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V

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GUIDE



IAN TALBOT:  
FROM THE DUG OUT

KIDS CORNER

GARETH WALKER

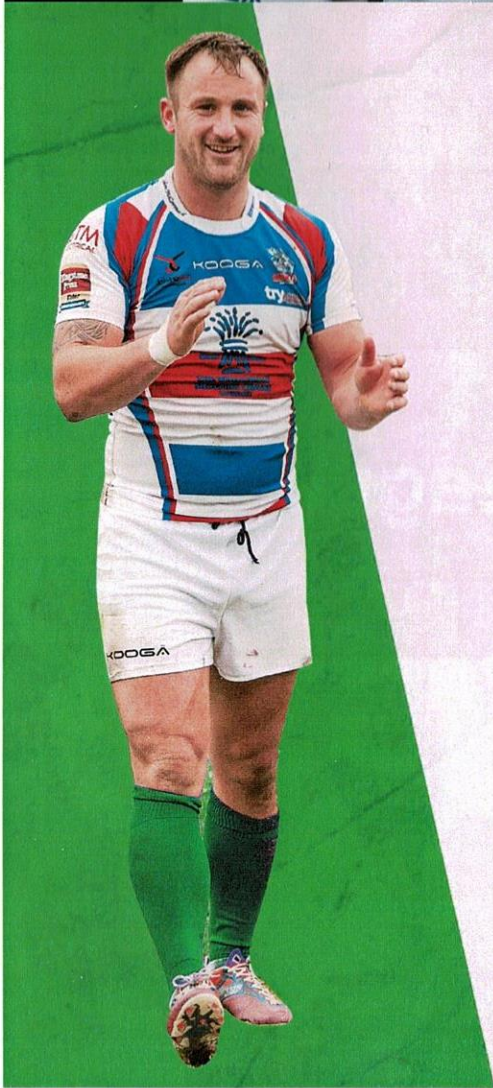
MARK WYNN



PAUL CROOK

EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW

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# HORNETS VS OXFORD

## SATURDAY 16TH MAY 17:30

## SUPPORTING

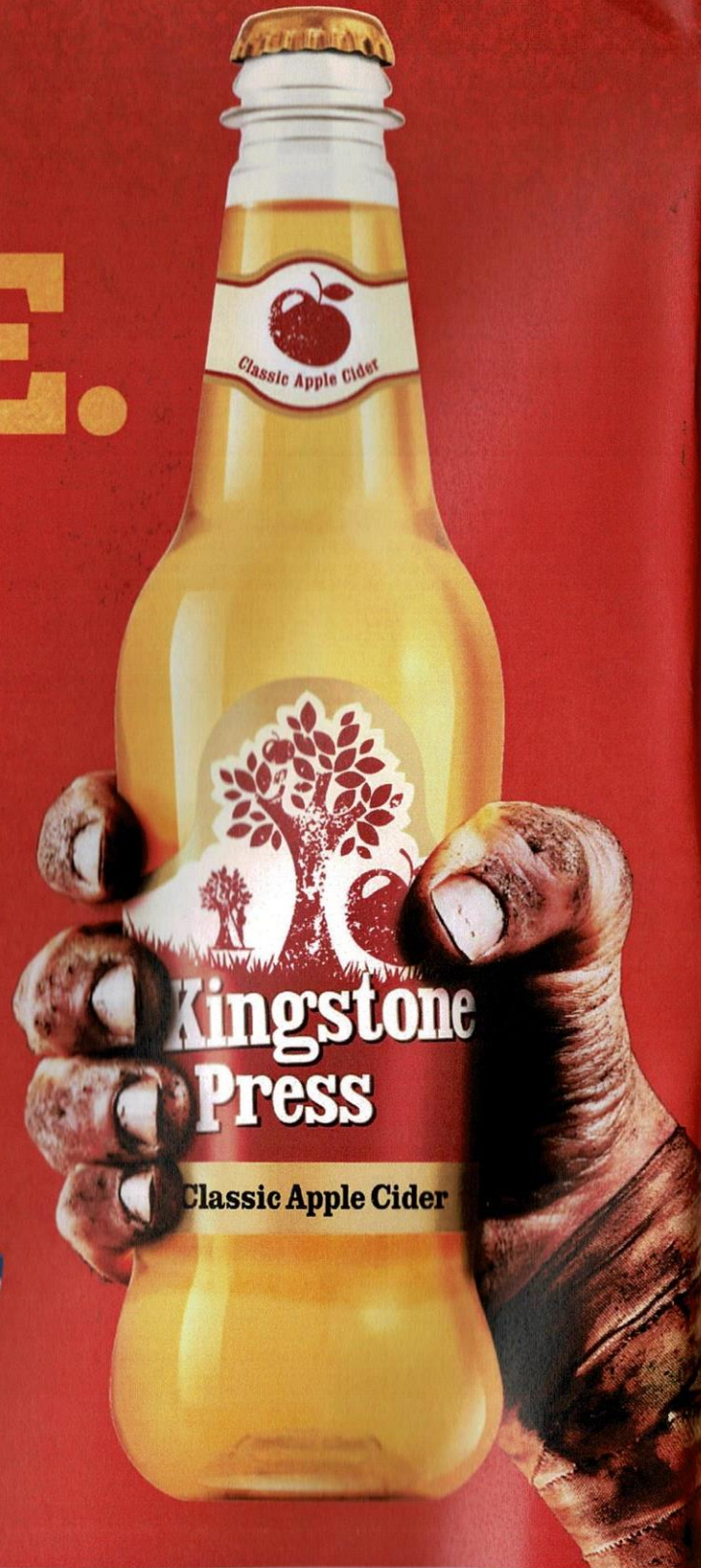


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# From the Board Room



Hello and welcome to the 2015 Kingstone Press League 1 campaign and to our new look Hornets magazine!

We open the assault on the title with a game against our nearest and dearest rivals.

After playing Oldham four or five times a season (or so it felt) for the last few years it seemed strange not to cross paths in 2014.

Who can forget though the last time we met on that glorious day at Leigh when we ended a 91-year drought for silverware.

Hopefully our Good Friday clash will live up to that billing.

Off the field it has been an exciting time for the club. At our recent AGM we again showed we can live within our means whilst building up the Hornets.

A huge thanks to all those who helped us record a surplus for 2014 continuing on from the same in 2013. I am proud to say that for 3 out of the 4 years I have been Chair we have announced a surplus in our accounts.

It has to be said though this is down to the hard work and endeavor of a large group of people and in particular for the last 2 years our CEO Ryan.

We again aim to live within our means and not jeopardies all the hard work that has gone before.

We are proud of the fact we are a supporter owned club, the first in professional Rugby League.

Other clubs have followed suit and it's interesting there seems to be a ground swell of opinion that Oldham maybe looking towards some fan involvement a Roughyed fan recently told me.

The new Rochdale Hornets Sporting Foundation goes from strength to strength.

The Hornets Charity has launched it Easter Programme for 4-10 year olds. It will soon be announcing "Street Rugby" in conjunction with RBH. Plus a raft of other work aimed at getting "More People, Playing More Rugby League, More Often!"

We also have been doing some mentoring work at Kingsway school where Ryan our CEO, Niel and Andy from the foundation, and myself and Walter from the

board have been helping kids get ready for the world of work.

We hope to have the mentees at a game in the very near future.

