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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					
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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					
23 FORD, Jonathan	Oasis Academy Oldham					
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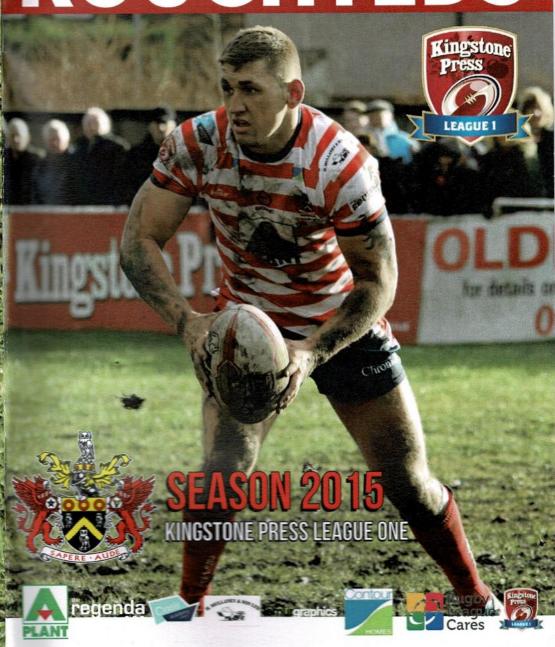
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Conor Kelly

SUNDAY 12th APRIL 2015 OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



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RUGBY CORE.

Kingstone Press The Official Cider of Rugby League















Classic Apple Cider

---0 NATTER WITH NOBBY

HELLO and welcome to today's game against Coventry Bears at the Whitebank Stadium.

It's very rare to be playing a team for the third time in six weeks, but that's what today's game is. Both teams will know everything they need to know about each other so it should be a closer encounter than the previous two games offered up.

Coventry have already won their first league game this season which is a tremendous start for them and I'm sure their confidence will be very high today and their attitude and effort will be

I was impressed with the Bears in the two games we've played this year and I'm in no doubt they will continue to win games this season as they continue to progress and improve as a team and as a club.

first-class.

They are well coached and very

professional in their manner and the way they handle themselves on and off the pitch is a credit to their staff and players.

Our game last Friday against Rochdale was a gritty and tough performance, full of heart and character.

To come from 12-0 down to win 23-16 and keep Rochdale from scoring another try from ten minutes into the game until the end shows the extent of the desire we

have in our bunch of lads this season to win for the fans and themselves.

> We've known for a while that we have talent, fitness, effort and understanding, but after Friday we now know we also have what's needed to go all the way.

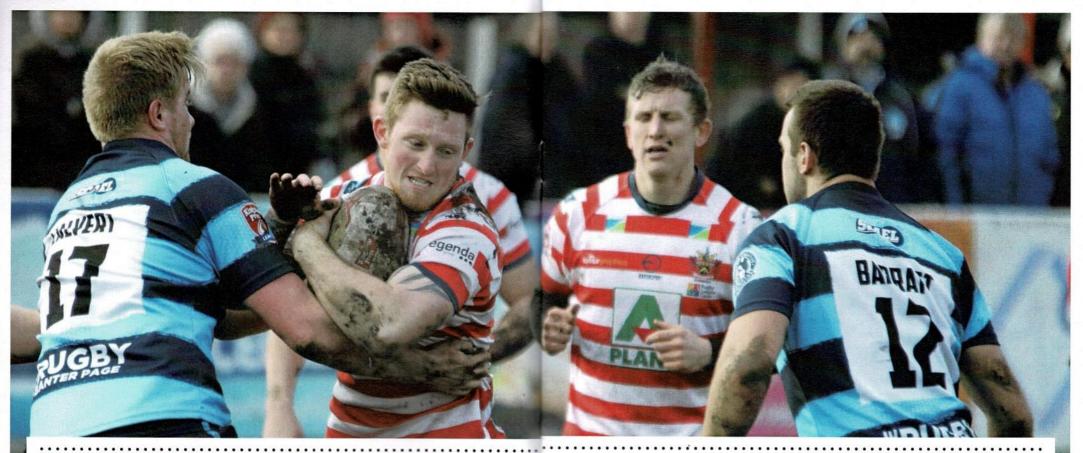
> > To beat Barrow and Rochdale away so early in the season is a good sign. I hope you enjoy today's game and continue to turn up and support your players all season.

