confident that the processes, culture and environment we have built here in Coventry are the right ones.

Regardless of what happens, we will stay strong as a unit and build through the season. Its fair to say though, that we will judge our performance over the course of the season, not just one or two games at the start.

2. Where will you need to finish in season one to achieve your targets?

Internally, we have some pretty lofty ambitions, not just for this season but medium to long term as well. We are determined to prove we deserve to be in this league on merit and I am certain that we will prove this to be the case by the end of the year.

Our primary target is to be the best of the 'new' clubs and then work from there. That may seem



fanciful to anyone external to the club with it being our first season at this level, but we genuinely feel we can achieve a top half of the table finish.

3. Can you tell us something about the squad you have assembled, about your captain and about your leading players?

We have assembled a young, talented and enthusiastic squad in which all members have fantastic attitudes and the players have all bought into our vision for the squad and the culture we have wanted to build. There is a mix of experience with a couple of the younger players having only been in the game for 1-2 years, having come to us from other sports.

I think there is a nice balance though because



Left to right: Alan Robinson and Tom Tsang (Bears) with James Lowes and Steve Ferris of partner club Bradford Bulls.



some of our senior players have Championship, Queensland Cup and even NRL experience. Our captain, Simon Phillips, is one of those players who has played NRL, having played for North Queensland Cowboys. He also has over 200 games of experience playing in the Queensland Cup for Wynnum.

James Geurtjens is another player with vast experience, having also played in the Queensland Cup for Burleigh and Norths Devils, while Paul Ivan has over 150 games playing for Redcliffe.

4. What is your background Tom? And how much responsibility lies on your shoulders for successfully leading the Bears into the club's exciting new era?

I am a born and bred Yorkshire-man, having grown up in Huddersfield and played in the Giants Scholarship and Academy set-up for five years before graduating at Leeds Metropolitan University. After graduating I worked for seven years for the RFL as a development officer in the Education sector.

I think there is a lot of responsibility not only on my shoulders, but on those of everyone associated with the club in this exciting time. Its imperative that we get it right both on and off the field to build support and help grow the game in a new market.

If we dont do things the right way, it could be detrimental to the growth of RL in the Midlands so we all feel the responsibility of what we are doing here in Coventry.

5. What are your thoughts on Oldham - and the fact that the Bears' history-making first two games at semi-pro level will be at Whitebank?

Oldham are a great and historic club, with the

town and the surrounding area having generated some of the greatest players of our game so we are honored to be able to make Oldham part of our history, but also to be part of theirs.

I am sure that with the new competition structure this season and with Oldham narrowly missing out on promotion last year, they will be looking to rectify that in 2015 and will be looking to start the season strong in the two Cup competitions.

I have a few friends who have played for Oldham in the past and a couple who are in this year's team so it will be good to catch up with them too.

6. The Bears will be very much an unknown quantity to everyone at Oldham, including the fans. Who should we look out for individually; and what can we expect from your team?

I think its fair to say that due to this being our first year, the resources I have had to work with and the culture we have wanted to build, we have built a team of very talented but hardworking players. There are no standout stars as even the more experienced guys are grounded enough to be part of the whole team unit. We will pride ourselves on good team performances with players going the extra mile for each other on the field.

7. Ahead of such a massive step-up in status for yourself, your team and your club will you sleep the night before the first big game at Oldham ?

Haha, thats a good question! I'm a pretty relaxed and chilled out personality so I am sure I will get a good night's sleep, although I'm not sure the same could be said for one or two of the players or indeed the club directors!

DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH COVENTRY

By Brian Walker (Oldham RL Heritage Trust)

WHEN Coventry Bears visit Whitebank in the League One Cup and the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup it won't be the first time a Coventry side has visited Oldham, nor will it be the first time these two clubs have played each other in the Challenge Cup.