Our links to the local business community continue to grow after we hosted our second successful business breakfast at the end of March.

A big thank you to our speakers, Barrie McDermott from Leeds Rhinos and Ian Langford from Peninsula HR.

After the success of our first two events we are looking at putting on the business breakfasts on a more regular basis.

We have made an informal Friendship Agreement with the developing Thailand Rugby League.

Following on from the legacy from the 2013 Rugby League World Cup. We continue to build the Hornets brand and take it to the widest possible audience.

Also as a founder member of the sport, Rochdale Hornets has a duty to help develop the game whenever and wherever it can.

Hopefully a lot of you will be using the new Tap2 card system we are pioneering.

We are certainly ahead of the game with this technology and it is something, which once we iron out the minor glitches, will be a massive positive for the club.

So save yourself some money get signed up and help Hornets be market leaders.

I suppose this new look programme is indicative of what we are about as well.

We are trialing this monthly magazine rather than the old style game programmes.

We hope we can put more information and articles in here. Let us know what you think. Is this format more appealing?

Remember our rallying call!

#STINGEMHORNETS

Mark

W

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# Ian Talbot

Hello and welcome to Spotland for todays Kingstone Press League 1 fixture.

May I take this opportunity to welcome the players, staff and supporters of all our opponents for our April matches, firstly the Oldham Roughyeds, the Newcastle Thunder and the Barrow Raiders.

I'm sure that all 3 of the matches will be entertaining as we are all hoping to get off to the best possible start to what is sure to be an entertaining and exciting season with many ups and downs along the way.

Our pre-season and early form was good with the lads showing encouraging signs in our matches against Mayfield, Thatto Heath Crusaders, South Wales Scorpions and Kells, but this came to an abrupt end with two disappointing results against North Wales and Swinton which saw us eliminated out of the two cup competitions in the early stages.

As a group we were obviously disappointed with the results but more importantly we were disappointed with the manner of them, we didn't do ourselves any favours with our performances, but you can be rest assured that we have all moved on and been working hard to put a few wrongs right to hopefully re-start our season with the single goal of concentrating on the league competition and gaining promotion to the ever more lucrative Championship competition.

Last season was a fantastic experience for everyone involved with the club, playing against bigger clubs, testing ourselves against the best semi-professional outfits and has really whetted our appetite, creating a greater desire to get up there again.

So lets all work together, staff, members and real fans, to get behind YOUR team and give them that little bit extra to ensure that we are up there with a shout when it comes to the end of season honours!

Yours in sport

Many Thanks,

Ian Talbot

Head Coach  
Rochdale Hornets RLFC



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# CAPTAIN CROOK

With Wayne English side-lined for six weeks with a broken hand Rochdale Hornets will be without their captain for the month of April, that is where Paul Crook steps in.

Known around the club as the ginger general, Crook has played over 100 games for the Hornets and recently reached 150 career appearances against Kells ARLFC in the Challenge Cup.

The halfback is set to lead Rochdale through the first month of the Kingstone Press League One season as captain due to Wayne English's injury and that is something which fills him with immense pride.

"I always feel a massive sense of pride when I lead the side out," explained the 28-year-old.

"Being the captain at any point for such a great historic club like Rochdale will be something I will always remember."

First up for Crook and the rest of the Hornets players is the return of the Rochdale vs Oldham derby, with everyone in the town looking forward to the first meeting of the two sides since the 2013 play-off triumph.

"The Oldham fixture is always one of the biggest games of the season. It's the first game that I look for and I'm sure many others do when the fixtures are released at the beginning of the season."

"Playing in local derbies always adds a little more pressure to the players, however, it's those types of games that as a player you look forward to and it was a fixture I missed playing in last season.

"Players that have been involved in this derby before know how much this fixture means to the fans and the bragging rights within the area that comes with it, and as players you always want to put in a good performance for those fans who passionately support the team week in week out."

After the 'El Clasico' Ian Talbot takes his side to Gloucestershire, a place they have only visited once back in 2013 when they won 54-10.

Crook missed out on that game but remembers travelling with the squad to face the All Golds the last time they met at the Prince of Wales Stadium.

"Unfortunately the last time we played Gloucestershire at the Prince of Wales Stadium I had broken two ribs a few weeks previous so was unable to play, however I was there running messages and water for the lads on which was a very hot day and what turned out to be a good performance.

"Hopefully we can repeat that again on this year's visit and I am looking forward to returning there again."

The month is wrapped up with back-to-back home games against Barrow Raiders and the newly named Newcastle Thunder as Rochdale look to end the month well in front of the supporters.

"Barrow and Newcastle will be two tough fixtures, they have recruited very well during preseason but with home advantage and hopefully a couple of good performances under our belts we will go into these fixtures with the confidence of coming away with the points.

"We need to make Spotland a place where teams hate coming to and know whoever they are they are in for a tough afternoon."

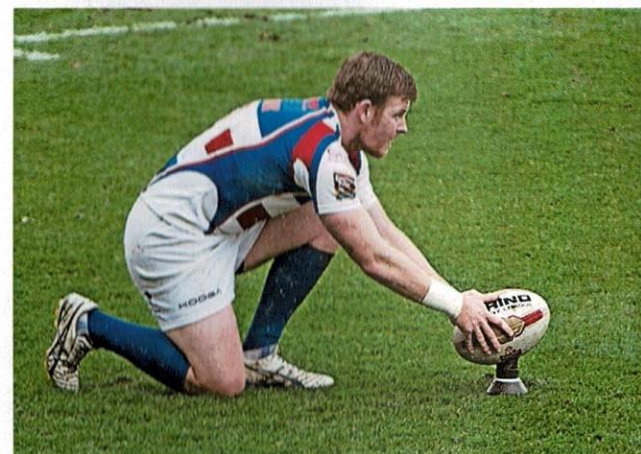
Three of the four games in the month will be played at Spotland and that is something that half-back Crook thinks they can use to their advantage.

"Playing three times at Spotland over the next month gives us a great opportunity of putting a couple of poor performances behind us.

"It also gives us a chance of hitting the ground running in the league by picking up some points to establish ourselves at the right end of the table which is where we are aiming to be.

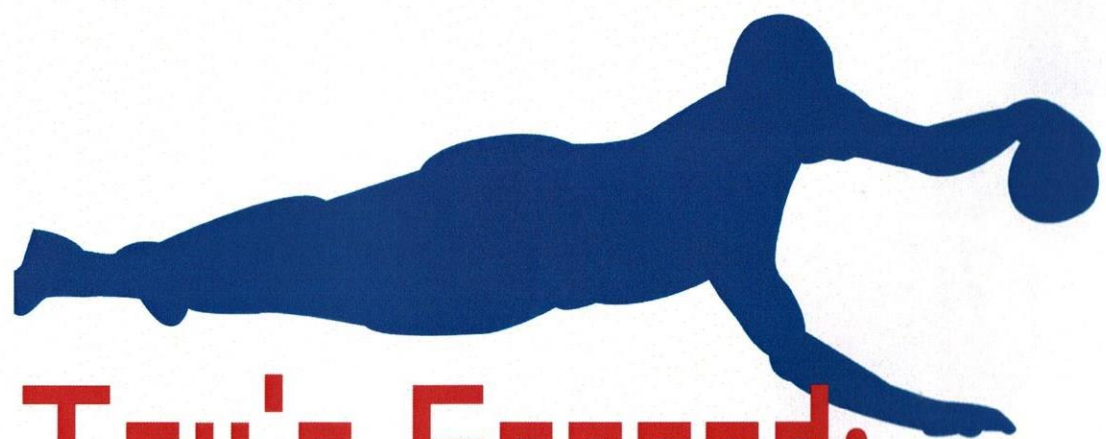
"The lads have been working hard in training to put a lot of things right and I believe it will just take that one good performance to ignite the potential and quality that we know we have within the squad."