Many thanks









Behind Closed Doors with... JARROD WARD

Who are your heroes or people you look up to?

My Dad and Aussie star Billy Slater.

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

I'm big into clay pigeon shooting, #topshot.

What is the highlight of your career so far?

Debut for Bradford Bulls at 16. but hoping it will be winning the league this year.

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

Charlie Sheen & Katy Perry.

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

My little boy, Oscar.

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

Gaz (Gareth Owen). He's been on form these past few weeks.

Which TV programme would you never miss?

'Duck Dynasty', I think they're all mad.

What was the last book you read?

'Mickey Mouse Fun House' (to my little boy).

What's your favourite type of music?

Bit of everything; before a game Eminem.

How do you relax after a match?

Without fail, movie and a takeaway.

Finally . . . tell me a secret.

When I was young I was competing to become a professional swimmer in Scotland.



A CHAT WITH CHRIS

GOOD afternoon and welcome back to Whitebank for the final part of our ten-day rugby league trilogy.

This will be our second league game of the season following the great opening-day win away at local rivals Rochdale on Good Friday.

While these notes had to be written before the iPro Sport semi-final against North Wales Crusaders there is no doubt the last few days have been exciting thanks to the result at Spotland and then the semifinal coming so soon afterwards.

Today sees the return of Coventry Bears to Whitebank for the third time in their first four games - you couldn't script it could you?

Importantly for them, their other match was their opening League One fixture on Good Friday when they gained s very creditable 32-10 win at home to Oxford.

We know from the matches we have already played against them that we will need to be up for a physical battle if we are to get another win on the board and keep up the momentum in the league campaign.

For our lads it is all about being strong, mentally and physically, to get through this third match against

opponents who will want to improve on their fortunes of their previous two visits in the iPro Sport Cup and the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup.

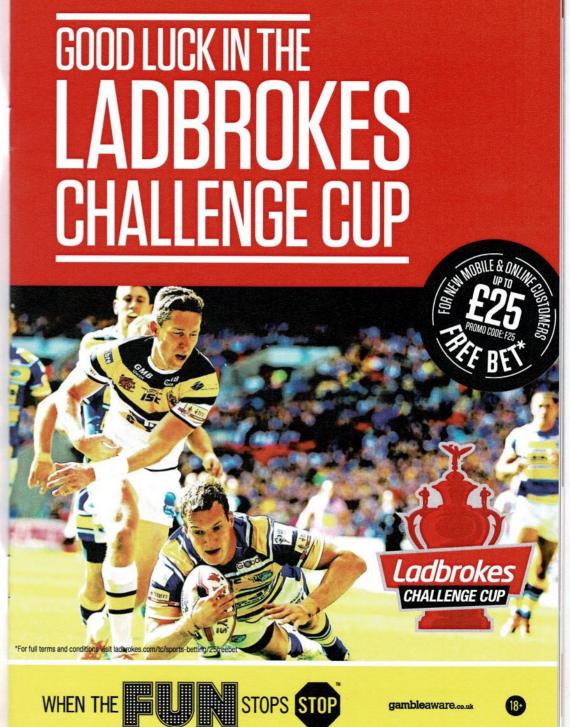
I was interested to see, once again, some of the surprise results in Super League over Easter, particularly on the Monday when players were backing up for their second match in four days.

Playing twice over Easter has long been a bone of contention for a lot of coaches, who have expressed their frustration at a situation that has often seen top teams losing games they would normally expect to

Saints losing at home to Hull, who went into the game joint bottom, was a perfect example - and with so much at stake it will be interesting to see just how influential these results are come the end of the season.

Back to today and, as ever, your support is vital. The noise you create and the encouragement you give to the team always makes a big difference - Please keep it up . . . and enjoy the game.

Chris





'Able' Kane

gets Naylor nod of approval

SCOTT Naylor has again lauded the "excellent" work of the latest addition to his backroom team --- Kane Daniels.

Daniels (23) has succeeded Mike Hughes the hard work that was asked of them. as our head of strength and conditioning, while retaining his full-time appointment at Huddersfield Giants where he is responsible for the physical well-being of more than 50 young players in the Super League club's academy.

