



1. Ritchie Hawkyard
2. Shaun Robinson
3. Stuart Littler
5. Alex Hurst
6. Ben White
7. Chris Atkin
8. Mike Morrison
9. Andy Ackers
10. Ben Austin
11. Grant Beecham
12. Darren Hawkyard
13. Tommy Gallagher
14. Keith Holden
16. Jimmy Rowland
17. Andy Thornley
18. Aaron Lloyd
21. Andy Ball
22. Chris Rothwell
23. Connor Dwyer
24. Jordan James
25. Harry Aaronson
28. Mike Butt
29. Mick Govin
30. Josh Barlow
31. Rob Lever
- Matt Gardner

1. Steven Nield
2. Adam Clay
3. Tom Ashton
4. Jack Holmes
6. Lewis Palfrey
7. Steven Roper
8. Phil Joy
9. Sam Gee
10. Adam Neal
11. Josh Crowley
12. Danny Langtree
13. Liam Thompson
14. Adam Files
15. Gareth Owen
16. Kenny Hughes
17. George Tyson
18. Richard Joy
19. Michael Ward
20. Tom Dempsey
22. Nathan Mason
24. Jake Hughes
26. Oliver Roberts
- Jon Ford
- David Hewitt

2015 Season

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**SWINTON LIONS**

*This match day programme has been designed & produced by The Swinton Supporters' Trust*

SWINTON LIONS RLFC 2015

#jointheteam



Sunday 21st June 2015

3PM

Park Lane

Today's Man of the Match sponsored by Swinton Lions Supporters' Trust



# Swinton Lions RLFC Club Records

105-107 Chorley Road, Swinton, Lancashire, M27 4AA

www.swintonlionsrlfc.co.uk – swintonlions@hotmail.co.uk - @swintonlion

## CLUB OFFICIALS

**Chairman:** John Roddy, **Vice Chairman:** David Jones, **Directors:** Alan Marshall, Steve Wild (Representing Swinton Supporters' Trust), Peter Aaronson, Richard Ralphson. **CEO:** Steve Wild

**Head Coach:** John Duffy **Assistant Coaches:** Wes Rogers, Stuart Littler

**Training and Coaching Staff:** Martin Fisher, Phill Halliwell, Ryan Powell, Mark Richardson, Colin Robinson, Greg Stebbings,

**Kitman:** Alan Gibbons, **Assistant Kitman:** Chris Gettins

**Physio:** Sarah Webb **Assistant Physio:** Norman Brown,

**Timekeeper:** Alan Dixon

**Lottery & Office:** Ryan Thaddeus, **Media:** Ian Rigg - lionsman992000@yahoo.co.uk

**Commercial & Events:** Abbi Roddy - abbi.rod@swintonlionsrlfc.com

**Community** - Contact us at: swintoncommunity@outlook.com

**Programme Produced by:** Jeff Tyldesley, Stephen Johnson, Toni Tyldesley, Pete Green & Ian Rigg, on behalf of Swinton Lions Supporters' Trust.

## CLUB HONOURS

**Rugby League Champions:** 1926/27, 1927/28, 1930/31, 1934/35, 1962/63, 1963/64 **Runners Up** 1924/25, 1932/33, 1939/40 **Challenge Cup Winners:** 1899/1900, 1925/26, 1927/28 **Runners Up:** 1926/27, 1931/32 **Lancashire Cup Winners:** 1925/26, 1927/28, 1939/40, 1969/70 **Runners Up:** 1910/11, 1923/24, 1931/32, 1960/61, 1961/62, 1962/63, 1964/65, 1972/73 **Lancashire League Winners:** 1924/25, 1927/28, 1928/29, 1930/31, 1939/40, 1960/61 **Runners Up:** 1892/93, 1893/94, (Under RFU), 1897/98, 1900/01, 1922/23, 1926/27, 1934/35, 1938/39, 1965/66 **Second Division Championship Winners:** 1984/85 **Runners Up:** 1986/87, 1996 **Second Division Premiership Winners:** 1986/87 **Runners Up:** 1988/89 **BBC Floodlit Trophy Runners Up:** 1966/67 **West. Div. Champ. Runners Up:** 1963/64 **Championship One Champions:** 2011

## CLUB RECORDS

**Win:** 94-0 v Gateshead Thunder Aug 2010 **Loss:** 0-112 v Warrington Wolves May 2011

**Appearances:** Ken Gowers 602 (Including 8 as Sub) 1954-1973

**Points:** Career - Ken Gowers 2,105 - 1954-73. **Season:** - Ian Mort 338 - 2011. **Match:** - Chris Atkin 34 Vs London Skolars, Mar 2015

**Tries:** **Career** - Jim Valentine 300, 1884-1901, Frank Evans 197 - 1921-1931. **Season** - Jim Valentine 48 1888/89, John Stopford 42 - 63-64. **Match** - Mark Riley 6 Vs Prescott, Aug 1996.

**Goals:** **Career** - Ken Gowers 970. **Season** - Albert Blan 128. **Match** - Chris Atkin 13 Vs London Skolars, Mar 2015

**Ground Record Attendance:** 44,621 Warrington v Wigan 07/04/1951

**Club Record Attendance:** 26,891 Swinton v Wigan 12/02/1964

**World Record Kick:** 77.75 yards by Martin Hodgson at Rochdale Hornets 13/4/1940

# A View From The Boardroom

With Steve Wild

A warm welcome to the fans, players and officials of Oldham RLFC, for this crucial top-of-the-table local derby clash in the Kingstone Press League 1. We are positioned just one point behind our neighbours with a game in hand, so that in itself demonstrates the importance of today's match.

Last week, both the Lions and Oldham scored lots of points against southern-based clubs, but today's encounter will inevitably be a much tighter and fiery affair, especially if our pre-season encounter is anything to go by!

Regrettably, we were unable to secure a work permit last Monday for our Australian guest Michael Burgess, so it was with great regret that he returned home this week. If circumstances change in the future, then of course we would welcome Michael back without hesitation.

Congratulations also to Mike Butt on his selection for the England Universities team, this coming off the back of his first professional contract and a man-of-the-match display in our impressive win over Newcastle Thunder a fortnight ago.

Also, a big thanks to Jack Morrison for his efforts on behalf of Swinton Lions. Jack has not had as much game time as he would have liked, so to be fair to him he has been released from his contract. We wish Jack all the very best for the future.