It is a big month for Rochdale Hornets as they start on their quest to return to the Championship and with Paul Crook leading the charge it could be a successful start to the season.



# Statistics

2015

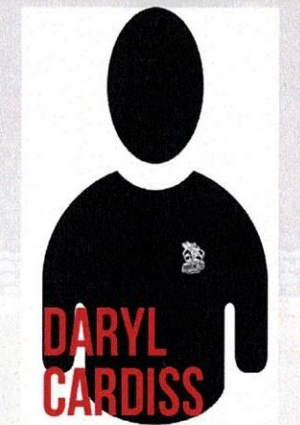
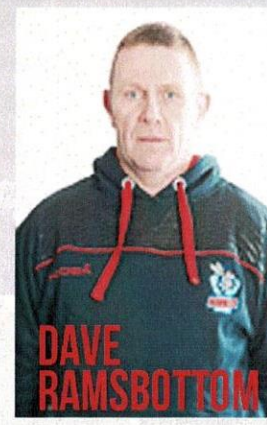
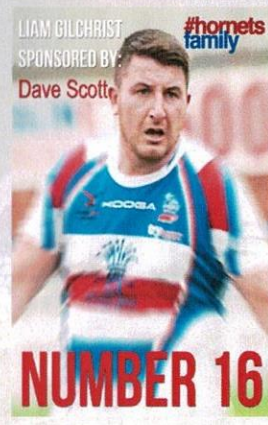
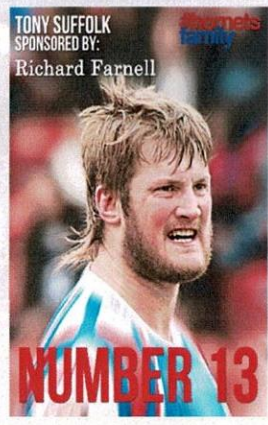
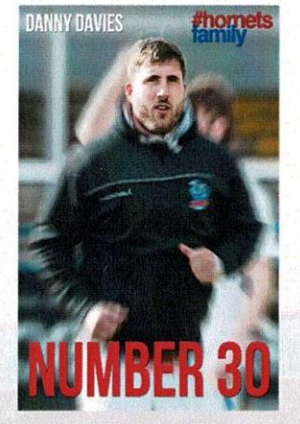
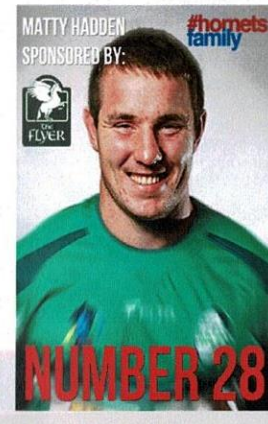
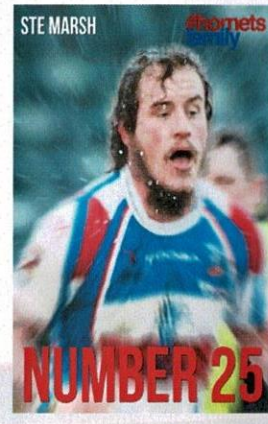
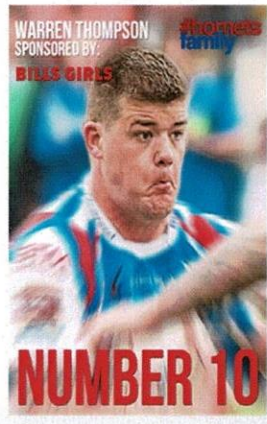
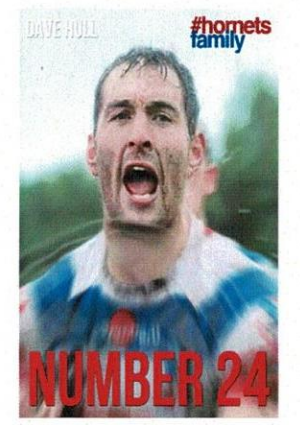
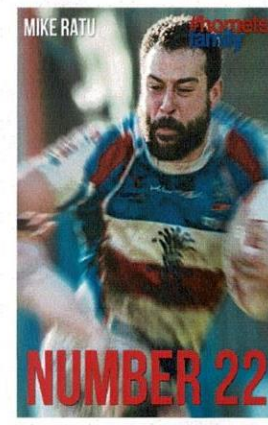
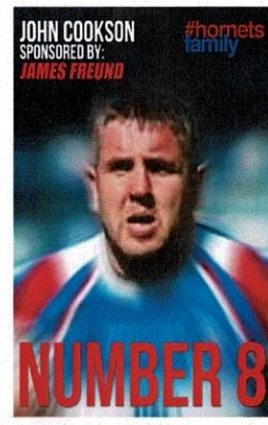
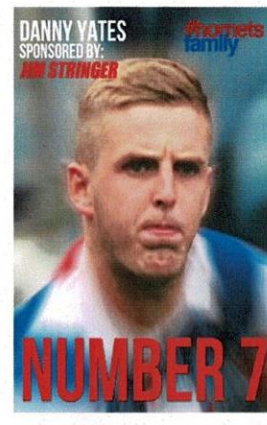
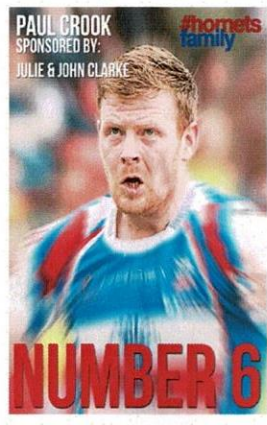
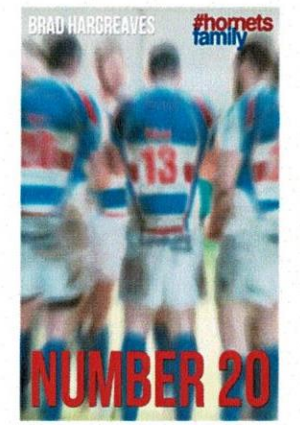
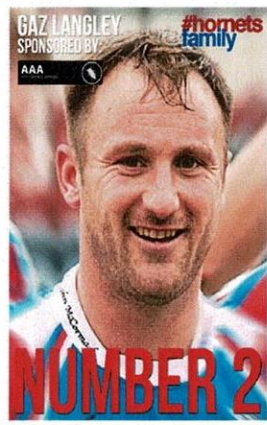
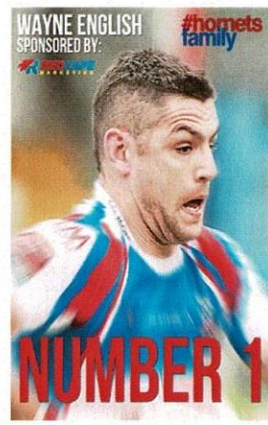


Try's Scored:

15



Top Try Scorer:  
Jordan Case (3)



# ROCHDALE HORNETS 2015



**STING 'EM**

**HORNETS**



## Primary School Development

Progress has been made in the Primary Schools in Rochdale and surrounding area, since October 2014, James Tilley and Danny Bridge have been working away in no fewer than 7 primary Schools often delivering 2 double lessons each, followed by an after school club, delivering to over 200 boys & girls in years 5 & 6 delivering over 200 lessons in 3 School terms since October 2014 until now, coaching rugby league skills to boys and girls in the Primary schools of Rochdale.