During the years leading up to the First World War the rugby union club in Coventry flirted with the idea that they should join the semi-professional ranks of the Northern Union (soon to be renamed the Rugby League), annoying the English Rugby Union to such a degree that for a time the club was suspended

The idea of re-badging the union club was dropped but with the help of the Northern Union a new club was formed to play at Foleshill in the north of the city. An exhibition match between Huddersfield and Oldham was staged to promote the new code.

Coventry took their place in the Northern Union for the 1910/11 season.

Several Oldham players signed for the Midlands club, including Jim Parkinson, a Cumbrian county back; David Beynon, a Welsh international half-back; Tommy Cash, an Oldham-born winger who had scored 63 tries in 139 outings for the club; Michael Yewlett, a utility back; and Bill Nanson, a Cumbrian who had played in the England

Rugby Union pack.

Coventry drew Oldham at home in the first round of the 1911/12 Challenge Cup, the Watersheddings' side winning 21-3 and going on to reach the final against Dewsbury.

The new boys completed the 1910/11 and 1911/12 seasons, ending both campaigns in the league's lower reaches and eventually throwing in the towel towards the back of the 1912/13 season, presumably due to the lack of success and, subsequently, of funds.

As well as the Challenge Cup fixture, Oldham won each of the four league matches between the two clubs..

Remarkably, a programme for the Oldham v Coventry match played at Watersheddings on New Year's Day, 1912 has survived. Oldham won 31-10.

<p>GRAND THEATRE OLDHAM. MONDAY, JANUARY 1st. Last Week of the Successful Pantomime "Robinson Crusoe." Matinee Monday, 7.15. Theatre, 8.15. Saturday, 8.15. 11.15. For Prices see Day Bill. Tel. 272.</p>	<p>PALACE, Oldham. TWICE NIGHTLY, 7 & 9. Monday, January 1st. The FAMOUS CHAGGS, GRAHAM MOFFATT'S Sketch, "The Consoled Bed," SID BANDON, PARKS & PRICE The LYRIC NUMMERS, and STAR COMPANY. Matinee on Monday, Jan. 1st, at 2. Book Seats Early. Tel. 220. Prices: 5d., 4d., 3d., and 1/-.</p>						
<p>FRIENDSHIP HOTEL. MUMPS, OLDHAM. First-Class Table, Excellent Cuisine. Caterers to Visiting Teams. 3 First-Class Billiard Tables. R. WINTERBOTTOM, Prop. TEL. 508. (Late of Swan Hotel, High St.)</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>OLDHAM TEAM.</th> <th>ST. HELENS TEAM.</th> <th>COVENTRY TEAM.</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1-WOOD 2-SMITH, G. W. 3-BRANE 4-DAVIES 5-WILLIAMS 6-BRICE, T. 7-LOMAS 8-FERGUSON 9-AVERY 10-EDGES 11-SMITH, A. 12-JARDINE 13-WEIGHT 14-WILKSHIRE 15-WHITE 16-BRICE 17-DIXON, W. 18-OWEN 19-MCCABE</td> <td>1-TURFILL 2-FLANAGAN 3-BELSHAW 4-HARRISON 5-WATY 6-TRENWITH or KILLEY 8-PRESKIT 12-SKUN JERK 14-WAINMILL 16-POSEY 9-BITFIELD 13-BRIBERS 11-MAVFFY Referee-Mr. Heston, Bongton. Touch Judges: Messrs. Myrman and Ratford.</td> <td>1-PARKINSON, J. S. 2-HOUGHTON J. 3-DIXON, K. W. 4-DAVIS, H. 5-CASH, T. 6-CARTER, C. 7-BEYNON 8-BRITT, W. 9-BUTT, E. 10-TOMES, J. 11-BEAVER, L. 12-PIGOT, C. L. 13-OLDHAM, J. R. capt. 14-CODDER, P. Referee-Mr. T. Remon, Hornid. Touch Judges: Messrs. Johnson and Blackburn.</td> </tr> </table>	OLDHAM TEAM.	ST. HELENS TEAM.	COVENTRY TEAM.	1-WOOD 2-SMITH, G. W. 3-BRANE 4-DAVIES 5-WILLIAMS 6-BRICE, T. 7-LOMAS 8-FERGUSON 9-AVERY 10-EDGES 11-SMITH, A. 12-JARDINE 13-WEIGHT 14-WILKSHIRE 15-WHITE 16-BRICE 17-DIXON, W. 18-OWEN 19-MCCABE	1-TURFILL 2-FLANAGAN 3-BELSHAW 4-HARRISON 5-WATY 6-TRENWITH or KILLEY 8-PRESKIT 12-SKUN JERK 14-WAINMILL 16-POSEY 9-BITFIELD 13-BRIBERS 11-MAVFFY Referee-Mr. Heston, Bongton. Touch Judges: Messrs. Myrman and Ratford.	1-PARKINSON, J. S. 2-HOUGHTON J. 3-DIXON, K. W. 4-DAVIS, H. 5-CASH, T. 6-CARTER, C. 7-BEYNON 8-BRITT, W. 9-BUTT, E. 10-TOMES, J. 11-BEAVER, L. 12-PIGOT, C. L. 13-OLDHAM, J. R. capt. 14-CODDER, P. Referee-Mr. T. Remon, Hornid. Touch Judges: Messrs. Johnson and Blackburn.
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<p>THEATRE ROYAL OLDHAM. Twice Nightly, at 8-00 and 2. Matinee, Tuesday and Saturday at 2-00. All the Latest and Best Pictures. Mr. Frank Stewart's Company. HIPPODROME, OLDHAM. Twice Weekly, at 7 and 9. The Home of Animated Photography.</p>	<p>EMPIRE, Oldham, Twice Nightly, at 8-00 & 2. Mr. Frank Stewart's Company. "My Irish Molly." Matinee on Monday, Jan. 1st, at 2. Prices 2d. to 1s.</p> <p>T. DONNELLAN, House & Church Decorator, PLUMBER, AUTHORIZED GAS AND WATER FITTER. 327, RIPPONDEN RD., OLDHAM.</p>						

