

# TODAY'S SQUADS



1 NIELD, Steven	Oldham Self Storage 0161 665 2723
2 CLAY, Adam	Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991
4 HOLMES Jack	Oasis Academy Oldham
6 PALFREY, Lewis	Fireplace Superstore 0161 488 4991
7 ROPER, Steve	Les and Eileen Davison
8 JOY, Phil	Pam Taylor and TTX
9 GEE, Sam	John and Lynda McAndrew
10 NEAL, Adam	ORSA
11 CROWLEY, Josh	John and Lynda McAndrew
12 LANGTREE, Danny	Charlotte Gothard and Neil 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
23 FORD, Jonathan	Oasis Academy Oldham
25 ASHTON, Tom	Oasis Academy Oldham
21. LEPORI, Richard	
27 HEWITT, David	
HOPE, Will	
LIKU, Elliot	



24 Liam Darville
25 Andy Gabriel
4 Danny Lawton
30 Rikki Sheriffe
36 Josh Guzdek
33 Adam Brook
26 Paul March
8 Scott Law
9 James Feather
15 Neil Cherryholme
17 Oliver Pursglove
13 David March
12 Brendon Rawlins
19 Matthew Bailey
28 Josh Lynam
34 Samir Tahraoul
35 Tyler Dickinson
1 Jesse Sheriffe
32 Hamish Barnes
5 Paul White
31 Scott Lee
7 Paul Handforth
16 Jode Sheriffe
11 Ash Lindsay
21 Sean Kelly

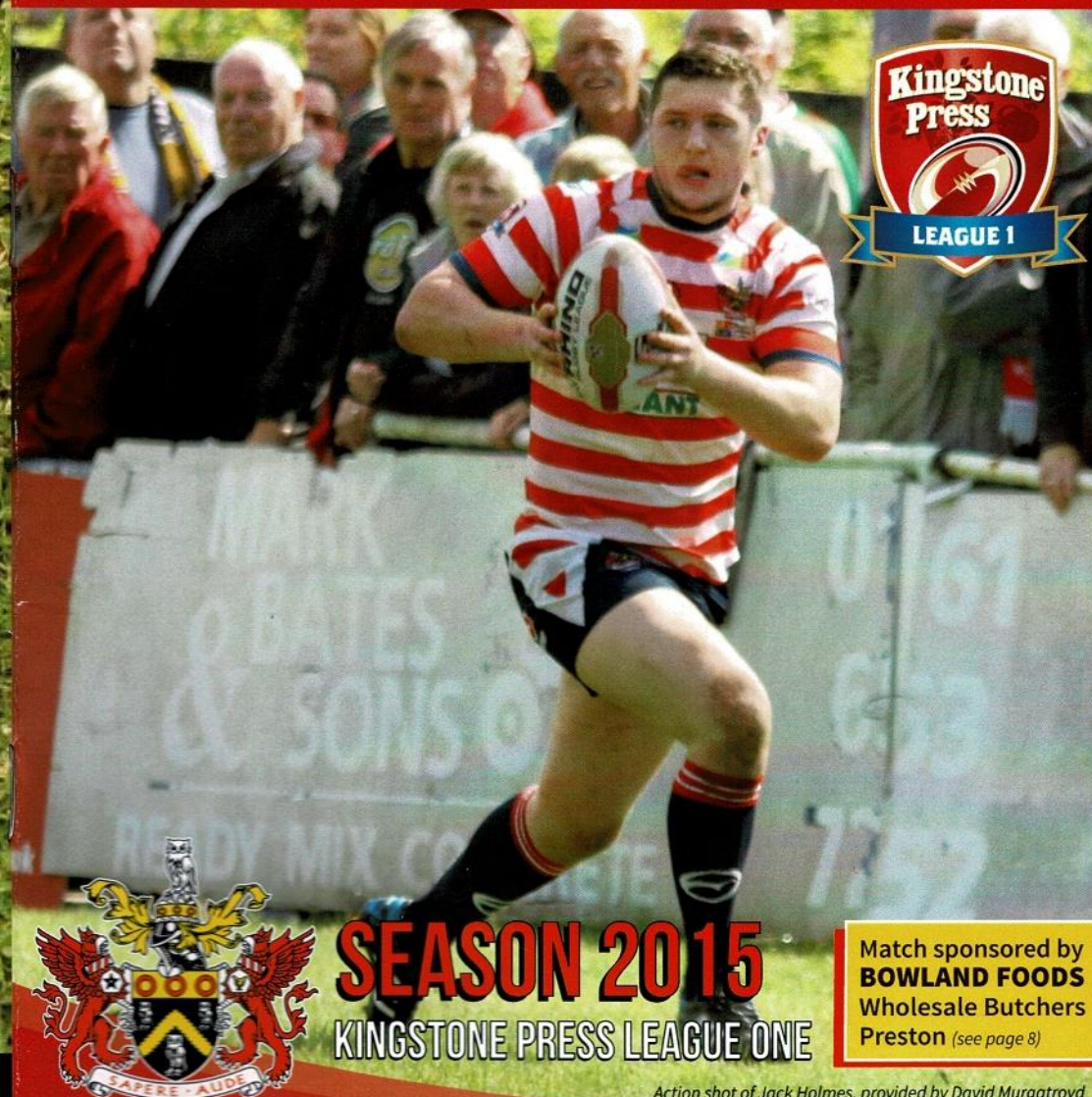
Officials: Referee, M Thomason  
Res. J Page; TJ, B Robinson;  
TJ, D Bowmer  
Match commissioner,  
Gerry Kershaw  
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# ROUGHYEDS



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Action shot of Jack Holmes, provided by David Murgatroyd



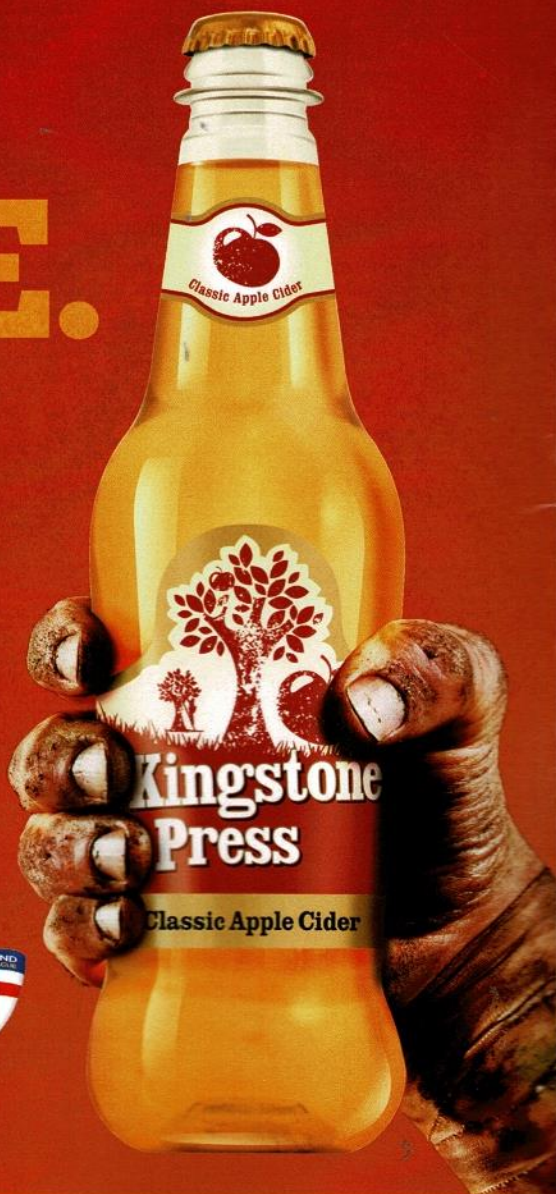


# RUGBY TO THE CORE.

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

HELLO and welcome to today's game against Keighley Cougars at the Whitebank Stadium.