Aligned to this is the £1,500 grant from "Rugby League Cares" the games Charity issuing three £500 grants to three clubs in Rochdale – Rochdale Mayfield Mustangs, Littleborough and Milnrow Cobras to support the development of three U7s teams, Hornets will be working closely with all three clubs to deliver this important sector of introducing the youngsters to "Primary Rugby League" in partnership with the three clubs.

Primary Schools in Rochdale, which have had Rugby League delivered:

1. Holy Trinity Primary School
2. St Michaels (Bamford)
3. Littleborough Primary School
4. Holy Family Primary School
5. Al Saints Primary School
6. St Marys RC Middleton
7. Alkington Primary School

Also in Partnership with the "Rochdale Primary Schools Partnership" the Rochdale Hornets Foundation have delivered three festivals for Primary Schools in Rochdale.



## Februarys Finalists

## Ladies Update

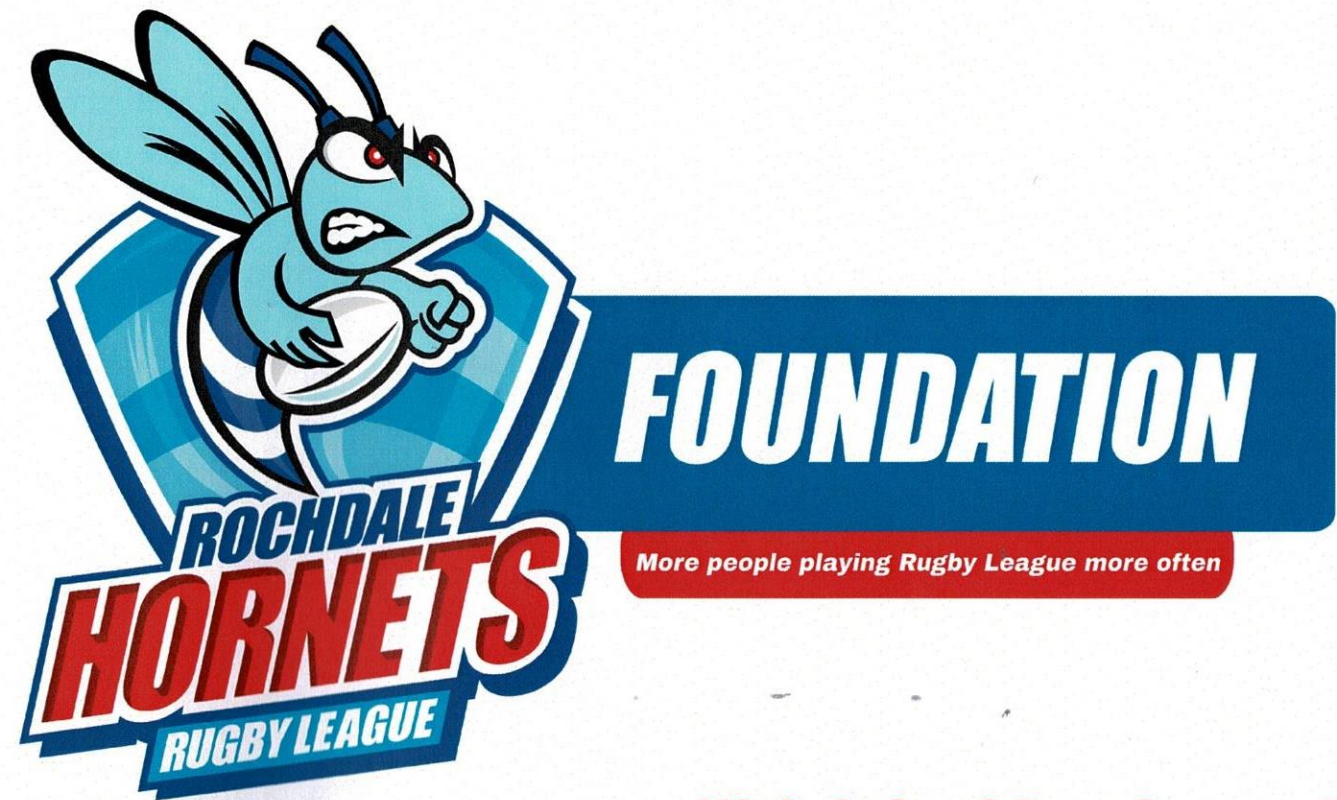
Training has started for 2015, and continues at older Hill Leisure Centre at 6.30pm on Mondays. In the case of Recruitment – The club needs to recruit new players either existing players or any new players, please come along and have a go

The clubs Playing venue is at Firgrove, Milnrow (Milnrow Cobras ground) several matches have been pencilled in as curtain raisers for the Rochdale Hornets Championship 1 games throughout the season.

Contacts:  
Andy Harland  
Rochdale Hornets Foundation Manager  
07802 935173  
andyharlandconsultancy@gmail.com  
or  
foundation@hornetsrugbyleague.com

Rob Rigby Head Coach  
07803 921012  
ritrebor@btinternet.com

Keeley Ramsbottom  
keeleyramsbottom@hotmail.co.uk



## High School Development

### Satellite Clubs

Three secondary Schools were chosen to receive the first batch of a Sport England and safeguarding supported programme – Wardle, Hollingworth Academy and Matthew Moss Academy, they were linked with the three junior clubs in the Rochdale area, Mayfield Mustangs, Milnrow Cobras and Littleborough, James Tilley and Danny Bridge have delivered 20 sessions to each school over 3 terms since October 2014 after school clubs attracting in total 26 year 7 boys, the aim now is to get the boys into the Year 7 school teams and then on to start training and playing at one of the three clubs.

All the boys have been invited to come along and ball boy at two of the pre-season games, in total 6 took up the offer and will be continuing going forward.

Wardle Academy made the final of the Year 7 Rochdale Schools and will play St Cuthbert's High School in the final which will be a curtain raiser to the Rochdale Hornets vs Barrow Rugby League Championship game on the 18th April 2015.

### Rochdale Secondary Schools RL boys Foundation Cups 2015

March 2015 was the date Rochdale Schools started the long road to establishing once again the very successful Rochdale Schools Cups held in previous years, we have re-established with the help of Rochdale Schools administrator Sam Dainty of Matthew Moss Academy in partnership with the new Rochdale Hornets Foundation, led by Andy Harland (Foundation Manager) and with coaching from James Tilley and Danny Bridge the Rochdale Schools Foundation cups 2015 festivals have been held in March 2015 at Matthew Moss with a total of 6 out of 13 secondary Schools in Rochdale entering teams, in 2016 plans are in place to invite all 13 Secondary Schools in all age groups to enter.

During the period since October half term, schools have been offered free coaching in curricular and after School coaching by the Foundation staff, regular lesson time has been devoted to Rugby League. Beside the Satellite after School coaching all three schools involved Matthew Moss, Hollingworth & Wardle have received over 30 in school curricular lessons each to support the after School lessons. A Further 2 Schools Falinge Park & Kingsway Park have had over 30 coaching sessions across Year 7 & 9 age groups. It is estimated over 400 boys have received coaching in schools in this time.