Elsewhere in today's programme, you'll find details of some of the community work we've been involved in recently, which in view of our long-term ground ambitions is vitally important. A crucial part of our community work is undertaken by the Swinton Supporters' Trust, and today's game has been designated "Trust Day". If you're not already a Trust member, please give it some serious thought and sign up.

Enjoy the match and please bring a friend to the crucial game against Barrow in a fortnight's time.



# Duffy In The Den

With John Duffy

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's big local derby against Oldham.

First of all, I'd like to say a massive thank you from myself, the staff and all the players to our travelling fans at Coventry last week.

On the whole, we were very professional in our play and I was pleased with the performance. Even so, we had a 10 minute blip and we need to learn to maintain our concentration at all times. But as always, you supporters were fantastic and you really helped the boys throughout the game.

Today is going to be a very different match however. We are coming up against a very physical and well-drilled Oldham side that is playing some great rugby at the moment.

We will need an 80 minute performance if we are to take the two points.

The squad have had a great week's training and will be fired up for this one, so get behind the Lions, sing out loud, and enjoy the afternoon!

# Our Visitors - Oldham

By Stephen Johnson

Oldham began the league campaign with a run of 5 consecutive victories, quickly establishing themselves as the 'team to beat'. The Roughyeds currently lie third, two places and one point above the Lions, they have amassed another couple of wins since their scorching early form.

Their three league losses thus far have come at the hands of Barrow, Keighley, and North Wales, all sides who are very much involved in the hunt for promotion, and today's match gives the Lions an opportunity to re-affirm ourselves amongst the title contenders.

The club recently completed a loan deal which saw 19 year old half-back David Hewitt arrive from St Helens for an initial period of one month.

Explaining the rationale behind the deal, Head Coach Scott Naylor commented "Half-back is the only department where we don't have competition for places.

"You can go through the side and every position is covered, but we only had two half-backs and that made us vulnerable in those key roles.

"We've played Kenny Hughes there in the past, but we all know he's a hooker. We've also tried Jack Holmes at half-back, but we feel he's better suited to other positions.

"David Hewitt is a recognised half-back looking for first-team experience, so we'll see how he gets on.

21-year-old centre Jon Ford has also returned to the club on loan. He has spent three separate spells with the Roughyeds, scoring seven tries in five games for the Whitebank outfit earlier this season, in addition to spells at Oldham previously in 2013 and 2014

## League Results

W 23-16 Rochdale (A) 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
W 38-10 Coventry (H) 12<sup>th</sup> April  
W 50-12 South Wales (A) 19<sup>th</sup> April  
W 48-6 London Skolars (H) 26<sup>th</sup> April  
W 33-30 Uni of Gloucs (H) 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
L 30-18 Barrow (A) 9<sup>th</sup> May  
W 45-20 Newcastle (H) 17<sup>th</sup> May  
L 32-24 Keighley (H) 31<sup>st</sup> May  
L 38-28 North Wales (H) 7<sup>th</sup> June  
W 64-0 Oxford (H) 14<sup>th</sup> June









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## John Duffy's Blue And White Army

By Jeff Tyldesley

Swinton's next away game is at York on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, kicking off at 3PM.

One definite thing to mention is that the City Knights have moved much closer into the city of York itself, from the now defunct Huntingdon Stadium to Bootham Crescent, residence of York City Football Club.

Although it must be noted that York are in the midst of a turbulent stage, being technically homeless after being sidelined from the 'Community Stadium' project in York.

So they had to hastily rearrange their last game versus London Skolars to Heworth ARLFC's Elmpark Way ground and have also played at York RUFC's Clifton Park home and at a fellow professional venue of Featherstone Rovers during 2015.

So it may be worth keeping an eye for changes on their club website: [www.yorkcityknights.co.uk](http://www.yorkcityknights.co.uk), York Press: <http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/sport/yorkcityknights/> and their Twitter account: @yorkcityknightsRLFC, all of which are regularly updated. Their contact number is: **01904 767 404** and e-mail: [info@ycknights.co.uk](mailto:info@ycknights.co.uk). **Please check before travelling.**

If they do play it at Bootham Crescent, as their website states, at the time of going to press, you follow the M62 Eastbound into Yorkshire, at Junction 29 and take the M1 North which leads into the A1 (M).

At Junction 44 of the A1(M), take A64 towards York. On the outskirts of York, turn left onto A1237 and follow round the city. Turn into the third exit, right onto Shipton Road (A19.) Bootham Crescent is on the left off the A19. The address is: YO30 7AQ, if you're using a Satnav.

If you're going via train, ones where you don't have to change leave Piccadilly at 10.41 and 11.50 and Victoria at 11.37 and 12.37, all of which arrive leaving between 45 and 135 minutes to get to the ground once there. The 11.50 route is currently the cheapest ticket available.

Four trains leave York Station between 18:16 and 19:24, arriving at Manchester between 19:37 and 21:07, the lowest cost involves hopping on the 18:24 service. Tickets cost between £23.60 and £54.60 on [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk), so it's worth booking in advance, if you do go.

Ticket prices are £15 for adults, Concessions £12 and Children £5. See you there! Eat 'em Lions!





## League 1 Action

With Ian Rigg at Park Lane

Swinton kept up their good recent form with a hard fought victory over an impressive Thunder side in the Manchester sunshine.

The Lions took the lead in the first minute when a good passing movement from the first scrum saw Andy Thornley feed Chris Rothwell to score in the left corner and Ben White missed the conversion from the touchline. They could have gone further ahead three minutes later but Stuart Littler was held up as he tried to go over on the right.

Thunder drew level on thirteen minutes when following three scrums in the Lions half, the pressure was too much with Macauley Hallett scoring in the corner but Matty Beharrell could not add the conversion. Within minutes, the Lions were back in the lead when White went over near the posts and added the conversion but Thunder fought back again and on twenty-three minutes Louis Sheriff scored out on the right side after following and collecting a chip kick but Beharrell again missed the conversion.