Our opponents today have been at the top of the table with us for most of the season, which shows the quality and consistency they have had during what has been so far a very tough campaign.

Keighley are one of the big five relegated at the end of last season into our division, but they have played a brand of rugby that works in our league with lots of experienced players and quality all over the field.

The last time we played them we definitely didn't give a good account of ourselves in the first half. We had a long, hard chat at half time otherwise the result could have been embarrassing.

I can honestly say that won't be happening today so I'm expecting a much closer game.

The rugby we have

been playing since our defeat at Cougar Park has been the best since I took over nearly three years ago.

The work the players put in on the training pitch and in the gym every week is phenomenal and it's a huge part of our success so far this season.

We have a great bunch of lads at the club this year and I hope the fans are as proud of them as I am for the way they represent Oldham RLFC on and off the pitch.

The fans who went to last week's game against North Wales Crusaders saw an Oldham side whose desire to win was hugely apparent in their performance.

The effort that restricted Wales to one try on their home turf will be needed again today if we are to beat Keighley and stay top of the league. I hope you enjoy the game.

Many thanks for your fantastic support,

Scott





# Welcome home 'Lippy'

**ITALIAN international Richard Lepori is back at Whitebank to strengthen Scott Naylor's squad for the promotion push.**

Full-back Lepori (23) has signed on a deal to the end of the season. He links up again with many of the players who were his Roughyeds team mates in 2013.

Still here are Josh Crowley, Adam Files, Sammy Gee, Kenny Hughes, Phil Joy, Danny Langtree, Steven Nield, Lewis Palfrey, Liam Thompson and Michael Ward.

Said chairman Chris Hamilton: "When we discovered he was available we worked hard to get the deal over the line as quickly as possible. The timing is spot-on, given that unlucky Steven Nield is out for the rest of the season."

Chuffed to get his man for the second time in two and a half years, Scott said of 'Lippy': "He was one of our best players in my first season at Whitebank.

"He's a massive addition to the squad — a quality signing.

"His arrival makes my selection job tougher, but with quality options that's just how I like it.

"We keep topping up here and there and we should soon have Tom Ashton back after injury, which will also be a major boost.

"That will be like having two new players, not one."

Lepori wasn't available for the 32-6 win at London Skolars because he was with the Italian squad in the Ukraine that weekend, but he was back in his old familiar role in Wrexham last Sunday when we recorded our seventh win in a row by beating Crusaders 23-6.

It was while he was starring at Whitebank two years ago that 'Lippy' won his first Italian cap.

He learned his trade as a youngster at Salford and Castleford before shooting to prominence at Oldham in his first year of senior rugby.

One of Scott's early signings for the club, he played in 22 of the Roughyeds' 24 games in 2013, scoring 12 tries to finish third in the club's try lists behind Jon Ford (21) and Adam Files (15).

He was a leading player in a young side that finished only two points behind leaders North Wales Crusaders, who won automatic promotion.

Rochdale, in third place, were nine points behind Naylor's boys, who they beat in the play-off final, which was Lepori's last game in Oldham colours at the end of his first stint here.

He headed off to Far North Queensland in a region best known for snakes and crocs and spent a year there, playing rugby and working on a farm, before coming

home and signing for Whitehaven, which was to prove no more than a stepping stone on his route back to Oldham.

## 'Just great to be back'

*"A BIT ring rusty . . . but great to be back !"*

That was Richard Lepori's reaction after his first game back in Oldham colours at North Wales Crusaders last Sunday.

He was able to celebrate a great win with the fans who travelled to Wrexham (see picture) and who will no doubt give him a big welcome home when he takes to the field at Whitebank again today for the top-of-the-table clash with Keighley Cougars.

Any two from five will win promotion and, like all the other players in the Roughyeds' dressing room, Richard needs no reminding that the club's focus is fixed firmly on winning the biggest prize of all come the end of this remarkable season.

He said: "I want to slide back into Whitebank under the radar. No fuss. I've had it tough at Whitehaven this year and now I'm trying to rebuild and get my confidence back.

"For me, there'll be no better place to do that than at Oldham.

"When I was free to look round for another club, I had a few offers but I just wanted to go where I would be happy, where I would feel at home and where I would have the best chance of starting to enjoy my rugby again.

"Looking at it from that angle, it was only ever going to be Oldham. I've some special memories from 2013 and a lot of my mates from that season are still here.

"We were nearly all young kids playing senior rugby for the first time. Scott (Naylor) was in his first head coach's job. We surprised a lot of people by finishing second and then reaching the play-off final against Rochdale.