Festivals have been held throughout March 2015, with teams invited from all the Secondary Schools in the Rochdale area via Sam Dainty and the secondary schools PE partnership, with 13 schools in the area. Of the 13 schools 6 schools have taken up the offer to compete in various age groups in 2015, festivals have been held at years 7 (Rochdale Hornets Foundation target Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, and Year 10).

All finals held to be at Spotland Stadium, Rochdale

Year 7 Final Wardle V St Cuthbert's - 3.45pm Saturday 18th April 2015 Hornets v Barrow Raiders

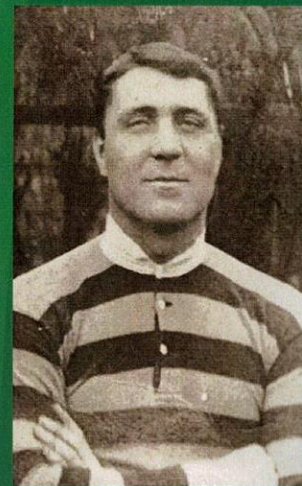
Year 8 Final Matthew Moss V Holy Family - 1.35pm Sunday 26th April 2015 Hornets v Newcastle

Year 9 Final Matthew Moss V Falinge Park - 3.45pm Saturday 9th May 2015 Hornets v Swinton

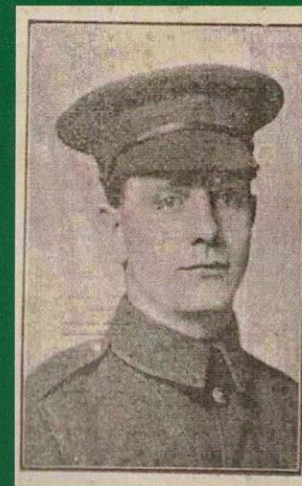
Year 10 Final Matthew Moss V St Cuthbert's - 3.45pm Saturday 16th May 2015 Hornets v Oxford

# ROCHDALE RUGBY LEAGUE HERITAGE

**100 years after  
WW1, we look at our  
Heroes of Hornets, this  
month focussing on  
Walter Roman, Tom  
West and John Twigg**



Walter Roman



Ernest Thomas 'Tom' West

August 2014 saw the 100th anniversary of the day Britain entered one of the costliest conflicts in history – the Great War. The War - they said - would end all wars, claiming the lives of over 16 million people - it touched the whole world. At home it had an impact on the lives of everyone: in every county, every town, every village - every family, every Northern Union club. One hundred years later, we all remain connected to the First World War, either through our own family history or because of the way it changed forever the history of our communities. In this year of commemoration, nations, communities, families and individuals are coming together to remember those who lived, fought and died in the Great War. So it's fitting that - a century on - we remember those members of our family - the Hornets Family - who made the ultimate sacrifice on the most unforgiving field of all

#### Walter Roman

Nicknamed 'Rattler', Walter Roman was no stranger to conflict: he had previously been a 'regular' in the 2nd Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry in 1899. He saw service in the Boer War, and was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal & Bars, Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, and the Kings South Africa Medal. In 1901 he transferred to the 1st Battalion of the SLI and served in India for five years.

He left the Army in 1907 and resumed his Rugby career, going on to play Rugby Union for Somerset and England. He signed for Rochdale Hornets in January 1910, for what, at the time, was rumoured to be a substantial fee of £200. He was one of the hottest Rugby properties in the country at that time and became Hornets' captain, leading the side to the 1911 Lancashire Senior Cup.

He was selected for the 1914 Northern Union tour of Australia and New Zealand - which went on to become famous for its Rorke's Drift test. Although he never won a test cap, he played in seven games and scored one try. Walter was in Australia when war was declared. As a reservist, Walter - along with fellow Hornet Jack Robinson - presented himself at Victoria Barracks in Sydney requesting the earliest passage back to the UK. The earliest ship was the one on which the England team was to return.

Having arrived back in England on a Saturday - and to Rochdale in the early hours of Sunday - Walter departed to report to his regiment in Taunton on the Monday.

On his return from tour, Walter said: "I think our team one of the greatest combinations that ever left England... Our last match was a revelation of Bulldog Courage and British pluck. I now have sterner work to face for King and Country. I shall do my best in this great game just as I always do in football"

Walter Roman played one more game for Hornets a year later against Broughton Rangers whilst on leave. The Rochdale Observer reports the crowd's roar of appreciation as he led his team into battle on the football field for what would be the last time.

On the first day of the Battle of the Somme on Saturday 1 July 1916 - his 36th birthday - Walter's unit went over the top of their trench into no-man's land and advanced towards the German positions. While charging forward he was savagely wounded down one side. He was dragged from the battlefield and shipped back to a military hospital in Cheltenham. Despite rallying, he died of his wounds.

His body was taken back to Bridgwater where his funeral was held in a packed Holy Trinity church.

The Bridgwater Mercury reported "Throngs of people lined the streets and the procession took a long time to reach his grave, such was the outpouring of grief at the loss of this famous individual"

Hornets directors Messrs Aspinall and Hudson attended. The players were represented by Hornets captain George Prudence, fellow England tourist Jack Robinson, Alf Turner and Johnny Baxter.

In a five year Hornets career Walter Roman scored 44 tries and 15 goals.

#### Ernest Thomas 'Tom' West

The third son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter West, of Twerton near Bath, 'Tom' began playing rugby at half-back for Oldfield Park Wesleyans, a Sunday School team. He switched to playing soccer for three seasons, but was drawn back to rugby by his local Twerton club. From there he progressed into Bath's second team, and his prowess as a sprinter saw him make the transition into the three-quarters. After four seasons with Bath, his job took him to Gloucester where he played for half a season, but struggled to get into a first team packed with England internationals.

His return to Bath saw him made first-team captain and he played alongside Jack Robinson - who also joined Hornets, and who was selected for the 1914 Australia/NZ tour with Walter Roman. Whilst captaining Bath, Tom won six county caps, playing in a Somerset side captained by another future Hornet - Tommy Woods.

Tom West signed for Hornets in 1909 and, in 1911, won the Lancashire Senior Cup playing in the same side as fellow Somerset-men Roman and Woods.

Tom West was an early volunteer, joining the Rifle Corps on 5th September of 1914. He lasted just over a year.

Killed in action on the morning of 29th September 1915. He was on sentry duty alongside his fellow Bath Centre Bert Lewis when he was hit by a German bullet that killed him instantly.

Notice of his death was delivered to his mother along with a letter that he hadn't lived to dispatch. It read: "I may not have the opportunity of writing to you for a little while, so you must not worry if you don't hear from me. I shall be quite all right..."

Tom's Rochdalian comrade Rifleman Pomfret wrote home: "I regret to inform that my greatest chum Tommy West - the well known Hornets player... met his death this Wednesday morning whilst doing his duty. The bullet passed through the side of his face and there was no hope for him. He died immediately without saying a word."

In six seasons with Hornets Tom West made 146 appearances, scoring 50 tries and five goals.

#### John Twigg

Born in Ibstock, Leicestershire, John Twigg had previously been an Army Regular, which explains his early mobilisation in WW1.