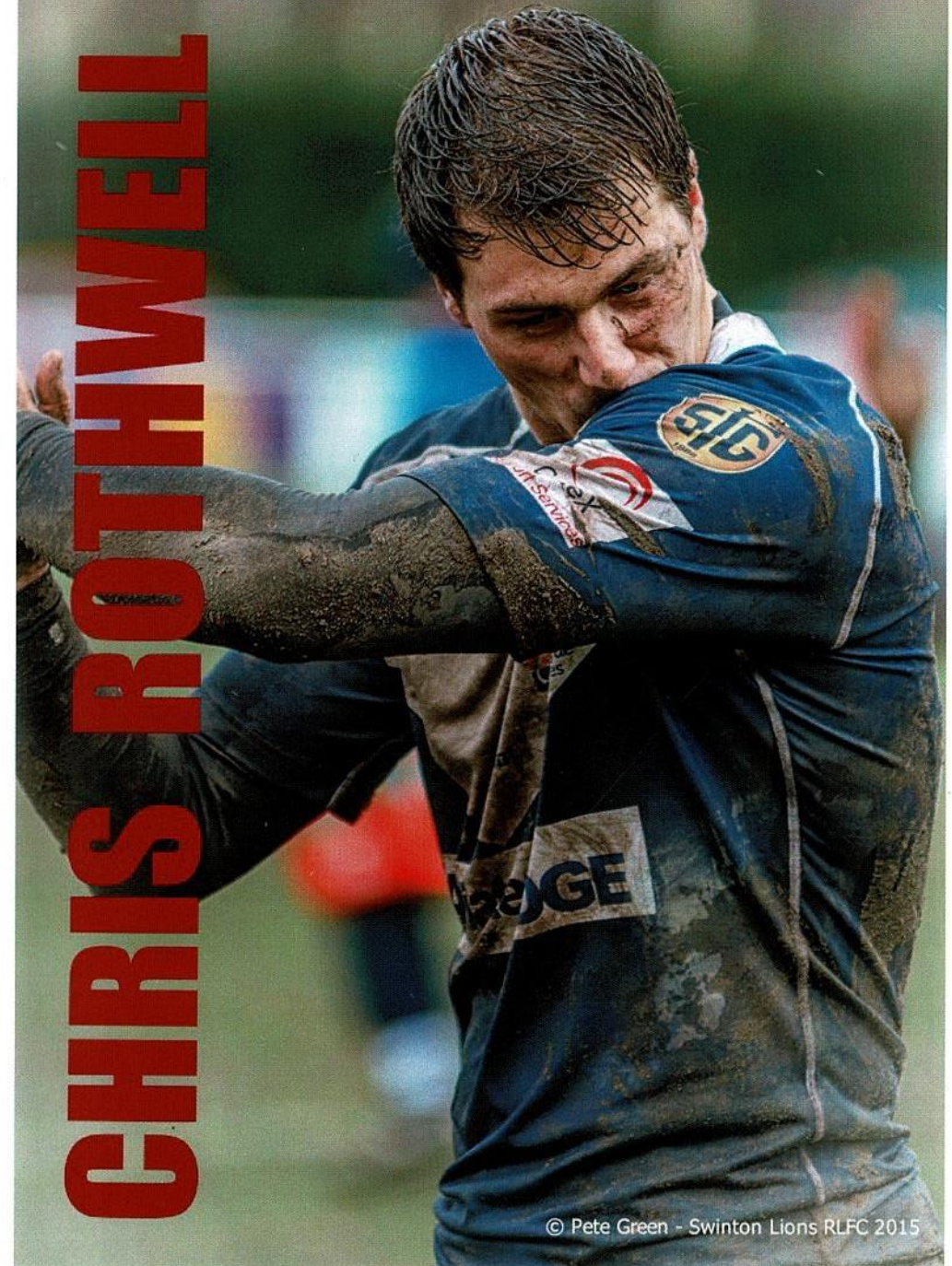
Grant Beecham added the Lions third touchdown on the half hour after some good play by Jordan James set up the pass for him to score by the posts and White again converted. Thunder forced a goal line drop out and put pressure on the Lions line but the final pass in the set went to ground and the chance went, but just minutes from the break the Lions did likewise, forcing a goal line drop out and from the pressure, Aaron Lloyd and Mick Govin set up Darren Hawkyard who forced his way out of two tackles to score by the posts and White again converted to give the Lions a comfortable lead at the break.

The home side went further ahead three minutes into the second half when Lloyd, Govin and Mike Morrison combined to send Mike Butt away to score under the posts and White again converted. Thunder hit back quickly and Hallett made a break up the right wing before putting in a kick for the line and scrum half Matt Marsh won the race to score under the posts and Beharrell converted this one. The Lions defence seemed to go to sleep midway through the half and Thunder capitalised when firstly Hallett scored and Beharrell converted and then a couple of minutes later Paul Stamp escaped some weak tackles to score by the posts and Beharrell converted this to bring his side within two points of the Lions. They could have taken the lead on sixty four minutes when Joe Brown sent Sam Bowring away down the left only for a forward pass to be given.

From the scrum, the Lions made Thunder pay when Andy Ackers finished off a move scoring under the posts and this was converted and during this Thunder had their Trainer red carded by the referee for something that was said after he had run onto the field. The Lions then ran in two more tries in a nine minute period with Rothwell going over in the left corner and then White sold a huge dummy to race away and score himself, adding the conversion to his own try but Thunder would not lie down and Stamp added his second try with seven minutes left and Beharrell again converted but the Lions took the points, in this end-to-end tussle.