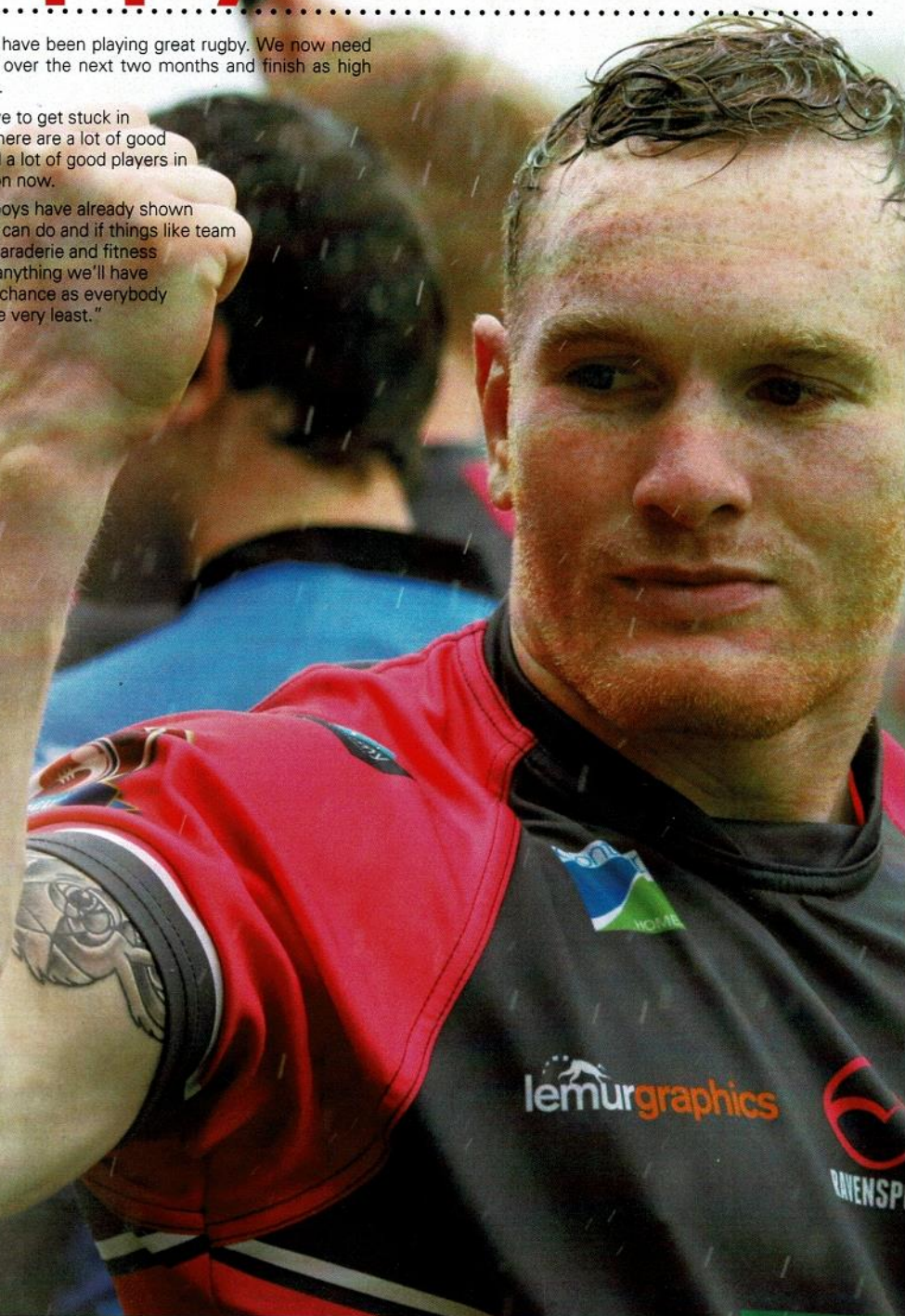
"I thought it was written that we would finish the season on a high and go up. I'm still gutted about what happened, but a year later, when I was in Australia, it must have been even tougher for the lads who lost by a point in extra time.

"We've clearly got some unfinished business to attend to.

"The lads have been playing great rugby. We now need to kick-on over the next two months and finish as high as we can.

"We'll have to get stuck in because there are a lot of good teams and a lot of good players in this division now.

"But the boys have already shown what they can do and if things like team spirit, camaraderie and fitness count for anything we'll have as good a chance as everybody else, at the very least."





# A CHAT WITH CHRIS

**WELCOME** once again to Whitebank Stadium for yet another big game. How many times has that been said this season? They just keep coming don't they?

The fact that they do, of course, is entirely down to the way the team has performed on the pitch - and that commitment, desire and skill was never more evident than last week at Wrexham.

We took on, and totally outplayed, a very good North Wales Crusaders team that, I think it's fair to say, were expecting a win.

Having beaten us twice at Whitebank this season, it was perhaps understandable that they were confident, but what they didn't reckon with was an Oldham team that is getting better and better each week.

That progress isn't necessarily all down to improved skills and players adjusting to systems. For me, we have seen a much more mature mental approach to games this year when compared to previous years.

Even when things aren't going our way, or we aren't playing at the top of our form, it doesn't necessarily mean we can't win matches. We have demonstrated that we are able to dig in, weather a spell of dominance by the opposition and then start to dominate again when we get our chance.

That ability is priceless. And it was never better demonstrated than in the game last week when, after starting like a house on fire, we gave away a stream of penalties in the first half that put us under pressure.

Even then we showed a real desire to keep Crusaders out and once we got to half-time we kicked on and dominated the game.

People have previously questioned our ability in big matches but I think the coaches and players deserve a lot of credit for the way they have responded and the improvements have been there for all to see as the season has gone on.



I've said for a long time that our most dangerous opponent is ourselves and I still believe that. If we play as well as we can, we are a very dangerous team.

As I said earlier, today's match should be another cracker. First v second, a chance for us to avenge our defeat at Cougar Park earlier this season and a chance to knock off another game in the countdown to the end of the regular season.

We know how tough Keighley will be. They will also recognise what an important game this is for them also. It should be a cracker.

Last Sunday I had nerves similar to those I get in the build-up to a Grand Final. That isn't a good thing for me and, as I write these notes, my stomach is churning again just thinking about the Keighley game. That can't be right can it?

One thing is for sure; the 17 lads in red and white will be giving it their all. Get behind them and hopefully cheer on the Roughyeds to another win in a big game. They don't come much bigger than this one.

Enjoy the game,

**Chris**



## APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Cup and league, 21 possible)

	App	DG	Gls	Tries	Pts
ASHTON, Tom	2	–	–	1	4
BROUGHTON, Jodie	1	–	–	2	8
CLAY, Adam	18	–	–	19	76
CONNOR, Jake	2	–	–	1	4
CROWLEY, Josh	21	–	–	11	44
DEMPSEY, Tom	7	1	2	1	9
FAIRBANK, Jacob	1			1	4
FILES, Adam	17	–	–	1	4
FORD, Jon	9	–	–	7	28
GEE, Sam	18	–	–	5	20
HEWITT, David	2	–	–	2	8
HOLMES, Jack	18	–	–	13	52
HUGHES, Kenny	17	–	–	1	4
JOHNSON, Josh	5	–	–	2	8
JOY, Phil	20	–	–	3	12
JOY, Richard	5	–	–	2	8
LANGTREE, Danny	18	–	–	7	28
LEARMONTH, Micky	2	–	–	2	8
LEPORI, Richard	1				0
MASON, Nathan	16	–	–	2	8
NEAL, Adam	19	–	–	2	8
NIELD, Steven	8	–	–	4	16
OWEN, Gareth	18	–	–	4	16
PALFREY, Lewis	20	1	94	7	217
ROBERTS, Oliver	8	–	–	2	8
ROPER, Steve	17	2	6	3	26
THOMPSON, Liam	20	–	–	5	20
TYSON, George	17	–	–	10	40
WARD, Jarrod	12	–	–	4	16
WARD, Michael	18	–	–	6	24





WE are indebted to Hanlon and Wright, local, national and international machinery relocation engineers, of Park Road, Dukinfield, SK16 5LX for their donation to the club of home-and-away match-day shelters for coaching staff and substitutes.

Seen here occupied by our ball boys and ball girls, the shelters will make life more comfortable for Scott, Spanner and Co, especially on bad days.