Although his Whitebank appointment is a direct spin-off of our dual-registration partnership with Huddersfield. Kane is working part-time for us on a contract It negotiated with Roughyeds and paid by us. acknowledgement of Kane's prowess in

He was the man in charge of conditioning throughout our tough and hugely demanding pre-season programme.

Scott spoke highly of his work several weeks ago and reiterated it after our win at Rochdale on Good Friday when we came from 12-0 down to win 23-16 with 11 points in the last quarter of an hour.

In many ways it was a similar performance to the one we put in at Barrow where we also won after conceding two tries early

In his post-match analysis at Spotland after the derby, Scott said: "We are a very fit squad thanks to our partnership with "I've seen a huge difference in the squad's Huddersfield Giants and the help they have fitness levels during the time Kane has given us in this respect.

"Kane Daniels is doing a great job for us Club captain Lewis Palfrey also spoke

"We are finishing strongly and in a competitive division in which there are going to be a lot of close scores you need to finish stronaly.

"Also, we haven't used up our full allocation of replacements, and that's been the case in several games - another marker to the quality of our fitness and durability."

Scott's second public conditioning and the affect his work has had on the mental and physical toughness of our players.

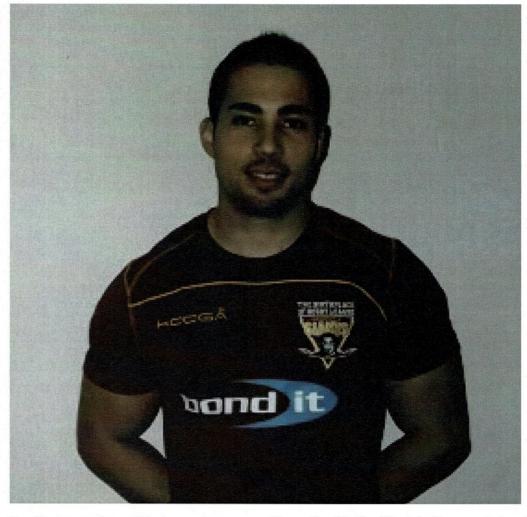
He said earlier: "Kane has come to us with a Super League background and with new ideas and methods.

"Mike Hughes has left to go to Australia, but we have an excellent replacement in Kane, whose gym and general conditioning sessions are very different to anything we've done previously.

"He is very professional and everything he does with the squad is well organised and

been with us."

as conditioner, but a lot of credit must also highly of Daniels, while assistant boss Lee go to the players who have bought into his Spencer revealed that he and the Giants' methods and his enthusiasm and done all man were working in close partnership on



concentrate on football matters.

after players from under-15s through to League rugby. under-19s.

Australia, he worked in the AFL.

the fitness and conditioning programme. His work with the Giants' elite youngsters thus freeing up head coach Naylor to takes in nutrition, conditioning, gym sessions, speed, agility and rehabilitation.

Daniels joined Huddersfield in 2013 and Said Kane: "I aim to equip the next is now the club's head of strength and generation of Giants players with the conditioning at academy level, looking athletic attributes required to excel in Super

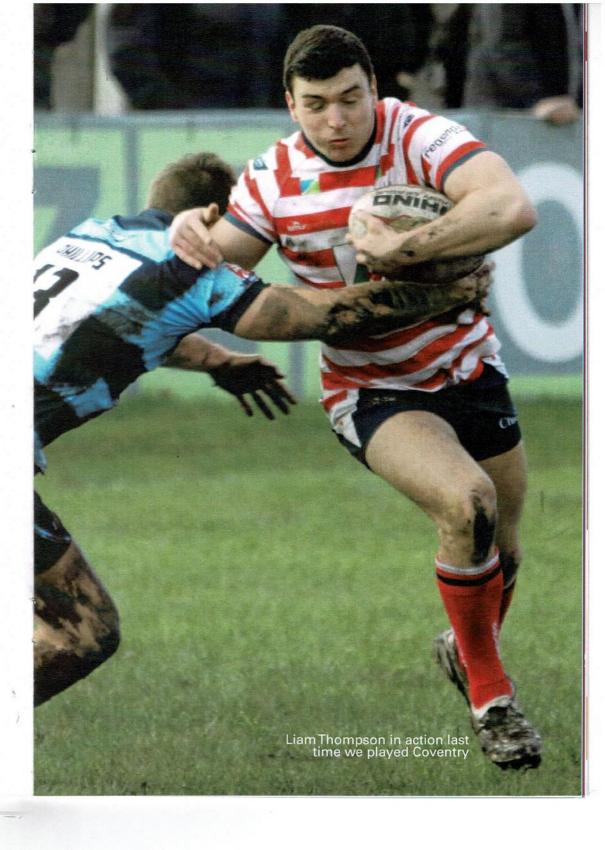
"At Oldham my brief is to help the club to He's a graduate in sport and exercise win promotion and to that end I want to science from Leeds Beckett University and see Roughyeds with the best physically he has also studied similar disciplines from equipped squad in the division by creating Victoria University in Melbourne. While in strong, explosive, robust athletes with high levels of rugby-specific fitness capacities".



APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Excluding the mid-week semi final)

APERE · AUDIONA	Арр	DG	Gls	Tries	Pts
BROUGHTON, Jodie	1		_	2	8
CLAY, Adam	5	- 1	-	7	28
CROWLEY, Josh	5	~	- '	4	16
FILES, Adam	4	1	-	-	-
FORD, Jon	2	-	- "	-	-
GEE, Sam	5	-	-	2	8
HOLMES, Jack	5	-	-	2	8
HUGHES, Kenny	4	-	- 1	- 12	-
JOHNSON, Josh			-	-	-
JOY, Phil	5	-	-		
LANGTREE, Danny	2	-	-	-	-
LEARMONTH, Micky	2	-		2	8
MASON, Nathan	3	-	-	1	4
NEAL, Adam	5			1	4
NEILD, Steven	1		-	-	82
OWEN, Gareth	5	-	-	-	_
PALFREY, Lewis	5	1-	22	1	48
ROBERTS, Oliver	1	-,			-
ROPER, Steve	- 5	1	1	-	3
THOMPSON, Liam	5	1-	-	1	4
TYSON, George	5			1	4
WARD, Jarrod	5		1	3	12
WARD, Michael	4	15	5.5 (5 -)	2	8



Hull KR trio help Bears to a winning start

Focus on today's visitors

RUGBY League's new era had extra special significance in the Midlands on Good Friday when Coventry Bears made their debut in Kingstone Press League One and set off in style by beating Oxford 32-10 at Butts Park Arena, watched by a crowd of more than 700.

It was a fixture in which the Bears gave debuts to three young loan players from Hull KR and which underlined the exciting geographical diversity that this third-tier competition brings to our sport.

Since the newcomers were beaten here at Whitebank last month in both the iPro Sport Cup and the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup they have strengthened considerably by recruiting the talented trio from Humberside as well as young Matt Reid, a second-row forward or centre from North Wales Crusaders.

The Hull KR boys are all full-time members of the Rovers senior squad, having starred in their club's under-19s side last year which reached the play-offs for the first time.

Matthew Marsh (stand-off) and Connor Robinson (scrum-half) were the regular half-backs and Marsh was rewarded with the Rovers' 2014 Young Player of the Year award.

Another outstanding member of the side was the Bears' third player from the Robins, 19-year-old Josh Guzdek, a highly-rated full-back or wing.

Like Reid from the Crusaders, the Hull KR boys have each signed on loan for one month initially with a view to a longer stay in the Midlands.

The team that got the Bears off to a winning start lined up like this: Brophy; Guzdek, Medforth, Coleman, Hunte; Sheen, Marsh; Geurtjens, Brown, Cooper, Thompson, Barratt, Phillips. Subs: Robinson, Hall, Calvert, Taylor.

The start of the League One season was met with unbridled optimism by everyone involved with the club.

Bears captain Simon Phillips said: "We had two preseason games and we lost one and won one. Being a team in the Midlands, a lot of the lads have come from rugby union so they're still learning the game and we have a few young guys here too but it's all starting to come together.

"Losing those two games against Oldham was a shock. Being new to the league, we didn't really know what to expect but I guess you learn more from losses than wins.

"We know what areas we need to work on now. This is completely new for us but I guess other teams aren't going to know what to expect from us either."