## SWINTON LIONS RLFC 2015

CHRIS ROTHWELL

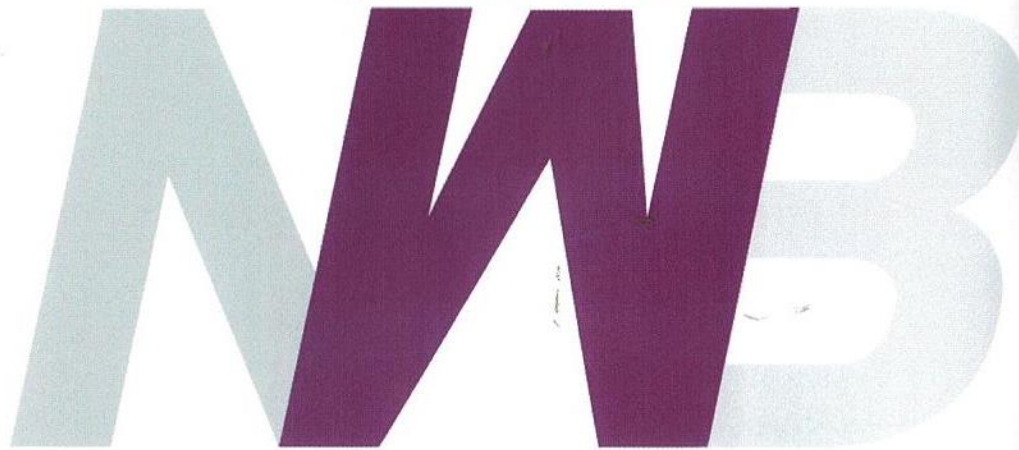




# Championship 1 Table\*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Keighley Cougars	9	8	0	1	331	161	16
2 Rochdale Hornets	10	7	0	3	354	167	14
3 Oldham RLFC	10	7	0	3	371	194	14
4 Newcastle Thunder	10	7	0	3	306	232	14
<b>5 Swinton Lions</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>13</b>
6 York City Knights	9	6	0	3	326	160	12
7 Barrow Raiders	10	6	0	4	340	180	12
8 North Wales Crusaders	9	5	1	3	270	161	11
9 Oxford RLFC	9	4	0	5	193	346	8
10 Gloucestershire All Golds	10	3	0	7	258	291	6
11 Coventry Bears	10	3	0	7	188	379	6
12 Hemel Stags	10	3	0	7	194	387	6
13 London Skolars	9	1	0	8	128	314	2
14 South Wales Scorpions	10	0	0	10	100	508	0

\*Up to Sunday 14/6/2015.



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## The Cock and Swine

The town of Swinton in Manchester takes its name from an ancient pig farm where the town now stands, but it's much more glamorous nowadays, with less pigs. Historically it was predominantly a rural area with many a pig farm hence the name swine-town/Swinton, keep up at the back!

Nowadays though Swinton is a bustling suburb of Greater Manchester, and in between Salford and Worsley nestles possibly the greatest little gem of a pub ever to be found: The Cock and Swine.

Wooden floors and mahogany panelling abound, malt whiskeys and local cask ale at its best, and the kitchen's open every day for the finest in local produce cooked the way you'd like to remember your mother did....

The 'Swine' is a real heart of its community, with a great atmosphere and lovely friendly locals: and very proud to be so.

And we are very proud to be associated with Swinton Lions RLFC because we share the same values about local community and tradition.

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## Matchday Hospitality

For the 2015 season we are delighted to offer a range of sponsorship packages in the Lions' Suite.

All packages include complimentary car parking and programmes with pre match dining and entertainment enjoyed in the Lions Suite before watching the match from the comfort of the main stand. PA Announcements and the presentation of a souvenir of your day will be made to recognise your sponsorship.

### Main Match Sponsor

As our main match sponsor your company will be at the centre of our match day activities, with your logo on the cover of the programme, and the opportunity to select the man of the match.

- For 2 to 20 persons, guide price equivalent to £80+VAT per head (minimum £600+VAT).

### Match Ball Sponsor

- Your chosen logo on the cover of the official programme.
- Receive a Swinton Lions rugby ball signed by the team at the post-match presentations.

For 2 to 10 persons, guide price equivalent to £60+VAT per head (minimum £400+VAT).

### Champagne Moment

- Choose the Champagne Moment and present the award after the match.
- For 2 to 10 persons, guide price equivalent to £45+VAT per head (minimum £200+VAT).

### Match Day Mascot

Give a youngster a real day to remember by nominating him/her as our official mascot for the day! The adults in the party won't feel left out as they will also be well looked after!

To discuss your requirements please contact us by email [abbi.roddey@swintonlionsrlfc.com](mailto:abbi.roddey@swintonlionsrlfc.com) or call **Abbi** on **07774 921 947**.

### LUNCH AND CRUNCH EXECUTIVE SEASON TICKETS

Pre-match dining is available at all home matches in the Lions' suite, inclusive of entertainment provided by MC John Spellman with quizzes and interviews with Swinton legends. The price (excluding ground admission) is £12.50 per person.

We are also offering Lions' Suite Executive Membership for the whole of the 2015 League season (11 matches) for only £120 for single membership, or £220 for a couple. In addition members will receive a complimentary programme at each match.

Also don't worry if you think you might miss a game or two, because membership is transferrable to friends and family for one-off games.



# 2015 Swinton Lions Fixtures

- 01 Mar Hemel Stags (H) iPro Sport Cup R1 - **W 34-0**  
07 Mar London Skolars (A) Challenge Cup R3 - **W 86-4**  
15 Mar Keighley (A) iPro Sport Cup QF - **W 24-22**  
22 Mar Rochdale (H) Challenge Cup R4 - **W 30-12**  
03 Apr North Wales Crusaders (H) - **D 14-14**  
05 Apr Newcastle (H) - iPro Sport Cup SF - **W 36-28**  
11 Apr Barrow (A) 6:30pm - L 12-50  
19 Apr Batley (A) Challenge Cup R5 - L 14-46  
26 Apr University of Gloucestershire (A) - **W 60-18**  
03 May York City (H) - **W 34-24**  
09 May Rochdale Hornets (A) 5:30pm L 16-28  
17 May Keighley (H) **W 29-16**  
23 May North Wales (N)- iPro Sport Cup Final - L 8-14  
31 May Hemel Stags (A) 2:30pm - **W 32-8**  
07 Jun Newcastle (H) - **W 44-32**  
14 Jun Coventry (A) - **W 78 - 8**  
21 Jun Oldham (H)  
28 Jun York City (A)  
05 Jul Barrow (H)  
12 Jul Oxford (A)  
19 Jul Keighley (A)  
26 Jul Rochdale Hornets (H)  
02 Aug Newcastle (A)  
09 Aug London Skolars (H)  
16 Aug North Wales Crusaders (A) 2:30pm  
23 Aug University of Gloucestershire (H)  
06 Sep Oldham (A)  
13 Sep South Wales (H)  
**\*Oxford (H) - date to be confirmed.\***  
20 Sep 1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup> Play-Off  
27 Sep Play-Off Semi Finals

# League 1 Action

With Ian Rigg at Butts Park Arena

The Lions kept up the pressure on the top sides with a runaway victory over the Bears.