"We purchased the shelters and donated them

to the club because we have had a relationship with Oldham RL going back some years," said Shaun Campbell, general manager at Hanlon and Wright.

Added club chairman Chris Hamilton: "On behalf of Oldham RLFC I would like to publicly thank Hanlon and Wright for their kindness and assistance. It is hugely appreciated and it will enhance the match-day experience for players and coaches as well as improving the appearance of the ground."

## Suppliers of Quality British Beef, Lamb and Pork Bowland Foods

A Big Whitebank welcome today to Bowland Foods of Preston, wholesale butchers, our match sponsors.

There is a local link because the company's operations director and factory manager is Michael Joy, father of our prop-forwards Phil and Richard.

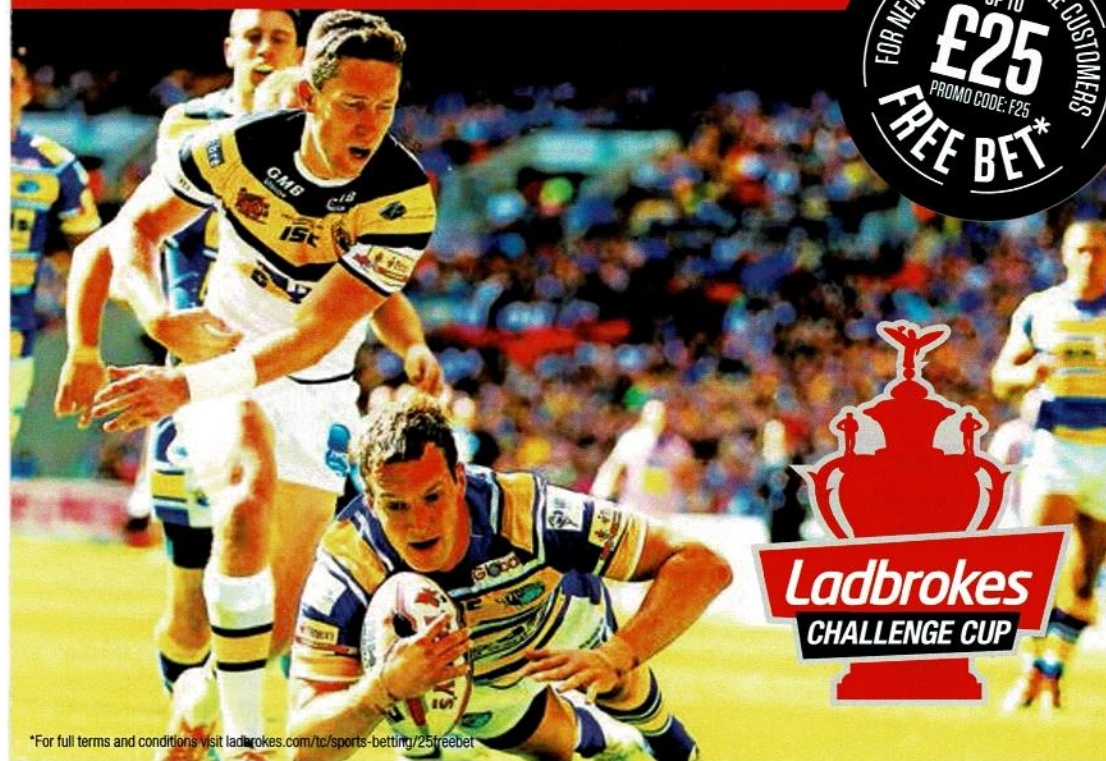
Founded in 1979, Bowland Foods is a family concern, owned and run by the Wood family from a base at Unit 16, Roman Way Industrial Estate, Longridge Road, Ribbleson, Preston

PR2 5BB (tel: 01772 655555).

Bowland Foods sell a complete range of quality British beef, pork and lamb, most of it locally sourced, to suppliers all over the UK.

\* We have at least two more home games, against Barrow on August 23 and Swinton on September 6, so if your company would be interested in sponsoring one of these games please contact Fiona on 0161 624 9630, ext 70552 or email [oldhamrlfc@btconnect.com](mailto:oldhamrlfc@btconnect.com)

# GOOD LUCK IN THE LADBROKES CHALLENGE CUP



\*For full terms and conditions visit [ladbrokes.com/tc/sports-betting/25freebet](http://ladbrokes.com/tc/sports-betting/25freebet)

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18+



## Talks continue with supporter groups

ANOTHER meeting will be held on Monday, August 10 as talks continue with supporter groups concerning the club's future and the possibility of supporter involvement in the club's ownership.

This statement was circulated to local media outlets after the last meeting on July 13:

OLDHAM RLFC (1997) Ltd, and its owner/ chairman Chris Hamilton, have had another meeting with ORSA (Oldham Roughyeds Supporters' Association), Rugby Oldham (Supporters' Trust) and a group of independent fans to further discuss issues relevant to the club's future.

These include ground development at Whitebank; better communication with fans via a new, superior website and more vigorous use of social media; and exhaustive talks into the possibility of supporter involvement in the club's ownership.

Mr Hamilton has said many times in the past that he would welcome talks with any interested parties and from that stance he has never wavered.

ORSA say their 'modus operandi' is to directly support the club, coaching staff and players. Being involved in part ownership of the parent club is not within their remit, although certain individuals in the association could be interested when more details emerge.

Rugby Oldham, on the other hand, is interested in opening dialogue with the club regarding potential involvement in ownership but if talks were to ever reach the stage of a particular scheme becoming a practical proposition, the Trust's board would need to seek approval from its membership. It already has a mandate to open preliminary discussions.

Mr Hamilton was not in a position at that stage to report any progress on ground development, but he hoped to be in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, Rugby Oldham will be seeking advice and guidance from Supporters' Direct, the national organisation to which it is affiliated, and Mr Hamilton will consider a timeline for further talks with the Trust's board.

The club can also announce that a new and upgraded website will be established in consultation with the RFL's communications department and, in particular, with its web and social media expert Adam Treeby.

## What the papers say . . .

**Oldham Evening Chronicle:** "A fistful of F words can best describe a fabulous win in North Wales which elevated Oldham fans into seventh heaven.

"In a highly-charged and fiercely fought top-of-the-table clash, Scott Naylor's League One pacesetters made it seven wins in a row with an all-round team performance that was clinical in its execution and masterful in its delivery.

"Both sides were hauled over the coals by referee Gareth Hower for dissent, but the sort of rugby Roughyeds put on display in Wrexham could be summed up with F words of a more meaningful nature — forceful, fantastic, fastidious and fearless all rolled into one."

**League Express (Gareth Jones):** "Oldham sent out a strong message to their League One rivals after they bullied their way past North Wales Crusaders on a soggy afternoon in Wrexham.

"The Roughyeds outlined their championship credentials with a brutal dismantling of the Crusaders in this top-of-the-table clash and while the scoreline wasn't huge, the manner of the defeat will disappoint Crusaders coach Anthony Murray — his side were outfought, outmuscled and outfoxed in every department.