Phillips was recruited from Australian club North Devils in Brisbane, having previously played for the North Queensland Cowboys in the NRL. The 31-year-old says he has settled in well and being from a Rugby League-mad nation, he hopes the Bears can help to promote the game in the Midlands, as well as establish themselves in League One.

"It's been a good experience so far. The club have been great with me and my family and I'm thoroughly enjoying it," he said.

"Coming from Australia, where everyone loves Rugby League, its a big change to be in the English Midlands which is a region you don't generally associate with the sport.

"It's important to the club to develop Rugby League in this area and I know that there is a lot of attention on the University team. The lads have also been going into schools. It's part and parcel of being a part of this team, we have a duty to promote both the club and the sport.

"The goal for us this season is to get as far up the table as we can and to be pushing for the playoffs. We won't be too disheartened if we don't get there because it's going to be a big ask but we'll be pushing as hard as we can because we don't want to finish at the bottom of the table."





A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME to Whitebank everyone at the start of our home games in the restructured Kingstone Press League One.

You might already have noticed that there is a major change this season in the allocation of league points. The bonus point has been scrapped and we revert to the traditional method of two points for a win, one for a draw and nil for a defeat.

With more games this year and a much later start to the league programme it means we will be in action almost every weekend from now to the start of the play-offs in September without those frustrating blank Sundays when it is easy for supporters to find other things to do on a summer weekend.

We got off to a great start with our opening-day win at Spotland and, as a result of the new divisional set-up, which has resulted in five teams coming down from last season's Championship, we can look forward once again to derby games at Whitebank against Rochdale Hornets and Swinton Lions.

Unlike last year, we will also have attractive home fixtures against the three other sides who were in the Championship in 2014, namely North Wales Crusaders, who are well known for their good away following, Keighley Cougars and Barrow Raiders.

There are 14 teams in the competition, including newcomers Coventry Bears, but teams play four of their opponents only once.

The four teams Oldham play only once are Coventry Bears, who are here today, South Wales Scorpions, away; York City Knights, at home; and Hemel Stags, away.

Each of our 11 league games at Whitebank is on a

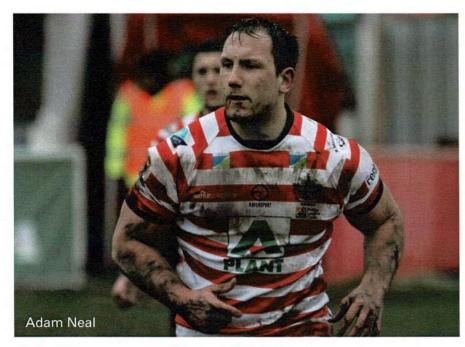
Sunday with a 3pm kick-off, but the away games at North Wales Crusaders on Sunday, July 26 and Hemel Stags on Sunday, August 9 start at 2.30pm.

Barrow Raiders are playing most of their home games on Saturday evenings and we go to Craven Park on Saturday, May 9, kick off 6.30pm.

For our full fixture list – and results to date — refer to our 'fixtures and results' page towards the back of this programme.

After today our next home game is against London Skolars on Sunday, April 26. Hope to see you then,

Roger Halstead



Neal, Tyson in team of the month

CONGRATS to Adam Neal and George Tyson on their inclusion in 'Rugby League World' magazine's Kingstone Press League One's team of the month for March.

Both are picked in a strong-looking pack, Adam at prop as you would expect and George in the second-row, although he has been producing eye-catching performances for us recently in the centre.

Other Roughyeds nominees, who narrowly failed to get into the final 13, were Adam Clay, Steve Roper and Michael Ward.

Well done boys - keep up the good work.

Top team for March:

Chris Atkin (Swinton Lions); Rob Massam (North Wales Crusaders), Alex Thompson

(North Wales Crusaders), Chris Hankinson (Barrow Raiders), Lee Mapals (Newcastle Thunder); Benn Hardcastle (Newcastle Thunder), Liam Campbell (Barrow Raiders); Mark Mexico (Newcastle Thunder), Andy Ackers (Swinton Lions), ADAM NEAL (OLDHAM), Gary Middlehurst (North Wales Crusaders), GEORGE TYSON (OLDHAM), Adam Nicholson (Barrow Raiders).

While on the topic of 'Rugby League World' it's always interesting to hear or read about what others think of you.