The home side had the first chance in the match when in the third minute Dan Parker kicked the ball for the try line but no one followed it and the ball ran dead.

The Lions took the lead two minutes later when Harry Aaronson on his debut scored with a dive into the left corner. Then Chris Atkin forced a goal line drop out and the pressure on the line produced a second try when Andy Ackers sent Rob Lever over under the posts and Ben White converted. Three minutes later Aaronson scored his second when a bomb kick bounced back in his direction and he went past four defenders to score on the left and again White converted.

Atkin added the fourth Lions try on twenty-minutes when he ran away from a scrum to score on the right and from the restart they were straight back up the field and Ackers this time went over under the posts taking three defenders with him and White again converted from in front. Stuart Littler then added another try from a White kick to the corner but the conversion was missed.

Robinson and Atkin then combined to send White racing away for the next try and four minutes before the break it was White again who fed Shaun Robinson and he raced away to score with Atkin converting the last two tries to give the Lions a big lead at the break.

The Lions started the second half just as they had finished the first and White and Littler combined down the right to send Robinson in at the corner but Atkin was well wide with the conversion attempt.

From the restart, the Lions surged downfield to add another when Aaron Lloyd fed White to score under the posts and Atkin converted again. The attack was relentless and within four minutes Atkin broke through and as he was being tackled, he let the ball go to Littler who scored by the posts but Atkin somehow missed the conversion.

Ben Austin scored the Lions next try when Ackers made the break and he went in by the posts and Atkin converted this one.

Coventry finally got on the board on fifty-eight minutes when Jamahl Hunte trapped a loose ball on the floor before picking it up and racing seventy metres to score on the left but Stephen Coleman missed the conversion. Grant Beecham had a try cancelled out for a forward pass and the Bears went back on the attack. Bears added their second try on sixty-six minutes when Billy Sheen scored from a kick through but Parker missed the fairly easy conversion.

Ackers added his second try six minutes from time after White had gone close and the provider added the conversion but from the kick off they were straight back down the field with Tommy Gallagher, Jordan James and White setting up Lloyd to score under the posts and White again converted.

The kick off then sailed dead and the Lions made Bears pay, when some good passing saw Robinson complete the hat trick in the corner but White could not convert but it was an emphatic win for the Lions on the road.

**Coventry 8 Swinton 78**



## Kingstone Press Finals Day Confirmed

The Rugby Football League have confirmed that the Championship, League 1, National Conference League and Conference League South clubs will take part in a day of finals at Widnes Vikings' Select Security Stadium.

Sunday October 4 will see a triple header of games for spectators to enjoy.

The action will start at 11.30am with the Conference Challenge Trophy final and continues with the League 1 play-off final at 2pm.

The final for the Championship Shield will kick off at 4.30pm.

The Conference Challenge Trophy is contested by clubs in Rugby League's Tier 4 – the National Conference League and Conference League South.

"The new league structure has gripped the imagination across all competitions with more unpredictability of outcome than ever before and the Kingstone Press Finals Day will make for a fitting finale to a season where every minute really does matter," said RFL chief executive Nigel Wood.

"Following on from the success of the Summer Bash and Magic Weekend, the Kingstone Press Finals Day has all the makings of another terrific festival of rugby league.

"I am sure fans will not want to miss out on what will be a day to remember where the professional and community games come together."



Swinton Lions is a club on the up and a special pre-match meal in the Lions Suite with lots of added-on incentives is a great way to enhance your game day experience AND promote your business.

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We want you and your friends or business to play a central role in the resurgence of the Lions, but we also want to give you a day to remember!

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Furthermore, a discount may be negotiable if your party is less than 8 persons.



Don't delay, pick the game you want to sponsor. It's first come first served!

7th June 2015	v Newcastle Thunder
21st June 2015	v Oldham
5th July 2015	v Barrow
26th July 2015	v Rochdale Hornets
9th August 2015	v London Skolars
23rd August 2015	v Gloucestershire All Golds
TBA August 2015	v Oxford
13th September 2015	v South Wales Scorpions

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Enjoy all the pre-match entertainment and build-up in the Lions' Suite, including the thoughts of our head coach John Duffy.

Have souvenir photographs with Les, John Duffy & current squad players.

The curtain-raiser, played by local junior clubs or schools, will contest a small trophy sponsored in your company's name. A fantastic positive association for you within the local community!

Watch from the comfort of the main stand with your guests & Swinton directors.

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At the end of the game, you choose the Man-of-the-Match AND make the presentation for another photo opportunity!

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Contact Stephen Wild for more information, Tel: 07932 500 731 or Email: [steve.wild@swintonlionsrlfc.com](mailto:steve.wild@swintonlionsrlfc.com)



[www.swintonlionsrlfc.com](http://www.swintonlionsrlfc.com)





# The Gospel According To Spelly

With John Spellman

Good afternoon everyone, and to all the dads who are here, a happy Fathers' Day to **you** as well!

Oldham are our visitors today, and I'm sure most of you reading this will remember their former home of Watersheddings, which was (in)famous for not being the warmest place on the planet!

I went to 'Sheddings many times, including when they christened their floodlights in an international against France, but the three I remember the most, all involved the lower temperatures for which the ground had its reputation.

One evening, the Roughyeds were hosting the touring Aussies, and as I arrived at the ground, there was a fan who was on tour from Down-Under, but, he was wearing an Oldham jacket. "Why have you got that on?" I asked him. "Because it's that \*\*\*\*\* cold!" was his retort!

A year or two later, Widnes were the the visitors, and Jonathan Davies had a blinder in the Chemics' colours, but hailstones as big as marbles were bouncing down for almost the full match!

And of course, when the curtain came down on Oldham's equivalent of Station Road, they entertained the Lions in a game that had already been postponed twice, and a cold, icy mist shrouded the ground all afternoon!

Just as we lament the losing of our spiritual home, I'm sure the Oldham faithful feel the same about theirs, because both were true, 101%, Rugby League venues!

Watersheddings and Station Road RIP!

Oh yes, just before I finish, enjoy the game, and.....