"Oldham simply wanted it more, and it was the type of performance needed as the business end of the season approaches."

**Crusaders website (Ryan Gould):** "Oldham executed a perfect game plan in awful conditions.

"Oldham's defence was outstanding throughout and in the second half they saw the game out and never looked like letting their lead slip.

"If any side needs an example of how to play against a fellow promotion challenger they should look at this Oldham display. It was faultless."



OLDHAM RLFC



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For more information

call 0161 624 9630 ext. 70552

Email [oldhamrlfc@btconnect.com](mailto:oldhamrlfc@btconnect.com)

## Bring on the girls to play at Oasis

IN association with Sport England's #ThisGirlCan initiative and the RFL's Play Touch Rugby League programme, Oldham RLFC offered a FREE touch-rugby taster session for females at Oasis Academy Oldham, Hollins Road last Wednesday night and we are hoping to build on that by attracting more girls and women to our regular Wednesday night sessions over the rest of the summer and into the autumn.

Said Danny Newall, our community coach: "We are inviting women to give touch-rugby a try. It's great fun and a fantastic way of keeping fit. We are asking all our existing players to bring a female friend with them."

'This Girl Can' is a national campaign developed by Sport England and a wide range of partnership organisations. It's a celebration of active women who are doing 'their thing' in sport, no matter how well they do it, how they look, or even how red their faces get.

The RFL, and we at Oldham, are looking to embrace the current marketing campaign by trying to encourage more women to get involved with our touch-rugby sessions. All you need to do is turn up on the night (each Wednesday at 7pm) and speak to Danny, who will welcome you to the fold and introduce you to the others. The charge per individual per night is £3.

Added Danny: "Already, new friendships have been forged among a great bunch of people, who all enjoy a bit of banter and a few laughs as well as their touch rugby.

"New players are always welcome. All they need to do is turn up. What can be easier than that."



## ORSA to stage another game-day 'bash'



Here's to the next time... fans enjoying themselves at the last ORSA function when we played York on July 5.

**DUE to the success and popularity of its first game-day bash for fellow fans in the sponsors' lounge, ORSA (Oldham Roughyeds' Supporters' Association) is to stage a repeat function at the Oldham v Barrow game at Whitebank on Sunday, August 23 (match kick-off 3pm).**

Several supporters said they enjoyed the first one so much that they would like to sample ORSA hospitality again, so tickets will be on sale at the same price as last time (£7.50) and we will be in the sponsors' lounge to welcome you from 1pm onwards.

As you know, the £7.50 does NOT include ground admission, but we think its still good value for money, given that we provide a first-class buffet and you get to see and hear the pre and post match speeches and watch the players receive their man-of-the-match and champagne-moment awards, which will be sponsored by ORSA.

You can enjoy a few drinks from the well-stocked real ale bar and tea and coffee will be served at half time. All in all, we reckon its a fun function which enhances considerably your game-day experience and your afternoon out.

Tickets can be purchased from Paul Hulbert at today's game or you can phone him on 0161 626 9880 to book them. Hope to see you there.

Please be reminded also that ORSA members are working hard to help the parent club and the coaching staff and players to realise all our ambitions in terms of winning promotion. We've got a winning team, and if you support ORSA or, better still, become a member at £10 for the year, you'll be going the extra mile to help the lads to keep on winning and to keep on putting smiles on all our faces.



**CRAIG HALSTEAD,**  
the author

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOOK:

**ISBN:** 9781909885080;

**Price:** £11.95 (paperback); 208 pages, illustrated with photographs.

Published on 11 May 2015.

The book is available at a special offer price of £10.95 post free in the UK from London League Publications Ltd, PO Box 65784, London

NW2 9NS (credit card orders via [www.llpshop.co.uk](http://www.llpshop.co.uk)), or can be ordered from any bookshop at £11.95 and will be available after 11 May 2015 on [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk) and [Abebooks.co.uk](http://Abebooks.co.uk).

An E-Book for Kindle readers is available on Amazon.

### From Watersheddings to Whitebank Oldham Rugby League Memoir

THE following is Phil Caplan's review of the above book, published in the July edition of the rugby league magazine, 'Forty20':

IN his memoir 'From Watersheddings to Whitebank', author Craig Halstead – son of esteemed long-time Evening Chronicle rugby league reporter Roger – pens the dedication to 'Oldham rugby league fans past and present – Keep the Faith!'. At times it must have been hard for them to do that.

Halstead charts his journey from going to his first game, aged five in 1971. He followed a side that were founder members of the Northern Union, but by then on a slope where the disappointments – not least going into liquidation and losing their spiritual home at the, invariably freezing, Watersheddings – outweighed albeit memorable highlights; most of those in the 1980s.

As he says in his introduction: "It has been said, only partly in jest, that although a man can change his wife, his politics or his religion, he can never change his favourite team". The essence of this personal crusade.

The Challenge Cup has presented him with the most pain, Oldham being one of the few long-established clubs never to play at Wembley. Four times during his 20s they contested semi-finals but lost them all, the one in 1990 courtesy of a hotly-disputed, disallowed try.

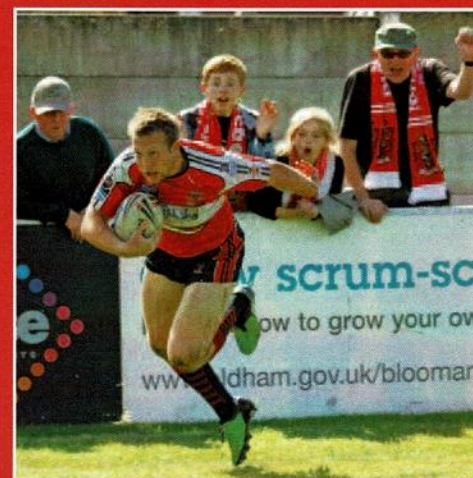
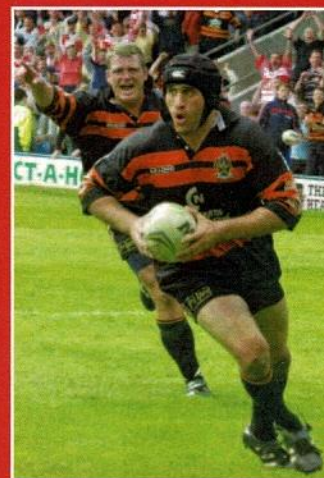
In an entertaining look at life away from the sporting glamour, Halstead notes that his lifetime indulgence has seen him witness: "... many fine matches, terrific players, funny incidents and allowed him to meet some amazing characters."

They are all of them captured in this enjoyable book.