OLDHAM F.C.

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OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS,

- AT -

WATERSHEDDINGS, 2-45 PROMPT,

Saturday, December 30th, 1911.

NEW YEAR'S DAY,

JANUARY 1st, 1912,

OLDHAM v. COVENTRY

AT 2-45 PROMPT.

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FIXTURES & RESULTS

2015 March

L1Cup	Sunday 1st	COVENTRY	H	3:00pm
LCC(3)	Sunday 8th	COVENTRY	H	3:00pm

2015 April

KPL1	Friday 3rd	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 12th	COVENTRY	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 19th	SOUTH WALES	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 26th	LONDON SKOLARS	H	3:00pm

2015 May

KPL1	Sunday 3rd	GLOUCESTER	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Saturday 9th	BARROW	A	6:30pm
KPL1	Sunday 17th	GATESHEAD	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 31st	KEIGHLEY	A	3:00pm

2015 June

KPL1	Sunday 7th	NORTH WALES	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 14th	OXFORD	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 21st	SWINTON	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Saturday 27th	GLOUCESTER	A	3:00pm

2015 July

KPL1	Sunday 5th	YORK	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 12th	ROCHDALE	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 19th	LONDON	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 26th	NORTH WALES	A	2:30pm

2015 August

KPL1	Sunday 2nd	KEIGHLEY	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 9th	HEMEL	A	2:30pm
KPL1	Sunday 16th	GATESHEAD	A	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 23rd	BARROW	H	3:00pm

2015 September

KPL1	Sunday 6th	SWINTON	H	3:00pm
KPL1	Sunday 13th	OXFORD	A	3:00pm



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9	Sam Gee	John and Lynda McAndrew
10	Adam Neal	ORSA
11	Josh Crowley	John and Lynda McAndrew
12	Danny Langtree	Charlotte Gothard and Daniel Haigh
13	Liam Thompson	ORSA
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16	Kenny Hughes	Rita Walton
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