He'd served with the 2nd Leicester Regiment in India for six years and represented his regiment at Rugby Football on a tour of Ceylon where he played against Kundy, Colombo and a Ceylon national select side.

He returned to play for his local club Coalville before being picked up by Leicester Tigers. In his two years there he won six county caps and it was at a Midland Counties v Cornwall game where he was spotted by Hornets directors on a scouting mission. It is reported that they were 'favourably impressed'.

He was reported as having signed for Hornets on Monday March 16th 1914, having played his last game for Leicester v Gloucester on the Saturday.

Described as a 'strong, sturdy forward, six feet in height and weighing 13st 8lb' it was expected that 'He should make a name for himself in Northern Union Football'.

John was killed in action on 13th March 1915 at Neuve Chappelle during the France and Flanders campaign. In an interview with the Rochdale Observer his Comrade Private Clacey said: "Before our infantry were given the order to charge, the artillery opened fire, maintaining a fierce bombardment. The Germans replied, one of their shells dropping into the trench where Twigg was. He was struck on the head with a big splinter and so severely injured that death was instantaneous."

He went on: "He was a very popular soldier and his death was much regretted. When out there Sergeant Twigg used to often talk about Rochdale Hornets and his friends at Rochdale and he regularly received some fine hampers from the town."

John is remembered on the Leicester Tigers Roll of honour, and on Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

# WHO ARE YA?

## Oldham Roughyeds

In their opening game of the 2015 Kingstone Press League One season Rochdale Hornets take on their fierce rivals Oldham in a contest dubbed 'El Clasico'. Here is all you need to know about our Good Friday derby opponents:

**Who are they?** – Oldham Roughyeds were formed in 1997 due to the demise of the previous Oldham Football Club. Under their old alias they lifted the Challenge Cup three times but since their reformation under the Roughyeds name have spent most of their time competing in the third tier. They have been play-off final runners up in that division four times, most recently in 2013 when they were beaten by the Hornets 32-18 with Rochdale rising to the Championship with that victory.

**Where are they from?** – The club are based in Greater Manchester and are the Hornets' biggest local rivals.

**Where do they play?** – Before 1997 they called Watersheddings their home and moved to local football ground Boundary Park under their restructure. In 2010 they moved to Whitebank Stadium which is currently their home ground.

**How do they look?** – The home colours of the Roughyeds are red and white with their away strip being black and pink.

**How are they doing?** – They opened their competitive season with a 42-6 win over new boys Coventry Bears in the iPro Sport Cup before beating them again 46-6 in the Challenge Cup a week later. They reached the last four of the iPro Sport Cup with a 32-10 victory over Barrow Raiders and came up short against Sheffield Eagles in the Challenge Cup, bowing out of the fourth round with a 44-20 victory. At the time of writing they are yet to play their semi-final where they face a travelling North Wales Crusaders side for a place in the final at the Summer Bash in Blackpool.

This is the first meeting of the two sides since the Hornets' 2013 play-off triumph where they beat them 23-22 to secure a place in the final before meeting their fierce rivals again, winning 32-18 to gain promotion. That grand final win completed a hat-trick of wins as they also won their season opener against Roughyeds that year 28-18, with Oldham picking up one win later in the season. Ian Talbot's men will be out to pick up another opening day victory over their neighbours as the season starts with a bang with the Good Friday derby.



Adam Neal - Oldham Roughyeds

# WHO ARE YA?

## Newcastle Thunder

Rochdale Hornets will round off their first month of the 2015 Kingstone Press League One season by hosting Newcastle Thunder and here is all you need to know about the Hornets' final opponents of April:

**Who are they?** – Newly named Newcastle Thunder will be most commonly known as Gateshead Thunder who came to light in 1998 when they were granted a Super League license. They put rugby league in Tyneside on the map and beat competing bids from Swansea and Cardiff based clubs. Their time in top tier was short lived though and with financial difficulties damaging the club throughout the years they are now playing under the name Newcastle Thunder which is considered 'Mark VI' of the club.

**Where are they from?** – They are a club from Tyneside, based in Newcastle upon Tyne and are the only professional rugby league club from the North East.

**Where do they play?** – Their home ground from 2015 will be Kingston Park, also the home of rugby union club Newcastle Thunder. Their former ground from their inception in 1999 up until this season was the Gateshead International Stadium, also known as the Thunderdome.

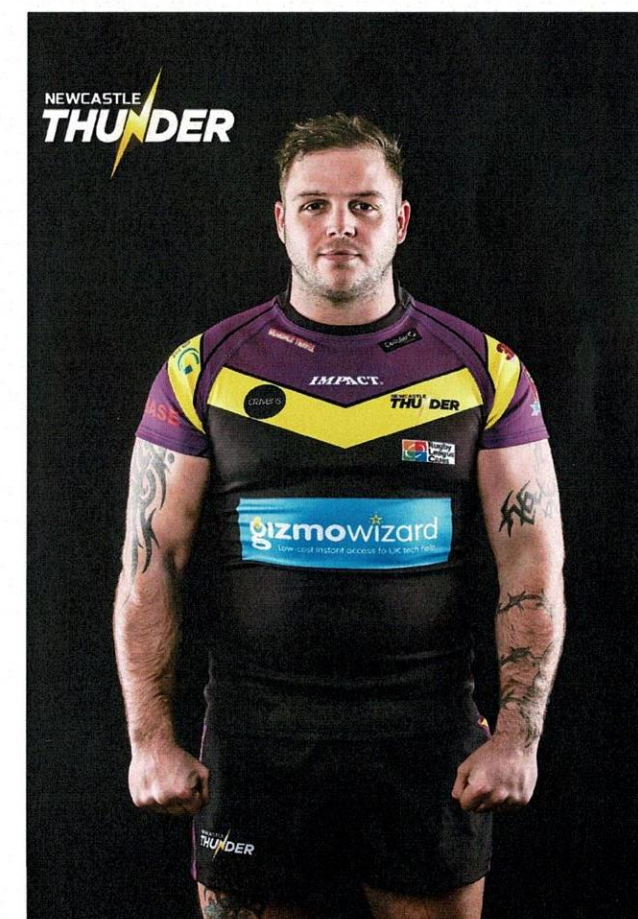
**How do they look?** – The colours of Newcastle Thunder are purple, black and white with their away kit for this season being black, white and purple.

**How are they doing?** – Last season the then Gateshead Thunder finished fourth in the Kingstone Press League One, losing in the second round of the play-offs to eventual winners Hunslet Hawks.

They have never beaten Rochdale Hornets since they joined League One in 2010, losing all nine of the fixtures between the two sides. The last of those defeats came in 2013 when they visited Spotland and lost 29-22.

At the time of writing they have reached the iPro Sport Cup semi-final where they will play Swinton Lions having beaten Oxford and then York City Knights to get there.

At the time of writing they have reached the iPro Sport Cup semi-final where they will play Swinton Lions having beaten Oxford and then York City Knights to get there. They also reached the fourth round of the Challenge Cup with a 26-4 third round victory over Wath Brow Hornets although they come up short against Dewsbury Rams, losing 28-18 against the Championship outfit. Under the guidance of Stanley Gene and their new name the future of Newcastle Thunder looks bright but Rochdale will be hoping to keep their unbeaten run against their North East opponents going.