## from Watersheddings to Whitebank

### An Oldham Rugby League Memoir

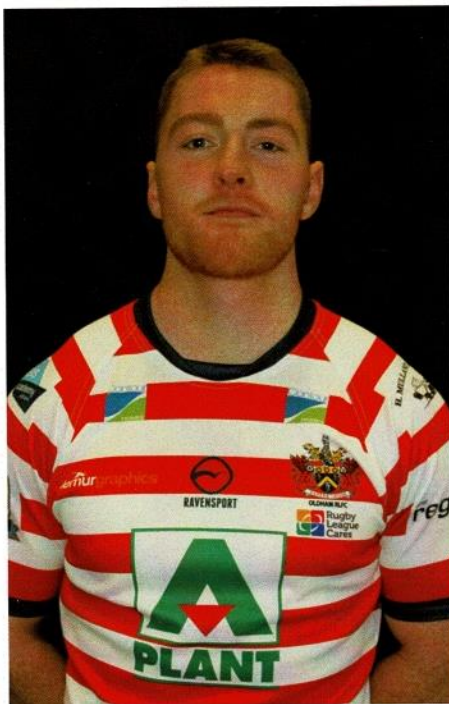


**Craig Halstead**

Foreword by Chris Hamilton



# TIME TO FOCUS ON THE NEW BOYS



## Will comes with Hope that he can lend a helping hand

WILL Hope, the former Salford forward, has played once previously for Oldham and that was in Scott Naylor's first game in charge on March 3, 2013.

It was an inauspicious start for the coach who has since led Roughyeds to two Grand Finals and, currently, to the top of League One.

Roughyeds went down 48-12 at the Wrexham home of North Wales Crusaders in the Northern Rail Cup and Hope was on the bench with Michael Ward, Adam Files and his Red Devils colleague Jordan Walne.

In the same year Hope went on to play three Super League games for Salford, while the year after he went out on loan to Sheffield Eagles

and played a dozen times for the Championship club, during which time he was called up to the Ireland squad.

He went on to play for Ireland in the European Championships, but then chose to take time out from the sport.

He said: "I enjoyed my time at Sheffield, but I turned down a contract offer because just then I had other things I needed to do and I had decided to have a break from rugby league.

"I started on scholarship at Salford when I was 12 and I turned pro when I was 16. I was at Salford a long time. I worked my way through the Academy to the first team, but when they were able to spend a lot of money I knew I wouldn't get in the side and they let me go to Sheffield on loan.

"It was great over there, but I needed a break and now I feel much better for it.

"I know Scott and 'Spanner' well and if I can help them out I will be happy to do it. I'll certainly do the best I can for them."

Said Oldham boss Scott Naylor: "I tried to sign Will last year when he left Salford, but he wanted some time out, like Adam Neal did before we signed him.

"However, he's been looking to get back into the game for a while, and I've been talking to him on and off behind the scenes for the past couple of months.

"He comes from a Super League club with all the attributes you need. I rate him highly.

"He's been keeping himself fit so after a couple of weeks of training with us he'll be ready to go.

"If we see the same Will Hope as the one who left Salford we've got ourselves a very good player indeed.

"Three clubs in our division were chasing him when he left Salford, plus another two in the Championship.

"We've done well to get a player of his calibre and the fact that he's chosen to come to Oldham is a feather in the club's cap. It says a lot about the club that we can attract players like Will."

## Elliot 'born into rugby league'

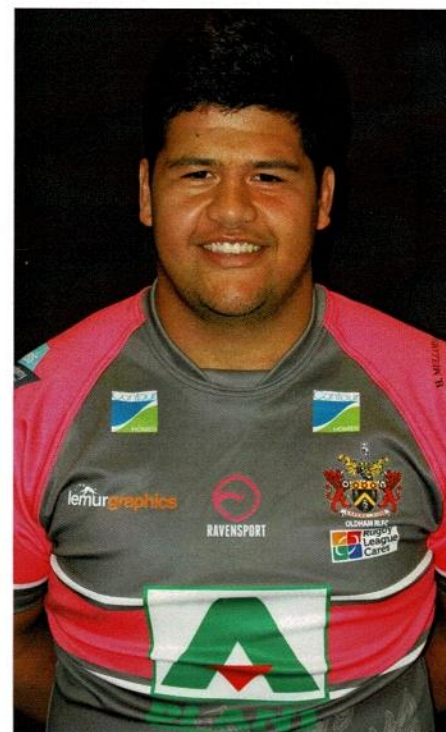
ELLIOT Liku is looking forward "massively" to the opportunity at Oldham to prove he is ready for the step-up to senior rugby.

The 19-year-old prop, who has captained Leigh Centurions reserves this season, has arrived at Whitebank on loan after causing quite a stir with his man-of-the-match performance against Scott Naylor's men in a pre-season friendly.

The young man remembers it well.

He said: "I've known Scott well for a long time. And when he brought his team to Leigh for a friendly in pre-season he said he would tell his Oldham forwards to run at me all the time.

"I thought he was joking, but I soon discovered he meant it all right. Anyway, I think I did okay in the game and I think it was on the back of



my performance that day that I've ended up at Oldham now.

"One of the big factors in my agreeing to the loan was the opportunity to play for Scott and to gain experience in his team."

Born in Billinge, Elliot is the son of Tau Liku, who played for Leigh for several seasons in the 1990s and also played for Tonga in the 1995 World Cup.

At various times of his rugby development in Leigh, he has played for Leigh East, Leigh Miners and Leigh RU Club.

Scott was coach of the rugby union club's first team when Elliot was playing for one of the age-group sides.

He said: "I was never interested in football or other sports — just rugby. I suppose it was in my blood. I think I was born into it.

"I played a bit in the development sides at Centurions and then I signed properly when I was 18. I'm contracted until November this year.

"In the meantime I'm looking forward to helping Oldham to reach their goal for the season which I know is promotion. If I can play a part in that, bring it on."

Outside of rugby, Elliot is studying for a degree in sports coaching at Wigan and Leigh College.

"I've watched him grow up," said Scott. "I know him very well.

"He propped against us in a pre-season friendly. He got the man-of-the-match award.

"He's captain of Leigh's second team. He's ready to make the step up to senior level and I have every confidence in the lad to do a good job for us.

"We're on the last leg of the season and we badly needed another prop. We only had four and that puts us right on the border line.

"We need five at least going into the business end of the season with six league games left and then at least one play-off game, if not more.

"With five props I can rotate four from five and one of them can always have a rest. Elliot's arrival will enable me to do that, and I think it's important."



## Working on the 3 Rs . . . rugby, Roughyeds, Roma project

**FOR several months now, Oldham RL Club has had links with the local Roma community in a series of weekly sporting activities led by the club's community coach Danny Newall and Roma community leader Marian Guga.**

Tuesday nights were for over-16s, Thursday nights for under-16s and on each night there were opportunities for people to play football, rugby, basketball, tennis, table tennis, cricket, rounders and dodgeball.

Created by Newall, these sessions were designed to help participants master a variety of skills, not only in each of the different sports, but also incorporating life skills such as communication, coordination, decision making, problem solving and help with speaking English.

Said Danny: "Their English-speaking improved significantly and that will help them more than anything to get ahead in this country."

"Chris Hamilton (Oldham RLFC chairman) was the driving force behind this community project and he and the club deserve a huge thank-you for giving an opportunity to those who wouldn't normally have it, to regularly partake in sporting activity."