In the magazine's March issue they did a 2015 preview of the League One season, predicting where each club would finish.

We were down to finish SIXTH out of 14, which would put us out of the play-offs, given



that they feature 1 or 2 v 5 and 3 v 4.

Interestingly (and it will be good to take a look at this again at the end of the season) this is how 'Rugby League World' thinks the table will finish up:

North Wales Crusaders

Keighley Cougars

Rochdale Hornets

Barrow Raiders

Swinton Lions

OLDHAM

Newcastle Thunder

York City Knights

Hemel Stags

London Skolars

Gloucester All Golds

Oxford

South Wales Scorpions

Coventry Bears

Plenty of motivational material there then for both Rougheds and Coventry, both of whom got their league campaigns off to a great start on Good Friday.

Banker bet ? Coventry won't finish bottom.

As part of the same feature Gareth Owen is named as 'one to watch' and Adam Neal is said to be a 'key gain'.

New-boy Tom getting ready for action

WE are delighted to confirm that we have strengthened our squad by signing Sheffield Eagles' young centre Tom Ashton on a contract to the end of this season.

Leigh-born Tom, aged 22, was at Sheffield for more than three years and had resigned for 2015.

For much of that time he lived in Mossley and had a part-time job outside rugby, but on moving back to live in Leigh and getting full-time employment in Stockport he found it impossible to fulfil his commitments to Sheffield Eagles.

He needed a club nearer home so he asked for his release from Sheffield --- and got it.

"Two or three other League One clubs were also interested, but when I talked to Oldham and trained with them a couple of times it just felt right for me," said Ashton.

"There was a buzz in the air and everybody seemed very ambitious."

Ashton became our second centre signing in six days, following the return to Whitebank, for a third loan spell, of Salford's Jon Ford.

Unlike Ford, who was here in 2013 and again in 2014, Ashton will be given two or three weeks in which to familiarise himself with the Roughyeds' systems, style of play and coaching methods before being considered for his debut.

Said coach Scott Naylor: "When we heard Tom was available we followed it up immediately because he has a lot of qualities to his game.

"It will take him a bit of time to get used to us, and to understand what we are trying to achieve, but I am looking forward to working with him and seeing him reaching a position in which he has earned his place in the team."

As a boy, Ashton spent seven years at Leigh Miners before switching codes to join Sale Sharks academy and later making his semi-pro debut at Preston Grasshoppers, aged 17.

Within a year he was back in rugby league with Sheffield, playing mainly in the

but earning a first-team contract in 2014 when he made eight senior appearances and scored a try against Castleford in the Challenge Cup.

"I hope I can add something to what everyone is trying to achieve at Whitebank," said Ashton, who was at school in Leigh with his new Roughyeds team mate George Tyson.

KEEPING ABREAST OF THE RULES

FOUR rule changes, relating to concussion, referrals to the video referee, obstruction and use of the sin-bin, have been introduced this year.

- Changes to the obstruction policy will favour the attacking side and remove ambiguity that caused confusion among players and fans last season.
- Teams will be allowed an additional 'free' interchange if an injured player needs a pitch-side concussion assessment — a move designed to safeguard even further players who receive head injuries.
- Offences for which players can be sin-binned will be cut from seven to four to encourage referees to impose immediate sanctions and thus reduce the number of 'on report' decisions.
- A new law on the use of video referees will bring the sport in this
 country in line with Australia's NRL in which the referee is required to
 signal his decision first even if he then goes 'upstairs' for the video
 official to look at whether there is enough evidence to over-rule him.

RFL chief executive Nigel Wood said: "These changes will enhance the sport for players, spectators, coaches and TV viewers alike by making the laws of the game as simple and unambiguous as possible."

Fans should also note that the 'bonus point' system of rewarding teams which lose by 12 points or fewer has now been abolished. We now return to the straightforward former system of two points for a win, one for a draw and nil for a defeat.

Prostate Cancer UK links up with Rugby League Cares

proudly stand side by side as one super team - awareness of a disease that kills one man ever hour Men United - as Prostate Cancer UK links up with in the UK. Rugby League Cares.

The three-year tie-up with the charitable arm of the RFL will see the forward-thinking charity continue to set the tone across the sporting landscape.