Jason Payne - Newcastle Thunder

Gareth Walker's



## CHAMPIONSHIP TALK

in association with *RUGBY LEAGUER & League Express*

# League One's Big Kick-Off

Easter Monday marks the start of the Kingstone Press League One campaign, with seven fascinating fixtures to get us underway.

At Spotland, Rochdale Hornets host local rivals Oldham in what the home club has dubbed the El Classico of Rugby League.

Ian Talbot's side started the season solidly enough with cup wins over South Wales Scorpions and Kells, only to be knocked out of both competitions on consecutive weekends against North Wales and Swinton.

The Roughyeds' hopes of making the iPro Sport Cup final was dented by the weather when their semi-final with the Crusaders was postponed on Sunday, but a win away at Barrow in that competition indicates that the bookies might have got it wrong making them seventh or eighth favourites for the league.

The Raiders kick their league season off away at much-fancied Newcastle Thunder.

Stanley Gene's team have shown plenty of promise to date, even in a Challenge Cup defeat at Championship side Dewsbury, and will be looking to lay down an early marker at their new home.

But Barrow are likely to be a major force as well, as shown by their 38-22 Challenge Cup win over pre-season league favourites Keighley.

It's fair to say the Cougars haven't hit their straps so far ahead of their opener against York City Knights. Keighley are another side out of both cups, and having been tipped to go well by virtue of a highly-experienced squad, they will be looking for rapid improvements in the league.

York have flown under the radar a little to date, but under new coach James Ford they have a Challenge Cup fifth round tie at Leigh Miners to look forward and much to be positive about on the field, even if off it remains something of a soap opera.

Another team with a new man in charge is London Skolars, who shocking start to the year signalled the end of coach Joe Mbu's reign.

He has been replaced by experienced halfback Jermaine Coleman, and as luck would have it, his first game in charge is against his former club Hemel.

With brother Jy-mel on the books at the Stags - while being linked with a move to London - there's plenty of extra interest at stake at New River Stadium.

Elsewhere, Coventry Bears mark their professional debut with a home game against an Oxford side that was unceremoniously dumped from the Challenge Cup by Leigh Miners.

Don't rule out a Bears debut win there.

There will be a plethora of Welsh players on show when the Scorpions travel to Gloucestershire All Golds, who could have up to eight players from Wales in their ranks against the homegrown visitors. And arguably the pick of the games comes at Sedgley Park, where Swinton Lions host North Wales Crusaders.

Both teams are undefeated to date, remain in both cup competitions and are expected to be title challengers.

Something will have to give in their league season opener, on what promises to be an exciting first weekend of action.

WHO

ARE

YA?

## Barrow Raiders

In their third game of the season Rochdale Hornets will return to Spotland for their league clash with Barrow Raiders, and here is all you need to know about their Cumbrian counterparts:

**Who are they?** - Barrow Raiders are a club with rich rugby league history who were founded in 1875 and began playing rugby union, with their switch to the superior code coming in 1897. They have lifting the Challenge Cup once in 1955 and reached the final on a further four occasions. Where are they from? - The club are from Cumbria and are the only Cumbrian side in this year's Kingstone Press League One.

**Where do they play?** - They play from Craven Park and have done since 1931 with their previous homes being Little Park and Cavendish Park.

**How do they look?** - They wear a blue home shirt and red away shirt, both with a white 'V'.

**How are they doing?** - Their first competitive game came at home to Gloucester in the first round of the iPro Sport Cup where they narrowly edged the contest 16-14 and followed that up with a 38-22 Challenge Cup victory over Keighley Cougars. Their iPro Sport Cup journey was ended in the next round by Oldham in a 32-10 defeat and Halifax also ended their Challenge Cup campaign with a comfortable 56-16 win over the Raiders. By the time they meet the Hornets they will have travelled to Newcastle Thunder and hosted Swinton Lions in the Kingstone Press League One.

The two sides met in the Championship last season, with the restructuring of the leagues seeing both teams relegated. In 2014 they recorded a win each in this fixture, with Barrow clinching a home victory 38-18 and the Hornets exacting revenge at Spotland with a 54-22 victory. Rochdale will be looking for a repeat of the last time the two met at Spotland back in 2014 as they face Barrow Raiders in their second home game of the league campaign.



Joe Bullock - Barrow Raiders

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# ROCHDALE HORNETS

## 2015 FIXTURES

### Kingstone Press League 1

#### APRIL

Fri 4th - Oldham (H) 3pm  
Sat 11th - Gloucestershire (A) 3pm  
Sat 18th - Barrow (H) 5:30pm  
Sun 26th - Newcastle (H) 3pm

#### MAY

Sun 3rd - Coventry (A) 3pm  
Sat 9th - Swinton (H) 5:30pm  
Sat 16th - Oxford (H) 5:30pm  
Sun 31st - South Wales (A) 3pm

#### JUNE

Sun 7th - York (A) 3pm  
Sun 14th - North Wales (A) 2:30pm  
Sun 21st - Keighley (A) 3pm  
Sat 27th - Hemel (H) 5:30pm

#### JULY

Sun 5th - Newcastle (A) 3pm  
Sun 12th - Oldham (A) 3pm  
Sun 19th - Coventry (H) 3pm  
Sun 26th - Swinton (A) 3pm

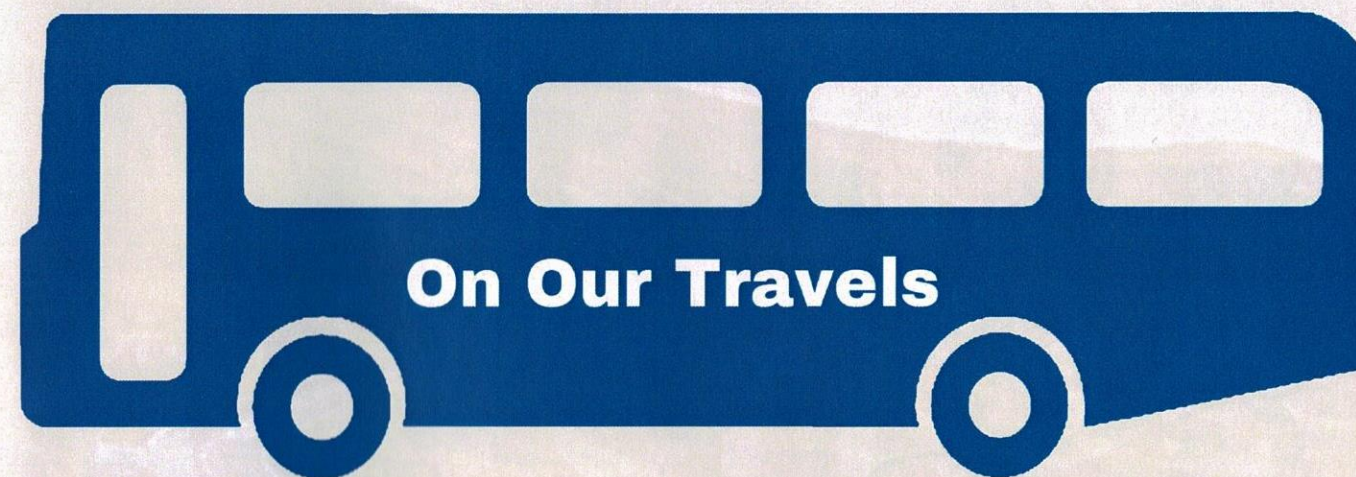


#### AUGUST

Sun 2nd - South Wales (H) 3pm  
Sun 9th - North Wales (H) 3pm  
Sun 16th - Oxford (A) 3pm  
Sun 23rd - Keighley (H) 3pm

#### SEPTEMBER

Sat 5th - Barrow (A) 6:30pm  
Sun 13th - London Sk. (H) 3pm



### Gloucestershire All Golds

April sees the Hornets on their travels for the first time in the 2015 Kingston Press League One campaign and their first away fixture is against Gloucestershire All Golds.