"We had 40 people attending over the two nights, each week, and we gave them all a big surprise one night when Rory, the club mascot, put in an appearance. He was certainly a huge hit."

"I was impressed by their fantastic attitude and respect for me and what we were doing as a club; their eagerness to learn and try new things; and their friendly and competitive regard for sport."

"Their English improved too and that will be a massive positive for them."

"The group also made a lot of progress in playing football, so much so that Guga, their community leader and a former professional footballer, has put plans in place to start a new football team in this area for under 16s."

The project doesn't finish there, however, because a cookery-based education course will be up and running in September, using the cooking school at Oasis Academy Oldham.



## Lizzie welcomes more cardiac screening



Lizzie with twins Bobby and Phoebe at the RFL annual meeting, flanked by (from left) Jason Donohue (Leigh Centurions), Neil Cullen (Keighley Cougars), Mike Rush (St Helens) and RFL Chairman Brian Barwick.

LIZZIE Jones, wife of former Keighley Cougars player Danny Jones, has welcomed the news that cardiac screening is to become compulsory in all three of Rugby League's professional and semi-professional competitions.

Details of the plan to extend compulsory screening from First Utility Super League to the Kingstone Press Championship and League 1 were outlined at the RFL annual meeting in Leigh.

Lizzie, whose husband collapsed and died from heart failure triggered by an undetected heart defect while playing for Keighley against London Skolars in May, attended the meeting at Leigh Sports Village, where she praised the decision.

"I would like to congratulate all the Championship and League 1 clubs on their decision to conduct cardiac screening with their players," said Lizzie, who was given a standing ovation by delegates.

"Anything the game can do to minimise the chance of another family experiencing what we have gone through has to be welcomed."

"I would also like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone involved in Rugby League for the support they have given to me, my twins and my family; we couldn't have got through this without you."

"We are enormously grateful for everything you have done for us, it's been overwhelming. The

support of the Rugby League family has given us the strength to rebuild our lives without Danny."

Cardiac screening has been compulsory for all Super League players since 2012 while Championship and League 1 clubs have been advised to regard the procedure as "best practice." However, following consultation with clubs at their recent competition meetings, the RFL is now making screening mandatory for all Championship and League 1 clubs from 2016.

RFL Chairman Brian Barwick said: "It was very moving to hear Lizzie speak so eloquently about her life since the tragic loss of Danny and we were pleased that she was able to attend the meeting."

"The clubs are very supportive of the cardiac screening programme and of the need to do all they can to protect their players' welfare."

"It goes without saying that we wish Lizzie, her twins Bobby and Phoebe, her wider family and her friends the very best. We will continue to provide what support we can in the months and years ahead."

The Just Giving page set up by the RFL Benevolent Fund to help Lizzie Jones and her family has already received donations of nearly £300,000. To make a donation please visit [www.justgiving.com/dannyjones29](http://www.justgiving.com/dannyjones29)



# Cougars on a mission in memory of Danny

by JOSHUA CHAPMAN (Cougars media manager)

**WHATEVER the final outcome, the Cougars 2015 season will be forever overshadowed by the tragic death of Danny Jones.**

A Welsh international half-back, Danny sadly passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest on the field during a league game at London Skolars in May.

In the months that followed, nearly £300,000 has been raised to swell a trust fund that has been set up in his memory for his twins, Bobby and Phoebe.

Prior to Danny's death, Cougars won their first four league fixtures, during which Danny reached the milestone of 1,000 points for the club in the win at Hemel Stags in April.

The week after he died, 4,066 spectators crammed into Cougar Park to watch James Feather grab a hat-trick to inspire Cougars to a 52-10 win against Coventry Bears.

A season's first league defeat by Swinton would spark Cougars on to a further five victories, including home wins against promotion rivals Oldham (32-24) and Rochdale Hornets, either side of a welcome away win against bogey side Barrow Raiders.

An away defeat by North Wales followed before Paul March's men got back on track with unconvincing victories against Oxford and Coventry.

Then Swinton inflicted another defeat on the Cougars prior to last Sunday's home win against Newcastle Thunder.

## THE COACH

Paul March is into his third season as player-coach. Despite a disappointing first season which saw the side narrowly avoid relegation from the Championship, March led Cougars to a 2014 Challenge Cup quarter-final clash at Widnes Vikings.

A controversial relegation followed, though, as a result of the much-publicised dual-registration saga with Batley Bulldogs.

## THREE TO WATCH

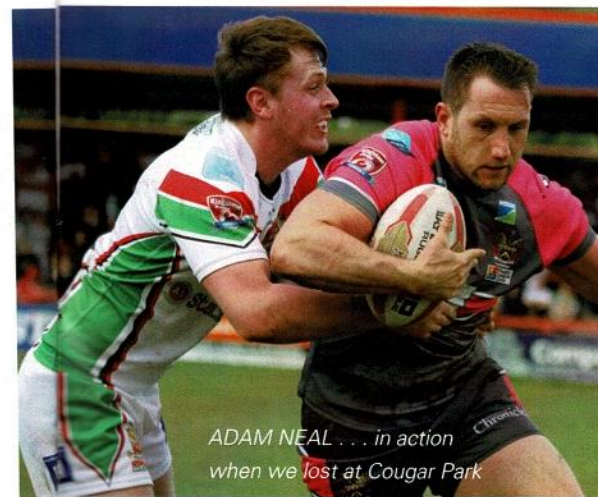
**JAMES FEATHER**, club captain and a fans' favourite, has been with Cougars for 12 years. He recently made his 250th appearance for the club in a win at Coventry.

**ADAM BROOK**, this exciting young half-back is on loan from Bradford Bulls. A slick footballer with an experienced head on young shoulders, he is tipped for a bright future.

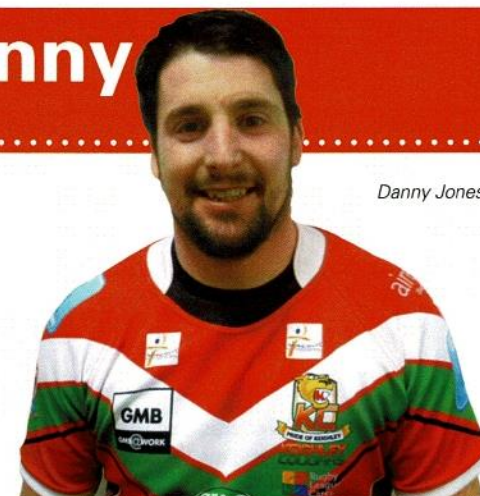
**PAUL WHITE**, League One's top try scorer with 18. A Jamaican international, he has a wealth of Super League experience, having played 80 games in the elite competition during his days with Huddersfield, Salford and Wakefield.