As part of the partnership, Prostate Cancer UK will establish relationships across the sport and work with clubs from Super League to the community game on a host of projects.

One of the biggest dates on the calendar, Magic Weekend, will also see Prostate Cancer UK's evergrowing Men United movement take over Newcastle for an unforgettable weekend of entertainment on Rugby League fans can join Men United and do May 30 and 31 - on and off the St James' Park pitch.

Fans can win one of two pairs of Magic Weekend Day Pass tickets generously donated by Super League and Rugby League Cares by completing a short survey on behalf of Prostate Cancer UK here.

And as part of the national partnership Rugby League

Utilising Rugby League Cares' impressive network of contacts across the sport, there will also be a series of charity roadshows between May and July with community clubs hosting Men United quizzes and raising money through collections, raffles and

Prostate Cancer UK are the official charity partner of Widnes Vikings for the 2015 Super League season. but players and coaches from all 12 Super League clubs have already pledged their allegiance to the new partnership by signing for Men United.

something great with their mates to help beat prostate cancer, as well as having the chance to win a pair of Magic Weekend Day Passes at St James' Park in May, Join Men United today,

Funds raised throughout the partnership will be split equally between the two charities.







FIXTURES & RESULTS

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2015	March				
L1Cup LCC(3) L1Cup LCC(4)	Sunday 1st Sunday 8th Sunday 15th Sunday 22nd	COVENTRY COVENTRY Barrow Sheffield	Н Н А	W 42 - 6 W 46 - 6 W 32 - 10 L 20 - 44	
2015	April				
KPL1 L1Cup KPL1 KPL1 KPL1	Friday 3rd Wednesday 8th Sunday 12th Sunday 19th Sunday 26th	ROCHDALE NW Crusaders COVENTRY SOUTH WALES LONDON SKOLARS	A H H A	W 23 - 16 L 18 - 16 3:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm	
2015	May		8		
KPL1 KPL1 KPL1 KPL1	Sunday 3rd Saturday 9th Sunday 17th Sunday 31st	GLOUCESTER BARROW NEWCASTLE KEIGHLEY	H A H A	3:00pm 6:30pm 3:00pm 3:00pm	
2015	June				
KPL1 KPL1 KPL1 KPL1	Sunday 7th Sunday 14th Sunday 21st Saturday 27th	NORTH WALES OXFORD SWINTON GLOUCESTER	H . H A A	3:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm	
2015	July				
KPL1 KPL1 KPL1 KPL1	Sunday 5th Sunday 12th Sunday 19th Sunday 26th	YORK ROCHDALE LONDON NORTH WALES	Н Н А	3:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm 2:30pm	
2015	August				
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2015 9	September				
KPL1 KPL1	Sunday 6th Sunday 13th	SWINTON OXFORD	H A	3:00pm 3:00pm	Ŷ



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RUGBY LEAGUE



THE RFL has launched the next phase of Let's insight into why the sport appeals to some of our Talk Rugby League, its national campaign which most important stakeholders: Let's Talk More Rugby aims to gain a greater insight into why players League is designed to drill deeper into those findings participate in the sport.

Previous research helped the RFL understand its current and potential audience: players, fans and spectators. The results enabled the governing body to design and develop products and programmes that demands and needs of our players. have been specifically tailored to meet demand.

The second phase of Let's Talk Rugby League will examine the motivations of current players to enable the RFL to continue to design programmes and services that are player-centred.

Over the next eight weeks Let's Talk More Rugby To complete the Let's Talk More Rugby League survey League will gather the opinions of current players of all ages and abilities on what motivates them to play the sport, including how they first became involved and why they continue to participate in Rugby League.

RFL Director of Participation and Strategic Partnerships David Gent said: "Let's Talk Rugby League was a huge success and gave us a valuable

by engaging with participants on a more detailed level.

"We believe that by improving our understanding our customers, we will be able to offer higher quality support and services that are better suited to the

"The information that we gather will ultimately help us to drive participation in the sport and I would urge everyone who's associated with Rugby League at community or professional club level to complete the survey and have their say."

visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LTmoreRL

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a free draw and have the chance to win one of over 100 prizes which include five Apple iPad Minis, 50 iTunes vouchers (£15) and 50 Rhino Rugby League