**COME ON YOU LIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

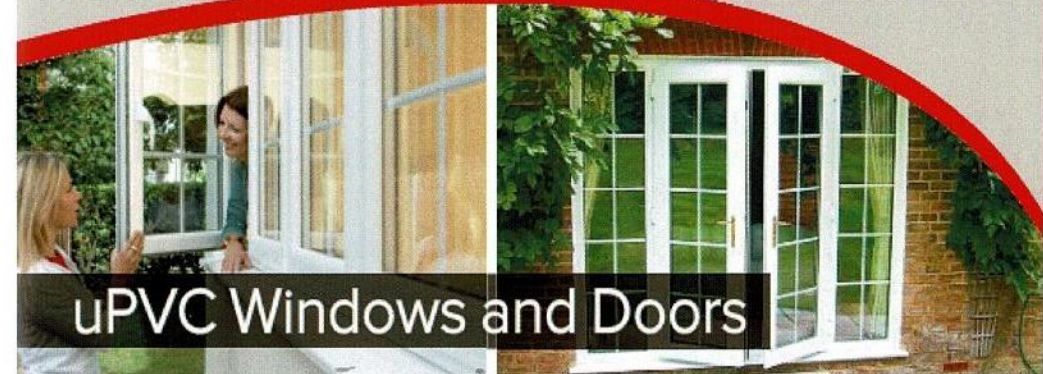
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## Swinton In The Community

With Steve Wild

Our Community work is gathering pace and laying down the foundations for our longer term strategy, which includes of course the development of a community venue in the M27 postal area.

In the last programme, we gave details of the academy accreditation we have been given for our ongoing partnership with Salford City College, and in the meantime we've made good progress on a number of other fronts.

The Swinton Lions Board and Folly Lane ARLFC committee recently had a positive meeting, and we all recognised the need to work closely together in order to promote Rugby League in the Swinton & Pendlebury area.

A number of initiatives with Swinton High School are being pursued, including a wall design depicting the history of the club and the town over the past 150 years. We have also invited the school to run a competition to design our away kit for our historic 150<sup>th</sup> year in 2016.

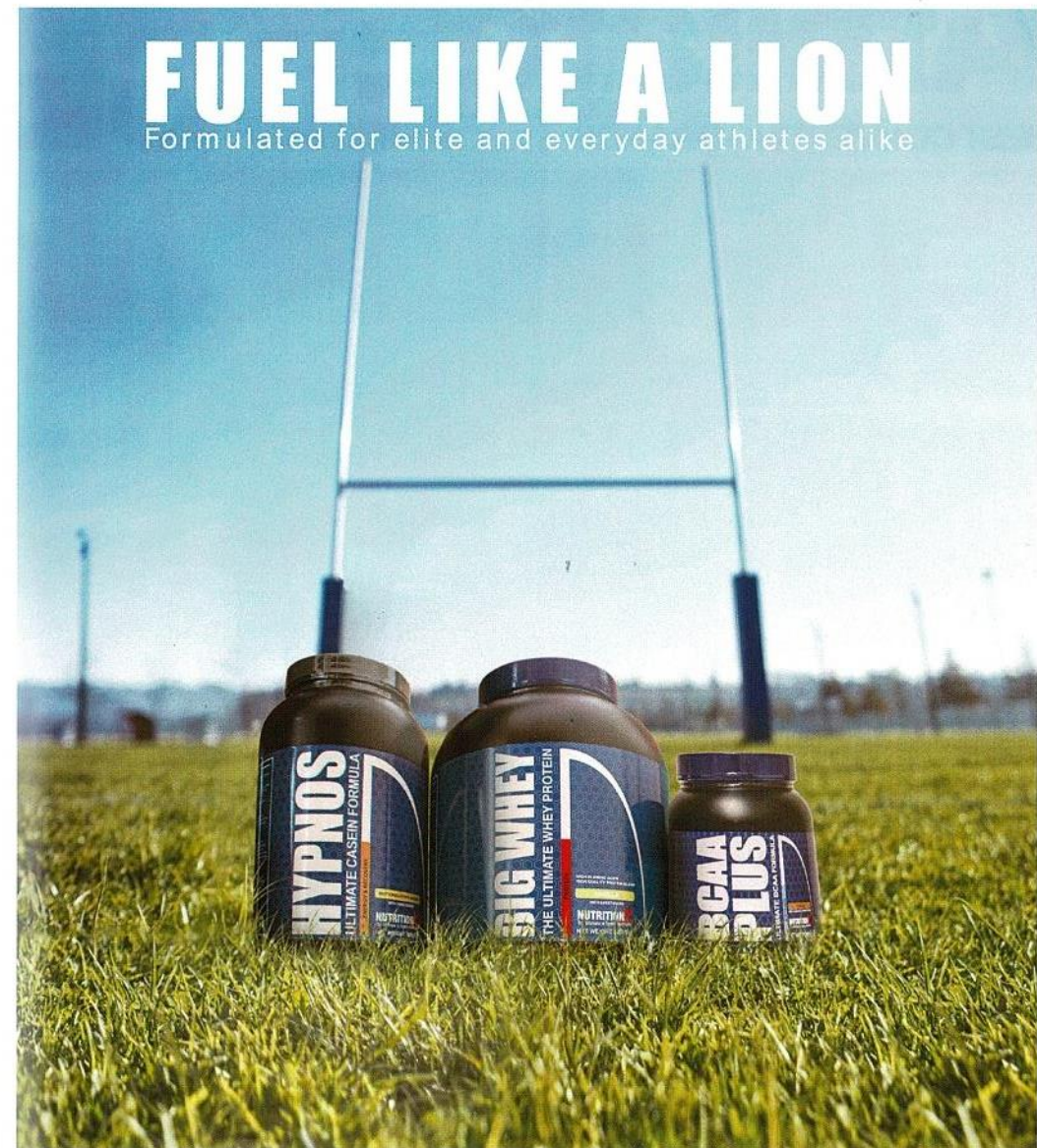
Two meetings with Greater Manchester Police have also been really positive. By the end of September, we hope to stage a tag-rugby competition involving Swinton & Pendlebury schools, with the police as organisational partners.

And of course, you will have all seen the array of junior clubs we've welcomed on match days, when the youngsters have provided us with a curtain raiser game as well as mascots for the day.

On Saturday next (27<sup>th</sup> June), the Lions will be on Swinton Square (Precinct to most of us!), playing an integral part in the "Get Active" theme day. There are all sorts of activities taking place on the day so please get down there and support the club from around 11am onwards.