On their visit to the All Golds they will be playing at the Prince of Wales Stadium in Cheltenham which was opened in 1981 and has been home to Gloucestershire since 2013.

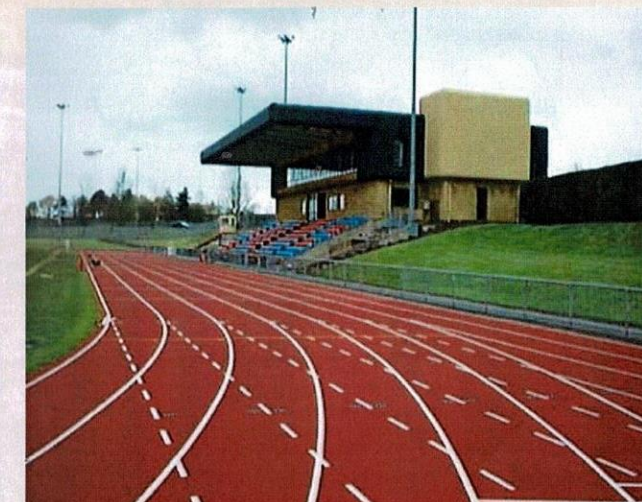
This will be only the second visit that the Hornets have made to Gloucester as the All Golds' first season in League One was during Rochdale's successful promotion campaign of 2013.

Their one and only visit to the Prince of Wales Stadium saw Ian Talbot's men come home with the two points in a 54-10 victory. Nine of the current squad played in that fixture and Tol's right hand man Chris Hough also played and scored in that victory with Gaz Langley racking up 22 points with a try and nine conversions.

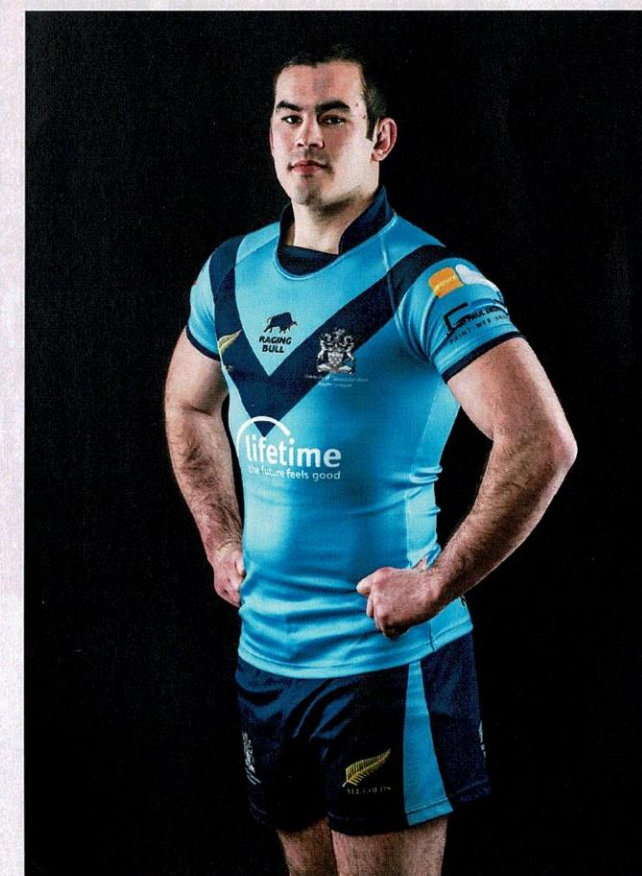
They did meet in 2014 though at Spotland as the home side triumphed 76-4 in the Challenge Cup and this will be their first meeting since then.

In the head to heads Rochdale Hornets have won all three meetings between the two sides, scoring 202 points and conceding 26 in those encounters. Gloucestershire were a newly formed professional side when the two last met in a league fixture two years ago and have improved since then. They are now used to life in the third tier, improving on their last placed finish in 2013 to finish just outside the play-offs last year. Despite the score-lines of the three previous meetings between the two they will be no push-overs and it will take a good performance to bring the two points home again.

It has been quite a wait between visits for the Hornets but Talbot's men will be looking forward to a return to the Prince of Wales Stadium, as well as hearing the 'Ornets!' chant from the travelling Hornets Family.



Prince of Wales Stadium



Steve Parry - All Golds





# KIDS CORNER!

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 K O O N T L I O G D G Y T L Z  
 W O E O D N F E Q Q N Z V E U  
 U V O M K F O L C C E K U Y Y  
 C Y W R U S Y M L A N G L E Y  
 P B U S C U O R U N I Y O Y Z  
 S L D H E T T N F A J I M S V  
 F F P D R A G N T C E F B C O  
 V Q D Z X R M T Z O Q B Z M W  
 P S V M X O G T E B E W F Y K  
 N P A W O H R E D N J A U D Y  
 E C B B N J V J F S Q L M I Q

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# ROCHDALE HORNETS vs OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS

## OFFICIAL TEAM SHEET



**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, Spotland Stadium, 3pm Kick Off**

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HORNETS	SPONSOR	SQUAD NUMBER	ROUGHYEDS	SQUAD NUMBER
GAZ LANGLEY	AAA Pest Control	2	JACK HOLMES	4
DALE BLOOMFIELD	Stephen Holt	5	ADAM CLAY	2
LEE PATERSON	The Loyalists	4	JON FORD	23
DAVE HULL		24	GEORGE TYSON	17
BRAD HARGREAVES		20	JARROD WARD	5
RYAN SMITH	Dave Scott	21	LEWIS PALFREY	6
DANNY YATES	Jim Stringer	7	STE ROPER	7
RICHARD BEAUMONT	Leigh Centurions	26	PHIL JOY	18
PAUL CROOK	Julie Clarke	6	GAZ OWENS	15
WARREN THOMPSON	Bills Girls	10	ADAM NEAL	10
JORDAN CASE		11	JOSH CROWLEY	11
DANNY BRIDGE	Safeguard	19	DANNY LANGTREE	12
TONY SUFFOLK	Richard Farnell	13	LIAM THOMPSON	13
REPLACEMENTS				
LEWIS CHARNOCK	St Helens	15	SAM GEE	9
ALEX McCLURG	The 4 B's	9	MICHAEL WARD	19
MATTY HADDEN	The Flying Horse	28	KENNY HUGHES	16
SAM BROOKS		17	NATHAN MASON	22

**Coaching Staff:**

Ian Talbot  
Chris Hough  
Daryl Cardiss

**Timekeeper:**

Trevor Haigh

**Chaplain:**

Garry Whittaker

**Physio:**

Brian Carroll

**Doctor:**

Dr Ian Sampson

**Game Day Assistants:**

Graeme Henthorne  
Dave Ramsbottom  
Scott Ramsbottom  
Caroline Hartley

**Coaching Staff:**

Scott Naylor  
Lee Spencer

**Match Referee:**

S Ansell