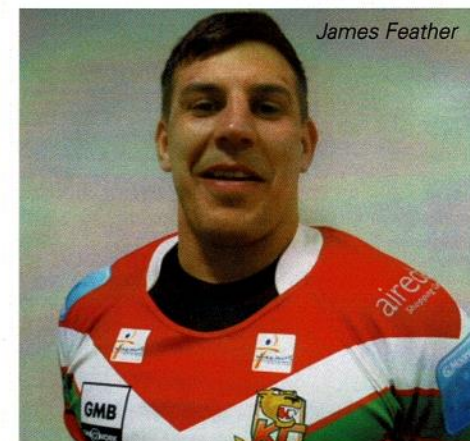
Paul March



ADAM NEAL... in action  
when we lost at Cougar Park



Danny Jones



James Feather



ADAM FILES... out to avenge  
our defeat at Keighley.



Adam Brook





# FIXTURES & RESULTS

2015 March

L1Cup	Sunday 1st	COVENTRY	H	W 42 - 6
LCC(3)	Sunday 8th	COVENTRY	H	W 46 - 6
L1Cup	Sunday 15th	Barrow	A	W 32 - 10
LCC(4)	Sunday 22nd	Sheffield	A	L 20 - 44

2015 April

KPL1	Friday 3rd	ROCHDALE	A	W 23 - 16
L1Cup	Wednesday 8th	NW Crusaders	H	L 18 - 16
KPL1	Sunday 12th	COVENTRY	H	W 38 - 10
KPL1	Sunday 19th	SOUTH WALES	A	W 50 - 12
KPL1	Sunday 26th	LONDON SKOLARS	H	W 48 - 6

2015 May

KPL1	Sunday 3rd	GLOUCESTER	H	W 33 - 30
KPL1	Saturday 9th	BARROW	A	L 18 - 30
KPL1	Sunday 17th	NEWCASTLE	H	W 45 - 20
KPL1	Sunday 31st	KEIGHLEY	A	L 24 - 32

2015 June

KPL1	Sunday 7th	NORTH WALES	H	L 28 - 38
KPL1	Sunday 14th	OXFORD	H	W 64 - 0
KPL1	Sunday 21st	SWINTON	A	W 32 - 26
KPL1	Saturday 27th	GLOUCESTER	A	W 42 - 30

2015 July

KPL1	Sunday 5th	YORK	H	W 34 - 12
KPL1	Sunday 12th	ROCHDALE	H	W 38 - 18
KPL1	Sunday 19th	LONDON	A	W 32 - 6
KPL1	Sunday 26th	NORTH WALES	A	W 23 - 6

2015 August

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

2015 September

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

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**TOM ASHTON ...**  
back soon

## Squad of 23 for final push

NEW boys Elliot Liku and Will Hope will provide Scott Naylor with a squad of 23 players for the final promotion push.

Prop Liku (19), from Leigh Centurions, and back-row man Hope (22), who was unattached after several years at Salford, became Oldham players on signing deadline day, the Hope deal going through only minutes before shutdown.

Neither played in the "awesome" (chairman Chris Hamilton's description) 23-6 win at North Wales

Crusaders, but they trained for the first time with the Oldham squad at Oasis Academy Oldham on Tuesday and came through with flying colours.

Liku, whose father Tau played for Tonga in the 1995 World Cup and spent several seasons with Leigh in the 1990s, is here on loan to the end of the season.

Hope, whom Scott has been chasing for several months, has come out of self-imposed rugby league exile to sign as a fully-fledged Oldham player, also to the end of the season.

Partner club Huddersfield Giants have recalled their loan and dual-reg players due to a large injury list, but Roughyeds believe they are adequately covered for the run-in following the recent captures of Richard Lepori and Jon Ford, the anticipated return from injury of Tom Ashton and the latest signings of Liku and Hope.

Steve Nield is waiting for knee surgery and has accepted that he will not play again this season.

With the signing drawbridge having gone up, Naylor has 20 players of his own available to him, plus Ford (Salford), Liku (Leigh) and David Hewitt (St Helens), who are on loan.

Forwards: Crowley, Langtree, Hughes, Ward, P Joy, R Joy, Files, Gee, Thompson, Neal, Owen, Liku, Hope.

Backs: Roper, Palfrey, Clay, Tyson, Holmes, Dempsey, Ford, Ashton, Hewitt, Lepori.



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**Lorraine Hunt**



## HOW WE STAND Kingstone Press League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
OLDHAM	16	13	0	3	572	292	280	26
Keighley Cougars	15	12	0	3	523	271	252	24
York City Knights	15	11	0	4	588	238	350	22
North Wales Crusaders	15	10	1	4	475	226	249	21
Swinton Lions	15	10	1	4	529	310	219	21
Barrow Raiders	16	10	0	6	480	289	191	20
Rochdale Hornets	16	10	0	6	522	343	179	20
Newcastle Thunder	16	9	0	7	415	386	29	18
Gloucester All Golds	16	5	0	11	400	483	-83	10
Hemel Stags	16	5	0	11	318	595	-277	10
Oxford	15	5	0	10	293	614	-321	10
Coventry Bears	16	4	0	12	298	575	-277	8
London Skolars	15	3	0	12	238	451	-213	6
South Wales Scorpions	16	1	0	15	194	772	-578	2

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

**IN the days leading up to the start of this season in which "Every Minute Matters" pundits in 'Rugby League World' magazine tipped us to finish sixth.**

The regular season still has a fair way to go, with its usual twists and turns, and we mustn't count our chickens too soon.

Suffice to say, however, that once again this club that constantly punches way above its weight is once again confounding the critics week in and week out with performances and results that regularly cause a few eyebrows to be raised around the division.

On page three of this programme, in the 'Natter with Nobby', feature you can read what our coach thinks of the players under his command and how proud he is of the way they conduct themselves, on and off the field, while representing Oldham RLFC.

As fans, we too can be proud of those boys; proud of Scott, 'Spanner' and all the backroom staff; and proud of our club chairman, whose massive contribution to all this is, amazingly, all too often summarily dismissed as no more than a bit part. Nothing fresh there then; it's the same the sporting world over.

Speaking purely in general terms, and this doesn't only apply to rugby league, it's often said in sporting circles that if a team does well on the field it has nothing to

do with senior management and if all goes wrong it's the direct fault of those at the top, either for engaging the wrong coach, interfering in dressing room matters, not 'looking after' the players or one of a thousand other reasons why the buck should stop with those at the club's summit.

Chairmen, owners, chief execs and the like will shrug that off as a way of the world and, to some degree, as an occupational hazard that has existed since time immemorial and across horizons that extend way beyond rugby league clubs and, indeed, way beyond the entire sporting world and into regions of national and international commerce and big business.

Insiders, though, acknowledge that those at the top of any organisation have a massive role to play in the success or failure of front-line activities whether those activities be over the counter, at the cash till, on the shop floor or on a rugby, football or cricket pitch.

Didn't Leeds Rhinos coach Brian McDermott express an opinion on that topic when he hit the headlines a couple of weeks ago?

I'll leave you to ponder that one.

**Roger Halstead**