A week later (4<sup>th</sup> July), we also intend to have a presence at Broadoak Primary School's summer fair.

All this adds up to a positive image for the club, which will be invaluable when we come to pursue bigger projects.



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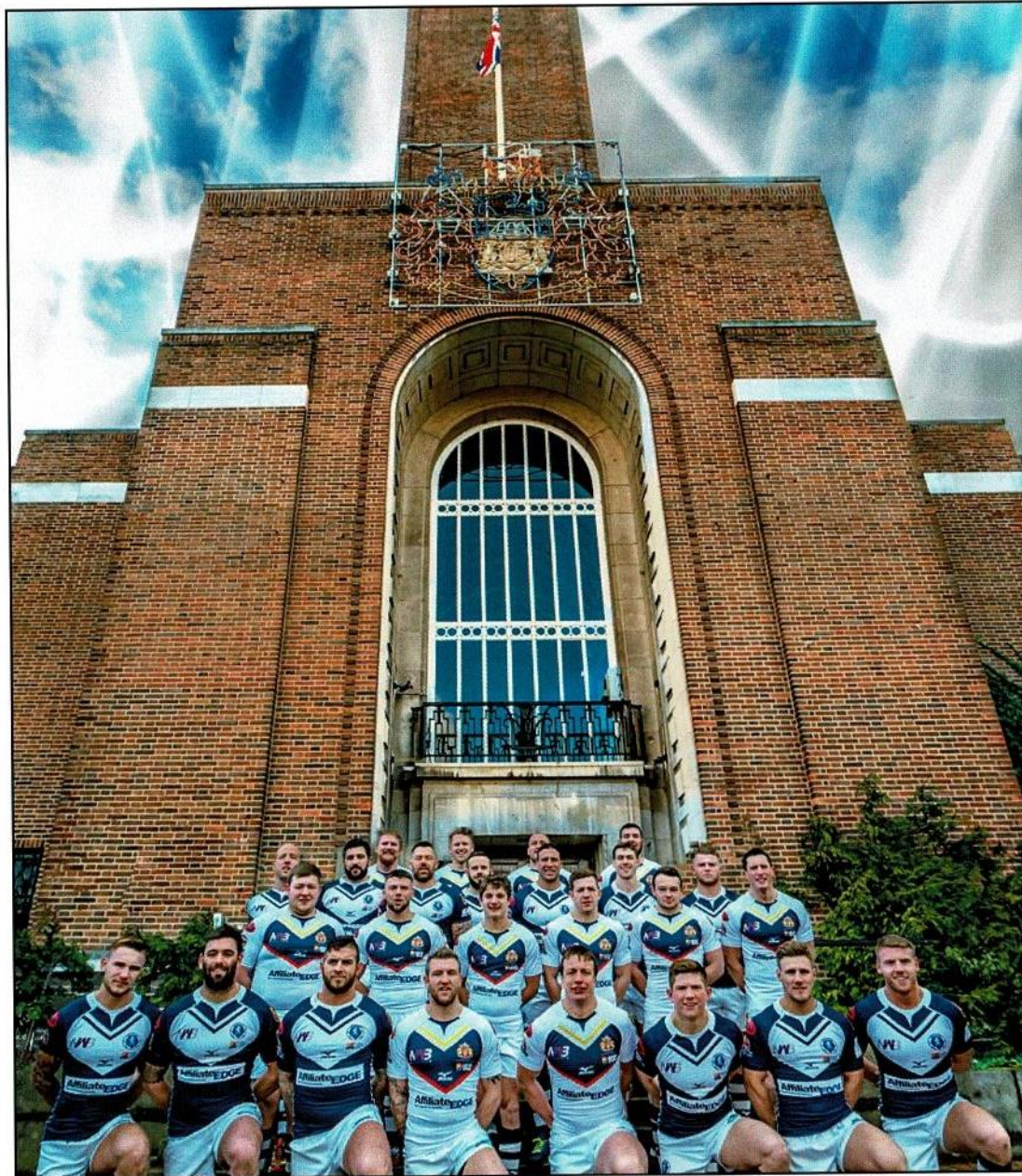
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## Lions In The Great War

With Ian Jackson

The game of Rugby League requires endeavour and bravery and these are two attributes needed in the armed forces. As a result, it is not surprising that there are examples of heroic acts by Northern Union players in the Great War, including the award of the Victoria Cross (VC) which is the highest medal in the military for bravery. Second Lieutenant Jack Harrison of the East Riding Regiment (the Hull Pals) and Hull FC was posthumously awarded the VC in February 1917 for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Oppy Wood in France. Tragically, his son John was also killed in action a generation later at Dunkirk in June 1940 during the Second World War.

Sergeant Thomas Steele of the Seaforth Higherlanders and Broughton Rangers was awarded the VC for bravery under fire in Mesopotamia in modern-day Iraq also in February 1917. Originally from Oldham, Thomas was wounded eleven times during the war, but he continued playing rugby league when he was demobilised.

Lance Corporal Thomas Bryan of the Northumbrian Fusiliers and Castleford was awarded the VC for single-handedly silencing a German machine gun in April 1917 at Arras in France. Thomas was a coal-miner at Askern Colliery and played for the original Castleford team in the 1906-07 season after which the club folded due to financial reasons.

Out of the many recorded examples of bravery by Swinton players in the Great War perhaps the most gallant was performed by Billy Bibby who was originally from Wigan. He played initially for the now defunct Standish and Aston club and signed for the Lions on 8 August 1912 for £10. In total, he played seven times for Swinton scoring two tries, all on the wing during the 1912-13 season, but excluding the abandoned game against Rochdale Hornets in which he featured. The match was called-off by the referee after 50 minutes due to snow with the Lions winning by 9 points to 5 (Rochdale won the reply by 15 points to 5). However, by the end of the season Billy was ready to leave the club but the Lions demanded he repaid £2 and 10 shillings before he departed which is exactly the transfer fee paid by Rochdale Hornets on 22 July 1913.

A little over a year later, Billy now aged 25 had enlisted and he was in the vanguard of the British army fighting on the Western Front in France and Flanders. On 14 November 1914 he won high praise for his heroic conduct from a wounded comrade called Private Brown of the Lancashire Fusiliers. Billy was mentioned in dispatches for his actions the next week which read that he "ran back amidst a perfect hurricane of shots and shells to successfully affect the rescue of a fallen colleague whom he carried to a place of safety, a deed which deserves the VC." Although Billy did not receive a VC for his actions, the fact he risked his own life to save a fellow soldier is sufficient enough to know about his true character.



Affiliate Edge are proud to sponsor Swinton for this special season. We wish them every success in all their matches.



# Life With The Lions - Vol. 2

By Chris Haslam

In recent weeks I have thought of other items which could have been included in the 'Life With The Lions' booklet so I have decided to include them in this article:

1) Many Swinton fans in the 60's were of the opinion that the signing of an experienced front row forward would have improved their chances of getting to Wembley. The club made attempts to sign such a player and firstly tried to sign Frank Collier from Wigan. Frank decided to sign for Widnes instead and he played a key role when Widnes beat Swinton in a 3rd round Challenge Cup 2nd replay at Wigan in 1964. Widnes went on to win the Cup and Frank won the Lance Todd trophy.

In the mid -60's Swinton also tried to sign John Tembey from Whitehaven but he opted for St.Helens and went on to become an integral part of that team. He also played for Great Britain.

If the Lions had signed one of these players – who knows? Maybe that elusive appearance at Wembley would now be history.

2) In the 60's several clubs invaded South Wales to sign Rugby Union players. Swinton were no exception and the club signed a number of Welsh R.U. players. John Isaac,(hooker) and Warren Jenkins (prop forward) were signed from Swansea at the same time. David Harries, a speedy winger, came north having played R.U. for the Services team. For one reason or another despite all these players showing potential, they never established themselves in the 1st team and after a couple of years they all returned to South Wales.

However the biggest signing made by the Lions from Welsh Rugby Union was Ray "Chico" Hopkins who came from Llanelli. Ray was a scrum half and had already played for Wales and the British Lions. He toured with the Lions and was competing with the famous Gareth Edwards for the scrum-half position.He signed for a fee of £8000 which in those days was a lot of money.

From Swinton's point of view it would be now classed as a Marquis signing and it was hoped that his signing would bring in bigger crowds and help to rejuvenate the club. I remember going in to the Lions Social Club a couple of weeks after he had signed (it was a Saturday night). He was in the lounge with his wife and they had just moved into the area. They were with a club director who introduced me to them. Shortly afterwards the director had to leave so I spent the rest of the evening with them. It was a memorable night as he related his R.U.career to me,his hopes for his forthcoming R.L. career and one I have never forgotten.

Sadly Ray's career never took off with Swinton and he also eventually returned to South Wales. If we go back to season 1948/9 Swinton signed another scrum half who was to have a wonderful career in Rugby League. Rees Thomas came from Maesteg.

He spent 8 seasons with the Lions before he was transferred to Wigan where he played for 3 seasons. During his time at Wigan he won the Lance Todd trophy when Wigan beat Workington Town in the 1958 Challenge Cup Final. He then returned to the Lions before his career ended. In later years he became the Lions coach for a period of time.

One other former Welsh RU player also made the grade with the Lions. Bob Fleay from Aberavon RU club came North in the early 70's and made the right wing position his own as he went on to play for the Lions for about 7 years. He was a consistent try scorer throughout his Swinton career and in fact at one time during his career appeared in 150 consecutive matches. He also became the Manager of the Squash Club for a time until he also returned to Wales. Bob now lives in Spain but we remain in contact through the reunion events.



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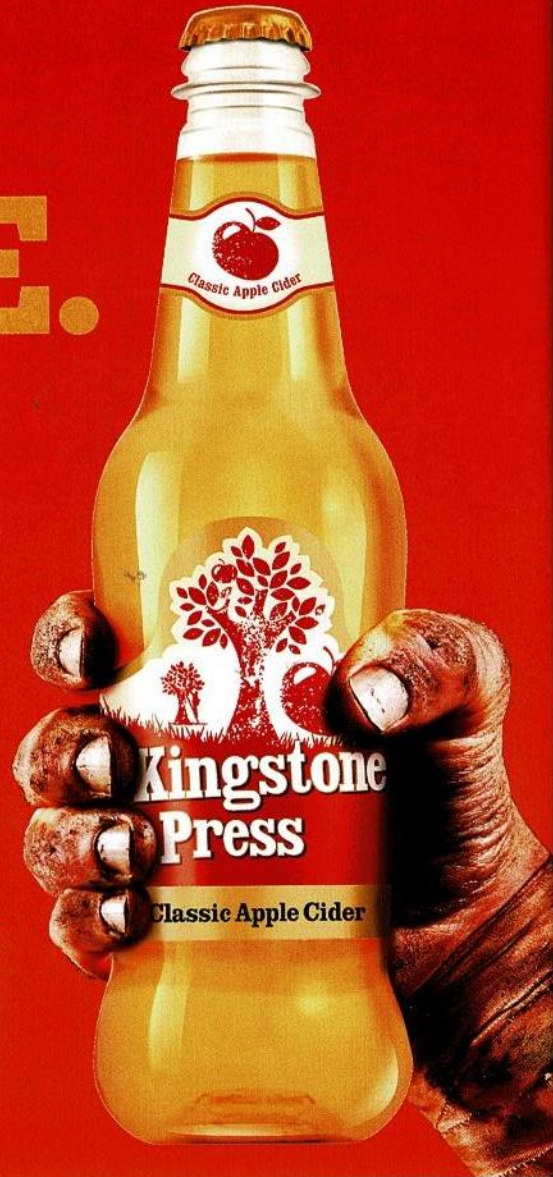
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The Swinton Supporters' Trust are today's man of the match sponsors, and the award will be presented in the club house after the game.

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### OUR MISSION

1. To give the supporters a direct say in the policy making mechanism at the club, by offering financial and practical support in exchange for a shareholding and seats on the board.
2. To promote links with the Swinton community i.e. through the local authority, the amateur game, schools and businesses.
3. To provide a long-term vision in an effort to galvanise all Swinton supporters past and present.
4. To seek the relocation of the club back to its rightful roots, because the long-term future well-being of the club is dependent upon the realisation of this aim.

Meetings are held at 8pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Hall of Fame room at the White Lion, Swinton. These largely informal social get-togethers are open to all members (with new recruits always welcome), and are always attended by club officials. On occasions the Trust Committee will meet in the hour prior to the full meeting.